



# Friends of Parks eNews

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**Patrons and  
Life Members -**

**Dr Barbara Hardy AO  
Hon. David Wotton AM**

**Mrs Jean McLaren  
Mr Dene Cordes PSM**

**Life Members -**

**Mr Brian and Mrs Noeline DuBois  
Mr David and Mrs Margie Mitchell**

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our Marketing Committee, led by Ashleigh Coombs, now has the new and exciting FOP website up-and-running and is looking to further enhance communication channels to our members by asking for your assistance.

Your Board now presents a very much more 'professional face' and in order to ensure that our targets are met, we are seeking persons who have skills in the following areas;

- media and marketing
- communications
- website administration
- merchandising
- business management (not-for-profits)
- business development
- financial management
- human resources

The FOP Board would like to co-opt you to assist us on a needs basis. At this time we wish to strengthen our capabilities in these areas. Your participation with the FOP Board in whatever capacity would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in being part of the Team, please contact Pam Smith.

In 2015 the Friends of Parks organisation lost two of its most dedicated and longest standing members. Both Friends of Parks Presidents, Tom Hands and Colin Malcolm were deeply committed to ensuring the State's parks and reserves maintained their rich biodiversity, while also providing educational and recreational opportunities to the South Australian community.

Tom Hands held the position of President of the Friends of Scott Creek for 25 years, and Colin Malcolm held the position of President of the Friends of Onkaparinga for almost 30 years.

To remember both of their fantastic contributions, the Friends of Parks Board, in collaboration with DEWNR, decided to sponsor 2 x \$2,500 education grants to regional area schools each year across the State.

The program is designed to facilitate area primary school or high school students in on-park/off park environmental activities by providing financial support through a collaborative learning process with (local) Friends of Parks group(s).

I am pleased to announce that the 2017 winners are:-

**Hawker Area School** – submitted by the Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Parks and **Parndana Area School** – Kangaroo Island Community Education – submitted by the Friends of Parks KI Western District.

Very deserving winners and I would like to offer my congratulations to both ‘teams’.

The three winners of the **Friends of Parks Awards** this year were:

In the category: **“Habitat Restoration and Protection Award”**, the winner was - Friends of Black Hill and Morialta with their “Third Falls Track Project”.

In the category: **“Innovation Award”**, the winner was - Friends of Shorebirds SE with their “Tracking Grey Plovers from the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary to the Arctic Breeding Project”.

In the category: **“Community Engagement Award”**, the winner was – Walking Trails Support Group with their “A digital example of how interpretation may be delivered in the Flinders Ranges”.

The winner of the Verne McLaren shield is: the “Walking Trail Support Group”.

The Rotary Club of Burnside has been a long time supporter of the FOP’s and at a dinner in April, announced James Ferguson, Friends of Butcher Gap Conservation Park as the winner of the ‘Volunteer of the Park Award’ and Deb Furbank, Team Leader, Community, Yorke Peninsula, Northern and Yorke NRM as the winner of the ‘Leadership in Conservation Award’. This is the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of these awards

The next FOP Forum to be held in 2018 will be hosted by the Friends of Innes National Park on the 14 – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Along with Gill Peacey (DEWNR) I attended the February Forum Steering Committee meeting at Stenhouse Bay, and was extremely impressed by the level of planning that had already occurred and the dedication of the Committee members. We are undoubtedly in for an unforgettable Forum in 2018!

I have certainly enjoyed the last 12 months in respect to my involvement with FOP’s and I am particularly looking forward to seeing if we can involve a ‘new generation’ of youth in our activities. Through our membership, I can’t think of a more dedicated or knowledgeable group of people to help them along the way.



Duncan MacKenzie OAM  
President  
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.

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

### Equipment for other Friends groups to consider?

#### EYRE PENINSULA COMMUNITY FUND GRANT FOR DEFIBRILLATOR PURCHASE

We were fortunate to receive a grant of \$1000 from the EP Community Fund for the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit, to provide an added measure of safety for our members working in the Park. To add to our good fortune, we were able to purchase a near-new, unused AED for this amount. This will now be an integral part of our first aid and safety kit with us on all group working bees. Our sincere thanks to the EP Community Fund, and we hope it is an investment in safety that we never need to call upon in an emergency.

... from Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks April 2017 newsletter and ...

Di DeLaine, writing on Publicity / Promotion, offers these comments on use of FACEBOOK.

Our Facebook following continues to grow, albeit slowly. It relies on regular and well written content and pictures to keep the interest of our followers and to compete with other pages. Our most popular posts are those where we are having an activity or event.

It is important that we keep content on our page light. While it is understandable that visitors who do the wrong thing cause us angst, too much negativity will affect our following and disempower people. Try and keep things positive. Look for the good things to promote in our park.

This might help with articles in future.

[www.wearefuterra.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Branding\\_Biodiversity.pdf](http://www.wearefuterra.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Branding_Biodiversity.pdf).

Our FaceBook page continues to draw new members. Both Facebook and other media help raise our profile, attract new members and invite people to be involved.

... from Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks March 2017 newsletter

## Kaurna Calendar: Seasons of the Adelaide Plains

We (Campground Hosts\* - CGH) recently came across an interesting Honours Thesis\*\* titled - *The Kaurna Calendar: Seasons of the Adelaide Plains*.. Our thinking is that if we found this interesting, you may too? Below is a very brief overview.

