



# Friends of Parks eNews

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Patrons and Life Members - Dr Barbara Hardy AO    Mrs Jean McLaren  
 Hon. David Wotton AM    Mr Dene Cordes PSM

Life Members - Mr Brian and Mrs Noeline DuBois  
 Mr David and Mrs Margie Mitchell

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Well, 2016 certainly ended with a bang as far as FOP's is concerned!

The 30<sup>th</sup> FOP Forum at Hallett Cove proved to be a great success and really showed how a well organised and dedicated team could produce a high quality result. The venues were perfect, the speakers excellent and the food was delicious. You can always tell if an event is successful by the 'vibes' given off by attendees and in this instance there was nothing but praise and a great sense of enjoyment by all present. Congratulations to the Organising Committee - you did a great job!

To assist Forum Organising Committees in the future, your Board will help in the coordinating role by providing support, mentoring, finances etc. Our bi-annual Forum is an important event where all members have the opportunity to meet and discuss their common interests and achievements, so it is important that we help ensure that they are well supported and can continue to be delivered to the highest standard.

And the end of the year also gave us a series of FOP member Group birthdays. The last Newsletter featured the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc's 30 year celebration, and in October, Rosemary and I attended the 30 year celebration of the Friends of Onkaparinga Park.

In December, we attended the 31<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration of the Friends of Belair. Did you know that Belair NP – proclaimed in 1891 – was the first National Park in South Australia, the second in Australia (after the Royal National Park formed near Sydney in 1879) and the eighth in the world – pretty impressive isn't it?

And what is really impressive attending these celebrations, is meeting Friends members who have devoted so much of their energy and life into making our parks the outstanding 'venues' that they are today. Over 60 people attended the Belair celebration and 11 Long Service Awards were issued along with 21 Parks Gold Passes.

The key to virtually every success or endeavour in life are people! In today's uncertainty - in regard to governmental resources that are realistically available to inject into our park system - many parks throughout the State have come to depend on the FOP Groups, working in partnership with DEWNR, to continue with vital works that in the long-term promote the health and well being of those parks. Unfortunately, many of our FOP Groups are suffering the fate of volunteer organisations across the country – not enough young people 'stepping up to the plate' to work with and eventually take over from us 'oldies'.

At the Belair function, I met a wonderful 16 year old member of the Friends of Belair – she was attending with her father, John. As it is unusual to see such a young person at FOP events I had a long talk with Lauren Heddle and soon realised that in her, I was looking at what could very well be the future of FOP.

I was so impressed by Lauren that I asked her to put together her biography and it is [featured in this newsletter](#). I think we do need to accept that people like Lauren are the way forward for FOP and that we need to put some effort into finding like-minded people who we can nurture into becoming active and dedicated members of our Groups, fighting for the preservation and enhancement of our environment. I guess you could liken it to investing in a 'human superannuation fund' for the environment.

In October, I was lucky enough to attend the opening of the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. This magnificent 64km long trail along the south-west coast on KI is a testament to nine years planning, perseverance and hard work, on the part of DEWNR personnel and volunteers. It certainly is one of the World's most outstanding trails and highlights the beautiful and raw coastal scenery on the Island.

I always like to pick out a couple of highlights from the superb range of FOP newsletters and the first is from the Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula who have a great idea for maintaining their trails – a similar system is used in parts of Australia for clearing rubbish from road reserves. The USA has perfected this system, and various clubs maintain many thousands of kilometres of road reserves across the USA.

"Members who find it difficult to make it along to our group working bees may like to take on responsibility for maintaining a short section of the walking trails that criss-cross Lincoln National Park. This involves walking your section of trail several times a year (or more), clearing it of new growth, fallen limbs and other obstacles, and ensuring that all marker posts and signs are in good condition. You will be issued with gloves, hand tools and sign repair kits for the job. Any problems on the trail that require more muscle or heavier equipment can be reported to the Walking Trails Coordinator for action by Parks staff".

It was nice to see that the Friends of Althorpe Islands Conservation Park were successful in receiving a grant from the latest round of DEWNR Volunteer Support Grants. The latest issue of 'Sentinel' details the background history of the Group and the enormous amount of work they have undertaken in their 70 visits to the Island. The lighthouse station on the island is 137 years old.

DEWNR have formed a new "Parks and Wilderness Council" and at the inaugural 'getting to know you' meeting, John Schutz, Group Executive Director, Parks and Regions, presented a 'History of National Parks In South Australia' that he had compiled from a number of sources. It tells a most informative story of how our park system was formed and I have asked our Editor, Hugh Lambert, if he would reproduce the 'story' in a future Newsletter.

I have a strong feeling that 2017 will be another energising year in regard to the way forward for our great organisation. With another series of grants, awards and scholarships on 'the horizon' and our wonderfully active marketing committee 'pounding out' new ideas, the year ahead should be an exciting one!

To help ensure that we have a strong and vibrant Board, I would encourage members to consider standing for a position the FOP Board at the AGM on 1 May. If you'd like to know more about what's involved or what sort of skills we need, please contact me.



Duncan MacKenzie OAM  
President  
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.

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## The eNews

A practice that we'd like you to adopt for the 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 the VSPU, as a major source of information for eNews.

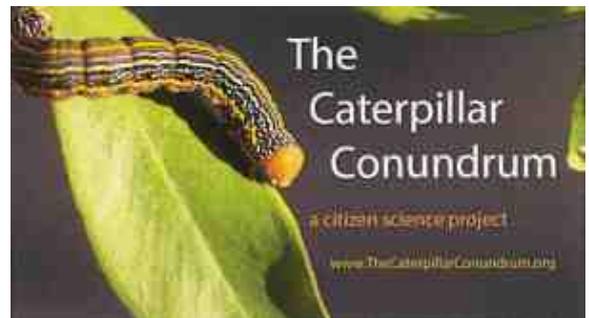
## Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information

### The Caterpillar Conundrum

Attention BCSA\* members who would be interested in rearing in caterpillars for science!

What's a parasitoid?

Parasitoids are animals that live on or in other animals, and feed off them to survive. They are parasites, like the head lice you might have been infected with in primary school. A parasite normally doesn't kill their host (the animal they're living on) but a parasitoid does. The parasitoids we are studying are insects like flies and wasps that lay their eggs in caterpillars.



What's a citizen scientist?\*

A citizen scientist is anyone who wants to be part of real science and help professional researchers discover new things. There are heaps of different citizen science projects to try - head to:

<http://biocollect.ala.org.au/#isCitizenScience> to find one you like (but you should definitely try The Caterpillar Conundrum project!)

What is the Caterpillar Conundrum project?

The Caterpillar Conundrum is part of a PhD project being conducted by Erin Fagan-Jeffries at the University of Adelaide. She is studying parasitoid wasps that infect caterpillars, and needs to learn what kind of caterpillars each wasp attacks. This will be useful to learn more about our biodiversity (the animals and plants in our environment) and to help us protect these animals into the future.

That's where you come in! We are asking volunteers to rear caterpillars that they find in their backyard or local park and upload the data to a Bower Bird Project. A small number of these caterpillars will have parasitoids inside them, which will form cocoons on the body of the caterpillar and emerge as wasps or flies. If this happens, we'll ask the volunteer to send in their parasitoids and dead caterpillar so we can identify them!

