



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

There is no doubt that 2018 was a 'very good' year for our Friends of Parks organisation which included an increase to the overall number of groups now supporting our parks environment, under the Friends of Parks banner

Unfortunately, 2019 hasn't got off to a good start, with the proposed luxury accommodation to be built in Flinders Chase National Park, causing a great deal of concern amongst FOP members throughout the State. As a result of this proposal, the Friends of KI Western District approached the Board to represent their views and concerns to the Executive management of DEW, regarding the apparent lack of suitable community and FOP consultation prior to the development proposal being forwarded to the State Commission Assessment Process (SCAP).

This led to the Friends of Parks Inc. Board members being involved in many meetings with the key stakeholders involved, including the Minister for Environment, DEW Executives, the Australian Walking Company (the tenderer to design, install and operate the accommodation), the architect involved, and the Friends of KI West.

It was from these meetings that the Friends of Parks Inc. Board then met out of session, to discuss and subsequently put out a statement that was posted onto the Friends website and disseminated to all Friends groups.

While it is not the type of 'start' you would want for a new year, it has shown that FOP members are very committed and concerned for the future of parks and the biodiversity they contain, and are prepared to stand up for what they believe in.

One outcome of this 'situation' is that DEW has worked with the Board in developing a more effective process of public consultation, prior to any major park development initiatives being undertaken in the future.

This will include all stages including Concept Planning, Detailed Planning, Assessment and Approval and Delivery. As soon as this consultation process has been approved by DEW, it will be tabled to the Board for discussion and dissemination to member groups.

On a brighter note, the Volunteer Support Grants Assessment Panel will be meeting on the 21st March to assess the grant applications. The total amount available is \$60,000, while the total amount applied for this year is a little over \$97,000 – so a difficult job ahead for panel members. To this end, the quality of the written application becomes really important in these instances.

FOP members should note that our AGM will be held on the 27th May 2019 at the Belair Volunteer centre – great venue, idyllic setting and superb food! An AGM notification will be circulated to everyone shortly, with a draft agenda and calling for nominations to the Board, - so please have a think about this as the Board is really starting to innovate and broaden its purview. We are keen to continue to develop ‘processes’ that will hopefully attract younger members to our groups. If you have skills in these areas please give a thought about joining the Board.

Speaking of which, the Board has been particularly active in the development of a new website platform, as the existing Adobe platform is due to expire in 2020. This is a significant body of work that will involve the Board engaging a web designer, so to this end a ‘web design brief’ is being developed now.

Finally, we have been lucky to recently co-opt Benjamin (Ben) Page to the Board. Ben is a university graduate who has been working with the Board’s Marketing and Promotion sub-committee. He is a member of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary and Cleland Wildlife Park Volunteers.

See you all at the AGM on 27th May 2019.



Duncan MacKenzie OAM
President
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.



New Friends of Parks Inc. Member Groups

We have received no applications for membership since the previous eNews

... but we welcome the following former member group back into Friends of Parks Inc. fold. We trust that your involvement with Friends of Parks will continue to be long and mutually beneficial.

Campground Hosts (re-joining after an absence of 10 years)

This New Friends feature was introduced in eNews33. Editor.

From the Editor regarding 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.

Further from the Editor - How information in the eNews is to be viewed

The aim and hope of the eNews is to present news and information thought likely to be of interest to Friends. The sources of information are from three quarters -

1. a lead article by our hard working President giving his overview of Friends of Parks Inc affairs
2. cherry-picking (by the editor, so inevitably subjective) of items selected (with due attribution) from the vast swathe of information received by VPSU and kindly forwarded to this editor. The selection also includes numerous links leading to websites thought to be of interest to Friends but having information too copious to transpose to the eNews
3. articles provided in response to the editor's appeal for contributions from Friends themselves (which provide a valuable counterbalance to the subjectivity of the editor's choices in 2.above).

Of eNews content derived from these three sources only that in 1.above from our President should be taken as statement of official Friends of Parks Inc position (when such matters are addressed). The remaining eNews content from 2. and 3.above is general information, and sometimes entertainment, provided by and shared between Friends. It is all gratefully received. However, any views expressed therein are those of the source authors (who are named wherever possible).

The editor has felt it advisable to ensure understanding of how information in eNews should be viewed. This has not been done before. Please view any material relating to the current issue of KI Flinders Chase developments in the manner described.

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Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information

Butterfly Aviary launched at Cleland Wildlife Park 05 December 2018

[echo of DEW publication Environment SA News of 18 December 2018. Author of the text, and the photographer of the picture of the Chequered Swallowtail butterfly were not provided by the source, but acknowledgement and thanks to them both]

Cleland Wildlife Park is looking a little more colourful with the addition of a new Butterfly Aviary.



The Chequered Swallowtail butterfly will be one of seven species of butterfly to feature in a new aviary at Cleland Wildlife Park.

The aviary has been established with the support of the Butterfly Conservation Society of South Australia and displays the importance of butterflies and by extension, insects, to all aspects of our health and wellbeing.

Cleland Wildlife Park Director Chris Daniels said butterflies are important indicators of a healthy environment and healthy ecosystems.

