



# Friends of Parks eNews

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

Patron - Mrs Jean McLaren  
Life Members - Mr Brian DuBois and Mrs Noeline DuBois  
Mr David Mitchell AM and Mrs Margie Mitchell

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

My lead off news in the March 2018 issue was about the success of a strong environmental/community movement advocating that the government should not sell coastal Crown Land at Pelican Lagoon (KI) to enable an 18 hole golf course to be built closer to the water.

Following an extremely strong rebuttal by the community (780 submissions against, and 5 for the proposal) the then Minister, Ian Hunter, after considering the social, economic and environmental aspects, declined to sell the waterfront land for this development.

Following the change of Government, the new Liberal Minister for the Environment, David Speirs, has reversed this decision and the Government will now 'lease' the land to the developer. Although the land won't be 'sold', leasing will have virtually the same degrading effect on the environment, once the development is completed.

So, after all the hard work and well-earned success 'it's back to the drawing board', to see if we can't have the latest decision reversed.

But it is not all bad news. Minister Speirs has announced that the SA Government and the University of Adelaide have signed a memorandum of understanding in the step forward to create a new national park in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. Development of the Glenthorne National Park will commence immediately and with the strong support of the Minister and the Friends of Glenthorne Park, we will soon have a magnificent new national

park on our 'doorstep' that will both protect and enhance the natural environment, and provide a great deal of enjoyment for a large number of communities throughout southern Adelaide and beyond.

I think we are all aware that virtually every community organisation in Australia is under strong pressure to maintain membership numbers. Cultural changes, the demands of modern family life etc. has meant that our volunteer 'population' is becoming older and we are not replacing many of those who 'retire' from volunteering, or able to continue undertaking more physically active tasks.

We definitely need to start looking at how we can start attracting a broader base of new members including younger people, first nation's people, new South Australians to become involved in our environmental work – certainly a challenge for us all.

I am now convinced that there are a quite a number of people out in our communities who are interested in the long-term future of our unique environment and would be willing to join a Friends of Parks group to ensure that our legacy of the 'protection and enhancement' of our parks, is maintained well into the future.

You might remember that last year the Board nominated Lauren Heddle – a 'then' 16 year old member of the Friends of Belair – for a "Channel 9 Young Achievers Award". We were notified this year that Lauren was a finalist in two categories, and on the 11 May 2018 at the Awards Dinner, she was announced as the winner of the "Scouts SA Leadership Award".

Lauren has an environmental CV that is nothing short of incredible (she is finishing Year 12 at Urrbrae Agricultural High School and turns 18 in September). Realising that Lauren represents the long-term future of FOPs I asked Lauren if she would consider coming onto the FOPs Board – this was prior to her winning the Award. She said that she felt she could contribute to Board discussions and at the Board meeting of 7 June, Lauren was co-opted onto the Board.

While on the subject of our young people and their capabilities, the Board recently visited Kangaroo Island as part of the Board's annual educational scholarship program which it is now funding. The Parndana Campus of KI Community Education were the recipients of the 2017 Tom Hands scholarship, worth \$2,500.00, with the school focusing on Short Nosed Bandicoot research involving Reception – Year 7 students.

The Project is managed by full-time teacher, Anthea Reynolds and her students are in the Reception – Year One class (which covers students from 4 years 8 months up to about 6 years 5 months). Anthea is also a member of the Western District Kangaroo Island Friends of Parks group. The focus of the project was to be informed student engagement with the environment. The project is linked to the on-going data collection that the Western Districts FOPs have been undertaking.

The idea behind 'informed student engagement' is that the children would not just be 'frolicking' in the wilderness, but that they would get support to interpret their environment and actually develop a deep knowledge of their environment. Added to this, they would come up with plausible explanations for what they were observing. They would develop the concept of 'I am an expert'.

The project is based around a couple of priorities. Creating something lasting – not a 'flash-in-the-pan' project, but something that all reception and year one children engage in during their first year at school. And something that the students could engage with their parents about. This would be the opportunity for the children to be experts and teach their parents about the environment in which they live. And everyone was involved in something about which very little was known.

We spent time in the classroom with the students, assisting them with their bandicoot project. The walls of the classroom were adorned with fantastic posters and artwork that the children had done, and it was clear to see that they knew as much or more about the life of bandicoots than we did. It was also clear that teacher Anthea is totally dedicated to her kids and the project and I just know that Tom Hands would be 'rubbing his hands' in glee to see the marvellous outcome of his scholarship to this brilliant band of people.

But that wasn't the end of it. We were escorted around the rest of the campus/farm to look at the other activities on the campus available to the students. As well as having their own farm with cattle, chooks, bee hives, vegetable gardens, orchard, hydroponics for growing vegetables etc. etc., there is a large shed that houses eight tanks for breeding Barramundi which, when they reach size, are sold to locals – as is much of the vegetables grown on the campus. The Barramundi arrive as small fingerlings and are then grown out to the large size suitable for table use. The children are involved in every step of the breeding process and at the conclusion of our visit, I could only marvel at the wonderful educational opportunities presented to the children and wonder what my life might have been like, if my school time had been as much fun as the Parndana kids are exposed to. But let's not forget that no matter how much fun the subject matter may be, the teachers are the most vital link in the learning 'chain' and their ability to motivate our children is what makes the learning experience so memorable – the Parndana teachers that we met were exceptional. They certainly nurtured the children to love and care for our fascinating environment.

It was also an opportunity to discuss with the KI Friends of Parks groups and DEW/NRM staff, how the Board can best service their needs in regard to the work they do in KI parks. We were given an impressive rundown on various projects and related activities the FOPs are undertaking across KI, and discussed how the recent



Lauren Heddle, from the Channel 9 Young Achievers Award photo of awardee line-up

environmental funding cuts are effecting the work undertaken and ways in which we can overcome some of these budgeting 'hardships'. I thoroughly enjoyed this discussion time and would again, like to extend my sincere thanks to a dedicated group of people for whom no challenge is too great.

Ian Radbone, Team Leader/Community and Volunteer Support Programs Unit (DEW) will be facilitating a FOP workshop based on the Board's three year Business Plan, and re-setting the organisation's future directions (given the rate of change we are experiencing at the moment). While the current plan is in its second year of implementation, the Board is wanting to commence a comprehensive review of the Plan, ensuring that it meets some strategic targets, and to this end we would like to get members involved in the process. The first workshop will be run on Tuesday 10 July at the Belair National Park Volunteers Centre from 9.30am to 3.00pm. We are initially targeting group Presidents (or secretaries or proxy), the aim being to develop a summary of the discussions and priorities, to be presented at the FOP Forum at Innes in September. Please contact our [Secretary, Pam Smith](#), if you have not yet registered your attendance.

An event not to be missed is this year's Friends of Parks Forum, to be held at Innes National Park – Stenhouse Bay from the 14 – 16 September 2018. The Forum Organising Committee have put together an exciting program for the three-day event and more details can be found in this newsletter.

And that leads us on to the Friends of Parks Forum for 2020. We would very much like to receive expressions of interest from groups to host this Forum. You will have two years to plan the Forum and be ably supported by the Board and DEW staff, and those groups that might be interested should contact our Secretary for further details.

To end on another 'high note', in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List Dene Cordes was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his service to conservation and the environment. Dene is one of the staunchest supporters of Friends of Parks, and long term member of a number of Friends groups, and until recently, was an 'advisor' on a number of past Forum Organising Committees.

