



Friends of Parks eNews

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Patrons -

Dr Barbara Hardy AO
Hon David Wotton AM

Mrs Jean McLaren
Mr Dene Cordes PSM

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

WE DON'T HAVE A 'USE-BY' DATE !

It really 'gets under my skin' when people talk about my 'use-by' date ! Sure, I am getting on in age and I know if I kneel down to do something (such as weeding) it can be a difficult task to get upright again. However (and there is usually, within all of us, an however!!) I can happily lean over all day and weed – no problems.

As with most associations around the world, the demographics, composition and culture of most of our organisations have altered dramatically. Because our younger people have differing family values and work needs to what we experienced, getting this age group into volunteer organisations isn't easy. However, by using a variety of methods, your Board is looking at the possible provision of new experiences for our Friends Groups, including a variety of 'Citizen Science' projects, hollows research, a police 'park watch' during the fire season and importantly an expansion of our communication capabilities through the efforts of our new and very active Marketing Sub-committee, that includes an upgrade of our Friends of Parks Inc website.

These and many other strategies will provide a renewed interest in our park work and in particular, give us an opportunity to attract families and younger people to our membership.

With the recent government cut-backs (particularly in the areas of funding and staff) I thought that we would see a dramatic decrease in our FoP 'investment' in the future of our natural environment, but this hasn't been the case. We have always taken great pride in what we do in our parks and it seems that our challenge and commitment remains as strong as it has ever been. Most of us have made a long-term 'investment' in our parks and the natural environment, and we are not going to see that investment 'flushed down the drain', because the outside support by DEWNR is not as strong as it used to be – and it's not really their fault!

That said, I have to say that DEWNR's backing for FoP is at the highest level, and we would not survive if it were not for the marvellous efforts of people like Pam Smith, Ian Radbone and Gill Peacey from the DEWNR Community Partnerships & Volunteer Programs Unit; Group Executive Director, John Schutz; and Director, Regional Coordination, Partnerships & Stewardship Group, Grant Pelton. All attend our Board meetings and provide ideas and enthusiastic input to every meeting. I should mention here that DEWNR have agreed to continue our 'Volunteer Support Grants' Program and for this I am very thankful as across all spectrums of government, grant systems have all but dried up.

A couple of exciting pieces of news that may not yet be 'out and about' is that DEWNR has a proposal to proclaim additions to the O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park. The additions comprise 12 land parcels covering an area of 80ha.

Proclamation of these areas as Recreation Park will also provide the appropriate legislative support for the protection of the biodiversity values of the land.

The second 'good news story' is that there is about to be a Friends of the International Bird Sanctuary formed. Board member Andrew Winkler has been working with a number of groups and individuals and as a result of several meetings, they have sufficient numbers to get underway. They have already been working with DEWNR staff to map out possible projects and this will put FoP in the 'box seat' in the formation of this very important sanctuary.

One way that I gauge the interest of FoP members is by reading through the multitude of brilliant newsletters that a large number of groups produce. Most run to at least 10 pages (e.g. Anstey Hill, Scott Creek, Onkaparinga Parkwatch, Park Hosts, Riverland Parks, Gluepot Reserve etc etc) and to top them all off, the 31 page glossy "Trailwalker" from Friends of the Heysen and Other Walking Trails. These are just a few of those that are produced, and by reading through each you can see that we are a dedicated 'mob' with enthusiasm and new ideas to spare, which augers well for the future of the parks that we work in.

I started off by mentioning our 'use-by' dates. I am not silly enough to realise that in time, many of the physical aspects of my life will change, because what was once my beautiful, athletic and (some said) sexy body, is starting to feel the rigours of old age and I will (notice I didn't say 'have') need to step back and re-evaluate what activities aren't going to be physically possible anymore. BUT (note the capitals) I haven't reached my 'use-by' date yet as I still have an active and creative mind (some might dispute this) that can still be put to good use.

When we consider the wide range of jobs that occur within each Friends Group, many don't require that physical activity e.g. committee members, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, Public Officer, Chair of a committee etc. These are all vital jobs that form part of the success and professionalism of each group, but usually only require some mental exertion.

What do you think of our Friends of Parks eNews?? Our Editor is Hugh Lambert is 85 years of age. Hugh retired in 2001 from DEWNR (actually with some reluctance as he enjoyed his work with DEWNR and after 50 years in the workforce, having had the good fortune to be engaged on activities well suited to his interest and aptitude for things computational). And yes ... this included being close to the ancient dinosaur mainframes built in a roomful of vacuum tubes, ferrite core memory, paper tape and punched cards for input, etc. Quite literally he has lived alongside the evolution of computing, although today the frontiers of this evolution are racing way beyond his horizons, sadly leaving him behind but happy to have been part of it.

In retirement, Hugh has enjoyed contributing to Friends of Parks as editor of The Chain, then eNews newsletters, and as webmaster for the Friends of Parks (until the AGM in May this year 2015), and for the Friends of Parks Walking Trails Support Group. In 2002 he developed, and has since maintained, a management report for the Botanic Gardens Board.