Find out how to participate here: [www.TheCaterpillarConundrum.org](http://www.TheCaterpillarConundrum.org).

Want to run The Caterpillar Conundrum in a classroom? Check out the 'Teachers' page on the website.

We can also send hard copy or emailed instructions to participants if they do not wish to navigate the website.

... from BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA NEWSLETTER of Oct 2016: article by Erin Fagan-Jeffries

\* Butterfly Conservation SA

\*\* The idea of the Citizen Scientist is of course of far broader scope than the very worthy area addressed by this article - which is why I thought to include this article for your consideration. Thank you, Erin, and BCSA. Editor

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### 10 things we learnt about South Australia's first corpse flower

[You probably had your fill of the recent press/media coverage of the corpse flower. However, you might be pleased with the well presented facts in the website whose URL appears below, and be tempted to watch the 3 minute lapse-rate video of the plant's flowering stages offered there. Editor]

The Titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is commonly known as the corpse flower and has one of the world's largest and smelliest flowers.

In 2006 the Botanic Gardens of South Australia received three Titan arum seeds through a donation and has been working to get the unique plant to flower ever since. In a first for the state, the Titan arum flowered in the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden nursery on 29 December 2015.

Horticultural Curator of Plant Propagation of the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, Matt Coulter, shares what we learnt from South Australia's first corpse flower. Visit:

[www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2016/01/corpse-flower](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2016/01/corpse-flower).

... from DEWNR's Good Living blog of 11 November 2016

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## Perhaps use of drones is of wider interest to Friends of Parks groups?

[This thought prompted by the following excerpt from Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc. minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on 20 Sep 2016]

### Use of Drone in Parks

We can now apply for a permit to use a drone in the parks as DEWNR has now formulated a policy.

Visit [here](#) to initiate enquiries.

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## Five Stage bushwalk established on KI

In October 2016 DEWNR announced the opening of a five-stage, 61 km bushwalk extending from Flinders Chase Visitor Centre to Kelly Hill Caves. The bushwalk is operated by DEWNR on the basis of one stage per day. A fee is charged for trail management and maintenance. Visit [KI Wilderness Trail](#), and in particular [The Experience](#) and [FAQs](#), for supporting information.

Participation needs to be booked in advance, as the number of walkers at any given time needs to be managed to assure that overnight accommodation facilities at the stop-over points for multi-stage walkers are always available, and that numbers in general are compatible with the wilderness experience and environmental considerations.

A maximum of 48 guided walkers (12 independent, 36 commercial for operators, including guides) are permitted to depart each day. These will be a mix of independent and guided walkers with some camping along the trail (campgrounds cater for 24 walkers) and some staying in off-trail accommodation. Of the commercial tour operator walkers, only 12 are permitted to camp overnight, meaning there are a maximum of 24 campers at each campground per night (the foregoing paragraph is a direct repeat of [KI Wilderness Trail](#) information).

The stages are:

1. Flinders Chase Visitor Centre to Cup Gum Campsite at Snake Lagoon (12km)
2. Snake Lagoon to Hakea Campsite at Cape du Couedic (14km)
3. Cape du Couedic to Banksia campsite at Sanderson Bay (13km)
4. Sanderson Bay to Tea Tree campsite at Grassdale (13.5km)
5. Grassdale to Kelly Hill Caves (7.5km)

Stages may be walked individually, and 'off-trail' overnight accommodation used, as each stop-over point is accessible by road. See an [illustrated map](#) of the geography of the Wilderness Trail.

...Information on this bushwalk first noted in DEWNR's GOOD LIVING newsletter of 23 September 2016, and on 5 January 2017, considerable fanfare was made by our media.

.....Acknowledgement - much of the information given here is obtained from the [Wilderness Trail website](#).

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## Friends of Onkaparinga Parks - 30th Birthday celebration

This took place in the Noarlunga Scout Hall on 23 October 2016. For a handsome description of this happy and successful event please visit [www.communitywebs.org/OnkaparingaParks/pdf\\_files/novnews16.pdf](http://www.communitywebs.org/OnkaparingaParks/pdf_files/novnews16.pdf).

However, a few extra pictures from several taken by guest Josh Smith, which were not shown in FOOP's November newsletter (URL above), are added below to whet your appetite to see more and perhaps learn the explanation for the mysterious stand-by weaponry. Captions by Editor who probably will be asked to desist in future.



Dr Barbara Hardy and Anne Malcolm prepare to strike. Stand-by weaponry at the ready



Celebratory cake.  
Congratulations to the icing artist!



Dr Barbara Hardy and Anne Malcolm succeed in cutting the cake using only the originally supplied tool - so stand-by weaponry not needed after all.

## Congratulations to the Friends of Onkaparinga Parks

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### 31st Birthday - Friends of Belair National Park

The 31st birthday tea held on 19 December was a wonderful success. This was also the 125th birthday of the Belair National Park. Approximately 60 people attended, so it was a full house. It was a bit of a close call given the hot weather, but the group decided to go ahead, despite the fire ban, because by the time 6 pm arrived it had rained and was much cooler temperatures.

Kat Hill from the Volunteer Support Unit of the AMLR Region, and Jen Pitman, Senior Ranger, presented the Friends of Belair NP with a wonderful 30th Anniversary gift of a commemorative spade (which will be mounted in the Volunteer Centre for all to see in due course), and a new book for the Library - Wildlife of Adelaide. Duncan MacKenzie, President, Friends of Parks Inc., presented Gold Passes to members who had contributed 15 years of voluntary work to DEWNR, and Gill Peacey, Manager, Volunteer Support Programs Unit, presented certificates, badges, and letters to members who had contributed 10, 20, 25, and 30 years to the Friends Group.



... from emailed information from Tina Gallasch, Secretary, Friends of Belair National Park

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### Volunteers wanted for Yorke Peninsula Hooded Plover Biennial Count



A hooded plover sitting on a nest. Image credit: Glenn Ehmke

This beautiful photo was included as part of an invitation to participate in the Yorke Peninsula Hooded Plover Biennial Count, as noted below. The count was scheduled for 19-20 November 2016, so is now a thing of the past, however, the contacts given enable you to pursue the possibility of contributing to future counts. I thought the photo was a thing of beauty and merited being included just for itself in our eNews. Editor.

Natural Resources Northern and Yorke is seeking volunteers to help with a biennial count of the threatened hooded plover along the beach lines of Yorke Peninsula.

Every two years, all suitable ocean beach habitat for Hooded Plovers are surveyed with an aim to achieve our best estimate of the population of hooded plovers in eastern mainland Australia. November is the ideal time to count them while they are less mobile during the breeding season. The main count weekend this year is 19 and 20 November, however surveys can be performed from November 7 to 27 2016.

The survey involves walking along a specific stretch of beach and recording hooded plover sightings and any visible threats that may impact breeding success, such as foxes and ravens. All required equipment (data sheets, guide book, binoculars, GPS) and basic training is provided. Participants require a reasonable level of fitness to conduct the surveys as some of the beaches are long or remote. Upon registering your interest, specific locations will be negotiated and assigned to you.

To assist volunteers taking part in the survey, there is limited funding available to cover bush camping fees, but participants will need to be fully self-sufficient.