Dene has an incredible environmental 'work history' and started the South Australian Friends of Parks movement in 1980, with the organisation now having 118 active groups and approximately 2,000 active members. Commencing his working life with the National Parks Commission in 1968 and following his retirement after 40 years of service, Dene continues to work as a volunteer on numerous committees and Friends of Parks groups. He has many awards including being the recipient of the Public Service Medal in 1990. An [article detailing Dene's life](#) is in this newsletter.

The landscape that the Friends of Parks organisation finds itself in now is rapidly changing. It offers potential opportunities for us, and real challenges as well. I look forward to the organisation engaging in this change process, being proactive and ensuring the organisation is around for another 30 years.

Your continued support, energy and commitment is critical and I thank you for it.



Duncan MacKenzie OAM  
President  
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.



## Friends of Parks 31<sup>st</sup> Forum

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Theme: Innes! Preserving our Past and Protecting our Future

Venue: Stenhouse Bay Hall, Innes National Park – Stenhouse Bay



## Programme

Friday night	September 14 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 pm-...	
4.30 pm onwards:	Registration and networking		
5.30 pm	Welcome to Country & Cultural Smoking ceremony		Mr Quenten Agius Owner-operator Aboriginal Cultural Tours SA
6 – 7 pm	Evening meal - Gourmet BBQ		
7 - 7.15 pm	Introduction		Mr Duncan MacKenzie OAM President Friends of Parks Inc
7.15 – 7.30 pm	Opening of Forum		
7.30 – 8 pm	Overview of Yorke Peninsula & Innes National Park		Mr Craig Nixon Manager, Parks and Sustainable Landscapes Northern and Yorke Region
8 pm –	Heritage & Restoration		Mr Rodney Rees / Mr Keith McAlistar
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9 am–4 pm	
9 – 9.15 am	Welcome to Forum		
9.15 – 10 am	Whales & Dolphins dead or alive. How the SA Museum can help to conserve them.		Dr Catherine Kemper, Curator of Mammals at the South Australia Museum
10 – 10.45 am	Windara Reef Project Coordinator,		Ms Anita Nedosyko, Marine Restoration The Nature Conservancy
10.45 – 11 am	Morning Tea		
11 – 11.45 am	Rewilding Southern Yorke Peninsula		Dr Andy Sharp, Manager Planning and Programs, Northern and Yorke Region
11.45 am – 12.30 pm	Mallee Fowl		Mr Graeme Tonkin
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch		
1 pm – 4 pm	Field Trips: • Cultural Tour Of Innes National Park • Historical Inneson Village		Mr Quenten Agius Multiple Guides
Saturday evening	– Stenhouse Bay Hall		
6 – 8 pm	Dinner		Marion Bay Progress Association
8 – 8.30 pm	Awards Presentation		
8.30 – 11.30 pm	Live music / Entertainment		Ms Amber Joy Poulton
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am–12.30 pm	
8.30 – 9 am	Bacon & Egg breakfast		Marion Bay Progress Association
9 – 9.45 am	Birds of the Yorke Peninsula		Mr Kent Treloar
9.45 – 10.15 am	Althorpe Island		Mr Michael Lucieer, Friends of Althorpe Islands CP
10.15 – 10.45 am	Troubridge Island		tbc
10.45 – 11 am	Morning tea		
11-11.30 am	Friends of Parks Inc. Board		Mr Duncan MacKenzie
11.30 am – 12 pm	Department for Environment and Water		tbc
12 – 12.45 pm	Q & A – Open Forum		Mr John Schutz, Acting Chief Executive for DEW Mr Craig Nixon
12.45 – 1 pm	Close of Forum		Mr Duncan MacKenzie

Refer to the [Friends of Parks website](#) for the Forum registration document and the main document which provides information on location, car parking, catering, guest speakers, tours, suggested accommodation and sponsors, as well as the above program information.

## New Friends of Parks Inc. Member Group

We welcome Friends of the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park.

## 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 content for eNews.

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

### Trees on Farms for Shelter, Conservation & Profit

[from article Planting, Growing and Harvesting a Riparian Farm Forest, which appeared in the Victorian LANDCARE & Catchment Management newsletter of Summer 2018 Issue 71, author Rowan Reid]

Victorian Rowan Reid is a forest scientist and landholder with a 42-hectare property at Bambra\*, who helped develop the Otway Agroforestry Network. His recent book 'Heartwood: The art and science of growing trees for conservation and profit' explains why he advocates the active management and harvesting of trees from multipurpose farm plantings, describing it as an exciting new chapter in the development of Landcare. In so doing he runs counter to the generally held attitude that forests should only be grown for conservation or profit, and never both (see also his website [www.agroforestry.net.au](http://www.agroforestry.net.au)).

\* Bambra lies between Winchelsea and Lorne, Otway region.

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### Anstey Hill: a brief history and overview

[from the May 2018 newsletter of the Friends of Anstey Hill]

#### Revegetation - Two Views – 26 Years Apart



[Photographer: not identified]

The Anstey Hill Recreation Park (AHRP) was officially dedicated in September 1989. The Park was created in 1977 by the purchase by the State Government of privately owned land which had been previously used for timber cutting, mixed farming and grazing (AHJSC, 1983:9; Boehm, 1988:1). It was then one of six reserves in metropolitan Adelaide purchased for the development of a Regional Park.

The Park takes its name from the pioneer George Anstey who settled in the area in 1841, and who, for the next fifteen years, became embroiled in a controversy over road building. It was Anstey who cut the southern access route to Houghton via Paradise and Hope Valley, a feat which led to the immediate renaming of the Highercombe Hill as Anstey's Hill (Auhl, 1976:67- 68).

About 175 ha of the Park, or just under half of it, is covered by scrub, making it the largest area of bushland in the general region. It is divided by a number of short creeks and several gullies flanked by steep sided ridges. The longest creek commencing near the north-east corner bisects the Park through the gully known as Water Gully. This creek continues to flow during the summer, being fed by a spring at the site of the old Newman's Nursery. All other creeks are seasonal (AHJSC, 1983:3).

The vegetation of the Hill has been very disturbed in post contact times. Though there are no records of Aboriginal use of this specific area, it was no doubt subjected to the occasional bushfire and possibly even, to more systematic low intensity firestick farming as a means of land management and generating regrowth to attract game back into the area. The greatest impact, however, was undoubtedly between European settlement in 1841 and World War II, when the Hill was subject to heavy timber cutting for firewood and to supply the Steam Flour Mill as well as the local timber mill which still operated till 1950. These activities made devastating inroads into the tall Blue and red gum stands *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* and *E. camaldulensis* which dominated in the gullies.

Periodic bushfires further damaged the native vegetation, though none was more devastating in living memory than that of Ash Wednesday 1983 during which almost all of the Park was burnt down including canopy trees, undergrowth as well as scrub litter. Although regeneration has been remarkable (mostly from soil-stored seeds and regrowth from stumps as in the case of the *Xanthorrhoea* or grass trees), the configuration had some important effects on plant succession and animal life. Boehm (1988:4) notes that three species of birds have no longer been recorded after the fire and that the Flame Heath which had been prominent as an understorey plant prior to the fire, only has had a limited recovery. As a result, the honeyeaters, thornbills and silvereyes which had been attracted to this winter-flowering plant have also shown a decline in population. Grasses have become dominant in many places by taking advantage of the absence of the formerly inhibiting scrub cover. In many places they have established themselves as a thick ground cover to the benefit of some bird species, notably the Redbrowed Finches, *Emblema temporalis*, which are now more numerous than before the fires.