“Butterflies do more than make our world more colourful, they are important pollinators to many plants and agricultural crops, and an important food source for birds, spiders, lizards, bats and other animals,” Dr Daniels said. “The presence or absence of butterflies can tell us a lot about the health of the local environment – and these important invertebrates are under threat from our changing climate, and habitat loss.

“Cleland’s butterfly aviary will help educate school groups and the public about the importance of butterflies in the landscape and encourage people to create their own butterfly gardens and support biodiversity.

“We’re grateful to Growing Bush and Sophie’s Patch for providing the right type of plants to support caterpillars at our off-site nursery, and for plants for the butterfly aviary.

“We’re also grateful to members of the Butterfly Conservation Society of SA who have collected caterpillars and adults butterflies for the display from across the Mount Lofty and Riverland regions.

“The aviary will eventually house seven butterfly species – Monarchs, two types of Swallowtails, Lesser Wanderers, Common Browns, Australian Admirals and Painted Ladies.

“Cleland staff will be working with the Butterfly Conservation Society of SA to breed for release Chequered and Dainty Swallowtails, and Lesser Wanderers - species that are under threat in the Mount Lofty ranges region.”

Cleland Wildlife Park, in partnership with the SA Museum and Butterfly Conservation Society, have also mounted an exhibition on butterflies and their ecology, biology and environmental value. The exhibition is running in the Oceans-to-Outback room at Cleland Wildlife Park.

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Birds back from the brink

[from SA Environment News of 4 December 2018]

The tiny endangered Mallee emu-wren has made a comeback in South Australia with the completion of the first phase of a relocation program.

/continued overleaf



A Female Mallee emu-wren returning to her nest with food for her fledgling. (Image credit Tom Hunt)

Believed to have been extinct in the state after a series of bushfires in 2014, a release program returned a total of 78 birds to the Ngarkat Conservation Park in April and August this year.

Recent surveys around the release sites showed there were already a number of paired birds with fledglings.

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board worked with a project team to release the Victorian-caught birds at Ngarkat.

Ecologist Chris Hedger said the timing of the two releases helped monitor the effect of different seasons and life stages of the birds and would aid the next phase of the project.

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin project officer Tom Hunt said that after witnessing the losses in 2014 it was heart-warming to see the birds in their new environment.

“Birds at both source and release sites will continue to be monitored next autumn and results of this first full release program will be analysed to inform a second larger translocation,” he said.

“A number of significant steps need to be reached before the next translocation.

“Everything we’ve seen and learnt from this initial trial has provided incredible insights into this cryptic and poorly understood bird. We are certainly now in a much better position to aid its recovery.”

The Mallee emu-wren is about 15cm long, though much of that is its tail. Its only other Australian presence is in Victoria, where it is also classified as endangered.

The project was supported the SAMDB Natural Resources Management Board through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program and NRM levies, as well as contributions from all project partners including BirdLife Australia, Zoos SA, the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Parks Victoria, Rotary International, La Trobe University, Monash University and Zoos Victoria.

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Sleeping Accommodations

[Heading is editor's choice. Text and pictures extracted from Friends of Scott Creek's Bandicoots Tails newsletter #173 of Dec2018-Feb2019. Editor regrets he couldn't find attributions for text or pictures, but thanks the author and photographer]

John Walmsley told us an interesting story about the native bee and the Native Buttercup (*Ranunculus lappaceus*). When arriving to do some bush gardening in Scott Creek on some of the cooler mornings in spring, the native bees were found sleeping inside the flowers, which close at night. As the mornings warm up again the next day, the flowers open, but the native bees tend to sleep in a bit longer, and can be found dozing like this one in the (Native Buttercup) photo.



Sleepy native bee in Native Buttercup



Another native bee in a Tall Bluebell flower

Register for a Trees of Life Bushcare workshop

[from flyer information sent in December 2018 to VPSU by Trees of Life]

Learn skills to take action for the land you love.

Workshop content:

- the diversity of our native vegetation & basic ecology
- bush regeneration principles, strategies and methods for improving bushland health
- minimum disturbance bush regeneration technique
- working safely in the bush



Courses are presented by Trees For Life, enabled by funding from members, participating local governments, corporate partners and NRM Boards.

Dates:

Saturday 13 April at Mt Barker
Wednesday 1 May at Modbury
Thursday 23 May at Willunga
Saturday 8 June at Eden Hills
Wednesday 26 June at Burnside

Workshops run from 9.30 am - 4.30 pm, comprising a classroom session and a 1-2 hour field trip.

Cost is free for financial Trees For Life members (annual family membership \$55, concession \$25). You can join over the phone or online.

(08) 8406 0500 | bfl@treesforlife.org.au | www.treesforlife.org.au/Join-Us

Ask about our 'Bush Action Teams' if you'd like to come and try bushcare first.

<http://www.treesforlife.org.au/>

5 May Terrace, Brooklyn Park SA 5032

ph: 08 8406 0500

Enquiries to Dinali Devasagayam, Volunteer Coordinator, Bush For Life

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2019 milestones - Friends of Parks Groups - 10, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years

[Contents of an email of 11 January 2019 sent to all Friends groups by Gill Peacey, Manager VSPU]

" Dear Friends Groups

Many of you would be aware that the Department of Environment and Water encourages groups to formally recognise significant milestone year achievements (10, 20, 25, 30 and 35) for both Friends of Parks member groups, and individual members.