(The rather amazing Kaurna Seasonal Calendar also provided in the source CGH newsletter, is not replicated here. Editor).

“This (thesis) paper argues the need to abolish the European calendar in Australia and discusses the implications of understanding the inherent qualities of regional environments. The conventional four European seasons that impose order on the Australian landscape have long been perceived as an inappropriate description of the environment. Unlike the Northern Hemisphere interpretation of seasons, Australia is riddled with particular regions that are affected by varying cyclic patterns and movements of natural systems. To record the subtle patterns, processes and seasonal events of Australian bio-regions, indigenous knowledge has proved imperative in establishing seasonal frameworks and calendars. Aboriginal 'local readings' of the landscape have been translated into seasonal calendars throughout the continent to accurately depict the differences between bioregions.”

### Kaurna Seasons

**Woltatti:** Hot season or Bokarra: Hot North Winds that Blow in summer Friendly tribes visit each other and wander more about than in winter. During the hotter months, possums and the gum of wattles are the chief supply of food. It is a time of celebration, marriages and storytelling while they live behind the sand dunes nearby the coast. Fishing is an active event and bushfires are lit to promote growth, hunt out animals and to burn the tall kangaroo grass.

**Wadlworngatti:** Time of building huts against fallen trees or, Parnatti: Autumn The shelter-building season occurs as the Kaurna shift towards the Mount Lofty Ranges foothills and wooded plains away from the coast. Some species of fish are harvested along with possum and the bark of trees. Seaweed and possum cloaks are made to compensate for the cooling temperatures. Small stone fruits and berries are eaten.

**Kudlilla:** Rainy season/winter or Kudlillurlo: during the winter A large variety of roots, opossums, kangaroos and wallaby's contributed to the Kaurna diet. Shelters are more substantial to keep the predominant cool southwest winds out. The reed bed area becomes flooded and at times impassable to cross in areas. The Kaurna are relatively confined to the gullies and gorges of the Mount Lofty Ranges and wooded areas on the plains.

### Wullutti/wiltutti/wilutti:

Spring The Kaurna live chiefly on vegetables, grubs, insects, lizards and larger game. It is a season of birth and growth. Reptiles come out of hibernation, birdlife is abundant and young animals are born. Eggs and snakes are easy to collect. The Kaurna gradually retreat from the plains and hills to the rich food source around the reed beds as the temperature increases.

\*\* Heyes, S. (1999). *The Kaurna Calendar: Seasons of the Adelaide Plains*. Retrieved April 2017, from [https://www.academia.edu/11760527/The\\_Kaurna\\_Calendar\\_Seasons\\_of\\_the\\_Adelaide\\_Plains](https://www.academia.edu/11760527/The_Kaurna_Calendar_Seasons_of_the_Adelaide_Plains)

\* South Australia's CGH program is coordinated by the Volunteer Support Programs Unit of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. For more information email [lynn.newman@sa.gov.au](mailto:lynn.newman@sa.gov.au) or call on 8124 4841. ]

... the above is an extract from the CGH's May 2017 newsletter

## Althorpe Island Volunteers Work Visit, April 2017

[Article written by Andy Mills, FoAICP Treasurer and Membership Officer]

### RESILIENCE

noun: resilience; noun: resiliency; plural noun: resiliencies. 1. the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. 2. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.

On our arrival April 2nd, Cottage 1 was strewn with mouse droppings and little balls of polystyrene throughout, and an overpowering stench. OK, shouldn't be like this but no worries, we can vacuum it up and get on with cleaning up.

“Nick, how's the power going for the vacuum cleaner”? “Not so good, the inverter just blew up when I turned it on” “But good news is we do have the 12v system for lights”.

So we can see what we are going to be doing – and that is quite a lot of cleaning. Mice have been right through the kitchen, into one of the food cupboards and they keep popping in and out of holes in the skirting boards through- out. Well done to Barb for great perseverance. Anyone for a cup of tea – gee, that water tastes a little odd, what's going on? The header tank needs a clean, which is a pity, it is full and we have to empty it completely, take it off its stand, clean it and restore it to its position(see picture). One day later we have a clean header tank

filled with sweet water from the tank we fixed up last time! Well done to James who went above and beyond to clean the poly header tank.

Anyone for a beer? Oh, that's right, the inverter went, so no power for the electric fridge. Lucky we bought out a new gas bottle for the gas fridge, yeah, good thinking. Who needs cold food anyway?! Another day later and we are on top of the mice problem, well kind of . . . but no one has had a shower because the solar hot water is not working. Some tapping, some consultation, some "farnarking" (vale John Clarke) and the hot water is back on day 3. All good, let's get into the "to do" list – at least the gas is on, who's cooking? – oh oh, it's Michiel!!

Sorry mate, further evidence that we are nothing but a resilient bunch!

... from [Friends of Althorpe Island CP](#) SENTINEL newsletter of May 2017



Our resilient FoAICP Volunteers, Andy Mills and James Von Doussa cleaning out the poly header tank



Your editor has never been clear as to Althorpe Island's exact location. This image from the SENTINEL newsletter of May 2017 provides a beautifully precise answer.

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## Appeal from Butterfly Conservation SA

### Website help needed – Plant Photos

Our upgraded website is now in action. Here is the link: [www.butterflyconservationsa.net.au](http://www.butterflyconservationsa.net.au)

The website includes photos of butterfly host plants. However, we need photos of the following butterfly plants. Photographers will be acknowledged.