In all this, he has been blessed not to have been beset by any serious 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' and to have had good health and a supportive family. Hugh's mother 'pulled down the shutters' two months short of her 105th birthday, and assuming he has inherited some of her good genes he hopes to continue productively for a few years yet. Would you like to tell Hugh he has reached his 'use-by' date ??

There are countless others like Hugh who are members of FoP Groups and are getting on in age. And in general, many continue with strenuous activity in their parks activities. Having extolled the virtues of age in the example of Hugh, I would now like to pay homage to another two of our older stalwarts who recently passed away.

Colin Malcolm passed away on 13th December 2015, having been the President of Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc. for almost 30 years. Over these busy times, his influence guided the group to become one of the most successful Friends groups in South Australia. Colin's passion was the flora of the park and he honed this knowledge to a high degree. He was a man that you could always rely on and went about his business in his own quiet way.

Tom Hands, was for 25 years, President of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park, standing down at the Group's AGM on the 13th November and passing away a fortnight later.

From a basic knowledge of his local environment, Tom spent hours in the Park, learning about all aspects of its flora, fauna and habitats, so much so that he became the acknowledged expert in these matters. Under Tom's leadership, the FOSCCP went about restoring the Park and, in the process, became leaders in this field. In addition to his commitment and dedication to the protection and restoration of Scott Creek CP, he was an active volunteer and advocate on broader environment and conservation issues. Tom gained the respect of everyone he met. During the past couple of years, Tom pushed through the pain of medical treatment undeterred until his passing on 27th November.

These are but a small example of how us 'old codgers' continue to care for our communities and the environment we enjoy so much. Do we, as caring environmental volunteers, have the right to deny future generations their birthright to enjoy the many aspects of nature and the environment that are found in our parks and reserves – I think not.

Age, isn't really an excuse and I am blown if I am going to be consigned to the 'scrap heap' just because someone thinks I am too old. So let's consign our 'use-by' dates to the garbage bin and continue with our very much valued FoP activities. Our parks need us and we need our parks to keep our 'use-by' dates at bay! When they screw down the lid of my coffin, only then will I admit to having reached my 'use-by' date!!



Duncan MacKenzie
President
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC

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The eNews

A practice that we'd like you to adopt for eNews is for you to send in articles of your own on subjects that you think will be of interest to the wider Friends community (6000+ of us!), rather than group-specific information such as working bee timetables that you put in your group newsletter for information of just your own group. We will continue to draw on your group's newsletter sent to Friends of Parks Inc Secretary Pam Smith in CPVPU, as a major source of information for eNews.

Items from our member groups newsletters and supplied literature

Public Talks Program presented by the Butterfly Conservation South Australia Inc.

[information from BCSA flyer]

These talks are held on the first Tuesday of the month March to November at 6.15pm for a prompt 6.30 pm start.

Clarence Park Community Centre, 72-74 East Avenue, Black Forest.

Bus route W91/W90: stop 10.

Noarlunga Train service: Clarence Park Station.

Glenelg Tram: Forestville stop 4, 9 min walk south.

Entry by donation (minimum of \$2).

Bookings not required.

Please bring supper to share; tea/coffee supplied.

Meetings should conclude by 8.30pm.

1st March: 7.00 pm Beachcombing around the Adelaide coast. Bob Baldock from the State Herbarium of SA will show us some of the odd, grotesque or exquisite marine life found on our beaches and explain what to look for on excursions to the beach. [Preceded from 6.30pm by BCSA's SGM to consider constitution changes].

5th April: Gluepot Conservation Reserve. Located 64 km north of Waikerie and owned by Birds Australia it is Australia's largest community managed reserve. Duncan Mackenzie will take us on a visual 19 year journey and describe why Gluepot is "one of the conservation miracles of the 21st century".

3rd May: Pollination. Many different insect groups and some animals (not just bees) have a major role in pollinating plants. Mike Gemmel from the SA Museum Discovery Centre will explore ways each of these groups perform this very important task.

7th June: Fishes of the Coorong: Research and informing management. Chris Bice, a fish ecologist from SARDI will provide an overview of the ecology of fishes of the Coorong with a particular focus on recent research and how it is supporting their management.

5th July: Jessie L. Hussey of Port Elliot had a passion for botany and during the 1890's made a significant contribution to the knowledge of South Australian vascular plants and marine algae. Presented by Lisa Waters from the State Herbarium of SA.

2nd August: 7.00 pm The revegetation of a farm block on Hindmarsh Island. The work carried out by member Karen Lane on Hindmarsh Island has been an inspiration. Karen will discuss her methods and show how, in just a few years the area has been completely transformed [preceded from 6.30pm by BCSA's AGM].

6th September: Fire ecology. The Native Grasses Resources Group have been undertaking studies on which native grasses and other plants can best be used in fire prone areas. Greg Kirby will provide an overview of research findings of native grass behaviour and their use in environmental recovery following fire.

4th October: Eucalypts. Of the 900 odd species of eucalypts in Australia, over half are smaller mallee or shrubby species, suitable for growing in gardens. Their remarkable diversity in size, form, bark, foliage and flowers is showcased. Dean Nicolle will discuss some of the favourite species grown in gardens as well as some exciting lesser-known species that should be planted more.