According to a recent survey by Kriticos and Opperman (1990) the Ash Wednesday fire did have some merit in that it also devastated introduced species. Nevertheless two noxious weeds thrived in the aftermath of the fire and have now assumed plague proportions: the African daisy, *Senecio pterophorus* and the wild olive, *Olea europaea*. These weeds have been the target of some of the earliest Friends working bees. Both species however, and in particular the latter, have provided cover for small birds, and whole olive fruits are eaten by the Common Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*, Blackbirds, *Turdus merula* and Red Wattle birds *Authochoera carunculata* (Boehm, 1988:4).

Following the fire, and extending over a few months in the winter of 1984 and summer of 1985, an inner protective fence was erected surrounding the main scrubland. The area between this inner fence and the outer fence periphery of the Park was opened to grazing by sheep to create a natural firebreak for the central conservation area whose vegetation Boehm describes as degraded natural (1988:5). The deliberate and managed intrusion of sheep into the Park was a source of considerable discussion among Friends of the Park. Some favour the practice as a cheap and effective way of generating a firebreak while others argue that domesticated animals have no place in the Park. In the event some 50 to 200 sheep are grazed by Simon Ollett under contract to the NPWS headquarters at Cobbler's Creek and the Friends of Anstey Hill. The number of sheep grazed varies according to the availability of feed, and in return for agistment rights, Ollett has a duty to maintain fences and undertake some weed control.

The regeneration of native plants has on the whole been quite remarkable in the Park, and the AHJSC 1983 Report records some 289 native South Australian species in addition to some 124 introduced species. Several important plant associations occur on the site, as well as many varieties of native orchids (AHJSC, 1983:5). The Friends of Anstey Hill have been actively involved in the process of regeneration by promoting one seed collecting and two treeplanting working bees with the objective of rehabilitating fire-damaged areas and those severely degraded by quarrying.

Not unexpectedly, as the Hill represents one of the few significant natural bushlands remaining in the foothills, it is also one of the few remaining habitats in the area which can serve as an avifaunal reservoir (AHJSC, 1983:5). Thus Boehm (1988) has recorded some 145 native species of birds locally, many of which are unlikely to move outside Anstey Hill Recreation Park. Boehm's careful monitoring of the bird population between 1981-1987 heads him to the conclusion that the Park is all essential to the survival of a number of bird species.

His own research into the bird life in the area followed that of R. Attwood in 1977 and the earlier study of William Angove between 1887-1910. Comparing the annotated data of the three studies Boehm records the extinction of no less than 20 species of birds between 1910- 1988 (1988:23).

(Excerpts from a report by Master of Environmental Studies student Olga Gostin 'Environmental Issues in South Australia', November 1990.) Transcribed by Lea Crosby, September 2017.

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## Understanding the natural wonder of bioluminescence

[Extracts from article in GOOD LIVING of late April 2018. It includes many appealing photographs which are too numerous to include in this eNews but worth a glimpse. To locate them in the source edition of GOOD LIVING, access GOOD LIVING's [search page](#), then search for bioluminescence. Click on the offering which has the same heading as above, and follow the prompts to the expanded website version. You'll recognise the text below as you progress through these steps. The four links shown all lead to expanded information of interest on bioluminescence (without the need to follow the steps above).]



Have you heard about the natural ocean wonder of bioluminescence? It's when the [sea sparkles](#) a neon blue or green or even red. This beautiful sight is definitely one for the bucket list.

The ocean can glow and glitter like the stars in the sky thanks to a [natural chemical process](#) known as bioluminescence, which allows living things to produce light in their body.

Marine creatures like [some fish, squid, tiny crustaceans and algae](#) produce bioluminescence to either confuse predators, attract prey or even lure potential mates.

We humans can witness this natural phenomenon when there is lots of bioluminescence in the water, usually from an [algae bloom of plankton](#). The bioluminescent sea will glow when it's disturbed by a wave breaking or a splash in the water at night.

Algae bloom sea sparkle events are caused by calm and warm sea conditions. But you can see specks of bioluminescence when it's created nearby by a light-producing marine creature.

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## Restoration of Ellis Cottage, Anstey Hill Recreation Park

[Pictures (un-attributed) and information from pages 6 and 7 of the Friends of Anstey Hill February 2018 newsletter]

Congratulations to the Friends of Anstey Hill for restoring the condition of Ellis Cottage as noted in 1992 ...



to this amazing transformation achieved by 2018 ...



Further information on the restoration and follow-up actions is provided in pages 6 and 7 of the above-mentioned FOAH newsletter.

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## Winter Lecture Series at the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide

### Masterclasses and Workshops

website: [Botanic Gardens of South Australia](#)

[extract from the May 2018 edition of Botanic Gardens of Adelaide blog]

"From June-August we're offering you the chance to dine in the award-winning Botanic Gardens Restaurant while learning amazing insights from botanical experts! The Winter Lecture Series will reveal behind-the-scenes stories about the Botanic Gardens & State Herbarium's work, told by our diverse staff, across eight lunchtime lectures. Speakers include scientists from the SA Seed Conservation Centre - who are helping save the state's threatened plants - and our Director, Dr Lucy Sutherland, who'll share her knowledge of botanical and cultural Peru.

We've added a bunch of new dates and topics to our 2018 Masterclass & Workshop schedule - act fast to snap up a ticket!"

Thurs 9 Aug OR Sun 26 Aug: [Masterclass: Advanced Plant Propagation](#) | [Book now](#)

[Learn More](#)

Thurs 6 Sep: [Curator Tour: Behind the Blooms](#) | [Book now](#)

Sun 9 Sep: [Masterclass: Demystifying Orchids](#) | [Book now](#)

Sun 23 Sep: [Masterclass: Plant Propagation](#) | [Book now](#)

Thurs 18 Oct: [Masterclass: The Art of Bonsai](#) | [Book now](#)

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## Goanna Watch

Goannas are the last remaining large, native, terrestrial predators in southern South Australia, and they need our help. We need to know more about goanna populations, particularly where and how many there are. However, it is proving difficult for scientists to find them as there are so few remaining. So, if you happen to see a goanna [please record the sighting](#). This information is vital for the development of management strategies to address the loss of goannas.

To help spread the word we created 'Goanna Watch' banners which are now available for loan. If you are interested in borrowing one for your next event or need brochures, please contact [Pippa](#).

By working together we have the best chance of protecting our much-loved goannas!

[Read some handy facts](#) (.pdf) about goannas in South Australia.



Photo: Xxxx Xxxx

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## Long Point Jetty upgrade

[Article by Peter Doolette appearing in Friends of Coorong newsletter, Autumn 2018]

On Tuesday the 2nd and Wednesday the 3rd of January an intrepid group of about 16 shackies gave up some of their valuable recreation time to make repairs to the Long Point jetty.

In August 2017, Geoff Gallasch (on behalf of Friends of Coorong) was successful in obtaining a South Australian Recreational Fishing Grant of nearly \$7,500 for repairing and upgrading the Long Point jetty.

Coordinated by Keith Pridham, work kicked off at 8.30am with several small teams tackling different parts of the work. One group removed damaged timbers from the lower deck and had that replaced with new timbers and decking in a short space of time. Another group added new safety railings, and yet another added additional screws to the floor decking.

A new fish cleaning station was also concreted in. After a lunch of snags and rissoles, donated by Friends of Coorong, work recommenced and the tireless workers knocked off around 4.00pm.

