



President: Michael Lawton 0401 118 383
Secretary: Helen McSkimming 0434 768 306

Volume 26 No. 4

NEWSLETTER

August 2021

Coming meetings

Thursday 12 August

"Meet our new NPWS Rangers" Seiji, Amy and Steve

DEW regions have recently been restructured and we are now in the Fleurieu district, where Seiji and Amy will be two of our Rangers based at Victor Harbor. Seiji and Amy will introduce themselves to our group, and discuss how we will be working together on our projects. They will provide us with an update on developments that are currently underway in Aldinga Scrub and at the Washpool.

This will also be an opportunity for us to thank Steve for the great support he has given to FoAS over the past 8 years.

Thursday 9 September

"Where birds sing and wildflowers dance" Jason Tyndall, General Manager, Nature Play SA

Jason has recently published this inspiring book which draws upon art and science, to craft a beautiful and compelling story of South Australia's wildlife, plants, and ecosystems. The guide contains a collection of poetry, photography, ideas to connect with nature and over 680 species of plants, animals, and other life forms.

Jason will provide an overview of who and what nature play is, and tell the story of how 'Where birds sing and wildflowers dance' came to life. Jason will bring copies of his book for you to purchase on the night.

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!

Aldinga Washpool to be protected "forever!"



For over 30 years, the community has been campaigning to ensure that the cultural and environmental values of the Washpool can be protected and restored. Historically, the Washpool has spanned a number of land tenures owned by various government agencies. More recently, the relevant agencies have been working to consolidate tenure to allow protection of the land under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

On 17 June, we received a letter from Minister David Speirs advising us that the government is going to create a new conservation park to protect the Aldinga Washpool forever! The Washpool land will be combined with Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park to create one new conservation park.

As stakeholders, we will be involved in helping to shape a management plan for this area which will include cultural interpretation and enhancing the biodiversity of the new park through revegetation. The plan will look at formalising access points and walking trails, while ensuring that there is a level of structure on the site that does not detract from the biodiversity and cultural significance.

For more information about this exciting development, visit the Parks SA website [here](#).

A social event for all Friends of Aldinga Scrub!

McLaren Vale Natives
Lot 101 Stump Hill Road
(just west of the Visitor Information Centre)

Thursday 26 August at 10:00 am



Join us for a visit to this local plant nursery. We'll be given a tour by the proprietor Rob Laffer and have the opportunity to purchase plants from his stock.

Following the tour of the nursery, we will be gathering for a picnic lunch on the lawns at the nearby Visitor Information Centre. You can bring your own hamper or purchase a light lunch from the café, where freshly brewed coffee will also be available. Please bring your own chairs or rugs to sit on.

We look forward to your company at this outing. For more information, please phone Helen on 0434 768 306.

Native bee enclosures ready to welcome visitors and new tenants

You may have noticed 3 new enclosures located at entrances at Gate 11 (Boomerang), Gate 14 (Dover) and Gate 16 (Rowley). With the support of an NRM grant, we have erected 3 triangular enclosures and planted dozens of bee attracting species. We have also installed 3 bee hotels which were made at the Aldinga Community Shed by volunteers, including Lynsay who is seen below erecting the hotel at the Dover enclosure.



Signage is being developed which will provide members of the community with information about native bees and the important role they play in enhancing the biodiversity of Aldinga Scrub.

Park news

- Working bee crews have now finished planting grasses in the DF enclosure
- Crews working on the northern boundary have recently encountered two significant cubbies. One very large 'cubby' had been constructed with freshly hacked living vegetation. Another in the north-western corner was well hidden but it would be surprising if local people had not seen some activity as the cubby was being constructed. We strongly encourage people to report any such activities to a member of the committee or directly to our Ranger.
- On a particularly blustery day, our working crew braved the elements on the western dune front and planted several hundred seedlings. Workers were most encouraged to see the success of last year's plantings.
- If you have driven down Norman Road recently, you will have noticed a very large enclosure to the south installed by Green Adelaide. At a recent working bee, FoAS volunteers helped to plant over 800 seedlings in the enclosure and further west along Norman Road.
- Our bird survey team have now established an effective methodology for their surveys. The team recently recorded 23 species along the ponds on the eastern boundary. You can track their sightings on the Birdata app which is managed by Birdlife Australia.

Committee news

- Following the completion of our on-ground native bee project, we are applying to the City of Onkaparinga for funds to provide a workshop for our members and the wider community to help us learn about native bees, how to identify them and how to encourage them into Aldinga Scrub and our gardens.
- We are currently reviewing our participation in the Bushland Condition Monitoring program and are considering developing our own datasheets to record information that is directly relevant to our conservation work.



Working Bees Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

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

If you are available to help, please contact John 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