1st November: QUIZ NIGHT. Come along to round off the year with general knowledge and natural history questions by our quiz master David Keane who will lead us on a journey of discovery and fun. Either form a team of six with friends, or join with others on the night. Bring supper to share. Bookings not required.

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Bushfire Threat Vigilance

[extract from minutes of the 131st meeting of the Friends of Parks Inc. Board of 3 December 2015. Address by Michelle O'Rielley - Sergeant, Acting State Coordinator, Crime Prevention Coordination Unit, speaking about the expanded 2016 SAPOL community prevention program and how Friends member groups can become involved in assisting with the program during the summer months]

The campaign for 2015-2016, 'Bushfires start when we stop paying attention' highlights this fire season, to be on the lookout for suspicious, reckless or negligent behaviour that may cause a bushfire.

The campaign asks the community, and specifically Friends of Parks members, to report all types of suspicious, reckless or negligent behaviour, either on crown land (including National Parks), council land or private land. The campaign is supported by a number of resources developed by SAPOL including; presentations to community groups, schools and partners. Fire prevention fact sheets have been produced for: homes, businesses, rural properties and retailers.

Friends are not to approach anyone, but are only eyes on the ground; and intel gathering. It is not necessary to divulge information - details can be left anonymously with the Police or Crime Stoppers, not DEWNR. Information coming from a registered group makes this more credible.

Michelle offered to talk to friends groups, initially in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Region, about the campaign.

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Campground Hosts - categorisation of parks, and training for each category

[from Lynn Newman, CPVPU, who manages the affairs of the CGH, and can be contacted at lynn.newman@sa.gov.au for further information]

We have split our parks into two categories, each with different training requirements. Generally, easily accessible parks describes parks south of Port Augusta that may experience busy times during school holidays and long weekends. Campground hosts can help rangers with a variety of activities and can stay for varying periods from a few days to a few months – by negotiation. With additional training, hosts are able to stay in geographically remote area campgrounds, staying on park for a few months at a time. Remote area hosts are reasonably self-sufficient when it comes to maintaining and repairing equipment and can cope with isolation and demanding climatic extremes for extended periods.

Caretaker park hosts provide the opportunity for parks to engage hosts for a specific park, providing a consistent onsite presence in the park, and currently are only in geographically remote areas. Caretaker hosts provide assistance and support staff to achieve positive outcomes in the maintenance of parks and heritage assets. As with remote area hosts, caretaker hosts are reasonably self-sufficient when it comes to maintaining and repairing equipment. Training requirements for hosts in caretaker parks are the same as for geographically remote parks.

There is an ongoing need for need for volunteers to host.

Easily accessible parks

Coffin Bay National Park, Coorong National Park, Deep Creek Conservation Park, Flinders Chase National Park, Innes National Park, Lashmar Conservation Park - Antechamber Bay, Lincoln National Park, Mount Remarkable National Park - Mambray Creek, Murray River National Park - Katarapko & Lyrup, Naracoorte Caves National Park.

Training- modules exist for -

Getting Started, Induction, Compulsory training

Geographically remote area parks

Flinders Ranges National Park, Gawler Ranges National Park, Innamincka Regional Reserve, Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park, Witjira National Park - Dalhousie Springs

Training modules exist for -

Compulsory further training, park-specific training,

Caretaker parks

Gawler Ranges National Park, Venus Bay Conservation Park

Training - as for Geographically remote parks

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Friends of Heysen Trail and Other Trails

... in November 2015 moved to a new office, address Suite 212, Second floor, Epworth Building, 33 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000. Phone number, email and website address are unchanged, but faxing has been discontinued. Business hours are unchanged, namely, Monday to Friday 10.30 am to 2.30 pm.

www.heysentail.asn.au

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MISTY MORNING

[from Para Wirra News of September 2015]

The mist rolls in. It is morning, but the sun is cut off. The grey wetness swirls, black, spindly acacia shrubs fade in and out dripping with condensation.

This is the appearance of temperate rainforest, but it is just a winter's day starting up in Para Wirra park.

Grass trees are shadowy forms. Old brown flower stalks reaching upwards, surrounded by a skirt of grey-green grass-like leaves, sweeping the ground that is lightly covered with gleaming wet fallen groundcover.

The gleaming yellow of the Golden Guinea flowers shines out momentarily as the mist thins, and then becomes hidden as the cloud thickens and the moisture in the air turns to glinting light raindrops.

Unusually, this morning the clouds have not dissipated by mid-morning, but continue to cloak not just the colours of the bush, but also the sounds.

There are no bird songs, no rustle of leaves in the breeze, even the drip of the light raindrops seems muted.

It is unusual for the park to appear this way, no vistas, just the closest shrubs and plants, through shifting mist, but there is a sense of peace and calm - a sense of this is just the way the world is.

... by Michael Johnson 22/8/15

Photos by Michael Johnson



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Nature Foundation SA Inc ... Key upcoming events for 2016

[information provided by NFSA]

Thursday 14th April Nature Round-Up Come along to hear about our conservation work and the many diverse research projects we fund. Meet and greet fellow nature lovers and conservationists and learn how you can help us help nature.

Thursday 28th April to Monday 2nd May Hiltaba Grand Working Bee Work alongside NFSA staff and ecologists in conservation and/or maintenance projects at the magnificent Hiltaba Nature Reserve, 700 km NW of Adelaide on the Eyre Peninsula. Includes a day off for some well-deserved rest and sightseeing.