If you are interested in taking part in the (future) surveys or would like further information, click [here](#) or please contact Community Ranger, Janet Moore on 0447 418 391 or [Janet.Moore@sa.gov.au](mailto:Janet.Moore@sa.gov.au)

... from YAKKA e-News of 28 October 2016 from Natural Resources, Northern and Yorke

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### Useful new weapon for Erica arborea

Friends of Scott Creek CP developed the very effective technique for removing Erica in which it is hit on or underneath the lignotuber, causing the brittle major root below to break off. This has the added benefit of minimising herbicide use.

Now a new kind of tool is speeding up this process. Called a 'small splitting axe', it is about the size of a hatchet, but with a much heavier head (overall weight 1.5 kg). When hit with the flat side of its head, this extra weight helps to break off the Erica root below the lignotuber. In addition - if necessary - the pointed side on the heavy head is very effective in chopping through roots. The extra weight certainly speeds up the work. However, carrying or using the heavier tool may not suit everyone.



... from FOSCCP's Bandicoots newsletter of Sep-Oct 2016

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### Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park - Winaityinaityi Pangkara - announced

[extracts from email of 31 October 2016 from: DEWNR.AIBS@sa.gov.au]

"On 27 October, the bird sanctuary's new national park was proclaimed as the state's first new national park in a decade. The northern section of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary has been proclaimed the 22nd national park for the State. Click [here to watch a short video announcing the national park](#) which can be found on the bird sanctuary Facebook page.

The new national park is made up of 2457 hectares of land north-west of Adelaide, to be known as Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park - Winaityinaityi Pangkara (pronounced Wee-nay-chi-nay-chi Pan-ker-a), aimed at protecting vital migratory shorebird habitat.

Over the next 12-18 months new parcels of land will be added to the national park, creating a sanctuary for shorebirds along the northern coastline of Adelaide.

As well as creating a safe haven for shorebirds, the sanctuary will improve the quality of water entering the gulf, protect the coastline from climate change impacts and provide opportunities for local and international tourism."

... and for more detailed maps .....

"A map of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary and where the national park sits can be found on the bird sanctuary page at the Park SA website under [maps](#)."



Map showing the new National Park as part of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

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### A Prickly Problem

On Wednesday 19th October, some 50 brave souls comprised of DEWNR-NRM-FOOP people bravely undertook the problematic task of removing significant amounts of prickly pear *Opuntia Stricta* from the banks of the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park upstream from Perry's Bend.

This material had been washed down during the recent flooding events which inundated Old Noarlunga as well as the lower reaches including the light aircraft field.





Over 3 cubic metres of prickly pear were uncovered beneath the litter left behind post-flooding. Participants were armed with rakes, home-made spikes [thanks to Ranger Steve Johnson] and litter picker-uppers. These instruments were used to rake back the detritus, uncover and pick up the numerous segments of the pest plant. Each segment capable of becoming another problem infestation. The material was removed to landfill for burial.

Despite the physical nature of the endeavour, each of the workers toiled diligently with the result being a very much cleaner river bank for around

1 kilometre upstream.

A magnificent lunch was provided by staff from DEWNR-NRM. Congratulations to those involved we certainly appreciated your endeavours. Although the author was unable to stay for the end-of-day afternoon tea, reliable reports suggest many went home not needing any dinner that evening.

The day was an unqualified success, largely due to the organisational skills of the DEWNR/NRM people who put it together. To all who assisted, please accept our most heartfelt thanks for your work. The park has, and will, benefit from the clean-up. Thanks All!

Graham Thomas, President



... from Friends of Onkaparinga Parks November 2016 newsletter: author Graham Thomas [it is presumed Graham is also the photographer]

... and this addendum below (re-arranged) from the December FOOP newsletter: author Bill Heaven.

Prickly pear part 2.

FOOPers recently had another morning in the Rec Park picking up prickly pear pieces washed down stream after the last big storm. The haul surprised us all. The week after we did it again with assistance from DEWNR staff and the haul was just as big. We probably did not get it all but hopefully the cochineal beetle will do what we cannot.

Ranger Henry turned up and showed us cochineal infested prickly pear to go onto Park prickly pear sites. Very interesting. I felt like giving them a hearty cheer.



Female cochineal



Male cochineal

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Red imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*)

Fire ant forum: Crunch time for eradication battle

What would it be like living in an Australia overrun by infestations of red fire ants? Invasive Species CEO Andrew Cox gave a presentation in Brisbane in December of the repercussions if we fail to eradicate this hidden menace.

Federal, state and territory agriculture ministers will meet in February 2017 to decide the fate of the country's fire ant eradication program. If fully funded, the program could rid Australia of this menacing ant within a decade. But if the



image from [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/insect-pests/fire-ants](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/insect-pests/fire-ants)

funding talks fail much of the nation's populated coastal belt will be exposed to these deadly invaders.

Visit [invasives.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/fs-fire-ants-2016.pdf](http://invasives.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/fs-fire-ants-2016.pdf) to read a comprehensive description of fire ants (also named Red imported fire ants).

To enquire more broadly, visit the Invasive Species website <https://invasives.org.au/>

... extracts from the Invasive Species website, following a lead from an email of 23 November 2016 from the Invasive Species Council.

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### Red-Whiskered Bulbul Birds

[emailed message of 27 October from Tom Kloeden who is working on a project for Biosecurity SA (in partnership with AMLR NRM) trying to eradicate feral Red Whiskered Bulebuls (birds) that have been showing up in the hills. Part of this process is community engagement so that the community is aware of the issue and can cooperate with the program by reporting sightings.]

Red-whiskered Bulebuls are a serious pest bird that damage fruit in commercial orchards and home gardens, spread weeds, and compete with native bird species.

In 2016 they were found wild in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region of South Australia with sightings at Houghton, Inglewood, Cudlee Creek and Mount Torrens.

Red-whiskered Bulbul birds are the size of sparrows with an erect black crest and red cheek patch.

All suspected sightings should be reported to the Pest Alert Hotline: Freecall - 1800 084 881

For more information (including a 1 minute video) visit -

[http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds\\_and\\_pest\\_animals/animal\\_pests\\_in\\_south\\_australia/alert\\_pest\\_animals\\_in\\_south\\_australia/red-whiskered\\_bulbul\\_birds](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/animal_pests_in_south_australia/alert_pest_animals_in_south_australia/red-whiskered_bulbul_birds)

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### Researching Coorong lakes

[Apart from our general interest in widening our understanding of our Coorong Lakes, of particular interest in this article is the prospect of sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> by biogeochemistry - i.e. by seemingly hitherto unrecognised natural processes. Editor]

A research team consisting of Siobhan Wilson and Bree Morgan from Monash University, Emma Gagen and Gordon Southam from University of Queensland and Scott Johnston from Southern Cross University have recently been studying some of the lakes in the Coorong National Park near Salt Creek. Siobhan Wilson, Senior Research Fellow at the School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment provided this background for Friends of the Coorong:

These lakes are really interesting because the chemical composition of each lake's sediment is completely different. That's very strange for lakes that are right next to each other! Even more interesting is that some of the lakes' sediments are pulling carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and storing it in minerals that can trap this greenhouse gas for millions of years. We've been sampling water, sediment and the friendly bacteria that live in the lakes to understand how they act as natural traps for atmospheric pollution. Our goal is to learn from the lakes to develop carbon dioxide storage technologies that use Earth's natural biogeochemistry. We're lucky to be able to work in such an interesting and beautiful place. I hope our work will help highlight the importance of this place for Australia and the world.