#### Common name

umbrella bush  
coastal wattle  
rock wattle  
green saltbush  
pop saltbush  
fen sedge  
nitre goosefoot  
common everlasting  
clustered everlasting  
grassy bindweed  
Short stem flax-lily  
leafless cherry  
button everlasting  
black rapier-sedge  
sword mat-rush  
water-bush  
smooth nettle  
bristly bush-pea  
common reed  
blue rod

#### Scientific name

*Acacia ligulata*  
*Acacia longifolia*  
*Acacia rupicola*  
*Atriplex australasica*  
*Atriplex holocarpa*  
*Carex gaudichaudiana*  
*Chenopodium nitrariaceum*  
*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*  
*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*  
*Convolvulus remotus*  
*Dianella brevicaulis*  
*Exocarpos aphyllus*  
*Helichrysum scorpioides*  
*Lepidosperma carphoides*  
*Lomandra sororia*  
*Myoporum montanum*  
*Pareritaria debilis*  
*Pultenaea acerosa*  
*Phragmites australis*  
*Stemodia florulenta*

Please let Gerry Butler ([publications@butterflygardening.net.au](mailto:publications@butterflygardening.net.au)) know if you can provide photos.

... appeal appearing in email of 3 April from BCSA to VPSU

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## A Well found and restored in Bonney Reserve

(kindly submitted by Jim Pfeiffer)

In the middle of 2016, I was walking south along the Coorong in Bonney Reserve. Near Koolmatrie's place, but on the other side of the dirt track, close to the Coorong, I found an old, overgrown well that was filled in with rubbish and dirt to within a couple of feet of the top.

I made local enquiries as to who I would need to approach about getting permission to clean it out and fence it off (for safety). I was directed to the Aboriginal Elder who is the custodian of the Native Title land. I realised that this could be of importance historically and for tourism.

In the last six months I have dug down about 3 metres and taken away two large ute loads of rubbish to the dump. I've hit a bit of water and think I need to go down another metre. There is evidence that there was a windmill next to this well as I found the bottom parts of the legs still in the ground. The well is perfectly round and re-enforced with rock from the Coorong. It has been suggested that it has been here for more than 100 years.

I've also been talking to elderly locals with experience and/or knowledge of local well diggers to see if anyone knows who might have originally dug it. These enquiries led to another well, further along, near the old quarantine station ruins, that was made in a similar way, from similar materials, that has a windmill and trough. Most likely dug for stock that was, in the past, regularly moved through the area.



Before-and-after photos of the well, and Jim Pfeiffer and Bert Vandenbrink working on the safety fence. It is also planned to place a grid over the top of the well.

... from Friends of Coorong Newsletter of Autumn 2017

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## Litter in the Gorge

There's not that much rubbish in the (Sturt) Gorge, although what's there is likely to be in a drainage channel fed by stormwater runoff, or in the Sturt River and Magpie Creek. When I'm out killing weeds my rule of thumb when it comes to litter is to focus on what's harmful and tolerate what's unsightly.

So if it's paper it will disintegrate eventually, and I reckon it's OK to leave it alone. If it's glass or metal it's usually inert and won't do that much harm in the meantime, unless there are sharp edges or puncture points I'd rather not kneel, sit or tread on. I try to get the nasty bits off-site and find an empty 30 litre potting mix bag is ideal – tough, but portable.

However, the litter I never ignore if I can help it is anything plastic. The reason is that the vast majority of plastics in existence today are extremely long-lived and aren't biodegradable so they stay intact but potentially toxic for centuries no matter how small the pieces they break into.

As plastics fracture and break into increasingly small fragments these spread more extensively throughout the environment where they cause problems for life-forms in all their varieties of size, location and food preferences.

It's becoming better established that it's not just the well-publicised instances of sharks and turtles getting fouled in discarded nets or sea birds ingesting indigestible bottle caps that is the problem with plastics.

For example, Prof Richard Banati, a biomedical scientist at the University of Sydney has recently used nuclear analytical techniques to show how trace elements of hazardous materials are transferred from discarded plastic into sea birds. Plastics also increase in their toxicity as they degrade as plastics are a material that likes to absorb trace toxins from the environment.

(Source: Radio National podcast at

[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/dangerous-plastics/5866384](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/dangerous-plastics/5866384) ).

... author Andrew Goldie, writing in the Friends of Sturt Gorge January 2017 newsletter

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## Friends of Mark Oliphant CP - celebrate 20th birthday

... coinciding with their AGM on 1 April 2017, during which Ranger Nick Dinan presented Certificates of Appreciation from National Parks, SA. The Friends' inaugural meeting was 21 August 1996.



L-R: Kath Bowman, Bev Bowman, Marilyn Browne (kneeling), Lorri Ragless, David Ragless, Anne Hicks, Philip Hicks, Ranger Nick Dinan, Shirley Benlow, Jack Benlow, Malcolm Anderson (absent Yvonne Anderson).

... from email of 22 May to VPSU

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## Mt Monster Conservation Park

We are encouraged to visit this [petite park](#) for picnicing, bushwalking and bird watching, and if you are able to participate in monthly working bees\*. Visits during spring will be rewarded with a display of wild orchids, some of which are nationally endangered. The park is noted for its predominant geological feature - Mount Monster - an unusual granite outcrop [height only 93m. A short hike to the summit offers splendid uninterrupted views over the granite outcrops, natural bushland and the flat agricultural land extending into the horizon.

