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NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Coming meetings

Thursday 8 October

'Factors influencing pink gum health in the Mt Lofty Ranges with a focus on Aldinga Scrub'

Dr Sonia Croft, Ecological consultant.

Sonia will speak about the health of pink gums in the Mt Lofty Ranges and adjoining regions. She will provide an overview of long term decline of pink gums since the 1970s and the results of her studies in Aldinga Scrub on individual trees from 2003 to 2020.

Thursday 12 November

'Managing native vegetation in the City of Onkaparinga'

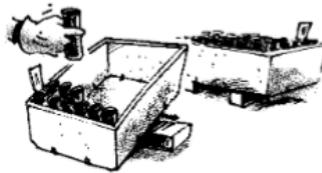
Ben Moulton, Senior Natural Areas Conservation Officer, City of Onkaparinga.

This will be our last meeting for 2020. Ben will talk about the work being undertaken by Council to plan and implement a comprehensive strategy for the management of weeds and native re-vegetation in the region. Ben will speak about council projects which are carried out in bushland reserves, along waterways, and in coastal zones.

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!

End of year gathering
for Friends of Aldinga Scrub



Sunday 6 December
7 Palmer Street
10:00 am onwards

Come along to our tube filling day and stay on for a congenial shared lunch.

All Friends are invited to help fill the tubes for this year's propagation season. The work is not hard and the conversation is always lively!

You are also invited to join us for lunch after the work is done. If you would like to stay, please bring a plate to share. However, you most welcome to arrive or leave at any time.

For more information, please contact Julie on 0418 459 450.

More propagating
opportunities
for keen growers



With an increase in orders for bushfire recovery - and a burst of orders in late July - Trees for Life have issued an urgent call for volunteer growers in 2020.

The growing season runs from November 2020 to May 2021 - a 6 month commitment.

Grower workshops are held in October and November and are free for volunteers who register to grow.

If you think you can help, you'll find more information about volunteer growing on the TFL website:
<https://treesforlife.org.au/Grow-Seedlings>.

To register call TFL on 8406 0500 or email info@treesforlife.org.au.

New Aldinga Scrub map now available!



We are extremely grateful to Rick Williams for producing an updated map of Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park, showing the new trails which have been established and signposted by our NPWS officers.

Rick has produced a map which is very clear and easy to read but has all the information needed to guide visitors around our unique Park.

If you would like a copy of the map, you can download it from our website at www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au or call Helen on 8556 3166.

Vale John Ackers

We were very saddened to learn that John, who was President of our group from 2013 to 2016, passed away on 26 September. John had a deep concern for the environment and was true to his values in all aspects of his life.

John will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

News from the Park

- Removal of Brassica weeds is keeping the working bee crew busy. We've been pleased to have help from contractors supplied by NPWS who have been brushcutting the worst areas.
- Other weeds receiving attention at this time include Lupins, Cape Tulip, Onion weed, Rhamnus, Boneseed and Freesias.
- Vandals recently entered the Park at Gate 17 and felled a large tree. NPWS are investigating this very distressing incident.
- NPWS have advised that in the coming months they will be carrying out some fuel reduction adjacent to the Boomerang Track and near residences.

Committee news

- 200 packages have recently been delivered to immediate neighbours of Aldinga Scrub. The packages contain information about invasive weeds, many of which are garden escapees, along with a copy of our Special Newsletter and information about our group.
- Friends of Aldinga Scrub will be represented at the Friends of Parks Inc AGM which is to be held on Monday 23 November via an online platform.
- Friends will also be represented at a Forum to be hosted by the Willunga Environment Centre on Wednesday 28 October. The purpose of the Forum is to discuss how the local community can best work with the new Landscape SA Boards and other key stakeholders for the sustainable management of the Willunga Basin, in particular the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park and the Washpool Lagoon.
- During the last weekend in October, several Friends will be assisting with the 2020 Spring Wetland and Duck Surveys being conducted by the Wildlife Programs unit of DEW.
- The committee has submitted an application for a Grassroots grant of \$10,000 from Green Adelaide to fund weed control in ASCP in 2021.

Thank you to all Friends who have helped at our working bees in 2020!

This year has certainly been a difficult one, but a highlight for many Friends has been attending our working bees. Since COVID restrictions were lifted, 12-15 Friends have regularly attended each week.

Once the work is completed, Friends have enjoyed gathering for a cuppa and a chat. We thank Helen C, Kathy and Jean for bringing their thermoses, and supplying tea, coffee and biscuits, and others for bringing produce to share with the group.



Release of Yellowish Sedge-Skipper at the Washpool



Friends have been involved in the release of this locally extinct butterfly which has not been seen in the region since 1985. For some 20 years, the City of Onkaparinga has been replanting sedges which are the host plants for the caterpillars and there is now enough habitat to 're-wild' the butterfly back into the environment.

Working Bees Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

Working bees will continue on Tuesday mornings throughout the spring and summer 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, or ask to be included in our weekly SMS notification list.

Visit our website at www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au

