



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

Dear members

Following the ravages of fire in many of our parks, your FOP Board has decided that we need to take immediate action to make sure that we do all that we can to aid the long recovery process.

The Friends of Parks Board (FoP) met on Thursday night 6 February, and unanimously agreed that this catastrophic situation affecting so many of our parks and their biodiversity must be met with strong and immediate action. As a result the Board has agreed that:

- It will support directly the Friends of KI Parks Western District group with a cash injection to help the group purchase equipment that they lost in the KI fire.
- It will quarantine the Board's tax deductible Gift Fund for a period of two years, to help fund post fire recovery activities undertaken by the member groups – at the end of the two years the Board will then review the situation. Any Friends of Parks Group can apply to the Gift Fund Committee for funding, if the parks they are involved in have been impacted by the fires.
- FoP will advertise and promote on its website, Facebook site and its new Instagram site, the tax deductible Gift Fund and how donations will be allocated to those Friends of Parks groups working in bushfire areas as part of the recovery process. Naturally we are hoping that FoP groups and their friends and relatives will consider donating to the Gift Fund, as well as members of the public.

- The Board has representation on the DEW Wildlife Ecosystems and Habitat Recovery Task Force that has been set-up by the Minister for Environment.
- The Board is working very closely with the Volunteer Programs Unit in facilitating and coordination information that is emanating from DEW's internal Fire Recovery Committee.

I was very heartened to hear that numerous FoP's groups have already contacted the Volunteer Programs Unit to pass on their condolences to the fire-affected Friends Group members, and stating their strong support for park recovery activities. This reflects the incredible generosity and effort that we've all witnessed or heard about with these fires, and when we are so often faced with negative news, it's been so uplifting to see what our community is really capable of. It is events such as these that shows what a wonderful environmental "family" FoP really is.

DEW is currently assessing the ecological and infrastructure impacts to each of the affected parks, and will be working closely with the relevant Friends groups and other community organisations to plan the recovery activities, many of which will need to be carefully timed and sequenced. We may be requested to provide assistance with tasks such as seed collection, growing seedlings, weed control and planting events, and the Board will be working closely with the Department and keep communicating with groups about how you can be involved into the bushfire recovery.

On another more positive note, the 2019/20 park Volunteer Support Grants have now been finalised and the Board contributed money to the bottom line this year, to ensure that most groups who applied for grant funding were successful. This is another way that the Board is able to actively support it members.

This year the Board will also fund 'Bushcare Workshops' run by Trees for Life, and depending on uptake by the Friends groups, will look to sponsor other similar workshops in the future.

If any member group has ideas on how FoP can assist the post-fire recovery for our beautiful parks, please contact Pam Smith, Board Secretary, on 8124 4784, and she will make sure that it is forwarded to the Board.

Thank you once again for your commitment at this difficult time, but I am positive that our great organisation will come together in support of each other and our fantastic parks.



Duncan MacKenzie OAM
President
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.



Volunteers working for conservation

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT and REQUEST
FROM THE PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. BOARD

Dear Readers

I'm sure that you are all shocked about the bushfire season so far that has affected much of this country's population, farmland, and natural habitat, and there are still two and half months left of the 2020 bushfire season.

For our fantastic national parks and all of the plants and animals they are set aside to conserve, the fires have been absolutely catastrophic. What survived the direct flames and heat of the fires now face an uncertain future just to survive.

Friends of Parks SA is a community organisation that is over 30 years old, and is dedicated solely to assist the Department of Environment and Water's (DEW) staff in managing the State's national parks and reserves. There are currently 128 Friends of Parks groups state-wide involved directly with on-park activities, such as weed eradication, feral animal control, habitat restoration, wildlife survey and monitoring - to name just a few.

DEW is currently assessing the ecological and infrastructure impacts to each of the affected parks, and will be working closely with the relevant Friends groups and other community

organisations to plan the recovery activities, many of which will need to be carefully timed and sequenced.

Friends of Parks groups may be requested to provide assistance with tasks such as seed collection, growing seedlings, weed control and planting events and the Friends of Parks Board will be working closely with DEW and keep communicating with groups about how they can be involved into the bushfire recovery.

The Friends of Parks Board has unanimously agreed that this catastrophic situation affecting so many of our parks and their biodiversity, needs responding to with strong and immediate action.

As a result the Board has agreed that it will dedicate the Board's tax deductible '**Gift Fund**' for a period of two years to help fund post fire recovery activities undertaken by our member groups.