Friday 17th & Saturday 18th June Para Woodlands Planting Come to Para Woodlands, 5 km NE of Gawler, and help us revegetate this area with native grasses and other plant species.

Sunday 11th September Tiliqua Lizard Crawl At Tiliqua Nature Reserve, 10 km NW of Burra, volunteers (including families and children) can be involved in 'citizen science' activities to assist ongoing research into the conservation of the endangered pygmy bluetongue lizard.

Sunday 25th September Treasure Hunt for Nature Come as a participant or an event volunteer to this fantastic fundraising activity held in Botanic Park and surrounds, including the Botanic Gardens, Art Gallery, SA Museum and the Parklands. Great prizes and activities for all to enjoy. Choose from three routes - family friendly, challenging and geocaching.

Further information and bookings at 08 8340 2880 and admin@nfsa.org.au www.naturefoundation.org.au

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Friends of Parks Inc AGM on Monday 16 May 2016

Friends groups will have been formally notified of this AGM via email from Pam Smith, Secretary to the Friends of Parks Inc Board (see email of 26 February), which carried the following attached documents:

1. From the President's Desk No.3 – 25 February 2016
2. AGM information and request for group report, proxy form, and registration form
3. Agenda
4. Nomination Form - nominations close on 18/4/2016.

You are requested to respond by 22 April to advise whether a member/s of your group are able to attend the AGM, together with your group report. There is no charge, however, numbers are needed for catering/seating.

The AGM will be held at the Volunteer Centre, Belair National Park, at 9.30 am for a 10 am start. Please make sure that you display your Multi Parks Pass+ Camping on your dashboard when you pass through the ticket box for free entry.

We hope to see you there!

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Morialta Crag Care Project

[from Volunteer News for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Region - February 2016]

In May 2014 volunteers from the Climbing Club of South Australia, Friends of Black Hill & Morialta and the UniSA Rock Climbing Club joined together to develop the Morialta Crag Care Project. This is a volunteer project run by climbers for climbers to enhance and improve the bushland around the main rock climbing site in Morialta Conservation Park.

This partnership has seen the climbers apply weed control in steep sections of the park which other volunteers can't access safely. Target weeds include Olive and Blackberry which cause problems for the climbing experience and also threaten the native biodiversity in the park.

Recently, volunteers involved in the Crag Care Project got together with their local Volunteer Support Officer, Rangers and the District Ecologist to discuss weed management priorities. Discussions and advice from this visit will help the Friends develop a vegetation management document for long-term investment in the site. Support through grant funding, a Community Group Action Project Plan and a Green Army project managed by the Friends will further enhance the fantastic work done here by the volunteers.

Crag Care volunteers meet bimonthly on a Sunday morning and tackle weeds at the site which is suitable for climbers and non-climbers to access. If you would like more details including upcoming dates, check out [Climbing Club of South Australia](#) or contact the [Friends of Black Hill & Morialta](#).

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Items contributed by members -to whom special thanks

Hallett Cove Forum 2016

URBAN BIODIVERSITY ROCKS!

[message from the Forum organising panel, Secretary Alan Burns]

Registration of Interest

We warmly invite you to express your interest in attending the 2016 Friends of Parks Forum hosted by the Friends of Glenthorne Farm, Hallett Cove Conservation Park, Marino Conservation Park and O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park.

Please Note: Early expressions of interest by delegates will assist with planning as well as the overall financial standing of this event. Without large support of this event by attendees, it may be the last Friends of Parks Forum, so we are working hard to ensure its success.

Draft Program

It is planned that the Friday registration and evening meal will be followed by "Bat Experience" with Terry Reardon;

Saturday morning Andrew Allanson will speak about "Biodiversity and Habitat Restoration" and a panel of geologists including Mr Bob Major will discuss "Gondwana, the significance of Hallett Cove Geology and the impacts of urbanisation";

Saturday afternoon field trips will be offered to Hallett Cove Conservation Park to view the evidence of glaciations, and climate change over the past 640 million years OR to see vegetation that has been restored from almost total clearing to what it may have been in pre-colonial days; OR visit Marino Conservation Park with its pristine coastal heath OR O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park. A field trip to the Lower Field River will be offered concurrently or following on from the Hallett Cove Conservation Park walks.

The traditional Forum Dinner will be held at Club Marion, 262 Sturt Road, Marion, with Prof Chris Daniels as guest speaker.

Sunday morning Dr Ann Prescott will speak on “Botany – Plants and Biodiversity – into context” and Dr Mark Hutchinson will talk about “Winners and losers in the urban sprawl”, followed by “Historic landscape of Glenthorne Farm” with Dr Pam Smith and “The Worthing Mine” by Mr Greg Drew.

Sunday afternoon, the same field trips will be offered as for Saturday, with the inclusion of a visit to pioneer property of Major Thomas O’Halloran, Glenthorne Farm, followed by a view of the Worthing Mine.

Please post the ROI details (see below) to: Mrs Brenda Westlake, 2 Emma Street, MARINO SA 5049 OR.... email them to tcwestlake@gmail.com. By supplying these details to us, you will receive direct communication about the Forum.