The next day about eight shackies turned up, along with a couple of Friends of Coorong, to finish some deck screwing and a few odds and ends at the jetty. A new water quality sensing station was also installed by a representative of DEWNR.

The main task of the day was to spread some road base along the track, from the boat ramp to the jetty. Geoff delivered the road base in his bobcat and the workers spread it out, then wet and whacked it. This improved walkway is much safer and provides better access, especially for people with limited mobility.

Work for the day finished around 12.30 pm with another barbie lunch.

This was a great initiative, and Geoff is to be commended for all the preparatory work he put in – writing grant applications, organising material purchase and delivery, and coordinating Coorong Shack Owners Association members to help out.

The shack owners also deserve much praise – without their work and expertise the renovations would not have happened. Not that many of them use the jetty, so there was little vested interested – they participated as part of their commitment to the amenity of the Coorong area.



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## Would you like to be a mozzie monitor?

Citizen Scientists are being called on to trap mosquitoes at home to better detect disease.

University of SA Associate Professor Craig Williams is asking for help to better identify disease risks in South Australia, such as the Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses.

You can help by donating to the project and becoming a Mozzie Monitor. Please note, if you would like to become a Mozzie Monitor you will need to select the \$50 '[Become a Mozzie Monitor](#)' perk option, Craig will then send you a simple, plastic trap that can be set up in any backyard, school or outdoor area to capture mosquitoes.

Together we can help keep South Australia safe from nasty viruses and diseases! Please get behind this campaign and share with your friends!



Professor Craig Williams

... from Autumn 2018 Sedge Snippet

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## Native Grasses

[Mention here of this subject has been prompted by the reference to it in Onkaparinga Parkwatch, the Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc. newsletter of May 2018. The following extracts are from the informative STIPA\* Native Grasses Association Inc. [website](#), which provides [links to twice-yearly newsletters](#), and much else besides.]

Prior to white settlement in Australia, the area west of the ranges, fringing the east coast, was a land of sweeping plains with three to five large trees per acre and a dense carpet of grasses. The soil has always been acidic, but it supported a diversity of grasses that were well adapted to the harsh and varying climate.

What has changed it?

White settlement saw rapid change occur across the landscape. Before colonisation, the flora and fauna was kept in balance by native animals, like the kangaroo rat (Bettong, which ate woody seedlings), as well as other means such as fire. The indigenous Australians of the region managed the natural pastures with fire to attract native animals for hunting. Many Australian plants still need fire to stimulate germination and produce succulent new growth.

The heavy grazing practices of the white settlers, along with the introduction of the feral rabbit, changed the diversity of the Australian grass plains. The settlers introduced the practice of ploughing fields and cultivating European grasses, which were considered more productive. The irony was that introduced grasses needed to be regularly resown and fertilisers applied to replace the native species that were already growing on the western ranges, slopes and plains, and had done so for the last forty thousand years or more.

The dense woody and scrubby bush that is commonly seen today was never part of early Australia; it has developed since European settlers and is a direct result of the changed balance of eco-systems.

Grass Identification from STIPA Native Grasses Association Inc.

While exploring individual native grass species and learning to identify them, it is important to know that a native grassland is extremely diverse, with many species in its composition. A mono-culture of any one of these grasses would not be desirable. Native grasslands contain many forbs, small, non-woody, broad-leafed plants as well as wild flowers and orchids. Some examples are:

[Kangaroo grasses](#) (Themeda sp.), [Wallaby grasses](#) (Danthonia sp.), [Weeping grass](#) (Microlaena sp.), [Native legume pea](#) (Glycine sp.), [Windmill grass](#) (Chloris sp.), [Curly windmill grass](#) (Enteropogon sp.), [Queensland blue grass](#) (Dicanthium sp.), [Common wheat grass](#) (Elymus sp.)

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## Newsletters Newsletters Newsletters!!!

A cornucopia of Friends' newsletters is available via the [Friends of Parks website Member Newsletters page](#), providing a wealth of interesting reading. Scroll down the list of entries (currently about 130 or so, which are added to the top of the list in order of occurrence) to find the one sought. In many cases, back numbers are also available.

For instance, the Campground Host News newsletters keep you updated on the latest news and opportunities for hosting with National Parks South Australia (see the [2018](#), [2017](#) or [2016](#) editions), and much else relevant to campground hosting. A wide range of opportunities to serve as campground hosts is always available and applicants are much welcomed.

The South Australia's CGH program is coordinated by the Volunteer Support Programs Unit of the DEW.

For more information email [lynn.newman@sa.gov.au](mailto:lynn.newman@sa.gov.au) or call on 8124 4841 / 0467 777 972.

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## First Nukunu field trip to Mambray Creek a success

[extract from WEEKLY DEW staff newsletter of 30 May 2018]

Natural Resources Northern and Yorke recently hosted the first of two 3-day field trips with the Nukunu, the Traditional Owners of the Southern Flinders, Port Pirie and Crystal Brook region, at Mambray Creek in Mount Remarkable National Park.

The purpose of the event was for DEW to work with the Nukunu to deliver a number of outcomes including water quality testing, revegetation, collection of herbarium vouchers (pressed plant sample specimens), a bird survey and weed mapping and control.

The field trip was also a great opportunity for Adelaide-based Nukunu to get back on Country and for valuable relationship building between Natural Resources N&Y staff and Nukunu people.

Nukunu participants included elders Jared Thomas and Rose Turner. Rose, a senior Nukunu Traditional Owner with extensive experience in the environment sector, was able to provide great insight into both Nukunu culture and broader environmental management issues such as feral species management.

Staff from the region's Southern Flinders District also participated in the event.

Another benefit of the field trips is the opportunity to discuss the [Healthy Country Planning](#) process proposed for the near future.

Participants are looking forward to the final field trip in June where several additional families are expected to attend the event.

For more information contact Southern Flinders District Manager [Danny Doyle](#) or Aboriginal Partnerships Officer [Matthew Turner](#).



Ranger in Charge Southern Flinders/Upper North District Peter Newman and Nukunu elders Rose Turner and Jared Thomas

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## Orchid Dupe Wasp On A Basalt Leek-Orchid

[Article appearing in Nature Glenelg Trust's NGT Newsletter #29 February 2018 titled "Threatened flora Western Volcanic Plains, Threatened Orchid". Words and photo by Jonathan Tuck of NGT]

Like many of the plant species remaining on the Victorian Volcanic Plain, the endangered Basalt Leek-orchid (*Prasophyllum viretrum*) is threatened by clearance, fragmentation and degradation of habitat. Despite this, it's hanging in at a handful of grassland sites near Warrnambool and can be seen flowering en masse late in the year, its dense cluster of flowers poking up through grasses and sedges.

The Orchid Dupe Wasp (*Lissopimpla exelsa*) seen here is a female, and is collecting pollonia from around the mouth of the flowers.

The male Orchid Dupe Wasp plays an important role in maintaining populations of *Cryptostylus* (tongue) orchids, thanks to a tricky smoke and mirror tactic by the orchid. The orchid mimics the female wasp, tricking the male into a compromising position as he attempts to mate with it – hence the name Orchid Dupe Wasp. With the experience maybe not quite as he dreamed, he moves on to the next orchid, cross-pollinating as he tries again.

This interaction highlights the need to also consider critical native pollinators when working on the recovery of threatened flora species – sometimes they are as threatened as the plants we are trying to conserve. Conservation measures for pollinators such as the planting of shelter-belts to provide habitat and minimising nearby pesticide use can provide knock-on benefits for threatened flora.