Any Friends of Parks Member Group can apply to the **Gift Fund Committee** for funding, if the parks they are involved in, or wish to be involved in, has been impacted by the fires.

Tax deductible donations to help the Friends of Parks groups to continue their post fire recovery work can be made by completing a simple form and forwarding with a cheque to:

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

Or by bank deposit (please also fill in the form and email to pamela.smith@sa.gov.au so that we know where to send your receipt):

Name of Account: Friends of Parks Inc. Gift Fund
BSB: 805 050
Account Number: 2339333
Bank: People's Choice Credit Union

The form can be found on the Friends of Parks SA website:

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

Thank you for your consideration and support. The recovery in those parks affected will be a slow process for plants and animals re-populating these areas, and the community support that will be required will be vital.

Regards

Duncan MacKenzie
PRESIDENT
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.

A donation to the Gift Fund from Mike Hopkins is gratefully received.

New Friends of Parks Inc. Member Groups

We welcome the following as new affiliate member groups and trust that your involvement with Friends of Parks will be long and mutually beneficial.

October 2019

Marine Life Society of SA Inc.
Williamstown and Lyndoch Landcare Group Inc.

December 2019

Friends of Minda Dunes

... and note that there are about a dozen more groups which have made initial contact, which we hope to be able to tell you about in the next eNews.

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Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information

SA's new strategy to protect coastal environments

[from DEW's WEEKLY blog of 27 November 2019. Image not attributed, but thank you to the photographer]

Environment and Water Minister David Speirs recently announced the State Government's new five-year Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia, setting an approach to mitigate climate change through coastal protection and restoration.



Blue carbon is carbon captured and stored in coastal environments like seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and mangroves. When healthy, these environments store large amounts of carbon over long periods. But if they are degraded they can release greenhouse gases, which in turn, contribute to global warming and cause sea levels to rise.

SA has over one million hectares of mangroves, saltmarsh and seagrass environments and they are estimated to capture and store up to 3.6 per cent of the state's annual carbon emissions each year.

Besides carbon storage, these systems also provide a number of economic and social benefits including fisheries habitats, coastal storm protection and natural areas for recreation.

DEW is working closely with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to accelerate the development of approved project methods for generating blue carbon credits under the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund.

Carbon farming under the Emissions Reduction Fund is a well-tested approach in Australia to finance environmental restoration through the creation of "carbon credits". These credits can generate a new revenue stream for farmers and other land owners. A similar method for blue carbon projects would help incentivise coastal restoration.

For a copy of the Blue Carbon Strategy for SA go to [DEW's climate change website](#).

The Climate Change branch have begun talking with staff across the department and regions to identify blue carbon projects and planning opportunities.

For more information contact Climate Change A/Manager [Louisa Perrin](#) and Climate Change Project Officer [Daniel Hanisch](#).

Recycle your old corflute

[from Sedge Snippet of November 2019]

Do you have tired, old or damaged corflute tree guards that can no longer be used?

Drop them into YCA Recycling* where they can be turned into a new product. YCA accepts any type of corflute as long as they are clean and free of contamination. There is no fee for disposal and no minimum amount for drop off.

* 16-20 Johansson Road, Wingfield, South Australia 5070 (cnr Cormack Road & Johansson Road)
Enquiries, questions or commendations: call 1300 503 882

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Our climate is changing. What can I do?

How to join the Climate Ready Communities Project in South Australia

[extracts from email to VPU on 30 October 2019 from Dani Austin, Community Adaptation Project Officer, Emergency Services, Red Cross]

Australian Red Cross, in partnership with councils in South Australia, are coordinating an exciting project to help communities prepare for intensified extreme events and a changing climate.

The Climate Ready Communities Project is empowering people to understand the risks they currently face, the way these are changing, and what they can do to build their resilience.

The project is calling for Climate Ready Champions. These community champions will be supported by Red Cross through free training about how you can support others take action to become 'climate ready', practical guidance to deliver activities and events in their communities across South Australia, and the opportunity to get involved in Red Cross' emergency response and preparedness activities.

Red Cross has developed **Climate-Ready Communities: A Guide to Getting Started** to support communities to have their own conversation about how the things they value will be impacted by climate change, and what they can do to continue to thrive.

If you're in South Australia and you think your community needs to get ready as a community for changes in our climate, you can join the group of Climate Ready Champions.

Climate Ready Champions are trained to help people understand how the things we value may be affected by our changing climate, and explore what we can do to take action.