With last year's change of Minister and Chief Executive we have recently received clarification of the arrangements to recognise and acknowledge our Friends of Parks member groups and individual member significant milestone years of achievement, and would like to share these with you to keep all Friends groups informed.

1. **Individual Friends of Parks group members** reaching a milestone year will be recognised by the Minister by way of a letter and Certificate of Appreciation (and badge)
2. **Member groups** reaching a milestone year will be recognised by the Minister by a letter. A separate letter to the group will also be sent to the group by the Chief Executive reaching milestone years.

A number of Friends groups will be celebrating significant milestones in 2019:

35 years

Friends of Butcher Gap Conservation Park 18/09/84

30 years

Friends of Para Wirra 04/05/89

Friends of Mt Remarkable National Park 10/05/89

Friends of Troubridge Island and Other Yorke District CPs 12/02/89

Friends of Telowie Gorge (celebrated on 21/10/2018) 20/06/88

25 years

Friends of Great Victoria Dessert Parks 26/03/94

20 years

Friends of Clements Gap Conservation Park 28/10/99

Friends of Innamincka Reserve 21/05/99

Friends of Mount Billy Conservation Park 12/08/99

Friends of O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park 29/01/99

Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park 26/07/99

Walking Trails Support Group 29/09/99

If your Friends group would like to formally recognise the group's or individual member's upcoming milestone achievements you need to contact your relevant liaison Ranger or equivalent and provide them with:

1. a list of eligible individual members identifying their milestone year, with their postal addresses
2. some information about each recipient e.g. key achievements, strengths, skills, role etc, so the letter can be personalised
3. if it's a group milestone, some specific information about the group and your achievements
4. let Pam Smith know by email that your group intends celebrating the milestone, and we will liaise with the relevant staff.

The regional staff will send the information to the Volunteer Support Programs Unit which coordinates the Certificates of Appreciation, and letters signed by the Minister and CE for recognition of service, and badges.

We need to receive this information at least eight (8) weeks before the event so can you please ensure you notify your liaison Ranger well in advance to ensure enough turnaround time.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Volunteer Support Programs Unit should you need any further information. We have sent this to all Friends Groups, rather than just the groups celebrating milestones this year, so you can be updated on the process.

Regards

Gill Peacey, Manager, Volunteer Support Programs Unit, Regional Programs Branch | Parks and Regions, DEW "

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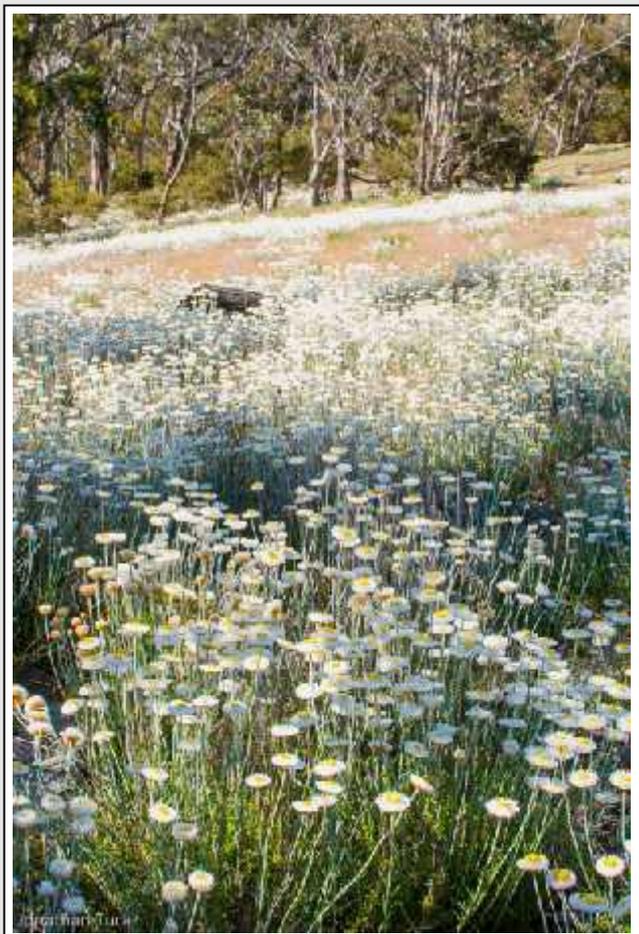
Just a nice vision

[from NGT NOVEMBER 2018 NEWS - newsletter #38 - 27 Nov Photo Of The Week item]

Paper Daisies on the Major Mitchell Plateau, Grampians NP

Photo of the Week by Jonathan Tuck.

Words from NGT newsletter #38



Toward the end of spring, as the wildflowers are fading out on the plains, they can still be in full swing up on the cooler and moister hills. At about 900m elevation on the Major Mitchell Plateau last weekend we came across this mass flowering of paper daisies (likely Satin Everlasting – *Helichrysum leucopsideum*), carpeting the ground in white and yellow, along with patches of Blue Pincushion (*Brunonia australis*).