Registration of Interest Details

First name: Last name:
Postal address:
Email address:
Phone No. Mobile No.(s):
Friends Group:

EXCURSIONS 15 to 16 October 2016

Glenthorne Farm – Sun 1.30

Glenthorne Farm has been locked away from the public since 1913. A place which is still restricted to the public to this day, except for a few hours each month. An oasis in a sea of urbanisation, the Friends of Glenthorne have for twenty years been fighting for its protection and for greater access for the community. A site of 208 hectares, heritage buildings dating back to the 1850s, ancient Eucalyptus microcarpa (Grey Box), ephemeral water-way and community revegetation efforts. Come on a walk through history, from 1839 when SA’s first police commissioner, Major Thomas Shuldham O’Halloran, settled and established his home, through the war years 1913 to 1947 as a remount station, the CSIRO research years and more recently the two decades of indecision and community frustration. Learn of the importance of this unique site to the State both in historical and environmental terms and the passion and vision of the community for the future.



Glenthorne Farm View

A unique opportunity for a 2 km walk around the heritage precinct, through revegetation, up and down undulating hills and at times over rough ground. Medium fitness recommended.

Hallett Cove Geology – Sat 1.00 – 3.15 and Sun 1.00

In this internationally renowned area, explore 5 geological periods from Pre Cambrian 640 million years ago to the present in the eroded sediments. See 280 million year old glacial markings above a dramatic coastline. Learn about the evidence for tectonic plate movement, climate change and everyday forces that mould our landscape.



Grevillea lavandulacea in the Hallett Cove amphitheatre

Walking up and down steps will be required on this 2 km scenic walk.

Hallett Cove Revegetation - Sat 1.30 – 3.45 and Sun 1.30 – 3.45

Witness the rehabilitation of this 53 hectare park from denuded hills with patches of remnant coastal heath to what we believe to be its pre-colonial vegetation cover. Occupied by Aborigines for over 30,000 years, it became agricultural fields with holiday shacks along the coast. Valued and saved for its geology 40 years ago, it has since been successfully revegetated, and is now an environmental education and passive recreation facility.

Some steps and rough ground will be covered on this 3 km scenic walk.

Lower Field River – Sat 2.00 – 3.30 and Sun 2.00

View the Worthing Mine, and then learn about the fossilised remains of a diprotodon being discovered in 1992 along this short section of a spring-fed river, which flows to the sea all year round. Sea birds visit the river-mouth to drink and de-salt; native fish enter the fresh water to spawn. The coast and adjacent parkland has been cleared of major weeds and revegetated, the work being ongoing. Sediment from quarries and a high nutrient load from the suburbs make maintenance of this freshwater environment a challenge.

Some pebbly beach walking is included in this 2 km walk over fairly even terrain.

Marino Conservation Park – Sat 1.00 – 3.00 and Sun 1.00

O’Halloran Hill Recreation Park – Sat 2.00 – 3.30 and Sun 2.00

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New approach to an old problem in the Barossa Goldfields

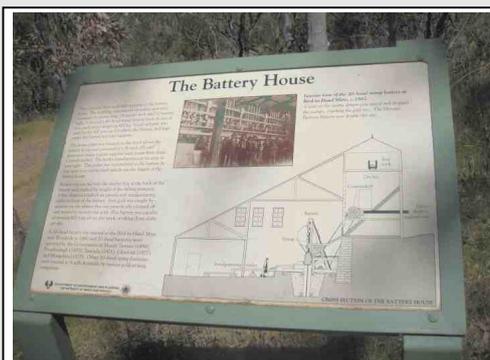
The Walking Trails Support Group has been maintaining the Barossa Goldfields walking trails for a long time. They are very interesting walks, and one has to wonder about the energy and money that was expended for little return in gold. What was life on the goldfield like for the workers?

We are now providing laminated information leaflets at the Allendale Road trailhead on a trial basis. The excellent leaflet produced by Mines and Energy (MESA) in 1996 is not easily available. Leaflets have limitations of space. Not all the mining activities along the trails have a panel such as those provided by MESA in the 1970s, so the story is only half told. (see picture 1) How do interested visitors find out more of the story?

Distances along the trails have been marked by 50 x 50 mm steel posts for many years. As part of a recent remarking of the trails (see pictures 2 and 3) some extra posts were put in to mark places of mining interest. An adhesive decal identifies the site and another decal provides a few words about it. (see picture 4)

We think this is a simple cost-effective way of enabling people to find out more about the places they visit – \$40 per post. With managers' support this system has been used in other parks.

... provided by Rob and Sue Marshall, Walking Trails Support Group



1. Sign at the gold stamp battery



2. Standard distance marker



3. Identity of walk at track junction



4. Site marker with information

A Barossa Goldfields walks map, pictures and information leaflet [190KB, PDF] - and similarly for several other walks in the Barossa area - can be downloaded from www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au/barossaindex.htm.

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Friends of Private Bushland: Week-long Field Trip

This article contributed by Eleanor Handreck

Members of Friends of Private Bushland (FoPB) own areas of bushland and/or revegetation areas that are protected by a Heritage Agreement (HA), or have a practical interest in such bushland.