Mount Monster CP is located about 14 km south of the town of Keith\*\*, and about 238 km south east of Adelaide. Mount Monster CP is about 93 hectares in size and was dedicated as a Conservation Park in September 1976. It is on the famous route which brought gold into South Australia from the Victorian goldfields during the 1850's.



Like most volunteer groups the Friends of Mount Monster have a series of monthly working bees planned for 2017 and they welcome interested community members and their families to participate. The Group plays an active role in protecting the Park's biodiversity; it get hands-on in weed control, rabbit warren mapping and general maintenance of the Gwen Ellis interpretive walking trail.

For further information contact group President Michael Trebilcock 08 8755 1620.

\* Mt Monster CP monthly maintenance program for the rest of 2017:

18 June, 23 July, 20 August, 15 October, 19 November, with a field trip on 17 September. Activities to be undertaken include trail maintenance, hand weeding of sensitive areas (Salvation Jane, *Scabiosa*, cape tulip), and isolated weed occurrences e.g. yellow burr weed, and others as found.

\*\* Prior to its proclamation as a township in 1889, Keith was originally known as Mount Monster

... from an email to CPVPU plus snippets from Googling

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## Nature in Mind

[Early manifestations of the newly instigated "*Walking the South East Seasons with Nature in Mind program*"]

What do a youth mental health organisation and a government environmental body have in common? A fundamental belief in the benefits of contact with nature.

Nature in Mind launched last month, a unique year-long program based on Weaving the South East Seasons Aboriginal calendar. This program gives young people the chance to contribute to environmental sustainability and experience the benefits of nature.

The participants commented that they are 'excited to connect with nature', 'meet new people', and continue their work 'protecting and preserving our local environment'.

The first session kicked off with South East Aboriginal Focus Group Elder Doug Nicholls setting the scene by burning the native coastal rosemary (*Olearia Axillaris*) plant and smoking each participant, warding off bad energies, anxieties, and preparing them for the program. The young people heard from Doug on cultural artefacts, law through message sticks, and the Weaving the South East Seasons Aboriginal Calendar. Doug played the didgeridoo and the young people got to try their hand throwing boomerangs!

The day ended at Penambol Conservation Park where Bryan Haywood and Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks volunteers led the young people (with a few shortcuts) through the park. Highlights included spotting many butterflies, and some baby Grey Fantail birds snuggled in their nest.

headspace Mount Gambier, Natural Resources South East and Friends of Parks shared a passion for providing an opportunity for young people to engage with nature, and collaborated to develop this project. Nature in Mind is endorsed by the South East Aboriginal Focus Group and supported by The Mount Gambier City Council through partial funding.

headspace (run by Uniting Communities) is a youth mental health organisation which aims to increase the resilience of young people, and believes contact with nature is one way to achieve this. Exposure to the natural environment promotes mental wellbeing, including evoking positive emotions and an increased feeling of resilience. Natural Resources South East and Friends of Parks play the part of environmental educators and motivators throughout the program, while headspace will support the young people's wellbeing.

*This project aligns with the State Government's 'Realising the Mental Health Benefits of Nature' action plan.*

... from emailed communications with David New, A/Volunteer Coordinator, Natural Resources South East

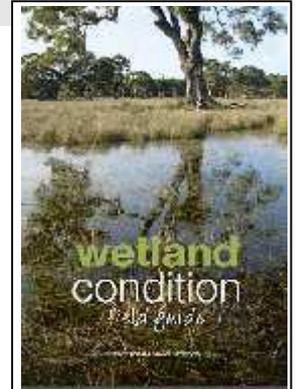
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## Wetland Condition Field Guide launched on 15 Mar 2017 a big success

Authors Troy Horn and Bryan Haywood have been five years in the making of this guide, which fills a gap in rapid wetland assessment applicable across southern Australia, covering topics including: rapid condition assessment complete with visual guide, methodology for finding the edge or boundary of a wetland, tips for mapping and recording wetland plant communities, and ideas for prioritising the level of protection and management works for a site, with specific ideas relating to the forest industry.

Copies of the field guide are available from the ForestrySA Office (Mt Gambier) 08 8724 2888, and the NGT Office (Vansittart Park, Mt Gambier) 08 8797 8596.

... reported in the [Nature Glenelg Trust newsletter #21 of March 2017](#)



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## Snippet of History

(from notes from the late Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt of Wilpena Station)

Saint Mary's Peak (now Saint Mary) was given that name in 1856. The peak was often covered with a white dusting of virgin snow which gave an impression of saintliness.

In 1863 a survey party led by James Brooks erected a cairn of stones with a pole on the peak to serve as an observation post to be sighted from other hills. There is no record of survey sightings ever having been made from the peak.

It was in July 1880 S.W. Herbst and his assistant, Mr. Randell, and two other men, found it necessary to dismantle the post. They had climbed the peak in order to take star observations to determine true north in preparation for the survey of the northern boundary of County Hanson. They found it necessary to remove much of the cairn to find a suitable foundation for their theodolite.



Saint Mary Peak

Herbst and his three companions claim to be the first to have spent a night camped on the peak, 3,990 feet (1,216 metres) above sea level. They found it was a bitterly cold night with no shelter and nothing but a black void all around them.