You will be supported by Red Cross through:

Free training about how you can support others to become 'climate ready'

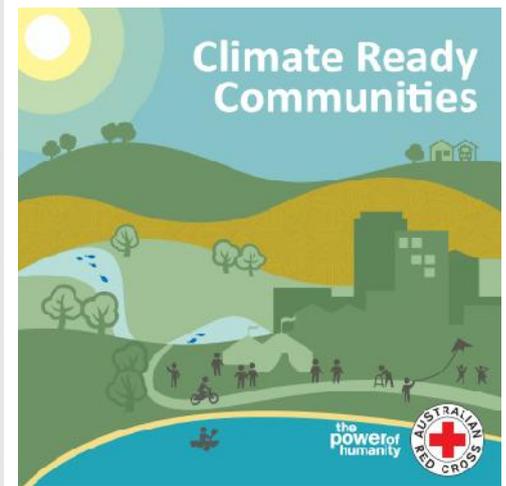
Practical guidance to deliver activities and events in South Australia

Opportunity to get involved in Red Cross emergency response and preparedness activities.

We've partnered with a great cohort of councils (below) to offer face to face training and we'll be offering an online training for those across South Australia. For more information on our upcoming trainings, head to [our event page](#).

- Resilient Hills & Coast
Mt Barker, South Australia Hills, Kangaroo Island, Alexandrina, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla
- Resilient East
South Australia City, Unley, Burnside, Prospect, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Tea Tree Gully, Campbelltown, Walkerville
- Resilient South
Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Onkaparinga.

For more information, to register, or to have us come along to your group to talk about becoming climate ready, please contact: Cristel Chambers: cchambers@redcross.org.au and 0415 695 836.



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First step for \$25 million Dog Fence rebuild underway

[from the SA Arid Lands *Across the Outback* newsletter of October 2019. Image unattributed]



Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said the State Government recognises the impact of wild dogs on the livestock industry and the urgency in starting the rebuild process.

The release of the supply notification is the first step in the procurement process for interested suppliers and contractors to understand the requirements and scale of the rebuild,” Minister Whetstone said.

“The information released provides suppliers and contractors with an overview of what will be considered in the merit- based awarding of contracts for this project so they can start to prepare and plan their applications.

“There will be two components of the dog fence rebuild – the supply of materials and the creation of a panel of fencing contractors.

“We are anticipating significant interest in participating in the dog fence rebuild ahead of a call for tenders later this year. The State Government has policies in place to ensure eligible local businesses are given opportunities to benefit from and bid for work on major government projects such as this.”

Minister Whetstone said the rebuild, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State Government and industry, is a one-in-a- generation opportunity to provide a reliable barrier against the incursion of wild dogs in the pastoral areas.

“Drought has exacerbated the impact of wild dogs on South Australia’s \$4.3 billion livestock industry and it is vital we do everything we can to keep them out of pastoral sheep country and the southern agricultural zone,” he said.

“More than two-thirds of the 2,150km South Australian Dog Fence is beyond its serviceable life, that’s why we need to get the rebuild right.

“Much of this fence is more than 100 years old and is ageing and brittle and being heavily impacted by large native animals such as kangaroos and emus, feral camels, wild dogs, weather events, sand erosion, rust and corrosion.

“This rebuild will benefit the pastoral community and supporting outback communities through reduced wild dog management costs, employment opportunities and choices about whether they choose to run sheep or cattle.”

As part of the overall planning for the project, the State Government has formed the Dog Fence Rebuild Committee (DFRC). Chaired by the PIRSA Deputy Chief Executive Professor Mehdi Doroudi, the committee comprises the following, or their representatives:

- Chairs of the Local Dog Fence boards
- Chair of the Dog Fence Board
- The owner of the north west private section of the Dog Fence
- President of Livestock SA

Professor Doroudi said the committee is engaging with local dog fence boards and other pastoral stakeholders to ensure each section of the new fence is built to best suit the terrain, substrate and pressure from wild dogs in that area.

“Pastoralists are being consulted during the design process. Issues being considered include priority areas, investigating a possible need to change the fence location, earthwork requirements, materials and designs best suited for the different types of terrain the fence traverses, and the best materials and designs for creek crossings and floodways.”

Dog Fence Board chair Geoff Power said as part of these considerations the Dog Fence Rebuild Committee conducted a fact finding visit to western Queensland in September, followed by a full inspection of the South Australian Dog Fence.