One of the major and most enjoyable activities that is arranged for members of FoPB is an annual week-long camping trip. The idea of this trip is that our members visit other members' bushland properties in a selected region of the state. It is usually held in late winter or early spring. In recent years, these trips have been to Kangaroo Island, the Mid-North and to the Mallee and Riverland. Members are welcome to do the whole trip, or to join and leave the tour at any time.

The 2015 trip, which was held in September, was to the Fleurieu Peninsula. It began with a visit to a member's new sustainable house in Strathalbyn. A lot of thought had clearly gone into the design of this retirement home. It had been built from the best-available thermally efficient materials and had been carefully oriented to maximise winter sun. The owners said that, even in the extremes of heat and cold that can be experienced in Strathalbyn, they needed to use very little heating or cooling. They have solar panels, and they use recycled water on their garden.

After lunch, we visited a property at Point Sturt. As part of the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group (GWLAP), the owner of this property was enabled, with much physical help from local community members and with Federal funding, to have 86,000 tubestock put into the ground. The thousands of tree-guards that were snaking their way across the hill-slopes were a very impressive sight. Not far away, we were shown some lakeside plantings that were aimed at stopping shoreline erosion around Lake Alexandrina.

The next morning, we visited another property near Lake Alexandrina. This was a 4,000 ha holding, the majority of which was planted with vines. GWLAP is helping to revegetate the remainder of this property. The owner's main need was to control Perennial Veldt Grass and reduce fire risk. Because the revegetation project has had excellent planning and site preparation, the success-rate for the 6 years that the project has been running is 86%, which is exceptionally high. Over that time, 165,000 plants have gone into the ground.

Our afternoon visit that day was to a member's property at Finnis. She has 64 ha of bushland (the plant-list includes 33 orchid species) and about 20 ha of recent revegetation. Like the house in Strathalbyn, the house

here was designed to be very energy-efficient. It is totally off-grid, with solar power (plus an emergency generator), a composting toilet and many rainwater tanks. Her next-door neighbours have a straw-bale house. They use all of their grey and black water for drip irrigation in their orchard.

On Day Three, we visited a working cattle property near Ashbourne. Here, all river banks have been fenced off, and well over 16,000 trees and shrubs have been planted in non-productive areas. There is now substantial natural regeneration in cattle-free areas. The property also includes a secure native animal sanctuary in which Tamar Wallabies, Southern Brown Bandicoots, potoroos and bettongs reside. There are also antechinus in the area, but they are small enough to slip through the fences. The property-owner then guided us to Bullock Hill Conservation Park (CP), which he hopes will, one day, be joined to Cox's Scrub by a vegetation corridor. At the moment, one landowner doesn't wish to sell the necessary land.

During the afternoon, we went to a member's 45-ha property that straddles the Finnis River. When the property was purchased in 2010, it was infested with blackberry (which is now well controlled). The owners were troubled for a while by visits from a neighbour's cattle, but an electric fence has stopped that! As they are trying to keep the property as natural as possible, they are relying on nature to do the revegetation work for them.

Day Four activities started with an exploration of the Mt Compass School Boardwalk, which took us over a fine example of a Fleurieu swamp. A well-illustrated and comprehensive guide book helped us with plant ID.

We then headed to a 380-ha property that lies between the Spring Mount and Gum Creek CPs. This property is a working sheep and cattle farm that includes 120 ha of HA bushland. During our walk through a part of the HA area, we saw the Endangered shrub *Veronica derwentiana* ssp. *homalodonta* (Mt Lofty Speedwell). In the farmed area, corridors have been fenced off and planted so that they can eventually link the various areas of bushland.

In the past, there had been a problem with English ivy, but that has almost completely disappeared. Poplars were planted at one stage to stop erosion, but that turned out to be a very bad idea as the trees soon began to multiply and spread. We concluded our visit to the area with a walk through Gum Gully CP.

In the afternoon, we visited a 79-acre property at Inman Valley. About 50 acres is HA bushland. When we were walking down a rather steep hill to the bushland, several members had a close encounter with a red-bellied black snake before it slithered off into a pile of rocks.

That evening, we had a dinner in a hotel at Port Elliot. People who had hosted us at their properties joined us for the meal. As well, there were two representatives of the GWLAP who told us about their work on the Fleurieu.

The morning of Day Five was spent at a member's property near Mt Billy CP. The owner didn't buy the property because of its conservation values: she wanted more room for her herb-growing enterprise and she wanted to plant trees (mainly eucalypts, but also pines) from which she hoped to later make money. The remainder of the property – once open paddocks – is now regenerating into bush! It included a sizeable colony of *Diuris orientis* (Wallflower Donkey Orchid). (Most donkey orchids prefer to not have the same species as near neighbours.) And there were MANY specimens of *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* (Grass Tree).

After lunch, we visited a coastal property near Victor Harbor. The owner of the property has very serious allergy problems so she was advised to live somewhere where the air was very clean. We are quite sure that the air there was VERY clean, as the wind was cold enough to have come directly from Antarctica!

