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## NEWSLETTER

August 2024

### Coming meetings

#### Thursday 8 August

*"Seeding Natives, restoring ecosystems from the ground up"*

**Andrew Fairney, Seeding Natives**

*Seeding Natives is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in innovative direct seeding methods with a specific focus on the high biodiversity of the ground layer. Andrew will be talking about the amazing results of his work and an exploration of why the ground layer is so important in a complete and highly functioning ecosystem.*

#### Thursday 12 September

*"Human population and ecological limits"*

**Dr Stephen Morris,  
Sustainable Population  
Australia**

*Sustainable Population Australia is a national environmental advocacy organisation. Stephen will be talking about the links between environmental degradation, economic growth and population growth and arguing a case against endless economic and population growth.*

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!**

You are invited to attend our free 2024 workshop!

**'Day of the beetles'**  
**Sunday 13 October 2024**  
**10:30 am to 2:30 pm**

Kristen Messenger from Bugs n Slugs will be delivering a workshop to Friends of Aldinga Scrub and the wider community. Kris will lead a journey of discovery into the many different worlds of the beetles.

Participants will experience a hands-on workshop and a field trip where they will learn about the different roles beetles play in healthy ecosystems, how to identify some of the common beetles in Aldinga Scrub, and will discover the different life stages of various species. The



workshop will also look at the relationships between beetles and other invertebrates, vertebrates and plants and discover how to protect and preserve this essential group of insects now and into the future.

The workshop will be held in Aldinga, with the venue to be confirmed. Bookings are essential. For more information or to let us know that you would like to attend, please contact Helen on 0434 768 306 or at [info@friendsofaldingascrub.com.au](mailto:info@friendsofaldingascrub.com.au).

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Photo by Julie: Transverse Ladybird  
(*Cleobora mellyi* on fallen trunk in Aldinga Conservation Park)

**Visit to Forktree Project**  
**Whitelaw Road, Carrickalinga**  
**Thursday 5 September**  
**Meet at 10:30 am**

All Friends are invited to visit the Forktree Project, a 54 hectare revegetation site situated on the beautiful hills above Carrickalinga. The project has been established by Tim Jarvis, 2024 South Australian of the Year.

We will be given a guided tour of the property, including a visit to the on-site nursery. Following the tour, we will enjoy a picnic lunch on the property.

Volunteers from the Willunga Environment Centre will be joining us on this outing and bookings are essential. Numbers will be limited so please contact Helen on 0434 768 306 to let us know that you will be coming. You will need to bring your own lunch and seating. We will need to carpool as there is limited parking at the site.



**2024 Fungal Foray**

Unfortunately, our Foray for this year has been cancelled. Our mycologist Thelma, who was to have led the Foray, has provided the following information about the situation this year.

"Fungi don't necessarily appear on a regular basis as fruitbodies are only required for reproduction with spores colonising new sites. So far this autumn fungal numbers and species have been very few - I've never witnessed this before and whilst frustrating with most Adelaide Studies Fungal Group forays cancelled or deferred it has provided an interesting learning experience. From my observations it seems that if conditions are not ideal at the 'right time' fungi defer fruiting. As science reveals more about the complex roles of fungal mycorrhiza underground we learn more and hope autumn 2025 is a good fungal season."

**News from the Park**

- Working bee crews have been busy maintaining our paddock tree guards. We have weeded inside the guards and also planted new seedlings to replace any which did not survive from last year.
- We have also been undertaking maintenance in the 3 native bee exclosures. Some additional seedlings have been planted, and weeds removed.
- Fleurieu Eco Solutions have started working on weed control in the southern section of the Park. Bridal creeper continues to be the priority weed for our contractors but we are seeing much less of this invasive weed which indicates that their work is having a positive effect.

**Committee news**

- John is preparing a display for Friends of Aldinga Scrub at the Friends of Parks Forum to be held at Belair on 23-25 August. John's display will feature the efforts of Green Adelaide and FoAS to revegetate the near-threatened *Olearia passerinoides* in ACP.
- Repairs to fencing around the Coral Lichen patch have now been completed by NPWS contractors. The height of the fence has been raised and a gate installed. The extra height will help to protect the fragile lichen from both human and macropod disturbance.
- Committee has recently made submissions to 2 DEW surveys; a draft fire management plan and a draft kangaroo management plan.

**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](http://www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au)