*Prasophyllum* like this one are usually pollinated by smaller Braconidae or Diadegma wasps. Luckily for the Basalt Leek-orchids at Maam Reserve, the wasps appear to be in healthy numbers, and their passion for the orchid doesn't seem to be waning!



Orchid Dupe Wasp collecting pollonia from around the mouth of Basalt Leek-orchid flowers

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## Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards - a comeback

[article appearing in Conservation Council SA and the Joinery News of March 2018, authored by Emma Matthews]

Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards are making a comeback thanks to huge efforts from scientists and conservation enthusiasts across South Australia.

Thought to be extinct for more than 30 years, Pygmy Bluetongues were rediscovered in 1992 in the stomach of a brown snake near Burra. Until then, people were beginning to doubt that these little lizards ever existed! Their surprise reappearance led to a search for more, and there are now 22 known populations in South Australia.

At the forefront of Pygmy research is the Lab of Evolutionary Genetics and Sociality (LEGS) at Flinders University.

Dr Jessica Clayton, former PhD student and current lab manager at LEGS, explains that these lizards often take up residence in the burrows of evicted or eaten trapdoor and wolf spiders, whose populations are also declining.

Both the lizards and spiders are long-lived and rarely leave their burrows, meaning Pygmy Bluetongues usually stay in fragmented pockets of suitable habitat. Increasing agricultural pressures including habitat destruction and livestock grazing, along with feral predators and annual weeds, are substantial threats to these little lizards.

Recent research at LEGS has indicated the promising potential of translocations in Pygmy conservation.

Translocation involves moving lizards from existing populations to other areas with suitable habitat to help increase population sizes.

'The imperatives of land use often override conservation values,' explains Professor Philip Weinstein from the University of Adelaide's School of Biological Sciences.

Philip describes translocations as 'a strategy of last resort', but the depth of knowledge around the Pygmy Bluetongues means that questions about the effects of moving animals can be explored more easily than with many other species.

'It's a really valuable opportunity case study,' said Professor Weinstein.

A captive breeding program at Monarto Zoo (in collaboration with Flinders University, Zoos SA, the South Australian Museum, and South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources) is a recent exciting success story.

A mixture of lizards from Jamestown, Burra, and Clare were moved to Monarto enclosures in 2016. Researchers have been looking at the risks associated with translocations, including PhD student Bonnie Derne, who is looking at parasites from different populations to assess whether translocated lizards could be transmitting non-local parasites to each other.

PhD student Lucy Clive is looking at ecological, reproductive and genetic fitness in the lizards, to explore the effects of movements on local populations.

Along with other research currently underway, these projects will help improve the knowledge base around translocations of not only the Pygmy, but other threatened species.

Initial results of the program are very promising.

'The translocated lizards have made themselves right at home, with survival rates no different to the residents,' says Ms Derne.

Not only that, but the translocated lizards have successfully bred for two seasons after their move, with Monarto Zoo welcoming lots of new babies in January!

To find out more or get involved in the conservation effort, contact [LEGS](#).

See also the winter edition of Trees for Life's [Releaf magazine on page 5](#) regarding discovery of populations of this lizard in the northern Barossa region.



Baby Pygmy Bluetongue lizards  
(Photo: Lucy Clive)

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## Rare Painted Desert Daisy proved to be endangered

[Posted 15 January 2018 in Across the Outback Autumn 2018 newsletter and [Natural Resources SA Arid Lands](#)]

New populations of the endangered purple-flowering Arckaringa Daisy (*Olearia arckaringensis*) have been discovered on a recent survey of the Arckaringa breakaways, north of Coober Pedy.

The species was only first discovered by chance in 2000 in the gullies of the Breakaways in an isolated pocket of Arckaringa Station, north of Coober Pedy by scientists Rob Brandle and Peter Lang.

This led to several visits by scientists over following years to learn more about the daisy, with only minor expansion to the known single population in adjacent gullies.

A further two populations were discovered in 2011 along the same breakaway cliff-line on the neighbouring property, Evelyn Downs, raising the possibility that the species may be more widespread.

In late 2017, a detailed survey was undertaken throughout areas that were believed to be suitable habitat along the Breakaways escarpment, with the hope of finding new populations and learning more about the Arckaringa Daisy.

And the search by the survey team, which took more than 100 hours and covered more than 100km of Breakaway country, paid off.

The survey team, which included staff from the SA Arid Lands region, landholders, volunteers, traditional owners, staff from the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park, and experts from the State Herbarium of South Australia and South Australian Seed Conservation Centre, counted well over 2000 Arckaringa Daisy plants with several new populations found.

However the extent of their distribution was still found to be limited, with the known range only extended by around 10km, proving it truly is a rare and highly restricted plant.

Specimens of the Arckaringa Daisy and other flora species were collected for the Herbarium and Seed Conservation Centre. This is vital to build plant knowledge and improve scientists' ability to accurately describe and identify different species, whilst the collected seeds will be stored to insure against species extinction in the case of an unforeseen catastrophe to these highly restricted populations.

SA Arid Lands Region Community Ecologist Cat Lynch says the results of the survey are very exciting, and there is still much to learn about the Arckaringa Daisy.

"We were extremely happy to find additional populations of the Arckaringa Daisy and to be able to gather more information on the distribution, size of populations and potential threats to the species, such as grazing and erosion," she said.

"It's hoped that further surveys can be undertaken in the future to monitor any changes to the size and distribution of populations over time, and to develop effective ways of protecting this unique plant."

Ms Lynch said it is thought that the species has gone undiscovered possibly due to its close resemblance to a saltbush when not in flower and appears restricted to the washed out, white shales forming the lower slopes of the spectacular Breakaways.

The plant is a small, compact perennial shrub which grows to around 30cm high, and has the ability to regrow from its woody base, which is useful in the arid zone where rainfall is infrequent.

The survey was funded by the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and National Landcare Programme, and would not have been possible without the support of landholders, traditional owners, volunteers and other support staff.

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## New! A beautiful book about Scott Creek Conservation Park

[extract from [Friends of Scott Creek website](#)]

Showcasing local birds, flora, insects, fungi, animals etc. Over 50 pages which include lots of lovely photos, the park's history, its biodiversity value (such as 600+ native plant species and 132 bird species), the ongoing efforts to conserve its treasures and regenerate its creeklines for future generations, along with a map of its walking tracks. Produced to celebrate our first 25 years and to commemorate Tom Hands' leadership as president during this period. All proceeds support the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park.

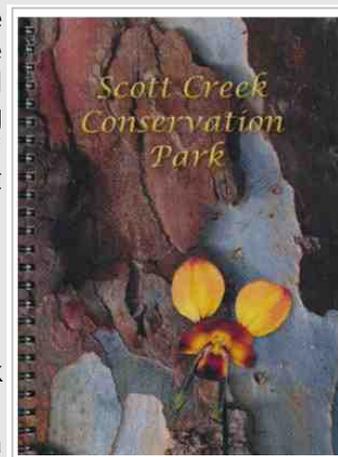
Purchase details (further enquiries to [Don Reid](#))

Price: \$15 (if collecting in person) or else add \$5 for postage.

Payment (\$20) can also be made online or at a BankSA branch.

BSB: 105-078, A/C No: 311316140, Account Name: Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park.

You may need to use your phone number as reference if paying at a branch. Your name is a suitable reference if paying online. Please then email [Don Reid](#) to let him know the date of your payment, your phone number (for reference) and your address (for posting).