Two days later they witnessed what they described as a strange anomaly on the plains to the west, a train of camels laden with wool from the north and bound for Hawker was raising a cloud of dust. Meanwhile St. Mary's Peak, a few miles east was covered with snow.

... from the February 2017 edition of the ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH,  
Official Bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

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## The Walking Trails Support Group Awarded at the May 2017 AGM

WTSG's App *Flinders Ranges Walks*, which provides a wide range of information pertaining to 16 defined walks from the northern-most Terra Pinna Tors walk to the southern-most Mt Brown walk, was given two awards\* at the Friends of Parks Inc AGM on 1 May 2017.

The link to the app is <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.org.rgssa.frw>, but if you google "play store flinders ranges walks" you go straight to the download page, or "flinders ranges walks" from within google play goes straight to the download page.

Seguing from the foregoing ... be aware that much information, including downloadable maps, geological information and leaflets, for these same 16 Flinders Ranges Walks (and much else besides, e.g. Barossa and Burnside Walks, a walking track handbook) is provided on WTSG's website. Much of the information in both the App and the website owes its origins to the Royal Geographical Society book mentioned below ...

... and further ... the Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges Oraparinna Telegraph newsletters of October 2016 and May 2017 note the plan to produce a park visitor App offering enrichment of information slanted towards visitors to the area. Enquiries on this App to its architect [Bob Geary](#) ...

.... and yet further ... for those who enjoy the traditional book form, the excellent *Explore the Flinders Ranges* published by the Royal Geographical Society of SA Inc provides a splendid wealth of information on the cultural and natural histories of these parts. One of the co-authors of the book has a strong association with WTSG.

All in all - there's no excuse to visit the Flinders Ranges uninformed!

\* Community Engagement Award for communicating, interpreting or educating aspects of parks and reserves to the South Australian community, and the McLaren Shield awarded to the most outstanding group activity and/or achievement from all award winners at the AGM event.

... from emails to VPSU, and FIFRNP Oraparinna Telegraph newsletters

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## Items contributed by members- to whom special thanks

### Notes on some Friends groups, provided by our Patron, Dene Cordes

#### Friends of Old Government House

This group, one of the oldest in the network of Friends of Parks, recently held its Annual General Meeting in the garden and coach house. There was a good attendance. Long time leaders, Annette and Rob McLean stepped down, and they have moved from the district, to Macclesfield.

New President is Dene Cordes. New Secretary is Val Oldfield-Arbon. All positions were filled by willing volunteers who want to see the historic Vice Regal Complex prosper and be preserved.

More Volunteers are needed, should anyone feel inclined to offer their services. There are the guiding duties, gardening, cleaning, merchandise, catering – and more – that can do with some offers of help. Contact 8278 3318 to make enquiries.

#### Walking Trails Support Group

The seventeenth AGM was held at the lovely home and garden of Sue Barker and Rob Marshall in Norwood. Once again there was a good attendance. The meeting was held outdoors, after which attendees went inside the house for a delicious, pooled, High Tea.

Works were planned for the Finders Ranges (southern, central, and northern). Trail head and leaflets have been very successful, with colour maps, and with photographs replacing drawings.

#### Friends of Glenthorne Farm

In 2015, Martin Schumacher (Friends of Glenthorne Chair) and Pamela Smith (Friends of Glenthorne Patron) made a deputation to Marion Council, after which the Council voted unanimously to liaise with key Glenthorne stakeholders, including the University of Adelaide, State Government, Natural Resources Management Board, and the Friends of Glenthorne to promote uses of the land in order to achieve the best outcomes for the community. Council later reaffirmed strong support for Glenthorne Farm to be preserved for future generations as a site for revegetation, open space, heritage interpretation, and related public uses.

During the 30<sup>th</sup> Forum of Friends of Parks groups, the State Opposition announced plans for the area should it win the 2018 election, among which would be the naming of a Glenthorne National Park which will permit biodiversity corridors for native fauna and flora, as well as conservation of natural and built heritage. There is much hope and anticipation by the Friends that their twenty years of hard work just may bring some results.

Major office bearers in the Glenthorne Friends Group are:

- Chairman – Martin Schumacker
- Vice Chairman – Gary Goland
- Secretary/Treasurer – Alan Burns
- Extra Member – Stephen Brooke

#### National Parks Heritage Committee

This group belongs to the Friends of Parks Inc network. It has recently funded the restoration of the historic “Commissioners’ Shack” in the Belair National Park. It had deteriorated into a deplorable state. About \$8000 was spent on the restorative work. This attractive and rustic old building once was used by the early Blacksmith in the Park, and then it became the base for the Board of Commissioners of the National Park. Some Commissioners used to stay overnight in the Shack after walking inspections of the Park. At other times the monthly Board Meetings were held at the shack. There used to be fifteen Commissioners, all of whom were noted Adelaide citizens, and all worked voluntarily between 1891 and 1972.

#### Friends of the Nature Foundation SA

This group is always looking for new members. We support the work of the Nature Foundation in all of its work, whether it be out in the Reserves, or in the fund-raising efforts. Meetings are held, quarterly, at the Foundation Offices in Hindmarsh. The Annual General Meeting was held in April, at the Buckingham Arms Hotel. Several of the Foundation Councillors attended as guests. The Guest Speaker was Nicholas Birks who delighted the audience with images of rare birds of prey in S.A. The several office positions in the Friends Group were combined into one position, to be called “Convenor” of the Friends Group. Ric Williams was elected to that position.