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Earthwatch Climate Monitoring Trails

Friends of Parks were recently approached by Nadiah Rosian, the Earthwatch ClimateWatch Program Manager, to see if our groups would be interested in participating in a unique citizen science program that Earthwatch operates around Australia. Nadiah's message was:

"The program reaches out to organisations that might be interested in developing a ClimateWatch trail to connect local communities with climate change monitoring and citizen science.

The ClimateWatch program is an app-based nation-wide initiative focusing on phenology (seasonal changes in plants and animals) and species distributions. It is being utilized by government, parks, environmental groups, botanic gardens and education initiatives. It is currently supported by the Commonwealth's Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Programme.

The ClimateWatch program has been operating across Australia over the past nine years, however there are currently large data gaps for South Australia. To address this gap in knowledge, Earthwatch is aiming to deliver new ClimateWatch monitoring trails in partnership with groups in SA and thanks to Commonwealth funding, are able to establish new trails for significantly reduced costs,

I believe that this is a marvellous opportunity for FoP to partner with Earthwatch and expand the ClimateWatch trail system in South Australia!

The beauty of this citizen science project is that ClimateWatch monitoring trails enable individual groups to develop a trail within their own parks – or groups can design multiple trails with one park. The information obtained from this monitoring process is being used to shape Australia's scientific response to climate change.

The monitoring process is such that you can confine it to your FoP members or involve the wider community eg. schools.

Included with this article is a sheet (see two final pages. Editor) that provides information on how to establish a ClimateWatch Trail and an Information Brochure (see below. Editor).

For further information, please contact:

Nadiah Rosian – ClimateWatch Program Manager. Earthwatch Institute

Email: nrosian@earthwatch.org.au

Website: au.earthwatch.org and climatewatch.org.au

Common Brown Butterfly
Acraea semotus

ClimateWatch
An initiative of Earthwatch Institute.
Observe Nature | Help Science

ClimateWatch was developed by Earthwatch Institute with support from the Australian Government to understand how changes in temperature and rainfall are affecting the seasonal behaviour of Australia's plants and animals.

ClimateWatch enables every Australian to become a citizen scientist, collecting and recording data that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change.

climatewatch.org.au

OVER 120,000 SIGHTINGS SINCE 2009

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WHY NOT WALK OR CREATE A CLIMATEWATCH TRAIL?

We can record ClimateWatch observations anywhere in Australia or you can visit one of our ClimateWatch trails across Australia. Walking a trail is a great way to involve your friends, family, students or colleagues in discovering your local environment while contributing to important research.

climatewatch.org.au/trails

“ WORKING WITH THE CLIMATEWATCH DATA WAS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR MY STUDENTS. TO WORK ON SOMETHING REAL, MAKE NEW DISCOVERIES, AND DO SOMETHING THAT MATTERS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY SOURCE OF MOTIVATION. ”

Linda Miller, Australian Rain Forest Education Institute

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

ClimateWatch is an authentic learning experience that can be incorporated into a school curriculum, camp or once a term activity. Students will learn real world skills of observation, recording, critical and creative thinking. Taking part in citizen science by measuring and recording plant and animal behaviour is naturally aligned to the science strands of the national curriculum, and a great way to build cross-curriculum links in areas of mathematics, geography and sustainability.

Cool Australia's FREE ClimateWatch lessons are mapped to the Australian Curriculum and can be integrated into curriculum and delivered to every level of education, from primary schools all the way to tertiary education in universities.

climatewatch.org.au/for-educators

Items contributed by members - to whom special thanks

Gawler Ranges National Park Friends Group Commendation Award, January 2019

Friends of Gawler Ranges National Park were formed in February 2003. The group saw an immediate need to restore Pondanna Homestead. This was completed in 2009.

August 2009, we asked our Patron, Alice Barns, (former owner) to declare Pondanna open to the public for hire. Over 5,500 volunteer hours and over 50,000 km travelled to see this restoration to fruition. Working bees have been held once a month with approximately 6 meetings a year, with an average of 15 people attending.

We started with a new roof. Restoration included replacing doors, window and floors. Lots of plastering, sanding and painting have taken place with a complete paint job inside. Floor coverings, solar power and a telephone have been installed to add to the comforts of Pondanna. These were purchased with small grants and the catering Fundraisers at Pondanna and elsewhere. Furniture and furnishings have been added. Some great restoration work has been completed.

We cleaned out the underground tank farthest away from the house The Athol pines were removed from the septic tank and pit area. The Chaff shed has been cleaned and tidied and the chaff cutter restored.

Some of the old machinery remains at Pondanna and includes two heavy 19th Century cultivators, Shearer combine, David Shearerstripper (supplied by E.O. McPherson of Minnipa), hay rake, Mulboard plough, two Harrow levels, a heavy grader, single furrow ploughs, dam scoops, Sunshine binder and chaff cutter.

Interpretive signs have been installed around Pondanna showing what life was like in the past.

/continued overleaf



Pictured receiving the award: Trish Lynch, Mary Westlake, Ian Westlake, Sandy Alexander, Roddy Scholz, Leala Hoffmann, Wendy Walladge & Tim Reichstein.