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## Friends of Parks Inc. Board Kangaroo Island visit

[from information in VSPU emails received 25 June 2018]

Friends of Parks, Kangaroo Island Western Districts, hosted a very successful visit from the Friends of Parks Inc. Board on 21 June 2018. Starting with a beautiful day, arranged specially by Park staff at Flinders Chase, the Board met and talked with representatives of all four Friends groups on Kangaroo Island: Friends of Cape Gantheaume, Dudley Peninsula, Western Districts, and Friends of the Glossies. They then met and enjoyed a class with the winners of the inaugural Tom Hands Memorial Scholarship, Year 2, Parndana Primary School, KI. Well done lead teacher Anthea Reynolds, and thank you for a great day Rick Andrews!



Official Photo of the Friends of Parks Board visit to Friends on Kangaroo Island.

Shown are members of the Friends of Parks Inc. Board, local Friends, and DEW staff at Flinders Chase.

From left: Mike Barth (Friends of Glossies), Peter Hammond (Secretary, Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts), Rick Andrews (President, Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts), Wendy Penhall (Treasurer, Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts), Gill Peacey (Manager, Volunteer Support Programs Unit), Kate Buckley (Friends of Parks Inc. Board/Friends of Innamincka Reserves), Pat Brooksby (Friends of Cape Gantheaume CP), Grant Pelton (A/Group Executive Director, Regional Programs), Carole Pinnock (Friends of Parks Inc. Board/Friends of Cleland CP/ Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts), Caroline Paterson (District Ranger West, Flinders Chase), John Hodgson (Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts), Bev Maxwell (Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts), Mike Penhall (Senior Ranger West), Josh Mulvaney (Graduate Ranger, Kingscote), Duncan MacKenzie (President, Friends of Parks Inc./Friends of Gluepot Reserve), Andrew Winkler (Vice President, Friends of Parks Inc./Friends of Torrens Island CP), Rob Ellis (Manager, Parks and Sustainable Landscapes).

Photographer: Colin Wilson (Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts)

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## Improved access in one of SA's most remote parks, Witjira National Park

[from the WEEKLY DEW staff newsletter of mid April 2018]

Witjira National Park is a popular stopover for anyone crossing the Simpson Desert and is home to the world-renowned Dalhousie Springs. Visitation is reasonably high for a remote park with 18,700 visitors travelling to the park last year, and more than 22,000 people visiting each year from 2012-2014.

Tracks in Witjira National Park have been improved as part of a 5-year maintenance plan developed through a partnership between Natural Resources SA Arid Lands parks staff, DEW's Project and Asset Services Unit, Traditional Owners, and the Pastoral Board.

The maintenance plan included assessments and planned construction works to create more robust tracks and reduce soil erosion, improving access to the most remote areas of the state for both DEW staff and visitors.

Five years ago, a major storm destroyed tracks in the park. Ranger-in-Charge Frank Lyman said his team had to change the way they maintained the tracks to reduce future storm damage and maintenance, and improve track conditions.

They were supported by the Project and Asset Services Unit through Senior Project Manager Grant Gable and Asset Planner Shane Buckland to develop the plan, which Frank said has led to improved track maintenance processes.

'Our team is developing the skills necessary to assess and maintain the tracks with the equipment we have on-park,' Frank said.

'In such fragile environments, we have incorporated minimising soil erosion into the maintenance plan, which covers 450 km of public tracks on the park, 157 km of public access routes, and a further 520 km of maintenance tracks for Traditional Owners and staff to access remote areas of Witjira.

'The improved conditions of the tracks have also substantially reduced vehicle damage due to rough track conditions.

'By implementing new track maintenance methods such as changing the construction of v-shaped drains to flattened drains as well as rolling the track surface with an impact roller, we have created robust tracks that reduce future maintenance, save money, improve access and reduce travel times, and prevent soil erosion.'

The Witjira National Park Co-Management Board has also agreed to reopen an old airstrip on the western edge of the desert which can be accessed by the Royal Flying Doctor Service and DEW staff. This surface has been repaired as part of the track maintenance plan.



A roller works on the tracks in Witjira National Park

While the work in the 5-year plan was due for completion in 2019, it was completed ahead of schedule in May this year. Frank said it has only been possible through the support of the Project and Asset Services Unit and the co-operation of the Pastoral Board and the Witjira National Park Co-Management Board.

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## Items contributed by members - to whom special thanks

### The Catalogue of Life

[Article, originating from the Catalog of Life website, provided on 26/2/2018 by Dr Jennifer Gardner, former Curator of the Waite Arboretum, currently Visiting Associate working on selected Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve projects]

'The Catalogue of Life (CoL) is the nearest thing to a comprehensive catalogue of all known species of organisms on Earth. Continuous progress is made towards completion, and this edition contains 1,733,967 living and 54,367 extinct species. Please note that this is probably just over three quarters of the world's known species. This means that for many groups it continues to be deficient, and users will notice that many species are still missing from the Catalogue.

The present Catalogue is compiled from checklists provided by 165 taxonomic databases. Many of these contain taxonomic data and opinions from extensive networks of specialists, so that the complete work contains contributions from more than 3,000 specialists distributed throughout the global taxonomic profession. Species 2000\* and ITIS\*\* teams peer review databases, select appropriate sectors and integrate the sectors into a single coherent catalogue with a single hierarchical classification.'

Apps for smart devices which enable participation in citizen science to record the distribution and abundance of plants and animals include:

Frog Spotter, Frog Watch, TREND etc.

\* Species 2000 is an autonomous federation of taxonomic database custodians, involving taxonomists throughout the world

\*\* ITIS (originally referred to the Interagency Taxonomic Information System)

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### Fifty Years involved in National Parks

[Article provided by Dene, our Friends of Parks founder, Patron and Life Member]

Dene Cordes had an anniversary of a different kind on 18 March, 2018. He had commenced working for the National Parks Commission on 18 March, 1968. Now, fifty years later, he is still doing voluntary work for National Parks and Friends of Parks groups.

It all began when Dene was living on Kangaroo Island where he worked in Local Government and then an accountancy firm. He noticed an advertisement in The Advertiser, seeking an Accounting and Administration Officer. He applied, and attended an interview at the state offices which were, back then, the office block at the side of the Curator's residence in Belair National Park. He was interviewed by the Director of National Parks, the late Win Lyon. After he returned to KI, Dene was advised that he had been placed second in the selection for the job. He was disappointed but got on with his busy life on KI.

Not long after that, Win Lyon phoned Dene to offer him the position – the successful applicant had found he couldn't cope with the workload. Two others before him had resigned in the previous six months. Dene accepted on the spot. A commencement date was set, and Dene packed up a few possessions and put his car on the "MV Troubridge", and left at 2.00 am in the morning, arriving at Port Adelaide by 8.00 am. He drove to Belair and started the job. The Director asked "Have you got somewhere to live?" to which Dene replied "No." Win Lyon picked up the phone and rang St Barnabas College at Belair, where they used to take in boarders. That was the start of four years residing at the Theological College. Dene loved the work, the culture, and the network of parks across SA, and the staff state-wide. He stayed there for forty years, retiring in 2008. He was the first Manager of Community Liaison, and enjoyed every hour of work. He studied for a Degree and an Honours Degree at Adelaide University. In 1985 he got a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study Community Support in National Parks of USA and Canada. After four months abroad, Dene returned and started up many Friends of Parks groups to add to the several that already he had started. In 1990 he was awarded the Public Service Medal for services to Volunteering in National Parks.