... from Friends of the Coorong newsletter Spring 2016

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### Volunteer Insurance

[Extract from Friends of the Simpson Desert Park General Meeting 9 Sep 2016 regarding insurance coverage of Friends while attending DEWNR endorsed activities.

The extract is a replication of an email from Tony Magor, Manager Parks and Co-management, DEWNR]

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At a recent information session for DEWNR staff regarding the updated Volunteer Safety Framework, clarity about insurance for volunteers traveling to and back from working bees was requested.

Under the Work, Health and Safety Act 2012, volunteers are viewed as 'workers' (along with paid DEWNR employees, contractors, work experience students), when it comes to DEWNR's 'duty of care' obligations through its WH&S policies and processes.

The department, through its insurance agreement with SAICORP, provides cover for volunteers when they are actively involved in a 'DEWNR endorsed' activity. However it does not provide insurance coverage for travel arrangements to and back from a work site - anything that occurs during these times needs to be covered by personal insurance arrangements - in other words, all volunteers, travelling to and back from a working bee, regardless of location, are not covered by DEWNR insurance. They are only covered by DEWNR's insurance if anything happens while 'working' on-site during a working bee.

All insurance claims made by volunteers are reviewed by SAICORP on a case by case basis, taking into consideration all the facts involved in the incident.

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Basically you are covered while working for DEWNR, but not while travelling to and from your homes.

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### Suspect exonerated

September 1<sup>st</sup> was National Wattle Day. Wattles are frequently blamed for causing hay fever in early spring, but allergy tests (skin prick tests) seldom confirm that Wattle is the true culprit (source: Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, [www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au)).

... from FOSSCP's Bandicoots newsletter of Sep-Oct 2016



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## Items contributed by members- to whom special thanks

### The 30th Forum of Friends of Parks Inc - by Dene Cordes

Having been present at all thirty Forums, I always say, each time, that each forum was an outstanding success. And so it was again, this year when a very good number of delegates attended at the Hallett Cove Civic Centre. Congratulations to the host Friends Groups - Hallett Cove, Marino, Glenthorne Farm, O'Halloran Hill, with help from Lower Field River. These hard-working groups had delegates attend fortnightly steering committee meetings for over twelve months. The Forum Committee was presided over by an expert leader, Alan Burns, from Glenthorne. His initiatives, experience, enthusiasm, and diplomacy shone throughout, and it ensured that the group kept moving forward in a systematic and thorough manner. Penny Rendle, Hallett Cove, attended to all the minutes and formal matters. Brenda Westlake, assisted by husband, Trevor, handled all of the treasury, budgets, computer charts, technical and design matters. She did a mammoth job. Excursions, car parking, and other practical duties were handled by Alan Wilson (Marino Friends) and Alan Burns. Bob Major, Hallett Cove Friends President, took the lead in geological discussions, and group visits to his park. Steven Brooke, with Alan Burns, handled all of the Glenthorne Farm arrangements and general liaison matters at the forum. Gavin Campbell represented the O'Halloran Hill group and led the walks at that park – his sense of humour kept meetings alive. Lynette Knight undertook to convene the catering and her skills and presence of mind stood out throughout the months of planning and during the forum - a first class result. Life members Brian DuBois and Dene Cordes were attending Mentors to the Steering Committee. From the Friends of Parks Inc. Board, Andrew Winkler and Duncan MacKenzie attended some meetings and kept the liaison flowing between the Board and the Committee. Alan Burns expertly handled sponsorships, the raffle prizes, and gift presentations. Everybody on this remarkable committee took on extra duties and made sure that it was to be another top forum. It certainly was right up there among the better forums over the years.

Undoubtedly, the expertise of Greg Rossiter, Roxy's Music (from Victor Harbor), was a highlight throughout, with highlighted pictures, introductions, names of speakers, and a brief biography about everyone who took a leading role. Greg's work was superb, as was the illuminated screen and coloured descriptions - not to mention his skills in sound and light, and just being there when anything looked like being a problem. Greg has done this role for many years and his work is a key to the success of each forum. He happily travels to wherever each forum is held.

The Forum Dinner, held at Club Marion, had its usual huge attendance, and was a friendly and positive evening. A description of the forum awards is appended to this article, by Pam Smith of the Volunteer Support Programs Unit, DEWNR. Duncan MacKenzie ably emcee'd the forum dinner and was unhesitating in his praise for all who had organised it. The traditional award for the McLaren Shield (provided by Jean and the late Verne McLaren [Patrons]) was awarded to the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.

The excursions to each park were extremely well organised so that delegates had two chances to visit and learn about the following places:-

Hallett Cove (geology), Hallett Cove (Botany), Glenthorne Farm, O'Halloran Hill, Marino, and Field River Estuary. Coaches transported the delegates to their chosen excursion, and leaders ensured that they were made welcome and shown the highlights of each park.

The Guest Speakers were of a very high quality and were of much educational value as well as of vital interest. The speakers and their topics were as follows:-

Terry Reardon ~ Bat Experience; Andrew Allanson ~ Biodiversity and Habitat; Associate Prof David Paton ~ Biodiversity– ecology and birds; Bob Major ~ Geology – Ice Age to Hallett Cove; Dr Keryn Walshe and Dr Pam Smith ~ Historic Buildings – Glenthorne Farm; Greg Drew ~ Historic Cornish Mine Buildings; Dr Mark Hutchinson ~ Reptiles - winners and losers.

The next Forum will be hosted by the Friends of Innes National Park, on Yorke Peninsula. Secretary of the Friends of Innes National Park, Joyce Yeomans, presented a short video of the Park and its many attributes. People will enjoy fabulous scenery, botany, geology, history, and warm friendship when they attend this event. The last time that the Friends of Innes hosted a forum was in 1995 - and it was very popular.

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## Friends of Parks SA Awards 2016

Each year, Friends of Parks SA in partnership with DEWNR recognises the achievements of Friends of Parks Groups with awards that illustrate not only the excellence but the wide range of accomplishments of Friends Groups throughout the state.

The awards were presented at the 2016 Friends of Parks Forum dinner, held at Club Marion on 15 October.

The outcome of the awards process was:

Habitat Restoration and Protection Award

Winner - Friends of Hallett Cove Conservation Park for Acacia paradoxa Patch Transformation

Special Commendation - Friends of Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park - Decline in woody weeds

Wildlife Protection and Recovery Award

Winner - Friends of Shorebirds SE Inc. - Campaign to limit deleterious consequences of Beach-Cast Marine Algae Fishery on Shorebirds.

Special commendation - Friends of Shorebirds SE Inc. Protecting Ruddy Turnstones through Scientific Research and On-ground Action

Cultural and Structural Heritage Award

Winner - Friends of Simpson Desert Parks - Witjira National Park - Replacement of Dalhousie Springs steps

Special commendation - Friends of Moana Sands Conservation Park - Conservation of Kauria Heritage

Community Engagement Award

Winner - Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc. - Morialta Crag Care project

Innovation Award

Winner - Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc. - Morialta Centenary BioBlitz - and winner of the McLaren Shield for excellent in a project that has significantly contributed to the conservation of our natural environment and heritage.

Special commendation - Friends of Sturt Gorge Recreation Park - Online Mapping Tool

The winners received a cheque for \$1000 and a framed certificate, whilst those groups that received a Special Commendation received a cheque for \$250 and a framed certificate.