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Luxury accommodation to be built in Flinders Chase National Park

[submitted by Hugh Lambert - not wearing his eNews editor hat, but as an environmentally concerned individual Friend - who was shown this letter from his volunteer friend John Fuller concerning the issue (also raised in the Friends of Parks Inc president's "From the President's Desk" message in this newsletter) of the luxury accommodation developmental intrusion in KI into natural heritage lands. The letter presents a poetic and sensitive personal statement of the impact of this intrusion, in a manner not generally used elsewhere in the consideration of the issue, and is believed by Hugh to be a worthy of being seen more widely. In explanation of the final paragraph, the letter has also been sent to John Fuller's State and Federal parliamentary representatives.

"One issue which really worries me and is not on your community survey and that is the management of our natural heritage particularly as it pertains to our publicly owned national parks on Kangaroo Island. I lived on KI for 3 years and have returned many times since.

Wilderness

There is one weekend that stands out in my memory of living on Kangaroo Island. On Saturday a storm was blowing up from the south west. In late afternoon I drove straight into the howling gale and blackening sky to where the road from Cape Borda heads south across the Ravine des Casoars. With my rucksack on I walked, weaving through head high bracken and the scarifying prickly acacias; trying to follow the ravine to the sea. It was hard work, I hadn't realised how slow it would be. Eventually I came to a flat where goats and the wind had pruned back the foliage. Past a salty lagoon I reached the beach at the mouth. The sand was blasting into my legs and the sky billowed pitching darkness. In the cliffs on the north side are caves. I ducked in as the first spatters of rain hit. The smell of penguin shit. I found a sandy shelf where I laid out my sleeping bag and gathered a small pile of drift wood. The fire started, a bit smokey but good enough to cook on. During the night the wind pushed the tide up well into the cave but on the sand shelf I kept dry. Penguin mewings woke me at times through the night though by morning I felt well rested. The soul of the wild world was all about. The wind had eased, the rain was gone and I found an easier route out along a fire track.

Over the years I have with friends walked the wild coast from Borda to DeCouedic, to Stuns' Boom, Gantheaume and on to D'Estrees. It is a rare and magic environment where sea eagles call, sea lions lounge and whales spout. The impact of humans is faint and you can truly feel the wildness of it all. It is what makes Kangaroo Island so special.

Today there are any number of coastal resorts being constructed around Australia and the rest of the world. No matter how "ecological" their design they tear away the wilderness and destroy the special that attracts people in the first place. Please help stop the building of resorts in Flinders Chase and other South Australian parks. If building a resort is really desirable surely it would be better to site it on land nearby which has already been cleared. You can visit resorts in many places but there is only one KI.

Ownership

As far as I know the taxes I have paid for the last forty years and the taxes paid by my fellow citizens have helped establish and maintain our parks for the amenity of all of us. I was disturbed to learn recently that friends of mine were unable to book a lighthouse cottage at Cape de Couedic because an interstate company has first rights to the cottages so that it can accommodate its high end clients on their walking tours. I am outraged that public assets paid for by the taxes of all South Australians are to be the sole right of wealthy clients for the profit of an interstate entity to which the government seems to have provided a monopoly. Similarly in 2017 when I walked a section of the coast from Rocky River mouth to Cape de Couedic I was compelled to pay a fee. I have walked this section of coast in previous years for no cost. I resent having to pay to walk in a park my taxes have helped pay for so that a tour company can benefit. I have been quite willing to pay camping and entry fees to park rangers for the upkeep of those parks but I see no reason why I should pay money to a private company which is indirectly gaining income from the work of rangers and volunteers. I understand that similar private monopolies are being contemplated for Innes Park.

Democracy and Consultation

Of the people by the people for the people? What is happening with our parks is - of the people by rich people for rich people. There has been no consultation of park users, park volunteers and as far as I can tell the park owner tax payers. I would rather pay more tax to truly keep our parks in public control rather than turn them into businesses used only by wealthy clients for the profits of a few. Last year I became a grandfather. It has been an enduring dream of mine to take my grandson camping in the wilderness, to KI, the Flinders, up the River and to Innes. The wilderness areas of South Australia should be his inheritance. Do not turn his inheritance into just one more resort or one more Queensland cotton farm. Each summer as a CFS volunteer I do my best to safeguard our town, our farms and our parks. Your government was elected to do the same.

Yours faithfully, John Fuller "

Friends of Parks groups – it's not just about the weeds!

[from Donella Peters on behalf of the Friends of Scott Creek CP]

For many decades now, Friends of Parks groups have worked in their Parks with great dedication; weeding, planting, removing old fences, installing bird-boxes, and other activities designed to improve the Park and its biodiversity. They have worked in partnership with the Park Rangers and Departmental staff and achieved admirable results.

So, what would make a FoP group "go on strike"?

This is, in essence, the action taken by Friends of Parks KI – Western Districts (FoPKIWD), on learning, late last year, of a proposed accommodation development by the Australian Walking Company (AWC) at two spectacular, pristine wilderness coastal sites within Flinders Chase National Park, namely Sandy Beach and Sanderson Bay. Many of you will have seen the letter they sent to all Friends groups outlining the proposal, and the reasons why they did not consider the development to be at all appropriate for the Park.

