



President: Julie Burgher 0418 459 450
Secretary: Helen McSkimming 0434 768 306

Volume 28 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Coming meetings

Thursday 9 February

"Psittaciformes of Aldinga Scrub"

Aidan Bradford, Friends of Aldinga Scrub

Aidan will introduce us to many of the Parrots, Cockatoos, Lorikeets and Rosellas found in our local area.

As a keen birdwatcher, Aidan will talk about the behaviours he has observed in our local species. He will show a selection of photographs he has taken of these birds, mostly in Aldinga Scrub.

Thursday 9 March

2023 Annual General Meeting

At this important meeting, we will receive reports about last year's activities, and elect the committee for the coming year.

Following the meeting, we will have a chance to chat with Friends and enjoy a light supper.

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!

Would you like to learn about the local butterflies in the Aldinga Conservation Park area?

**Butterflies of our region
Aldinga Payinthe College
Quinliven Road, Aldinga**

**Sunday 19 February 2023
9:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Speaker: Matt Endacott is a Coastal Conservation Officer with Green Adelaide who has a keen interest in South Australian butterflies. Matt's role is a collaborative one working with volunteer groups, councils and National Parks.

Matt will be talking about local butterflies, how to attract them to your own garden and what to look out for when exploring Aldinga Conservation Park, as well as projects that Green Adelaide are undertaking to make Adelaide a butterfly friendly city.

Presentation: 9.00 am in classroom for approximately 1 hour.

Field visit: Aldinga Conservation Park, parking at Dover St car park. Walk for approximately 1 hour. Please bring sunscreen, water, hat and camera.



Photo by Aidan:

Marbled Xenica (Geitoneura klugii)

Bookings are essential. Please email Helen at info@friendsofaldingascrub.com.au or you can phone 0434 768 306 to register your interest, or to find out more about this workshop.

Celebrating 40 years of Friends of Parks



On 25 September 2022, a special event was held at Belair National Park to mark 40 years of Friends of Parks. More than 150 Friends of Parks volunteers attended the event, as well as past and present DEW staff.

Friends of Parks was officially launched in 1982 with 2 member groups. Some 5 years later, Friends of Aldinga Scrub was formed and joined the Friends of Parks network. Throughout the past 40 years, Friends of Parks have supported groups who are working for the conservation of our parks. This event recognised the time, passion and knowledge which Friends bring to the parks they are caring for.

At the event, Volunteer Support Programs Unit Manager Gill Peacey thanked the volunteers for their great work in contributing to South Australia's parks and reserves.

Night surveys studying moths on *Alyxia buxifolia*

Late last year, Julie was contacted by Dr Peter McQuillan from the University of Tasmania. Peter had seen photographs of moths on our Flickr site and requested our help in photographing moths which become active on *Alyxia buxifolia* on warm evenings. Julie and a small group spent several evenings in the Park taking photographs of moths and other night-time creatures.

Peter responded that the Native Budworm moths recorded on the *Alyxia* bushes were most interesting to see; noting that there looked to be pollen on the proboscis of at least one of them and hence their role as pollinators looks likely.

The stunning photographs taken by the survey group can be seen on our Flickr site located in the album 'Night moth, spider and insect surveys'. If you haven't viewed our photographs recently, follow the links on our website. The photo albums are being updated regularly so there is always something new to see!

News from the Park

- We have recently watered the seedlings which were planted last winter in paddock tree guards in the southern section of the Park. Most of the seedlings have survived the warmer months well.
- In January, a small team accompanied ecologist Elisa Sparrow to check on the pygmy possum boxes which were installed last year. On this occasion, one huntsman spider and two geckoes were found in the boxes.
- Weed patrols have worked along the western section of the Park behind the dunes. The usual culprits, including Rhamnus, boneseed, and weedy Leptospermum were removed.



Working Bees Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

Working bees will continue on Tuesday mornings throughout the summer and autumn 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.

Would you like a commemorative tote bag?

Friends of Aldinga Scrub have been given a number of tote bags which were produced to mark the 40th anniversary of Friends of Parks.



If you would like one of these very handy bags, please contact Helen on 0434 768 306.

Ecohydrological Restoration Assessment of the Aldinga Washpool

The final report of this study undertaken by Nature Glenelg Trust has now been released. You can access the report [here](#) or by visiting the Nature Glenelg Trust website and clicking through to Resources / Publications / 2022.

The report includes very comprehensive background information about the Washpool, along with recommendations for future restoration works.

Committee news

- We have been fortunate to receive 2 grants which will allow us to continue our weed control program in 2023. Through Green Adelaide and DEW Small Grants, we have \$15,000 to engage our contractor, Fleurieu Eco Solutions, to continue eradication of bridal creeper and woody weeds.
- We also have funding this year through the DEW Partnership grant to install another 100 paddock tree guards in the southern section of ACP.
- We completed our annual vegetation monitoring in November and the results have now been logged on the data sheets. They will provide a useful benchmark for future monitoring at our three sites.

Visit our website at www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au