Details of these achievements can be viewed here [www.friendsofparkssa.org.au/.../fop-award-2016-nominees](http://www.friendsofparkssa.org.au/.../fop-award-2016-nominees)

Life Membership – Friends of Parks Inc. - was awarded to David and Margie Mitchell, Friends of Cobbler Creek RP, for their great contribution to Friends of Parks Inc. and the Friends scheme.

CE Sandy Pitcher announced the winners and read the citations, and the awards were presented by The Hon. David Wotton (former Minister for the Environment, and current Patron and Life Member, Friends of Parks Inc.), and Duncan MacKenzie, President, Friends of Parks Inc.



Hon. David Wotton presents the Community Engagement Award Shield to John Fleming, Friends of Black Hill and Morialta, watched by Sandy Pitcher (left) and Duncan MacKenzie (on the right)



(On the right) Margie and David Mitchell display their Life Membership Certificate, watched (left) by Sandy Pitcher and the Hon. David Wotton. Duncan Mackenzie just visible behind.

### A Shining Light!

At the Belair Friends of Parks 31<sup>st</sup> Birthday celebration, I met the most marvelous teenager, Lauren Heddle, who was with her father. After a long discussion with Lauren, I realized that she represented the long-term future of the Friends of Parks Groups, and I asked her to let me present her biography to you – remember she is only 16 years old.

If we are to survive as an active and highly productive organization, we must look to the younger demographic to take us into the future. There are other young people like Lauren out in our communities, probably just waiting for the opportunity to join us – let's find them!!

Duncan MacKenzie OAM  
President, FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.

Hello, my name is Lauren Heddle and I became a member of Friends of Belair National Park this year after doing a week of work experience with park rangers from Black Hill Conservation Park. I spent a lot of time undertaking work experience in Belair National Park with Amanda, the park Ranger, and she suggested I join the FOP Group - I thought it was a great idea as Belair is local for me, and I would be able to do what I'm interested in, help out in my community and also gain experience for my future career.



During most of the year I'm at school and have sporting commitments on the weekends so unfortunately I'm unable to come to weeding sessions and meetings. During the holidays I come to weeding sessions, every Tuesday and Friday and the first Saturday of every month. From attending weeding sessions this year, I have already learnt so much. I am now able to identify a lot more weeds and native plants and how they grow. This experience has enabled me weed our bush at home, as we have a 5 acre block of native bushland. As a member of Friends of Belair National Park I have also undertaken a brush cutting course run by Trees for Life – the course taught me all the aspects of brushcutting, including the safety aspects, and it will be therefore handy to use at home and in my career.

I attend Urrbrae Agricultural High School and I'm 16, going into year 11 next year. At school I'm a part of the Environmental Focus Group that has allowed me to undertake many environmental projects. I have run workshops for school kids at the Botanic Gardens on World Environment Day, teaching them about water quality, reptiles and fish found in wetlands and how wetlands work. I have been on a camp in year 8 to Kangaroo Island where we were planting trees to save the Glossy Black Cockatoos and, I have helped run Urrbrae Wetland Open days and Nature Play Days.

In year 8 I was a member of the native animal club at school. This club we would take it in turns to feed the animals and keep the area maintained. As a part of this group I went on an overnight camp to Swan Reach, where we met with experts in science, who showed us how to catch wombats and record data. During the day we went out and they showed us the burrows of the wombats, and how to tell if they are active burrows. You could tell this by looking at the condition of the burrow or at the droppings to see if it was fresh or not. At night we went out on the back of ute's with a giant spotlight, and we had a go at spotting wombats and catching them with help from the experts. This was so much fun and I found out that wombats can actually run very fast. Once we had caught them we took them back to the shed and the scientists put them to sleep. They showed us how to check for babies, their age, health, gender and where they might have been. I found this so interesting and it was so exciting as we managed to catch a couple of very young wombats. That night they also showed us little cameras that they had put on some of the wombats to track them and we watched videos of how foxes, rabbits and snakes are taking over their homes. The next day we released the wombats back to their burrows. I really enjoyed this camp and I learnt so much out of the two days.

I am also a part of the 'River Murray Group for Kids Teaching Kids' at the Urrbrae Wetlands and I have run workshops for primary school students, teaching them about native and introduced fish in the River Murray and also about macro invertebrates in the wetlands. As a member this group I went on a 14 day research field trip up the River Murray starting at Blanchetown and finishing up at Mt Kosciusko in the Snowy Mountains. On the camp we met with lots of science experts who talked to us about different aspects of the river. This was one of the best camps I have ever been on, I learnt so much. I learnt a lot about how the river was formed, how it used to flow, what has been changed over the years and the causes and effects. We tested the water quality along the way and looked at the vegetation comparing it from the bottom to the top. We found the water had a higher salinity nearer the Murray Mouth because of the water coming from the sea and the Coorong. We also found the river

was a lot smaller at its source and the water quality was a lot better up in the Snowy Mountains, you could drink the water straight from the river. We also found the river was home to a large number of introduced carp and how they have taken over the habitat of the Murray Cod which are native to the river. The scientists and our teachers taught us a lot about the fish in the river. This year the River Murray group went on a week camp travelling the Murray Mouth, Coorong and Lower Lakes. We again researched the water quality, vegetation and learnt about the Aboriginal History.

Last year I was a part of the Youth Environment Council, and a member of this, I ran a project at school called the SEEDS project. We were given a number of seeds from the Botanic Gardens of the endangered Glycine Pea plant. I'm leader of the Plant Club at school and in this club we planted the seeds and propagated many more of these plants. From the new plants we propagated, we collecting their seeds and grow more new plants – 'life saving cycle' for the plants. These plants are growing really well and we now have them planted near our farm entrance at school. This plant has become endangered, because in order for the seeds to germinate, they require to be exposed to very high temperatures. In their natural habitat, this would be achieved by fire and to replicate this at school, we put the seeds in boiling water and then plant them.

This year I was chosen from a number of applicants to be in the Urrbrae Trails group. This was a subject/project where we take tours of people from a range of ages, genders, religions, etc. around our schools farm. I really enjoyed this and found it very rewarding, I found it especially rewarding teaching the disability students that came through.

In 2017, I have been chosen from a number of applicants, to be a peer leader. I work with three other students and we are leaders of a year 8 home group. We run activities with them that are fun and ones making them aware of bullying and we show them around the school and where their classes are.

I love volunteering for anything I can at school, and I love working with other people and acting as a leader for the school. I especially have an interest in the environment and am therefore an active member of the environmental focus groups at school. For a career I would like to go University and study a course in either Bachelor of Science - Biodiversity and Conservation or Ecotourism. At this stage I would like to work as a Park Ranger or in another career where I can work in the environment and do research work. I also have an interest in teaching and working with other people, this gives me an interest in going into Ecotourism.

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## Flinders Ranges Bush Walks - A Walking Trails Support Group project

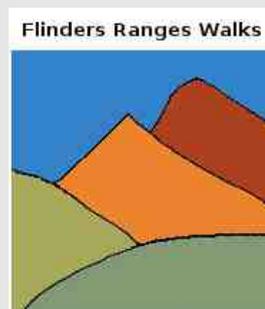
The walking trails that were established in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society of SA (RGS) between 1993 and 1995 have since been maintained by FoPI's Walking Trails Support Group in the interests of showing visitors some of the interesting features of parks that generally can't be seen from a car.