If you haven't seen their letter, their objections were to not only the scale of the proposed accommodation, but also its siting, 3 kilometres away from the trail, which would mean clearing 3 kilometres of vegetation for access roads, and also for 7 more kilometres of walking track. The proposal is at odds with the Park's Management Plan; it has been made a "Category 1" development which precludes any public consultation; it would impact on the habitat of several nationally endangered species; and the Environmental Impact assessment had not been correctly undertaken. In addition, the lighthouse-keeper's cottages at Cape de Couedic have been leased to AWC, which will restrict public access to them.

In response to the group's letter asking for the support of other FoP groups, Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park organised a public protest rally on the steps of Parliament House on February 27th. Despite the hot weather, almost 500 people attended, from many Parks, some coming great distances to add their support. (I should add here that after we advised FoPKIWD of our intentions, they picked up the ball and ran with it, and were largely responsible for the success of the rally).

Greens MLC Mark Parnell has also been advocating on behalf of the Friends group, asking several questions in Parliament, and supplying useful information. He is seeking to have the documents relating to the proposal and negotiations released under FOI.

One very troubling issue about this whole saga is that the Government Department that is supposed to be looking after the environment, is more than happy to allow private developments on public land. The Government ministers don't own the Parks – the people of this State do, but there is no consultation with us over such issues. And the secrecy surrounding the proposal, and the difficulty in even obtaining plans of the accommodation, make one wonder just where the Minister's sympathies lie.

DEW's own website says "There has been a decline in biodiversity across most regions of South Australia, particularly in agricultural areas where habitats have been destroyed or altered, leaving behind fragmented patches of vegetation. These remnants, and the biodiversity they support, are under continuing threat. It is important to manage and rehabilitate these areas if further loss of biodiversity is to be avoided."

The Kangaroo Island Development Plan states "Development should be located away from fragile coastal environments and significant habitat or breeding grounds." How the Minister could consider approval for such a development, given these two guiding principles, is greatly puzzling, to say the least.

Unfortunately, South Australia's Parks must all now be considered potentially under threat of similar developments, given that the Minister seems to look very favourably upon such proposals. Especially as the Department has been rebadged as an "economic development agency" with a focus on "contributing to our state's economy by driving sustainable economic development, and unlocking the potential of our natural and heritage resources". In other words, making money out of nature.

Volunteers work long and hard in their Parks and have many issues to contend with, including weeds, feral animals, bushfires and Climate Change. Now we have a new one to worry about: potential "developments" in our Parks, threatening the small amount of remaining habitat for native fauna in this State.

Unless we are all prepared to stand up for our Parks and actively oppose development proposals, we will eventually see all the places we care about sacrificed to the Government's bottom line.

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Why KI Friends are striking!

[from Bev Maxwell, Acting Secretary, Friends of Parks KI Western Districts]

Background

Five months ago members of Friends of Parks KI Western Districts were enthusiastically planning the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Flinders Chase National Park under the theme 'Flinders Chase: 100 years of caring'. The theme was chosen to reflect the ongoing history of committed conservationists, from those who spent 27 years in getting the park gazetted to the volunteers and staff who have cared for and protected the park ever since. At the Innes Friends of Parks forum last year we promoted the 10 days of events we had planned around the October 2019 centenary.

This ended when the accommodation plans for the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail were released last November. The extensive building complexes were to be prominently located far from the trail on untouched, wild, coastal sites with no opportunity for public input into the decision. This was such an attack on the values on which National Parks are established that we withdrew our participation in the anniversary and our labour from the National Park estate in protest. This was not an easy decision for us to take as we're committed to our volunteering and the projects we are undertaking.

This inappropriate private development in Flinders Chase National Park could establish a precedent for future developments in other Parks, so we have called on other Friends of Parks groups and the wider community to send the government a clear message. Our Parks must not be sold out to private developers. Friends of Dudley Peninsula Parks have also withdrawn labour, while Eco-Action and individual members of Friends of Cape Gantheaume have provided support. Many Friends groups, other conservation organisations and individuals throughout Australia have supported our actions. Members from thirty Friends of Parks groups were amongst

500 people at the Parliament House rally in February. The Board of Friends of Parks Inc has recognised our concerns and represented them to the Department for Environment and Water.

What's happening now

We continue to promote the campaign in as many ways as we can and we've been encouraged by the actions of Friends groups in support. Submissions have been prepared for the Native Vegetation Council which will visit Kangaroo Island on 1-2 May. We keep our Face Book pages updated on progress <https://www.facebook.com/FPKIWD/> and <https://www.facebook.com/publicparksNOTprivateplaygrounds> We are seeking donations to assist in promotion and to help fund a legal challenge <https://chuffed.org/project/public-parks-not-private-playgrounds#/supporters> if this becomes necessary.

How you can help

- contact Minister Speirs, Premier Steven Marshall and your local State MP and tell them you want our parks protected from inappropriate development
- write letters to media outlets (newspapers, radio, TV)
- talk about it through your networks
- join the private email for updates bevcolin1@bigpond.com
- donate to the crowd-funding above (or contact us for alternatives).

Thank you to all the Friends of Parks members who have supported us so far.

Bev Maxwell

Acting Secretary, Friends of Parks KI Western Districts.

