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NEWSLETTER

August 2020

Coming meetings

Thursday 13 August 'The green carpenter bee' Dr Remko Leijs, SA Museum

Remko will speak to us about the biology and conservation of the green carpenter bee. This species was last seen on mainland South Australia at Aldinga Scrub in 1902. Prior to the summer bushfires, Remko had been studying the remaining colonies on Kangaroo Island. He will give us an update on the impact of the devastating fires on the bees and on his research.

Thursday 10 September 'Tracks and Maps' Zara Lupton & Chris Davies

Zara and Chris will talk to us about the progress of the Willunga Basin Trail, including the route passing through Aldinga Scrub which has recently been signposted. This section is just a small portion of the 120 km walking trail which circumnavigates the Willunga Basin.

We will also be launching our newly revised map of Aldinga Scrub which has been very significantly updated by Rick Williams. Rick drew up the first map for us some 10 years ago and he has very kindly now provided us with the 5th edition!

Our meetings are held in the
St Ann's Church Hall, Aldinga
at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of
each month (February to November).

All welcome!

2020 Fungal Foray

A group of Friends braced the cold and wet conditions at Deep Creek CP in July to enjoy another enlightening walk with Thelma. 2020 has been a particularly good year, and a number of rare fungi species were sighted on the day.



Captured on monitoring camera enjoying a treat!

Recorded on 28 June at 10:00 am, this inquisitive fellow was very keen to sample the peanut butter contained in the lure. Neville has recorded data from 100 sites and he is now collating the data-sheets which are to be published in booklet format.



Farewell NRM, welcome Green Adelaide

We were very sad to lose our fantastic Volunteer Support Officers who had been funded from the Natural Resource Management Board Levy to assist groups like ours with training and equipment. As a very thoughtful farewell gesture, the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges team prepared a goodbye video which you can view through this [link](#).



From July 1, a new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* came into effect and Aldinga Scrub now comes under the metropolitan Green Adelaide program. The Green Adelaide region encompasses 17 metropolitan councils, extending from Virginia to Sellicks Beach, with a population of 1.3 million.

The Green Adelaide Board will be responsible for integrating the management of water resources and wetlands; the metropolitan coastline; nature education within the city; creating habitat for biodiversity; and the greening of streets, parklands and buildings. You can read more about Green Adelaide through this [link](#).

At a meeting held recently at Willunga, NPWS officers updated us on what these changes will mean for Friends of Aldinga Scrub.

Key points from the meeting were

- NPWS Rangers will now provide volunteer support to Friends groups.
- Our NPWS Liaison Ranger (currently Steve Johnson) will be our contact person for communication and enquiries. Steve will assist with developing work plans, writing grants, giving advice on Park issues and providing PPE gear.
- We will be able to apply for 'Grassroots' grants from the new Board, as well as accessing existing grants offered by DEW.

Outstanding volunteer effort by Friends of Aldinga Scrub in 2019-20!

We recently submitted the following volunteer hours to NPWS:-



Working bees:	1035 hours
Administration:	800 hours
Monitoring cameras:	300 hours
General Meetings:	210 hours

Thank you to all our volunteers for contributing a total of 2345 hours in the last 12 months.



Committee news

- DEW is offering training opportunities for Friends in courses ranging from First Aid to 4WD training.
- Many of the plants we will be propagating for the native bee project will be grown from cuttings. To assist with propagation, the committee has purchased a heat pad from a local company.
- All markers have now been installed for the new Boomerang and Wattle Loops. DEW is preparing a map to guide visitors along these new tracks. In addition, Rick Williams, who created our FoAS map several years ago, has generously given his time and expertise to update the map. We are very grateful to Rick for the considerable contribution he has made to ensure that our map is now correct and right up to date. You can access the new map from our website under the 'Visiting the Park' tab. You will be able to download a copy in .pdf format to print, or save to your phone.

News from the Park

- Working bee crews completed this year's planting program with a successful morning in the DF enclosure.
- More recently, crews have been pulling lupins, watsonia and evening primrose in northern sections of the Park and, along the way, finding plenty of olives and other woody weeds.
- Crews have also been removing boneseed and Rhamnus from the area behind the dunes near Fraser Street.

Working Bees Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

Working bees will continue on Tuesday mornings throughout the winter and spring months, weather permitting.

If you are available to help, please contact John each week on 0488 552 797 to find where the group will be working.

Visit our website at www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au