- information leaflets available at trailheads describe and explain some of the points of interest encountered and we see this as an important role for the walks we maintain.
- the leaflets are also downloadable from our website [www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au/](http://www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au/)

Leaflet printing is expensive but production has been managed by hook or by crook for 25 years and we know that visitors appreciate them. Now we feel we must make better contact with those who always seem to be looking at the palm of their hand. And printed documents are limited in what they can offer as far as quantity and style of information and illustration.

So we have produced a free Android App for Flinders Ranges Walks (which we regard as a draft), to support the leaflets. It can be easily edited (unlike print). It needs more pics (there are lots already) and the text is based on the existing leaflets and the Bush Walks section of the RGS' guidebook Explore the Flinders Ranges.

In Google Play Store type in:— Flinders Ranges Walks



We are aware of the drawbacks –

- lack of WiFi in the Flinders – but it is spreading; download before you go out of range
- difficulty of reading screens in full sun – you can create shade; read the notes in camp before you leave and note the distances of what you want to see
- risk of flat batteries – take a map/leaflet with you; in a group take two phones/tablets

Things you can't see from a car (see next page)....



Colourful hillsides in Wilkawillina



Rock-loving Silver Indigo in the North Flinders

.... contributed by Peter Beer, President, Walking Trails Support Group

Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP are also considering the production of an app for the Ikara-Flinders Ranges which addresses a broad area of interests offered by the park. The following extract from the ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH (the official bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park) of December 2016, outlines the planned information coverage for a new app, and alludes to the considerable planning, effort and management that must be devoted to producing this now-expected modern form of information availability. Together with the Walking Trails Support Group's app, described above, visitors to the Flinders Ranges will indeed be well catered for. Editor.

#### DISCOVER I-FRNP APP

Members attending last month's General Meeting were introduced to the concept of an app\* to be developed by our group for use by visitors to the park.

We envisage the app. providing information to help visitors plan to make best use of their time doing the things of most interest to them. It will include campground information, details about fauna, flora and geology, maps of the park and surrounding areas, links to our publications on "50 Short Walks" and "Exploring the Flinders", suggestions for tours and activities, a link to the new Flinders Ranges Walks app. and more.

District Ranger Alan Harbour and Senior Ranger Tom McIntosh are enthusiastic about having an app. for the park and are keen to provide assistance in its development.

We will project manage the development through member Bob Geary who has extensive IT experience and is prepared to devote the necessary time to provide a professional result.

Despite a lot of preparatory work having been done by Bob to provide the information required for us to make an objective assessment of our ability to undertake such a project, there is still need to fine tune a business plan, including financial considerations, and to ensure opportunities for members to be involved.

A memo will be provided to members to outline the range of tasks to be done and asking them to indicate which are of particular interest to them.

We hope there will be tasks in this project that members unable to visit the park, will enjoy doing.

Members last month voted to proceed with development of the app. so planning and preparatory work will continue. At the AGM Bob will provide a detailed briefing to members and we will outline plans to ensure the project is cost neutral to the group.

\*app. is an abbreviation for application. An app. is a computer program designed for a particular purpose and can be downloaded onto a mobile phone or other mobile device.

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#### Balcanoona Shearing Shed Renovation

... from a trip report (slightly modified) appearing in Central Hills 4WD Club Inc's FOUR-TOLD newsletter

Between 15 and 22 April 2016 our Club (Central Hills Four Wheel Drive Club Inc, a registered Friends Group of All Parks) made its annual pilgrimage to Balcanoona Station, (the National Park headquarters in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges), to continue the renovation of the shearing shed and yards.

We set out early on Friday 15 April 2016 to meet up with Ian, Kate, Geoff, Carmel and Steve at Pt Wakefield at 9.30 am. After a quick coffee, we began the long trek north through Stirling North, Quorn (refuelled), Hawker to Copley (refuelled), then turning east to Balcanoona Station via Nepabunna.

Whilst at Copley, Paul and Dee caught up with us and joined us for the final leg to Balcanoona. Just out of Copley, Deb and I were attacked by an emu who managed to do minor damage to our front right fender and door surrounds. Amazingly, it got up, shook itself and ran off into the bush, in a very sore state I would imagine.

We arrived at Balcanoona just at dark and set up camp. We were warmly welcomed by Barry, Bronwyn, Di, Terry, Julie and Josh, who had all arrived earlier after starting their trip a day earlier. A fun night around the fire was had by all.

On Saturday, we were up early for a briefing by Lindsay Brown, Senior Ranger. He ran us through our OH&S and allocated duties. Three teams:

Flooring in Shearing Shed - Geoff Fennell, Terry Schubert, Barry Klose & Josh Schubert.  
Fencing in sheep yards – Ian McDougall, Paul Drummond, Steve Turner & Bruce Nankervis.  
Weeding and Linseed Oiling – Carmel Fennell, Julie Schubert, Bronwen Klose, Dee Drummond, Kate McDougall, Debbie Nankervis & Di Newman.

After checking out the workshop and picking up the required tools, we got to work, quite a good effort for the first day, although the slackers in the beautiful shade of the shearing shed were pacing themselves so they didn't have to face the scorching sun out in the sheep yards.

The ladies' team were magnificent in clearing weeds, and linseeding the timbers of the new museum hut. However, the best achievers were the fencing team who demolished old fencing and dug holes for new fencing all day in the adverse heat. The evening was a quiet affair, everyone tired after a big day.

On Sunday, the work continued in the same vein as the previous day. The weather was getting warmer. The ladies had finished the linseed oiling of the new museum hut so the weeding piles got bigger and bigger, new fence posts were appearing with rails. There was minor progress in the flooring department inside the cool of the shearing shed.

An early finish was called. Everyone was buggered. The communal BBQ and campfire that evening brightened everyone up, especially Barry.

On Monday, Terry, Julie & Josh left early for their trip home. Ranger Sian (pronounced Sharn) returned from her days off. The remaining volunteers got back into work early. All the weeding heaps were burned. Finally, all but one post has been replaced in the sheep yards. Barry and Geoff were a bit lost without Terry and Josh there to tell them what to do, so they called on the ladies' team to give them a hand.

Tuesday was a day off. Some went for a drive to Grindell's Hut. Steve ended up with a flat tyre on the new Prado. Kate, Deb and I drove to Arkaroola for a look. We all spent the afternoon relaxing and catching up on sleep.

Wednesday, we started early with the fencing team trying to finish the external fence of the sheep yards and to put up ring lock wire to keep the native animals out of the yards.

The ladies worked hard linseeding the shearer's board and the inside pens. It all looked very impressive. The flooring works came to a halt due to a supply shortage. Bad luck, next time we'll let you finish it. We managed to finish all of what could be done by early afternoon.

Thursday was clean up day and some heading off home. Others getting ready for a departure next morning.

Friday, we departed. Ian, Kate, Debbie and I overnighted at the old Carrieton primary school where Deb's nanna went to school with her eight siblings. The local caravan park manager drove us around, taking us to cottages where some of Deb's ancestors lived and the church where her grandparents were married. We found everyone to be very hospitable and had a lovely look around before heading home on Saturday.

The weather was a telling factor during the week, well into the 30's most days. We were very thankful that Lindsay had a narrow-scooped backhoe which he dug the holes for the posts. A suggestion was made to change our time to September in cooler weather.