/see picture overleaf



Not a small footprint - the sites of accommodation buildings 5, 6 and 7 of ten buildings in total.
Location above Sandy Beach.

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Re-igniting the torch of history

[contributed by Graham Baker, President of Friends of Coffin Bay Parks]

In January 1925 Edgar Waite – then Director of the SA Museum - together with Professor Frederick Wood-Jones – noted zoologist, anatomist and anthropologist, and author of the three editions of *The Mammals of South Australia* - spent 10 days camped on the Coffin Bay Peninsula. They walked the area extensively and concluded that the Coffin Bay Peninsula, due to its land form, would be an ideal location for a wildlife refuge, as the area could be protected by a feral animal proof fence at its narrowest point – approximately 2 Km's across.



A diverse range of mammals had been identified as living on the Coffin Bay Peninsula, including bilbies, dunnarts, bandicoots, quolls, bettongs, native possums, Phascogales, and a variety of native mice. Waite discussed the proposal with Sir John Burton Cleland. All of these men were active office-holders and Fellows in the Royal Society of SA, and they supported initiatives such as Samuel Dixon's 27 year campaign to finally establish Flinders Chase in 1919. It is a lesson for all of us to recall Samuel Dixon's quote concerning his long battle for Flinders Chase – "Everything comes to him who waits." . Let's hope that the Friends of Coffin Bay Parks' proposal does not take that long to come to fruition !

Following upon Edgar Waite's circle of associates' proposal to construct a feral proof fence across the narrowest neck of the peninsula – in the vicinity of the Yangie Bay area – the cost of a 2Km length of fence would not be prohibitive. The costs pale into insignificance when compared with the 22 Km of feral proof fencing planned for the Innes National Park.

We are currently progressing our proposal through the Regional Office of DEW in Port Lincoln. It is intended that our Friends group would be seeking funding for the fence from outside of DEW's limited budget. We believe that there are a number of philanthropic and nature conservancy organisations that we can approach for the necessary funding. Clearly there are a number of positive outcomes should this proposal succeed – including the re-introduction of endangered species and a significant boost to the tourism attraction of this iconic Park.

In advocating this proposal we are simply following in the footsteps of past great South Australian environmentalists and more recent advocates including a former Ranger in this area – Andy Spiers and one of our past inspirational local leaders and activists – the late Tom Bott.

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News from the Friends of Telowie Gorge

[Article and pictures provided by Geoffrey Helmers, Friends of Telowie Gorge]

The Friends of Telowie Gorge were thrilled to receive a Special Acknowledgement Award at the Innes Friends of Parks Forum recently for their work in rehabilitating and restoring areas left barren and bare after the bushfires and floods in our area. The group had cleared flood debris and built an environment to attract native wildlife and birds and commenced a tree planting program using plants grown by the group to rejuvenate affected areas, and because of the very dry conditions in the area, conducted a hand watering program to ensure success. With around 70% of the trees surviving, the areas are now well on the way to their former glory, and the group is very proud of the achievement and very thankful to receive the award.



Friends of Telowie Gorge group celebrated their 30 year Anniversary recently with a lunch to celebrate the group's achievement. The lunch was attended by 30 members plus staff from National Parks, with members traveling from all over the state to attend. Local National Parks manager Danny Doyle presented certificates and badges to members for 20 and 30 years service with an appreciative speech thanking the group for the valuable work they do in improving the local bushland environment. Receiving recognition for 20 years service were Kevin Cattermole, Allan and Meredith Davies, Noel Smith and Frank Gordon. Receiving recognition for 30 years service were Henry and Coralene Mudge, Wally Klau, Stuart and Ann Beinke, Max and Bev Greer, Jon and Pauline Wilsdon and Errol Shepherd.



Cutting the celebration cake is founding President Jon Wilsdon and current President Coralene Mudge

Friends of Granite Islands (FOGI)

[from Gloria Jean Flamank, Secretary, Friends of Granite Islands]

Our enthusiastic group of volunteers have been working towards a winter planting spree, hopefully with the aid of a few helpers from other sources. We are hampered somewhat by the vehicle restrictions due to the necessary repairs to the causeway. We are only a small group but we try to make a difference to our Island.

For the moment we have been preparing the sites that we will plant out. There is the never-ending weed control, and the removal of some of our previous plantings, which have not made it through our hot summer.

Other jobs we have attended to are helping to keep the Little Penguin burrows viable and the area around them free of obstacles that could hurt our little friends, and the sorting the stakes and guards, disposing of any which are no longer serviceable - all on-going.

The group meets on Granite Island second and fourth Wednesdays each month from 9.00 am till around 12.00 noon. New volunteers are always welcome. Contact Jean on email flamank@tpg.com.au or ph.8552 1907, or Pip on ph.0413 997 219.



Trevor (camera shy?) and Pip



John, Pip (team leader), and Sue

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.

Bill Williams	Friends of Telowie Gorge
Tim Fuhlbohm	DEW Ranger who interacted with many Friends groups

... information from VSPU records and Friends' newsletters and communications

LINKS

Friends of Parks Website www.friendsofparksa.org.au



'Like' us on Facebook - Friends of Parks SA has a [Facebook](#) page. It was launched on 6 October 2016 and now has had over 900 'Likes' and growing. A rich source of information and pictures. Have a look 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.