Today, Dene derives much joy from these activities, and looks back, proudly, on fifty years that started with humble beginnings.

## Dene Cordes receives Queen's Birthday Honour

[Information received from many quarters, for example, the Advertiser newspaper of 11 June 2018, Facebook, etc]

Congratulations to Dene Cordes on being awarded the Queen's Birthday 2018 Honour of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for Service to Conservation and the Environment.

Read more about Dene's work by clicking on [this link to the article from 'The Islander'](#)

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## FOGI celebration 2018

[article provided by Jean Flamank, Secretary, Friends of Granite Island]

The Friends of Granite Island, FOGI, group celebrated volunteers week with a morning tea at the Causeway Cafe.

It was also an opportunity to honor the dedicated work over the last four years by John Biggins and Sonya King, who have organised volunteer working bees twice monthly over the last four years, until their move to Queensland in February this year.

John and Sonya have also recently been awarded Premier's Volunteer Certificates for their outstanding work.

Friends of Granite Island continues to organize working bees on the Island twice monthly, usually on a Wednesday morning. They aim to continue to re-vegetate, mainly the southern side of the island, and restore its natural beauty.

If you haven't walked around the island recently, we suggest you take the opportunity to see how it is changing, especially on the southern, seaward side.

Of course we are always looking for extra volunteers to share the load and to enjoy the benefits of belonging to a Friends of Parks group. If interested please contact the Secretary, Jean Flamank at [flamank@tpg.com.au](mailto:flamank@tpg.com.au) or 08 8552 1907 for further information.



John Biggins and Sonya King with their Premier's Certificates in recognition of their work on Granite Island



Jean Flamank, new secretary, and Pip Burfield, TeamLeader for our group

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## Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park - April 2018 park visits

10–14 April: twelve members travelled to the Park for further work on the Weetootla Gorge environmental monitoring project. Conditions were hot and dry but this was mitigated by the fact that the shearers quarters at Balcanoona are now air conditioned! The trip was productive and a full report of it is available on the website. The report can be read by clicking [here](#).

During this trip part of the group spent half a day with Ranger Arthur Coulthard, having a close look at Balcanoona facilities and visiting sites of cultural and environmental interest nearby. There is considerable scope for projects based at Balcanoona and these nearby sites that might suit member interests better than the environmental monitoring and Oocaboolina projects. Some possibilities are outlined in the report referred to above. On future environmental monitoring trips there is likely to be a mix of activities with some people involved mostly in monitoring and others working at Balcanoona and nearby.

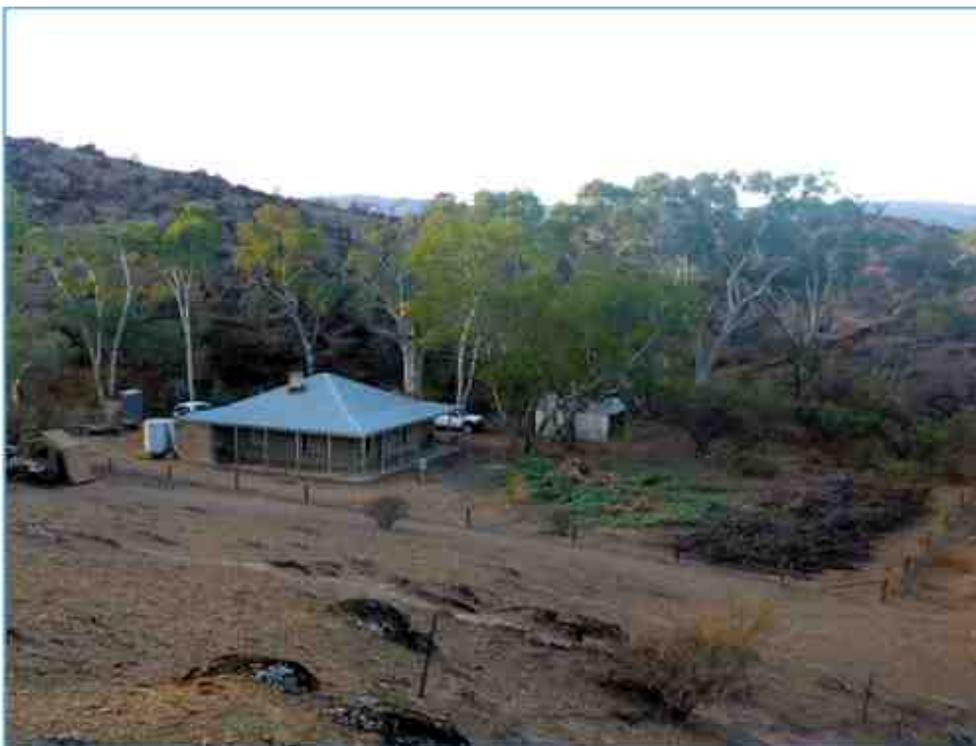
An unpleasant feature of the trip was the large number of dead kangaroos and wallabies seen (and smelled) adjacent to the springs. They had died of starvation and not lack of water. Conditions have been so dry, and the number of both native animals and goats so high, that all the plant material on which the native animals rely has been eaten out. No dead goats were seen and the live ones seemed in good condition.

Arthur has allocated a lockable shed for the Friends group to store gear in and this will save us carting gear to and fro between the Park and Adelaide. As time goes by and the group becomes involved in more activities this is going to make it easier for us to operate on site in the Park.

The next visit to Balcanoona is scheduled for 23–27 August.

16–22 April: five members based themselves at Oocaboolina outstation, camping near the building and working mainly on its external features. A water tank was installed, roof gutters cleared, gutter guard installed, fencing

restored and Athel pines cut down and killed with herbicide. The photograph below was taken just before the working group packed up for their return to Adelaide.



Oocaboolina outstation (Photo: Graeme Oates)

A full account of the work done is posted on the website and it can be read by clicking [here](#).

The next planned working bee will be from 14–20 July and already many members have indicated their willingness to attend. The July visit will include sanding down, repair and or replace interior door jambs, prepare all interior walls surfaces ready for painting, build a new toilet seat, replace toilet door jambs and make a door.

.... article provided by Ray Hickman, [Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park](#)

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### Friends of Torrens Island acquire new mower

[email from Andrew Winkler, Chair, FOTI]

FOTI are highly appreciative of the efforts of former Minister Stephen Mulligan and former Deputy Leader Susan Close towards securing a grant which has enabled the FOTI to purchase a ride-on mower, for use by the Friends to conduct their own maintenance of the Torrens Island Quarantine Station surrounds, improving visual appearance and reducing fire and snake risks.

Photo: Dan Monceaux



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### Friends of Shorebirds SE

Local shorebird enthusiasts have been very busy over the previous few months, with much happening in the region. Beach nesting species were in full swing over the Spring and Summer, with lots of nests on the beaches bringing mixed results. Very high tides combined with a storm event in early November last year unfortunately washed away several nests right along the coast. Even some nests high on the beach, including those in rocky banks, were destroyed. Fortunately, most of these nests and eggs were replaced soon after the storm, and some produced chicks. In the section of beach from Port MacDonnell to Danger Point alone I found nine Red-capped Plover nests in November and December 2017. In the Port MacDonnell to the Victorian border area we had at least five Australian Pied Oystercatcher nests, which produced ten eggs and at least four chicks. We also had quite a lot of Hooded Plover breeding activity, with several chicks hatching in various locations. Two Hooded

Plover nests, quite close to each other and producing a total of five chicks, were located on the highly popular Woolwash Beach in Port MacDonnell. This beach is used by many Port MacDonnell residents for regular walks, often with unleashed dogs so would seem an unlikely area for two nests. Unfortunately, none of these chicks survived to fledgling age. Perhaps, at least in part, because of the unleashed dogs. There has been some success elsewhere however, including two Little Tern chicks fledged at Danger Point. In contrast, we also had a much-publicised case of a Hooded Plover chick killed by a dog on Robe's Long Beach, and an Australian Pied Oystercatcher fledgling run over by a four-wheel drive near Nora Creina.

