



# Friends of Wangkuntilla-Aldinga Conservation Park

Volume 31 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

## Coming meetings

### Thursday 12 February

#### 'Plains-wanderers in the South Australian semi-arid rangeland'

Saskia Gerhardy

Plains-wanderers (*Pedionomus torquatus*) are a unique terrestrial bird, endemic to Australia, found in sparse native grasslands in parts of central and southern Australia. Extremely secretive and elusive, this species is unlikely to be observed without deliberate search and professional help.

Saskia is a PhD candidate at the Adelaide University. Saskia will speak about her research which is focussing on determining the distribution, status, and ecology of this endangered species.

### Thursday 12 March

#### 2026 Annual General Meeting

At our 38th AGM, we will receive reports about last year's activities, and elect the committee for the coming year. At this meeting, we will also be launching our new name and new website!

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,  
Stonehouse Lane, Aldinga  
at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday  
of each month (February to  
November).

**All welcome!**

## We have a new name and new logo!

To reflect the renaming of our park on 28 August 2025, Friends of Aldinga Scrub also have a new name.



As of 1 January 2026, the name of our group is now Friends of Wangkuntilla-Aldinga Conservation Park (FoWACP). You will have noticed that we have a beautiful new logo which has been created by Julie. The plant depicted in the logo is our unique Aldinga Dampiera (*Dampiera lanceolata* var. *intermedia*).

Aldinga Dampiera is endemic to South Australia and found only in Aldinga Scrub, growing on coastal sand in coast mallee. Aldinga Dampiera is listed as Endangered under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

Aldinga Dampiera grows as an erect shrub to 1 metre tall, flowering between October and January. Dense white hairs are found on the stem and on the underside of the thick, ovate leaves. Its bright blue flowers have long silky hairs.



Keep a look out for our emblem next time you are walking in the Park!

## A special thank you!

Our sincere thanks to Jorgen Jensen who created our Friends of Aldinga Scrub logo which has attractively represented our group for nearly 40 years! Jorgen was an inaugural member of Friends of Aldinga Scrub and, although he and Lise now live in the Adelaide Hills, they have maintained their membership over all these years.

Thank you Jorgen, we have greatly appreciated all your contributions to our group.

## New signs for Wangkuntila-Aldinga Conservation Park!



A number of new signs have recently been installed around the Washpool precinct.

The wording reads :

*Wangkuntila-Aldinga Conservation Park*

*Kurna Yerta - Kurna Country. Home to the Kurna Peoples.*

The icons advise that walking is permitted but camping, fires and drones are not allowed.

This photo was taken on Button Road, looking south.

## Visit to Wangkuntila-Aldinga CP by members of International Wood Collectors Society

The IWCS, an organisation dedicated to the study and craft of wood, held its Australasian Regional Conference in Aldinga and Willunga in October last year. As one of the conference activities, Friends of Aldinga Scrub were pleased to provide a guided tour of the Coral Lichen Circuit for a group of very enthusiastic and knowledgeable local and interstate wood collectors.

We were delighted to receive a selection of beautifully crafted wooden bowls, plates and vases as a thank you gift from the group.



### News from the Park

- Several working bees had to be cancelled during the summer months due to high temperatures.
- When the working bees were able to take place, the crew focussed on an area alongside the eastern boundary ponds. Weeds removed here included African daisy, Evening primrose, Boneseed and Dog rose. We are planning to engage our contractor to assist in this area by treating some of the more invasive and difficult weeds, particularly the Dog rose which forms impenetrable thickets amongst other plants.
- We welcome volunteers from the Bedford Group who will be helping us with hand weeding again this year.

### Committee news

- We were successful in applying for a grant from the Friends of Parks and Nature Inc. fund. We have received \$10,000 which will allow us to engage our contractor to treat bridal creeper and woody weeds later this year.
- We have acquitted our Partnership Grant which provided us with \$40,000 to work with the Threatened Plant Acton Group over a 4 year program.
- Our change of name has required considerable administrative tasks to be completed. We have a new Australian Business Number and the name of our bank account has been updated. We have also been developing a new website for our group.



### 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.

Visit our website at [www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au](http://www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au)