The [Native Vegetation Act 1991](#) covers a large range of issues. Perhaps at the top of the list for Friends is the matter of vegetation clearance, and in particular what clearing one can do without the need for Native Vegetation Council approval. Look [here](#) for guidance (information from DEW website).

State of Volunteering Online's e-newsletter edition #256 offers information on where to find Cross Cultural Awareness Resources (and much else besides). Visit [here](#).

Visit [Trees For Life \(TFL\) 'Resources'](#) page for indexes to TFL's splendid [ReLeaf](#) and [Bushcarer](#) Magazines, and various other publications - brochures, reports, etc.

Keep up to date with national park experiences, events and seasonal attractions through the new National Parks South Australia e-newsletter, [Insider Tips](#).

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). Note, too, an app "Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia" is available on the AppStore.

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

The Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) monthly blog/newsletter offers a wide range of high quality pictures and interesting articles. Sign up for its blog/newsletter at the bottom of its [website PUBLICATIONS page](#).

Butterfly Conservation public talks to be held in new location in 2019, namely:
Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long Street Plympton. Enquiries to [Secretary BCSA](#)

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](#).

Check out the [joint Conservation Council SA and The Joinery website](#) to see what's on under the auspices of the Conservation Council SA, and at [The Joinery](#) ... a place to connect and get active such as hire a function room or office space, attend an event, grab a bite to eat, meet a friend or join The Joinery team itself.

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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 (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.friendsofparossa.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
<p>Friends of Parks Inc Gift Fund</p> <p>DONATION FORM ABN: 32457858155</p>	
NAME:	
FRIENDS GROUP (IF APPLICABLE)	
<p>CONTACT DETAILS:</p> <p>EMAIL ADDRESS:</p> <p>Would you like to be acknowledged as a donor in the Friends of Parks Inc. eNews ? YES / NO</p>	
DONATION AMOUNT	\$
<p>Please email this form to: pamela.smith@sa.gov.au</p> <p>Please send your donation electronically to:</p> <p>Name of Account: Friends of Parks Inc. Gift Fund BSB: 805 050 Account Number: 2339333 Bank: People's Choice Credit Union</p> <p>OR</p> <p>via cheque to: Treasurer, Gift Fund Friends of Parks Inc. c/- the Secretariat, Volunteer Support Programs Unit, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

Establishing a ClimateWatch Trail

Thank you for requesting more information on how to establish a ClimateWatch Trail.

Contributions from Earthwatch

Earthwatch provides the following when establishing a ClimateWatch Trail:

Setup:

- Trail webpage on the ClimateWatch website www.climatewatch.org.au
The page can include a link to the client's webpage
- Map of each trail with the location of the indicator species labelled
- Downloadable field guide for the ClimateWatch indicator species (flora and fauna) to be monitored along the trail.
- Downloadable recording sheet, which includes the map and indicator species
- Information for signage where appropriate, including logos
- Communications toolkit to assist client in engagement activities

Ongoing:

- Data hosting
- Technology support for app and website
- Data validation of ClimateWatch records
- Data submission to Atlas of Living Australia (submission to Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, if applicable)
- Annual report of trail activity
- Raw data upon request. All validated ClimateWatch data is made publically available on Atlas of Living Australia

Contributions from trail coordinators/clients

In order to allow development of the trails, you will need to provide the following:

- A high-resolution map detailing the trail area
- A list of the ClimateWatch indicator species which are present along each trail.
- GPS locations (if possible) of the ClimateWatch indicator species or sections of trails where they are present eg. watering hole
- Background information for the trail webpages
- All appropriate logos, along with specifications for appropriate display of logos
- Signage and markers along the trail

Indicative timeline for development of trails

-  To be completed by client
-  To be completed by Earthwatch

Deliverables	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Map of trail				
ClimateWatch Species list				
Location of CW species				

Background info for webpage				
Trail map completed				
Field guide completed				
Recording sheet completed				
Trail webpage developed				
Signage and markers				
Payment				

Fees and charges

Cost for establishing a ClimateWatch trail (once-only)

\$20,000.00 ex. GST (2 site visits *or* 1 site visit and 1 new species)

\$13,000.00 ex. GST (no site visits and no new indicator species)

If you are an educational, non-profit or community group, we can provide you with significantly subsidised charges. Please contact us. All fees are put back into our organisation to help provide free and accessible citizen science tools and resources for the whole community. We are a not-for-profit organisation and appreciate the support you give us!

Optional services not included in the establishment fee (excluding travel expenses)

- Additional site visit where an Earthwatch staff member attends the trail site to assist with locating and mapping ClimateWatch species
\$200.00/hour ex. GST
- Workshops to train staff or community members in ClimateWatch. A workshop would entail training by an Earthwatch staff member at the Client's chosen venue and demonstration at the trail location, up to 3 hours
\$600.00 ex. GST
- New ClimateWatch species (upon approval by science advisory panel), one species
\$625.00 ex. GST

Contact:
Nadiah Roslan | ClimateWatch Program Manager
Earthwatch Institute

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W: earthwatch.org.au | climatewatch.org.au