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## History of National Parks In South Australia - John Schutz

John Schutz – Director of National Parks and Wildlife - presented this 'History of National Parks In South Australia' to the 'familiarisation' meeting of the new 'Parks and Wilderness Council' in late November 2016.

### A place for public pleasure

By the early 1880s a major change in the status of the Government Farm at Belair was underway. The land outside the boundaries of the Government Farm had been developed as small holdings, berry gardens and orchards, and with the completion of the railway bringing easier transport to the area, pressure was put on the Government to sub-divide the Farm itself into affordable allotments for the increasing number of settlers in the colony with small amounts of capital. However, other notions for the Farm were being mooted, including that of use as a public park. In the late nineteenth century the concept of a national pleasure ground for the masses was gaining favour among the more public-spirited and several of Adelaide's leading citizens spearheaded a well-publicised campaign to keep the Government Farm in public hands. Walter Gooch, a local Belair resident, was one of the strongest advocates (Cordes 1983:22-32). On 10 January 1882 a Memorial, signed by 312 gentlemen, was presented to Alfred Catt, the Commissioner of Crown Lands. It expressed regret at the Government's decision to put the land up for sale and proposed that the Government Farm could, and should, be put to better use as any of the following – a water reserve, an experimental farm, a forest reserve, an acclimatisation station, or zoological gardens. Most desirable of all would be its formation as 'a park that cannot be surpassed as a public pleasure ground', an estate to be kept for the benefit of the whole colony. Parliament was divided over the issue. Public opinion and eventually that of the Government was swayed by the precedent set elsewhere in the world where 'the experience of older countries pointed that immense amounts of money were spent in acquiring parks for the masses' (C. Peacock, Memorial deputation: 10 January 1882), a course not favoured by any government and, in this particular instance, unnecessary. The press also did not let up, exhorting the public to 'never be satisfied till their grand estate near Belair is secured to them in its integrity' (*Advertiser* 19 December 1881). Catt's persistence, aided by sympathetic city newspapers, saw an Act of Parliament passed in October 1883 preventing the Government from selling the Government Farm.

Some Government officials, in particular Goyder, the influential Surveyor-General, felt that the Farm could raise revenue for the Government at the same time as providing a venue for public recreation. In July 1886, Parliament set aside 500 acres (208 ha.) in the north-western part of the Farm as the Belair Forest Reserve under the Woods and Forests Department (Woods and Forests Department 1886, 1887).

Five years after gazetting, the Belair Forest Reserve, except for the Nursery and residence, was incorporated into a National Park.

The issue continued to be keenly debated in both Parliament and the public arena (*Advertiser* 25 November 1890, 5 November 1891) before the *National Park Act* was passed creating South Australia's first national park. The Act was gazetted on 19 December 1891 and the Government Farm was vested to a Board of twelve Commissioners in perpetuity as the National Park of South Australia (Hunwick 1980:65-85)

### The National Park of South Australia

From the inception of the National Park in 1891, its Board of Commissioners, led by Sir Edwin Smith, immediately pursued the policy of developing the Park with venues for active, rather than passive, recreation in that 'natural arena' lauded as 'sufficient for amusements of all kinds – for cricket, archery, football, races, rifle shooting and every other land sport'.

The idea of national parks arose in North America in the 1870s where it was advocated that tracts of land in its natural state could be set aside for the public to enjoy a pristine environment which would have the intrinsic power to "elevate the soul to things noble and cultivated" (J.E. Brown 1881), and further, to be a place for those with an interest in the study of the natural world – "the school of nature" (*Advertiser* 19 December 1881).

The concept of such a national pleasure ground for the masses was embraced in South Australia, and from the point of view of the Parliamentarians who voted on the *National Park Act* of 1891, the National Park at Belair was seen as a people's park. During the debate on the bill the very use of the word 'national' in the title was defended and retained, as the Park's creation, after all, was due to the sympathetic support of the general public.

The preamble of the Act described the National Park as "a pleasure ground for the amusement, recreation and convenience of the inhabitants of the Province of South Australia".

However, certain clauses in the *National Park Act* showed that the Park's Board of Commissioners was expected to develop the land for public recreation, rather than leave it in its natural state, and so the Board was given the power to: set apart portions for the conservation of water, for the purposes of sports and games, for landscape gardening, to make road ways and paths, and erect pavilions, rotundas, lodges and summerhouses, to sell and remove stone and bark and sell and exchange plants and animals.

### **National Park Act 1891**

The Field Naturalists Society had, in August 1886, made clear its feelings on why a national park should exist, as was indicated in a paper to its members at that time, in part as follows:

The chief merit of these reserves is that they serve the protection of wildlife in the most natural way by retaining to a great extent the primeval beauty of the country. With the vanishing of our native fauna and flora will pass types differing, not but little from those of other parts of the world, but essentially distinct.

The Government, however, thought that, just by its existence, the National Park would fulfil the role of preservation of the natural environment.

That the Park was expected to achieve a dual role resulted directly from the lack of understanding of the concept of a national park and the requirements associated with the preservation of native flora and fauna.

Such attitudes left a challenging legacy in the management of the National Park at Belair.