Our visit included a walk along the coast on part of the Heysen Trail. During the walk, we ran into members of a Trees For Life Bush Action Team (BAT) who were digging up the introduced orchid *Monadenia bracteata* (now a serious pest), as well as bridal creeper and canola. We also did a bit of 'spying' on the feathered inhabitants of an off-shore (2 km away) island, to see if we could spot an endangered bird species. (The result? Inconclusive.) That evening, we had a shared meal with members of the BAT.

Day Six was a free day. However, most tour participants spent at least part of it at Deep Creek CP, where there were lots of herbs and shrubs in flower.

The final morning of the trip was spent on a spectacular property that was high above Cape Jervis and, in some places, gave great views over Gulf St Vincent to Kangaroo Island. The strong winds that often swept over the higher slopes meant that some of the eucalypts had a distinct lean to the east.

The property's extensive area of bushland grows on the steep sloping sides of valleys that run east-west. The really special plant on this property is an 'outlier' population of *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* ssp. *tateana*, a subspecies that is generally restricted to Kangaroo Island. (KI and the Fleurieu were joined when sea-levels were considerably lower than they are now.)

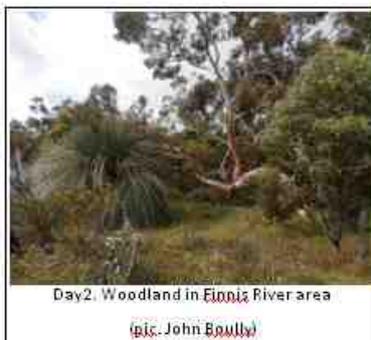
At the end of our lunchtime gathering, President John Bouilly was warmly thanked for all of the time and effort that he had put into the planning of this very interesting and successful trip. It was inspiring to have been reminded during the trip that a goodly number of South Australians are doing everything that they can to preserve and maintain – and even extend – our state's rich (number of species), varied (depending on soil, rainfall, etc) and beautiful (no explanation needed here!) bushland.

FoPB annual subscription is \$10.00 p.a. for an email newsletter, and \$15.00 p.a. for hard copy. To join, contact Lyn Carmichael at tl.carmichael@bigpond.com.



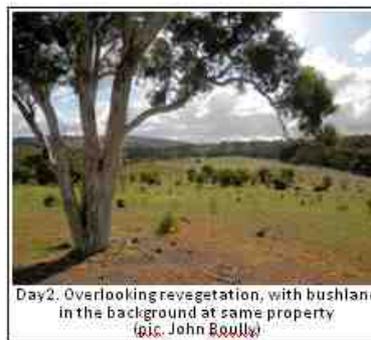
Day1. On the shore of Lake Alexandrina

(pic. John Bouilly)



Day2. Woodland in Finnis River area

(pic. John Bouilly)



Day2. Overlooking revegetation, with bushland in the background at same property

(pic. John Bouilly)



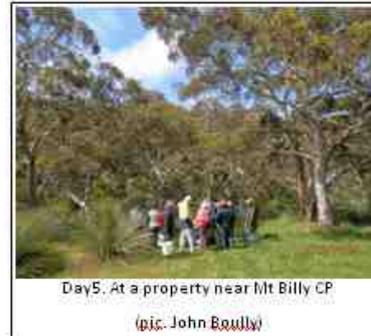
Day3. Overlooking the Finnis River at another property

(pic. John Bouilly)



Day4. FoFR members crossing grazing land on the way to bushland near Spring Mount CP

(pic. John Bouilly)



Day5. At a property near Mt Billy CP

(pic. John Bouilly)



Day6. FoFR members walking in Deep Creek CP

(pic. John Bouilly)



Day7. Above: Windswept trees on a property near Cape Jervis

(pic. Neil Stokes)

Right: View over Gulf St Vincent from same property

(pic. Eleanor Handreck)



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Re-established Friends Of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

[from Graeme Oats, President]

The group was re-established at a public meeting in March 2015 after a long absence. A committee has been formed and during the last 12 months some members have had an orientation weekend in the Park with Ranger Lindsay Brown. Two members were also cordially welcomed to a Co-Management Meeting in Hawker last October.

The group have arranged with members of the Wildlife Photographers Australia to commence a project in July 2016 to create an interactive audio visual display at the refurbished woolshed at Balcanoola.

Anyone interested in attending the Friends AGM on Friday 6th May 2016 at Holden Street Theatre at 7.30 pm are very welcome to attend.

Graeme Oats
President.

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Strength in adversity – 20th Anniversary since meetings first held to save Glenthorne Farm

The Friends of Glenthorne are a group which despite many obstacles, continue to work to protect the 200 odd hectares at O'Halloran Hill, which is Glenthorne Farm. 2016 is the group's 20th anniversary since meetings to save the farm were first held in the offices of Federal MP Susan Jeanes. Progress at Glenthorne is slow because of the restricted volunteer access to just 4 hours per month, no long term management plan despite the Friends efforts, a halt on any further revegetation other than that already established and a refusal by the controllers of the property to accept any assistance in the rehabilitation of this wonderful property, back to its original state as Grey Box Grassy Woodland.

Despite the limited increase in revegetation since the University of Adelaide took over control in 2001, the property boasts many large trees with hollows, including remnant Grey Box, possibly up to 500 years old and a water course including 3 dams. The Friends have maintained bird surveys over a number of years and have recorded around 90 species in the heart of suburbia. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Pink-eared Duck, Australasian

Shoveler, Musk Duck, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Grey Fantail, Golden Whistler, Superb Fairy Wren, Kookaburra and most recently Tawny Frogmouth are amongst the bird species on the growing list.