Overall the trip was a great success. Lindsay and Sian (also Arthur, Chief District Ranger) were very impressed and thankful for our participation and looking forward to our next trip to Balcanoona Station.

Author: Bruce Nankervis

From a selection of many more photographs contributed by Club Members and included in the trip report



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### Trial Spring Burns conducted on Finnis Springs

Over the past three years the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), in collaboration with Friends of Mound Springs and others, has been conducting the Desert Jewels project aimed at improved management of mound springs to achieve conservation objectives. A primary area of interest has been the management of reeds (Phragmites), which have tended to proliferate in springs fenced to exclude stock. While Phragmites is a natural component in the landscape in mound spring country, it is thought that many decades of cattle intrusion into the mound springs has elevated nutrient levels and, when stock are excluded from the springs, the elevated nutrients have favoured prolific regrowth of Phragmites at the expense of other vegetation. It has been postulated that burning of the Phragmites, possibly in line with traditional Aboriginal burning practices, might be a useful management tool to help restore a more diverse vegetation cover at these springs. The burning process may help to hasten a decline in nutrient levels in these springs.

With this in mind, DEWNR collaborated with the local Arabana people and with FOMS personnel in June 2016 to burn two Phragmites springs on Finnis Springs (Bopeechee Spring and a spring described as HBO004). A trial burn was also conducted at nearby Beatrice spring – a spring with bulrush (Typha) cover rather than Phragmites. Also participating was Dr Jasmin Packer, Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Biological Sciences, University of Adelaide. Dr Packer is working on a project on Phragmites management at a national and international scale and is keen to integrate the information from the mound spring burning trials into her own project.

Despite the regular and sometimes heavy rainfall in the Far North during 2016, the burning of Phragmites at Bopeechee and HBO004 springs was very successful, burning virtually all above-ground or above-water vegetation and leaving a thick mat of ash.



Phragmites burning strongly at Bopeechee Spring. To provide some scale, Dean Stuart can just be discerned on the right-hand side (photo: Bruce Gotch)



Bopeechee about six weeks after the burn: significant regrowth of Phragmites

The burning of the Typha spring (Beatrice) was less successful. The Typha was quite green and only a partial burn was possible. In the last week of July 2016 FOMS members Colin Harris, Bruce Gotch, Claire Bockner and Simon Lewis, along with Arabana elder Dean Stuart, paid another visit to Beatrice, Bopeechee and HBO004 springs. The group was interested to note quite prolific regrowth of Phragmites at Bopeechee and HBO004 just six weeks after the burns – with up to 70 Phragmites stems per square metre up to 0.65m high. The group repeated a number of one metre square quadrats at these springs to measure the extent of regrowth.

It is intended that monitoring will continue at these springs for several years to assess the longer term response of the reeds and of other vegetation associated with the springs. This will link in with monitoring at other springs – such as Outside and the Fountain, on the Peake - where the Phragmites appears to be in a state of natural decline. Another aspect to be considered is whether repeated burning at a particular spring – rather than a single one-off burn – should be trialled as a management option.

...from November 2016 edition of the Friends of Mound Springs newsletter; submitted by Simon Lewis

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### Square Tailed Kites observed

[extract from a letter of 9 January 2017 from FOBHM member Danny McCreddie, with accompanying photo (re-shown here) fast-tracked to the Friends of Black Hill and Mordialta, sent to VPSU, and now included in this newsletter to spread Danny's message more widely]

" I have been part of a group of people monitoring a Square Tailed Kite nest in the Northern Mount Lofty Ranges for the last two seasons. There has also been a nesting pair in the Belair area. This season there have been reports (including photos) of Square tailed Kites at Anstey Hill, Black Hill and Athelstone. Last week I photographed one hawking in Sinclair Gully on the boundary of Morialta. I have discussed these sighting with others and we believe there is a resident pair in the Black Hill - Morialta area. I ask that while you are out working in or enjoying the parks you keep an eye out for these magnificent birds. They are usually seen wheeling over the tree tops in forests but other birds attacking them can also give away their presence. Any Kite sightings in the Mount Lofty Ranges can be sent through to me at the email address below. It will help us to develop a better understanding of the distribution of these birds. This in turn will be used to ensure their habitats are protected. As an example, scheduled prescribed burns have already been changed to allow for the nest sites we know about.

I attach a recent photograph for identification purposes. "

Danny McCreadie [danny.mccreadie2@bigpond.com](mailto:danny.mccreadie2@bigpond.com)



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### Impressions of Althorpe Island Vegetation

It comes as no surprise to anyone who has visited the island in the last few years that it is a beautiful place with a covering of low shrubs and grasses ringed by a rugged coastline. The vegetation has largely returned to native species with the Friends' efforts of the last twenty years. The rocky cliffs, up to 90 meters high, which circle the whole of the 92 acre island, are particularly colourful as they are clothed in plants from green to silver to red and that is only the leaves. There are areas that have been disturbed where introduced species have naturalised, in particular the runway area where common mallow is being tackled. Colin and I have only been on two volunteer trips, both in 2016, but we have been told of the past widespread occurrence of boxthorn and tree mallow. We are in much admiration of past volunteer efforts because these species now only occur as youngish plants widespread as they continue to germinate from seed reserves. These can be successfully removed if regular bush weeding continues.

In total nearly 100 species of plants have been identified, of these just over half are native. The non-natives are largely near the three houses and paths, however some are widespread and common such as the ice-plant.

Walking around the rocky coast and cliffs reveals some special plants. There are patches of native sea celery (*Apium prostratum*) which early mariners ate to supply vitamin C etc.. It is growing on sandy soil between rocks on cliffs in the spray zone-amazing to see! Also on some of the steepest sites there are patches of beautiful silver cushion bush (*Leucophyta brownii*) but the most impressive plants, visible in spring, were the startlingly large yellow daisy flowers produced on insignificant clumps of leaves belonging to *Podolepis rugata* var. *litoralis* which is only found in coastal SA.

We would like more people to appreciate the wild beauty of this place but of course this is impossible without spoiling what is there ... so here are some photos (next page).



Apium prostratum



Leucophyta brownii



Podolepis rugata var. Litoralis

... from Friends of Althorpe Island members Barbara and Colin Colquhoun

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#### NEWS ITEMS from Dene Cordes (Friends of Parks Inc Patron)

##### National Parks Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee has carried out two historic maintenance projects in Belair National Park during recent months. The post and rail fencing at the northern entrance, near Belair Lodge, was erected in 1891 and is always painted white. At the time, there was not the luxury of nails or bolts, so the timber had to be in-let into the posts. The top rail was angled so that the wet weather did not rot the rail. The fence was in a very poor state and some rails were completely missing. The Heritage Committee funded stage one and engaged Bill Shircore to restore the fence adjacent to Belair Lodge.

And then there was stage two to be restored and made whole. The Department very kindly came up with the funds so that stage two could be done at the same time as stage one. It is a great result, and will be seen by so many people who enter the park on foot or on bikes. Others will see it when motoring up to the top end of the park.