### **Flinders Chase National Park**

The Belair success emboldened a loose coalition of lobby groups to embark on an even more ambitious campaign, this time to have the entire western end of Kangaroo Island set aside for conservation and recreation purposes. It was, eventually, successful, but it needed 27 years and an enormous amount of sustained effort before 53 500 ha was set aside under the provisions of the Fauna and Flora Reserve Act 1919. After a long struggle, Flinders Chase National Park was declared in November 1919. The Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia unanimously passed a motion stating "the western end of Kangaroo Island be reserved for the protection of native flora and fauna". Following its declaration, Flinders Chase came to be seen as a sanctuary for threatened fauna from the mainland. Over the next 40 years, 23 species of animals including Koalas (1923) and Platypus (1928) were released in the Park. Many of those species that were released, flourished in the Park and can be seen today.

However in the process, individuals and community groups tired and little more was achieved for some time. One of the few modest successes was the 1938 protection of 648 ha of mallee scrubland, later to become Ferries-McDonald Conservation Park, near Monarto South on the Murray Flats south east of Adelaide.

### **An early expansion: 1937 - 1954**

It was an opportune time for various Committees and community groups to press for more reserves: in the late 1930s South Australia was undertaking a fundamental reappraisal of agricultural prospects in its climatically marginal cropping lands. Drought, depression and an expansion into unreliable areas had combined to produce large areas of drifting country in the mallee lands and there was much official and public concern.

So we had the setting aside in 1940 of the Peebinga and Billiatt reserves in the Murray Mallee, primarily for erosion control, but also as habitat for the rare mallee whipbird.

Further reserves followed in 1941 on Eyre Peninsula with Hambidge, Hincks and Lincoln, and closer to Adelaide Obelisk Estate – later to become Cleland Conservation Park – was purchased in 1945. Other areas set aside for conservation and recreation purposes around this time included Wilpena Pound in the Flinders Ranges (1945), Mt Rescue in the Upper South East (1953) and Kellidie Bay on lower Eyre Peninsula (1954).

### **A major expansion: 1962 - 1972**

In early 1962 South Australia listed 19 key parks and reserves occupying 233 620 ha. A decade later the corresponding figures had risen to 99 parks and reserves occupying 3 546 465 ha.

As indicated in *Time losses and reasement: 1954-1962*, developments in the late 1950s and early 1960s had set the scene for such a remarkable expansion. Whilst groups such as the Field Naturalists and the Nature Conservation Society had always had a clear picture of what areas were of particular value, pressing the need for their protection at every opportunity, influential government agencies such as the Department of Lands and Department of Agriculture generally believed that one area was as good as any other, the subtleties of changing plant and animal populations largely eluding them.

### **Continuing expansion with institutionalization: 1972 - present**

In 1972 two important developments took place: one was the passage through State Parliament of what was, at the time, the most modern piece of parks legislation in Australia, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and the second was the consolidation of park acquisition and management into a newly created State Government agency, the (then) Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

One of the key components of the new legislation was management of parks and reserves, a criticism of progress to date having been that many areas, once acquired, were subject to infrequent inspection and almost no on-ground management. It was an accurate, if unfair criticism, given the limited resources available to the various bodies trying to acquire and manage important areas. With the establishment of a National Parks and Wildlife Service within the new Environment agency, professionally trained staff were recruited and funding became more

freely available for management purposes: park acquisition and management had, effectively, become institutionalized as part of main-stream government within the State for the first time.

### **The National Reserves System**

In 1992 the move by the Australian Government to establish the National Reserve System was triggered by the international [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), as part of the nation's commitment to fulfilling the objectives of that convention.<sup>[4]</sup> In particular, after signing and ratifying the convention in 1992 the then [Prime Minister Paul Keating](#) announced <sup>[4]</sup> "The establishment of a comprehensive system of protected areas is vital if we are to retain our status as a region of megadiversity. Besides being ecologically viable these areas must represent the full range of ecosystems. The Government is committed to the development of a national comprehensive system of parks and reserves. This will be achieved in cooperation with States and Territories."

Today, [Australia's National Reserve System \(NRS\)](#) is a network of more than 10,000 [Commonwealth](#) plus [state and territory protected areas](#) which, <sup>[1]</sup> in combination, on a [national](#) scale, protect more than 137 million hectares (greater than 17% of the [continent's](#)) unique [biodiversity](#) and most significant [ecological landscapes](#) for future generations.<sup>[2]</sup> The aim of the NRS is protect the diversity of all [native landscapes](#), [flora](#) and [fauna](#) across Australia through strategic [habitat](#) protection.

### **CARS**

The National Reserve System is underpinned by a scientific framework referred to as "CARS" to ensure that Australia progressively extends protection to examples of all our ecosystems.

This scientific framework has a clear objective: to develop a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' system of protected areas.

### **THE PUBLIC RESERVE SYSTEM IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA TODAY**

371 parks and reserves covering app. 21.5M hectares or around 23% of the state; comprising:

- 273 Conservation Parks
- 21 National Parks
- 19 Marine Parks
- 10 Game Reserves
- 7 Regional Reserves
- 13 Recreational Parks
- 14 Wilderness Protected Areas
- 14 Conservation Reserves under the Crown Lands Act.

### **Friends of Parks groups in the 1980's**

The first *Friends* group started at [Fort Glanville Conservation Park](#) in 1980, where there had been an existing historical society. The second group was formed at Ferguson Conservation Park in [Stonyfell](#). In 1983, the [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) set up the Friends of [Old Government House](#) in [Belair National Park](#). The success of the Friends model had been demonstrated and in the following years many more groups were set up.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1993, the Friends of Parks umbrella group was incorporated. Today we have over 110 groups with over 5000 member volunteers.