The property was first settled by Major Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran in 1839 who was amongst other things the State's first Police Commissioner. Buildings and heritage structures from the 1850s remain on the property to this day and the property is a wealth of State history including the No.9 Remount Station from 1913 to 1947 sending 17,000 horses to WW1 and donkeys to WW2 and from 1947 to the late 1990s it operated as a CSIRO research station for human nutrition and many other important scientific research topics. Major O'Halloran's body rests to this day in the Christ Church graveyard in the south east corner of the property and it is rumoured that his military regalia from his British Army days in India, rests with him.

In recent times the Friends' Patron, Dr Pamela Smith, has researched the history of the property and discovered through interviews with people who have lived at Glenthorne during these periods, much of the historical detail from the last 100 years. This rich history dating back to the State's settlement and the unique local biodiversity has captured the attention of the teachers and students from the local Sheidow Park School, who have included Glenthorne's history into their school's curriculum and are themselves researching this history further via the many new methods which technology provides.

In July 2014, the Friends assisted the teachers, parents and students create a sensory nature trail in the grounds of the school. This project strengthened the relationship between the Friends and the school and provided a resource to assist the teachers educate the students about our unique local plants and the nature which surrounds the southern suburbs.

Most recently the students of Sheidow Park School have decorated the Friends of Glenthorne wheelbarrow with a painting of a Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) tree, seen in the photo below and teacher Mel Prowse is now planning a history trail in the school grounds.

Despite the hurdles which have presented themselves to the Friends of Glenthorne, including the threat of large scale housing developments in 2008 and 2009 by the University, the Friends continue to do what they can to protect this wonderful and unique site and promote it to local school students and the public alike. In May 2016 we will again be holding a History Festival event and on October 16th, 2016, the Friends will open a small part of the farm to delegates of the 30th Friends of Parks Forum for a tour of the heritage precinct and also the revegetation sites established by the Friends. We hope to see you at Glenthorne in October.

The Friends plan to continue to work hard so that Glenthorne Farm will one day reach its potential and become one of the most important natural and historical sites in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges region. Through a variety of visitor activities and nature experiences, it is expected that the property's revegetation and other activities will one day become self-funding.

Happy 20th Anniversary to the Friends of Glenthorne Inc. and many more.

....Written by Secretary / Treasurer, Alan Burns.



Dr Pamela Smith, Blacksmith and Committeeman Stephen Brooke, Secretary / Treasurer Alan Burns and Sheidow Park School teacher Mel Prowse at the recent wheelbarrow handover event.



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Departed Friends

Since starting this newsletter, we have been troubled about how, or if, to acknowledge the departure of cherished Friends. We felt that including words of eulogy in each instance would be impractical in that too great a proportion of the newsletter would be taken up, while to say nothing was to ignore a very meaningful area. At each Forum we usually have a memorial table, a list of all Friends who have passed away since the previous forum, and a posy of flowers. But for this newsletter we provide a simple list of names, sufficient for you to make your own enquiries, of those who have departed since the previous newsletter. We apologise for any omissions. Please let Pam Smith, CPVPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

Richard Smith	Friends of Glenthorne Inc
Ian Hoffmann	Friends of the Gawler Ranges National Park
Frank Badman	Northern/Far North Consultative Committee
Tom Hands	Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park
Colin Malcolm	Friends of Onkaparinga Park
Dr John E Dunn	Friends of Old Government House
Ian Mitchener	Friends of Shorebirds SE Inc

... information from CPVPU records

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FRIENDS OF PARKS INC GIFT FUND

Do you want to make a donation to the work of Friends of Parks?
If so, do it through the Gift Fund.

Friends of Parks Inc operates a Gift Fund which is on the Australian Government's Register of Environmental Organisations which means that donations are tax deductible. Receipts can be provided for tax purposes. There are many reasons for people wanting to give a donation, e.g. after experiencing a wonderful time in the park, people may wish to donate towards that park. It should be noted that although a donation cannot be specified for a particular park or project, donors may indicate to the Gift Fund Committee that they would like to support a particular project.

To donate please forward your donations to:

Treasurer Friends of Parks Inc Gift Fund
c/- Community Partnerships and Volunteer Programs Unit
Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

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LINKS

What's happening over the border? See the "Cross-border Environmental Events Calendar - Summer 2015-2016" at http://natureglenelg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Summer_2015-16_Environmental_Events.pdf for a range of courses, field days and workshops, many free.

Natural Resources Northern and Yorke publish informative newsletters of interest to environmental volunteers. Visit [here](#) to inspect.

A new magazine-style blog will connect you to South Australia's natural wonders, highlight fun and family activities and unlock some of the state's environmental and heritage treasures. You can also join conversation on a broad range of topics and share your stories and photos of the things that make our natural environment so special. <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving>

Inspect Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges for its Events Calendar for 2016 at www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftranges/education/landholder-education for a range of courses, field days and workshops, many free.

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Thanks to those who have provided articles for this eNews. Editor