



Friends of Wangkuntila-Aldinga Conservation Park

Volume 31 No. 2

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Coming meetings

Thursday 9 April

'Wangkuntila - the Washpool: place-names, possums, and puzzles'

Tom Gara

Wangkuntila is the name for the Washpool put forward by Kaurna people for the new expanded Wangkuntila-Aldinga Conservation Park. It means 'Place of the ring-tailed possum'. The name first appeared on a map published by Captain Sturt in 1833 as 'Waccondilla'.

In this talk Tom will discuss the subsequent history of the name and interpretations of its meaning.

Thursday 14 May

'The Southern Flinders: A celebration of Wildlife and Landscapes'

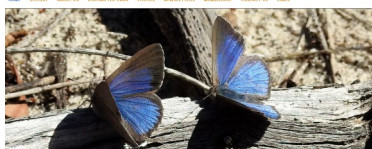
Dr Annette Marner, writer and photographer

Dr Marner condensed 800 million years of geological and biological history into 200 pages of text and photographs for her book *The Southern Flinders South Australia A celebration of Wildlife and Landscapes*.

Hear Annette talk about some of the wondrous things she learned along the way about the ancient rivers, mountains and especially the wildlife.

Our meetings are held in the
St Ann's Church Hall,
Stonehouse Lane, Aldinga
at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday
of each month (February to
November).

All welcome!



New website for Friends of Wangkuntila- Aldinga Conservation Park

At our recent AGM, Ranger Simon kindly launched the new name for our group, together with our new website which brings together content from the former Friends of Aldinga Scrub and Aldinga Washpool Lagoon websites.

The new address is provided below (including a link if you are reading a digital edition).

Please take time to have a look at all the information now available in one location, and don't forget to view our amazing photo gallery which is constantly being updated.

Our new website address is www.fowacp.org.au

Many thanks to Chris Collin for so generously providing his time and expertise to the development of the website.

Subscriptions for 2026/2027:

Family	\$15.00
Single	\$10.00
Concession	\$8.00



Payment options:

EFT (or pay over the counter) to Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633-000
Account: 134 185 735
Reference: Last name, first name, subs
To confirm your payment, please email Jackie at
treasurer@fowacp.org.au

Post The Treasurer
Friends of Wangkuntila-Aldinga CP
PO Box 33
Aldinga Beach SA 5173



Report on work inside the Lacy Coral Lichen exclosure 2025

Tasks carried out over a period of 7 hours between October and December 2025, the work involved

- a) Main work weeding of perennial veldt grass using a grape knife or serrated knife, pulling flower stalks away from the lichen
- b) Harvesting any Freesia seedheads and pulling out plants, usually at least the top bulb
- c) Removal of annual grasses; Vulpia, Briza, Hare's Tail grass, annual Veldt
- d) Holding lichen down with flat side of knife while pulling in Lichen (dry Lichen is stiff and brittle)
- e) All weeds bagged with particular attention to seed heads
- f) 2 patches of bridal creeper and Freesia control referred to contractors
- g) Lichen fragments scattered near patch, rabbit poo (not fresh) amongst the Lichen
- h) One known translocated lichen (near the gate) surviving after 4 or 5 years
- i) I will try to do follow up on veldt grass in 2026

John Edmeades

2026 AGM report

The 38th Annual General meeting of our group was held on Thursday 12 March at St Ann's Church Hall, Aldinga.

Tom Gara chaired the meeting, where reports were received from our President and Treasurer, as well as our Ranger Simon.

Milestone certificate recipients were announced, with several members being recognised for a dedicated membership of 25 years.

Cr Paul Yeomans conducted the election of committee members for 2026/2027. The following Friends were elected unopposed.

President: Tom Gara
Secretary: Helen McSkimming
Treasurer: Jackie Taylor

Committee members:
John Edmeades
Aidan Bradford
Russell Creed

Neville Hudson gave a brief presentation about consequences the use of rat poisons may have on native wildlife, while Jackie Taylor showed video footage of one-day-old hooded plover chicks valiantly making their way along the Onkaparinga River.

News from the Park

- John reported at the AGM that the working bee crews had amassed a total of 1009.5 hours in the 12 months prior.
- We have engaged our contactors Fleurieu Eco Solutions to treat dog roses and stinkwort in the vicinity of the eastern ponds. Cudweed, also spreading in this area, will be treated in the Spring.
- Ranger Simon reported at the AGM that new signage (displaying the Park's new name) has been installed at the Washpool, with more signage to be installed at other locations in the next few months.
- Simon recently met with Friends to undertake a trail audit. Vegetation which is encroaching or blocking access to paths will be removed by NPWS staff.

Committee news

- We have offered to provide a Guided Walk for the NPWS Park of the Month event on 3 May. Information and registration will be available on the NPWS website in April.
- Simon reported at the AGM that our Draft Management Plan is under development with stakeholder input from Karna Parks Advisory Committee underway. We are hopeful that the draft plan will be released for public consultation by the middle of the year.
- During this year, John will be continuing to provide opportunities for clients of the Bedford Group to experience bushcare activities in our Park.
- John is also liaising with Galilee School for students, staff and parents to visit our Park.



Working Bees Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am (note 8:30 am during summer months)

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.

Website: www.fowacp.org.au
Email: info@fowacp.org.au

Our partners:

