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NEWSLETTER

June 2024

Coming meetings

Thursday 13 June

"My trip to Norfolk Island"

Neville Hudson, FoAS member

Neville will speak about his trip to Norfolk Island during their Annual Bird Week in November 2023. Neville joined over 30 other enthusiasts who enjoyed observing the fascinating world of Norfolk's avian wonders. Neville will show us a selection of the photos he took of birdlife observed during the numerous tours around the island.

Neville will also show some more recent photos he has taken in ACP.

Thursday 11 July

"What's the GSR? Pure gold"

Dr David Muirhead, Marine Life Society of SA

David says his presentation will be "a rambling account by an aging recreational eco diver on the wonders of kelp and the amazing life under that golden brown canopy. If by the end you're more anxious about the future of this Great Southern Reef than you are about Queensland coral then I'll have fulfilled my purpose. All the photos (and maybe some brief video footage) will be from the SW Fleurieu, including Aldinga."

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!

Future events to mark in your diary now!

**Friends of Aldinga Scrub
Fungal Foray
Kuipto Forest
June or July 2024**



Once again, Thelma has invited us to join her on a fascinating foray to discover fungi on the Fleurieu. Please email Helen on info@friendsofaldingascrub.com.au if you wish to be advised about arrangements for this outing.



**33rd Friends of Parks Inc. Forum
Belair National Park
Friday 23 - Sunday 25 August**

Bookings are essential, for more information and tickets, click [here](#) to go to the Friends of Parks SA website.

**Friends of Aldinga Scrub
Annual Daytrip and Picnic
Forktree Project
Thursday September 5**



This year we will be enjoying a guided tour around the [Forktree Project](#) which has been established by Tim Jarvis, 2024 South Australian of the Year. The project is aiming to restore 54 ha of degraded farmland at Carrickalinga. Look for more details in the August newsletter.

Haiku

Box Thorn
cornered in the scrub
dug in, defensive

from Ewan
who has recently joined our
working bee crew



Photo by Julie

Bird survey report for Autumn 2024

Autumn 2024 saw the Bird Survey team record 7 new species to our working species list. These birds are not new to the park but new to our list of birds recorded in the surveys that began in 2021. They are Australasian Darter, Chestnut Teal, Pied Stilt, Red-capped Robin, Silver Gull, Whistling Kite and Yellow-billed Spoonbill. The total of birds recorded since 2021 is now 96 species.

It was great to see the little female Red-capped Robin in the revegetation area on our northern boundary. The Red-capped Robin is an occasional, seasonal visitor to Aldinga Conservation Park and is not often seen. A brief encounter with a Fan-tailed Cuckoo on a bird survey outing was another highlight. Lately visiting the park and easily seen is the Crescent Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill and the Golden Whistler, male and female.



Golden Whistler (female)



Australasian Darter

On our surveys we occasionally see a raptor and on our last autumn survey we saw a Collared Sparrowhawk swoop in through the trees and chase off a Little Raven that was sitting up high and calling loudly. Interestingly, it has become apparent that we have both the Brown Goshawk and the Collared Sparrowhawk visit the park. These birds are often difficult to tell apart, but slight differences can be detected in photographs taken by our members.

The survey lists are posted on our website album "Bird Surveys"; from there you can compare from season to season, the birds that have been recorded and see the photos taken by our bird survey participants.

Thank you to our Bird Survey Coordinator Julie for this report and the beautiful photographs.

News from the Park

- We are planning a working bee with our project partner TPAG (Threatened Plant Action Group) to undertake hand-weeding in sensitive areas of the Park.
- During a recent working bee, we removed many of the guards which are no longer needed around plants in the western dunes. We were very pleased to see the high success rate of the seedlings on this exposed site.
- Green Adelaide crews have removed fencing around the plantings at the Washpool. The survival rate of plantings at this site has been disappointing.

Committee news

- Our Ranger Angus has initiated a number of on-ground projects in ACP, including the removal of some of the feral trees at the old Camp Kursa site on the eastern boundary, and upgrading fencing around the Coral Lichen patch to provide better protection from kangaroos.
- We have recently participated in the Friends of Parks Inc. AGM and a review of the Park Management Planning process.
- The committee has applied for a Green Adelaide grant of \$10,000 to engage our contractors to continue their treatment of bridal creeper and woody weeds in 2025.



Working Bees Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

Working bees will continue on Tuesday mornings throughout the coming 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