### **Footnote:**

The following books and publications have been referenced in this article:

- Harris, C. National Parks and Reserves of South Australia MA Thesis, Adelaide, 1974
- DENR – Fact Sheet, Belair National Park, state heritage area
- The National Pleasure Resorts Act (No 1173 of 1914)
- The Government Farm and Belair National Park, 1840-1920, Pam Tamblyn

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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, although we offer a special recognition of Dianne Cordes, wife of our very special founding Patron, Dene Cordes. We apologise for any omissions. Please let Pam Smith, VSPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

<i>Allan Coppick</i>	<i>Fort Glanville Historical Association Inc</i>
<i>Norma Skinner</i>	<i>Friends of Marino</i>
<i>Lois Margaret Hasenohr</i>	<i>Butterfly Conservation SA Inc</i>
<i>Trevor John Rowe</i>	<i>Butterfly Conservation SA Inc</i>
<i>Margaret Bolster AM</i>	<i>Conservation Council of SA Inc</i>
<i>Lorraine Hancox</i>	<i>Friends of Simpson Desert Parks</i>
<i>Toni Beattie</i>	<i>Friends of O'Halloran Hill RP</i>
<i>George Murphy</i>	<i>Kangaroo Island Consultative Committee</i>
<i>Margaret King</i>	<i>Kangaroo Island Consultative Committee</i>
<i>Arthur 'Mate' Osborne</i>	<i>Danggali Conservation Park</i>
<i>Garry Clifford</i>	<i>Lower South East Consultative Committee</i>
<i>Joan Hawthorne</i>	<i>Friends of Mount Monster</i>
<i>Jim Ayliffe</i>	<i>Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Conservation and Wildlife Management (SA) Inc</i>
<i>John Maslin Sibly, AM</i>	<i>Friends of the Nature Foundation, Nature Conservation Society of SA</i>
<i>Dianne Cordes</i>	<i>Friends of Old Government House; Belair; Heritage Committee, and others</i>

## Vale Dianne Cordes

It is with great sadness that we let you know that Dianne Cordes, a tireless volunteer and dear friend to many, passed away on 25 May 2017 at St. Andrews Hospital, after losing a very long battle against cancer.

Dianne was a strong supporter of Friends of Parks Inc., having been a President, Secretary, and Member of several groups, including the Friends of Old Government House, Friends of Belair National Park, Heritage Committee - just to name a few.

Her life was celebrated in a memorial service at St Columba's Anglican Church, Hawthorn SA, on 31 May. Many current and former DEWNR staff and members of Friends groups attended.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to her husband Dene and his family at the loss of a much loved wife, mother and grandmother and great grandmother.

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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 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.friendsofparkssa.org.au](http://www.friendsofparkssa.org.au)



'Like' us on Facebook - Friends of Parks SA now has a [Facebook](#) page! This was launched on 6 October 2016 and has had over 320 'Likes'. Simply visit and 'Like' the page to receive regular notifications.

[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.

### Volunteer Research Survey - The Sustainability of Grassroots Organisations

Funded by the Australian Research Council, this Flinders University research project aims to understand what motivates people to volunteer on boards and committees, what prevents some from doing so, and what can be done to encourage more people to nominate. They are looking for survey participants who are members of community groups, clubs and not-for-profit associations. The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete and responses will remain strictly confidential. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.



Follow the progress in the evolving [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary](#), and consider participating in the development of its [draft management plan](#). View its [announcements and news for 2017](#) in your browser.

BCSA - The Butterfly Conservation Society SA Inc - has produced a [new website](#) which you are invited to explore. BCSA produce a biannual newsletter of great quality, scope and interest ... check the website's [Newsletter Archives](#). Note also its [monthly Public Talks program](#)

The comprehensive Victorian [Landcare and Catchment Management magazine](#), which features connection between nature and community, is now available online.

The recently re-activated Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP are indeed gathering strength! See for yourself through their [website](#) and their [newsletter](#).

Have your say on park draft management plans. Visit [this site](#) for current information.

Draft management plans having imminent deadlines for submitting comments are:

- Innamincka Regional Reserve - comments closing Tuesday, 6 June 2017 at 5:00 pm
- Witjira National Park - comments closing Friday, 9 June 2017 at 5:00 pm
- Tallaringa Conservation Park - comments closing Friday, 14 July 2017 at 5:00 pm

Keep an eye on the [Invasive Species Council](#) activities. Their mission is to Keep Nature Safe from Dangerous New Invaders (such as weeds, feral animals, diseases).

DEWNR has a staff newsletter -[The Weekly](#) - but non-staff can have a look at it too.

For guidance on how to recycle common, but somewhat problematic, household items such as light globes, batteries, unused medicines, electronic waste, visit [this Good Living blog page](#)

The DEWNR monthly publication GOOD LIVING offers splendid viewing of high quality pictures and interesting articles. The May edition has gone a step further and has provided a some [footage of a recent drone flight](#) showing the beautiful autumnal colours of Mt Lofty Botanic Garden. Very worth a look.

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Editor and Design: Hugh Lambert © Friends of Parks Inc. 2014  
Many thanks to those who have provided articles for this eNews. Editor

### 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! ... and please don't wait to be asked), 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.