The first few months of 2018 have been very busy ones for the Friends of Shorebirds SE. We ran three very well attended and successful Dog's Breakfast days; at Port MacDonnell, Kingston and Robe in January. The scheduled attendance at Beachport Market was cancelled due to predicted fire and wind conditions. Our Summer Shorebirds 2020 counts were carried out in January, covering our two usual coastal zones and some of the coastal lakes. These counts have been conducted biannually (Summer and Winter) every year since 2001. Our annual fledged Hooded Plover Count, surveying most of the suitable habitat between Kingston SE and the Victorian border, was carried out in April. This count produced the higher numbers than average, though less than in 2016, of fledged young since the April/May counts began in 2010. The Victorian Wader Study Group made their usual catching and banding visit in March/April and we also conducted a shorebird identification training session for Nelson Coast Care in early April. This was well received and attended by more than 20 interested Coast Care members. A quick trip to Port Fairy was also undertaken in January to try to catch a Sooty Oystercatcher with an injured leg. Unfortunately, after finally locating the bird following much walking and searching, it flew off and was not able to be relocated.



Pectoral Sandpiper. McKinnon Lane, Riddoch Bay.  
25 November 2017 (photo: Sarah Campbell)

... article submitted by Jeff Campbell, Chairman, Friends of Shorebirds SE

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### Tourilie Gorge Hut Restoration

[Information (words and photos) originally created by Natural Resources Northern and Yorke Landscape Ranger Darrin Bennett, and forwarded by Friends of Burra Parks]

Ten members of Friends of Burra Parks, together with Natural Resources Northern and Yorke Landscape Ranger Darrin Bennett, recently spent two days at Caroona Creek Conservation Park repointing the stone work on the historic Tourilie Gorge hut. The group camped out for two nights, spending the days working to bring the hut back to life. Further working bees at the hut are planned to build on the exceptional work completed to date.





[photographs: Darin Bennett]

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities and working with groups like Friends of Burra Parks, visit [here](#) or call the Natural Resources Centre in Clare on 8841 3400.

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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.

Ron Bert  
Neville Forde  
Wally Luscombe  
Don Webster

National Parks Heritage Committee  
Birds SA  
Friends of Simpson Desert Parks  
Friends of O'Halloran Hill

... information from VSPU records and Friends' newsletters

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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. For full explanations please read the Gift Fund documents mentioned below.

Through your generosity the Gift Fund hopes to support projects from various Friends Groups into the future.

The Gift Fund has been undergoing some changes

Electronic fund transfer is again available. A new Gift Fund sub-Committee has been formed - made up of three Friends of Parks Inc. Board Members: Kevin Osborn (Treasurer), Mandy Carter (Public Officer) and Kate Buckley (committee member and new Gift Fund Secretary).

The Gift Fund Secretary will issue receipts for donations, arrange meetings with the Gift Fund Committee Members in order to assess Gift Fund Applications, and to respond to all Applicants.

All Gift Fund documents are on the website under the Members Area [www.friendsofparke.org.au/donate](http://www.friendsofparke.org.au/donate), namely:

- Gift Fund Information
- Donation Form - to use when someone wants to make a donation
- Assessment Criteria - how grants requests are assessed
- Gift Fund Application Form - for Friends of Parks Inc. member groups to request a grant.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Kate Buckley, M 0428 887 786

See Gift Donation form next page



DATE

Friends of Parks Inc Gift Fund

**DONATION FORM**

ABN: 32 457 858 155

NAME:

FRIENDS GROUP (IF APPLICABLE)

CONTACT DETAILS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Would you like to be acknowledged as a donor in the Friends of Parks Inc. eNews ? YES / NO

DONATION AMOUNT

\$

Please email this form to: [pamela.smith@sa.gov.au](mailto:pamela.smith@sa.gov.au)

Please send your donation electronically to:

Name of Account: Friends of Parks Inc. Gift Fund

BSB: 805 050

Account Number: 2339333

Bank: People's Choice Credit Union

OR

via cheque to: Treasurer, Gift Fund  
 Friends of Parks Inc.  
 c/- the Secretariat, Volunteer Support Programs Unit,  
 GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001.

The purpose of the Gift Fund is to receive donations which are tax deductible to the Donor.  
 Donors who request an official tax receipt cannot state which group or project is to receive the donation. This is an offence against the Tax Act.  
 Donors who do not wish to receive a tax deduction, can donate direct to the Friends Group of their choice.

## 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 now has had over 610 '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.

For workshops and events for 2018 organised by Adelaide and Mt Lofty Natural Resources visit <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtlofyranges/education/landholder-education>.

Friends of Parks Inc. Board has been funded by Community Voices, Government of South Australia, to have a promotional video produced by Media students at Flinders University. The video is now available to your Friends of Parks group [at this link](#). You are free to embed this video on your website, post on your Facebook page or use it to promote your group in any way you see fit. It can also be made available an MP4 file. Note: the video directs people to the members directory on the Friends of Parks website, so your contact details should be up to date!

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).

The DEW monthly blog/publication [GOOD LIVING](#) offers splendid viewing of high quality pictures and interesting articles.

(30 Nov 2017 GOOD LIVING hint) Many parks have interactive maps available through [Avenza Maps](#) which you can download to your smartphone. With GPS switched on you can see yourself as a moving blue dot on the trail.

Watch the Friends of Scott Creek CP informative 9 minute [YouTube](#) video which reports on the splendid ongoing effort by the Friends on park maintenance and conservation of remnant native vegetation called the Almanda Project. Much to learn from this video.

(reference to the video is sourced from the Sedge Snippet of December 2017)

Possibly a different bushwalking experience - the River Murray Walk - might appeal to some walkers. Sample the organiser's website first on its [Gallery page](#) for what you might see and experience, then explore the website's other sections according to interest.

(this reference sourced from the GOOD LIVING 25 January 2018 issue)

### Landholder Education

"Manage your land more sustainably...there are many exciting events to choose from!" ... says Jemma van den Bos, Sustainable Agricultural Officer, Adelaide and Central Hills District, Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges, Parks & Regions, DEWNR, who suggests visiting

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtlofyranges/education/landholder-education> to find out more.

### ON TRACK 2010-2017 [5th edition (pdf, 6.3MB)]

Delivering natural resources management in the SA Arid Lands region  
Produced on behalf of the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board, On Track is a report to our community on the progress made in delivering the 10-year SA Arid Lands Regional NRM Plan.  
Click [here](#) to download.

Keep up with all the latest from the Botanic Gardens of South Australia.

Visit the websites of [The Botanic Gardens of South Australia](#), or of the individual gardens: the [Adelaide Botanic gardens](#), the [Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens](#), and the [Wittunga Botanic Gardens](#).

Consider the invitation appearing in the Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks Newsletter No.198 to participate in the 'EYES ON EYRE' COASTAL SURVEY that has been requested by Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula. The survey can be completed online at - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJ76P6G>.

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