The other historic site that has been restored, at the expense of the Heritage Committee, is the old Commissioners' Shack in the centre of the park. Bill Shircore carried out the work which has renovated the interior with white-ant proof materials, including work on the ceiling, walls, flooring, and the bathroom. The shack was used by the early Commissioners for stay-over inspections, and was also used for occasional meetings of the Board. Earlier still, it was the Blacksmith's Quarters when the Government Farm had horses that brought gold from the Ballarat Goldfields to the Treasury in Adelaide, and then the horses were rested at the Government Farm. Another piece of history has been given a new lease of life.

##### Friends Of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks, Port Lincoln

This active group held a twenty years celebration during the past year. The membership is stable and the members enjoy the challenges and the social interaction. One of its original, and most well known members who never misses a meeting or activity is Shyllie O'Brien of Port Lincoln who is now 98 years old. The group met at the Boston Bay Winery where a relaxed gathering acknowledged the work of so many people in conserving and protecting the treasured natural environment of the Lincoln National Park.

##### Friends of Cape Ganthema Conservation Park

This small group, on Kangaroo Island's south coast, have finalised the installation of the signage at D'Estrees Bay, for their self-guided drive. The group changed the self-guided drive information from a booklet to on-site signage and web-based information. There are eight stops along the roadway. Each one describes the natural and cultural values of D'Estrees Bay, including whaling and farming history, along with birds and wildflowers that are seen in the area. There are pale green totems with an Osprey carved onto them, marking the spots where an interpretative sign is up ahead, and there is a pul-lin so that cars can stop with safety. The Friends thank DEWNR for its support and guidance. A novel project that has been well done.

##### Walking Trails Support Group

This group of keen walkers who like the trails in parks to be of a high, recognised standard, recently held its 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration with a delicious High Tea at the home of Rob and Sue Marshall of Norwood. A good attendance was achieved and reports of work achieved during the past year were received with appreciation by all present. Some very hard work was carried out on trails, particularly in the far north of SA. The garden at Sue and Rob's place was a delight for people to enjoy the outdoor setting.

## Friends of the Nature Foundation SA

The members meet bi-monthly in the Foundation Headquarters at Hindmarsh. A social sandwich lunch precedes the meetings which are always friendly and positive. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Buckingham Arms Hotel in April, when any visitors or new members would be made most welcome. The Friends support the work of the Nature Foundation in a variety of ways. In the last year, restoring the old garden has taken up much of the time. Other projects were carried out at Witchelina Station and Hiltiba Station. A barbecue at Bunnings was a successful fund raiser.

A sad loss to the Friends was the passing of its immediate past President, John Sibly, AM. John had served as President for the past three years and was widely known and highly regarded.

Most of the members attended the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of the Nature Foundation, held in the banqueting room of the Adelaide Town Hall on 19 November. It was a major occasion when considerable funds were raised and a look back at how it all started back in 1981 was of great interest to the large audience.

## Friends of KI Western Districts Parks

This very active group of Friends takes on some extremely interesting projects, and has much fun along the way. They have researched the rare plant, *Hakea aenigma* which only occurs in a few clumps across western Kangaroo Island. Even though it occasionally flowers, it never sets seeds. So it really is an enigma! Most of the known populations are to be found in the Flinders Chase National Park that was burnt in the 2007 wildfires. The Friends located some plants, re-sprouting after the fires, and these were logged with hand-held GPS units. There was much excitement when one healthy plant was found in full flower. The group had lunch in the Wilderness Protection area where some rarely seen fire orchids were flowering.

The group has worked with the Department, and with Fungi expert, Dr Pam Catcheside, to produce a full colour brochure about fungi of Kangaroo Island. The message of the unique Kangaroo Island fungi, their diversity and the important role they play in the environment, is now being passed on to a wide audience.

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## Departed Friends

At each Forum we have a memorial table with 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, VSPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

Allan Coppick	Fort Glanville Historical Association Inc
Norma Skinner	Friends of Marino
Lois Margaret Hasenohr	Butterfly Conservation SA Inc
Trevor John Rowe	Butterfly Conservation SA Inc
Margaret Bolster AM	Conservation Council of SA Inc
Lorraine Hancox	Friends of Simpson Desert Parks
Toni Beattie	Friends of O'Halloran Hill RP

### FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. - NOTICE OF 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DAY/DATE:	Monday, 1 May, 2017
VENUE:	Morialta Resource Centre, Morialta Conservation Park turn left at the end of Stradbroke Road, Athelstone
MORNING TEA:	9.30 am - courtesy of Friends of Parks Inc. - prepared by the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.
MEETING:	10.00 am - Annual General Meeting to commence - and finish around 12.00 noon
COST:	No charge. However, numbers are needed for catering/seating.

## 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 enjoy a particular park or project.

To donate please forward your donations to:

Treasurer, Gift Fund, Friends of Parks Inc., 1 Pacific Avenue, ROSTREVOR SA 5073

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## LINKS

Friends of Parks Website [www.friendsofparossa.org.au](http://www.friendsofparossa.org.au)

Instructions appearing on the Friends website which have been prepared by the Treasurer, Friends of Parks Inc., for when your group needs to approach the Treasurer to obtain successful grant funding. No member login is required to access this information.

<http://www.friendsofparossa.org.au/grant-news/fop-grant-procedures>

The Friends of Glenithorne Inc require continuing support for their vision to re-affirm the support and desire of the community to an outcome which includes world-class environmental habitat restoration and a variety of other suitable community uses and activities. Visit the [Friends' website](#) for general information and contact details, and [Vision Day Report](#) for a comprehensive description of their vision.

Map\* of SE Asia and Australia - Sahul\*\* - as it existed during the latest ice age.

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5f/Map\\_of\\_Sunda\\_and\\_Sahul.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5f/Map_of_Sunda_and_Sahul.png)

\* sourced from Wikipedia: Maximilian Dörrbecker/Wikimedia Commons. This link was noted in the September 2016 e-news edition of [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary](#). \*\* Sahul is a technical name for the continent comprising mainland Australia, Tasmania, New Guinea, Seram, and neighbouring islands.

## Nature Glenelg Trust

[website](#) | [Email](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

.... is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organisation that believes in positive action, and working with the community and partners to achieve real results on the ground.

Watch out for their [NGT Newsletters](#).

In particular, see NGT's [special update at the successful conclusion of Mt Burr Swamp restoration](#) - a summary of a great weekend of celebration on 9 October 2016, and with their Mt Burr Swamp fund-raising target met, [read NGT's thoughts for the future](#).

To mark Mental Health Week 2016 [9-15 October 2016], the South Australian Government launched a new action plan to promote the mental health benefits of spending time in nature.

The action plan, [Realising the Mental Health Benefits of Contact with Nature](#), is a joint initiative of DEWNR and DHA (Department for Health and Ageing), supported through the Healthy Parks, Healthy People South Australia Framework. It can be viewed at [www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/park\\_management/mental-health-benefits-nature.pdf](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/park_management/mental-health-benefits-nature.pdf).

A caution from the Native Orchid Society SA (NOSSA) regarding the illegitimacy of picking orchids. Visit

<https://nossa.org.au/2016/12/23/orchid-collecting-and-the-law/>

Victorian Friends Network newsletters available [here](#)

DEWNR's GOOD LIVING blog's advice on [Nature Photography on your Mobile Phone](#)



'Like' us on Facebook - Friends of Parks SA now has a [Facebook](#) page! This was launched on 6 October 2016 and has had 268 'Likes'. Simply visit and 'Like' the page to receive regular notifications.

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