“Over the last few years there has been a \$20 million investment in wild dog exclusion fencing in Queensland and this visit to Barcaldine and Longreach provided the Committee with a good opportunity to learn from their lessons before we commence the South Australian rebuild,” he said.

“Not only did we inspect the different types of fencing that have been used in western Queensland, but sought feedback from local pastoralists on the fencing options that have worked best.

“The full inspection of the South Australian Dog Fence was also very important as it will assist in determining, in collaboration with the local Dog Fence boards, the priority locations for fencing works as the project gets underway next year.”

View the Arid Lands website at www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands

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Ferretting out rabbits around Mount Barker



Ferrets have been used to retrieve rabbits from urban gardens around Mount Barker (photo not attributed)

[from Environment SA News, 3 December 2019]

A medieval form of rabbit control has made a comeback to help manage an urban rabbit problem around Mount Barker.

In urban areas there are constraints around using conventional rabbit control methods such as baiting or warren destruction, so landholders and residents came up with the idea of using ferrets.

Dwayne Godfrey from Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin said the rabbits were having an enormous impact on town gardens and vegetation, eating everything they could.

"We started working with landholders on control measures to remedy the issue," he said.

"After numerous meetings with concerned landholders and residents, the possibility of using ferrets was raised."

In South Australia it is legal to use ferrets as a control mechanism for rabbits. Ferrets are not native to Australia but can be kept as pets, however they must not be released and are subject to the regulations relating to pest animals under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004.

"Strathalbyn ferret owners Trevor and Joan Bottroff provided the ferrets to retrieve the rabbits from their warrens," Mr Godfrey said.

"Adjoining landholders came out to lend a hand, and on the very first ferreting attempt, through dense shrubbery, the ferrets retrieved 27 rabbits and numerous young.

"One week later we went back and went through the procedure for the same warrens, and found new rabbits had taken up residence. We retrieved another eight rabbits and their young.

"The Bottroffs have been back six more times and have managed to remove more than 60 adult rabbits, as well as many young animals."

Mount Barker landholders are thankful that the ferrets have helped them overcome a serious plague of rabbits that were harming residential gardens and a park area.

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin will continue to monitor the area over the coming months.

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Delivering a win-win for environment and agriculture

[from Environment SA News of 19 November 2019]

A key milestone has been reached in the creation of a 140,000 hectare 'Great Southern Ark' that will protect native species and benefit local farming communities.

The first species to be reintroduced will be the brush-tailed bettong, a critically endangered marsupial that plays an essential role in the ecosystem by digging up to four tonnes of dirt and leaf litter per year and spreading native plant seeds.

Construction of a 25 kilometre fence across South Australia's Southern Yorke Peninsula marks the start of four years of intensive feral predator control activities, and the staged re-introduction of threatened wildlife such as the brush-tailed bettong and southern brown bandicoot.



[photo not attributed]

The Southern Yorke Peninsula fence will control the movement of foxes and feral cats, securing the future of many of our threatened native species and reducing the cost of feral animal predation to farmers. Feral cats alone hunt and kill bilbies, numbats, quokkas, quolls, bandicoots, parrots, lizards, frogs and many other endangered species.

Once completed, this project is expected to provide significant benefits to our environment, native species, farmers and the local community. For example, the project will help:

- restore the ecology of the southern Yorke Peninsula and stop the decline of the district's unique vegetation,
- manage mice populations, which will help to reduce damage to crops, by reintroducing native predators including the red-tailed phascogale and barn owl,
- reduce fox predation on lambs,
- support the local economy through opportunities for low-impact ecotourism, following the reintroduction of native species such as the brush-tailed bettong and southern brown bandicoot.

The project aims to return up to 20 native species to the peninsula, in a bid to boost local tourism, improve agricultural productivity and restore the area to its former ecological glory.

Northern and Yorke Natural Resources team leader Max Barr said feral cats and foxes have wreaked havoc on native animal populations in this area and farmers have also lost valuable stock to these predators, so the fence is an important first milestone.

"We can't wind back the clock to 200 years ago, but we can try to restore key species to the system and create a landscape that balances healthy wildlife populations with prosperous farmland and tourism," Mr Barr said.

At least 27 Australian mammal species are believed to have disappeared from the peninsula due to feral predators and the clearing of vegetation. While kangaroos and emus can still be seen around the area, many native species will never return without assistance.



© WWF-Aus / Paul Fahy. Building of the 25 kilometre fence across South Australia's Southern Yorke Peninsula

The Great Southern Ark project is the result of more than a decade of collaboration between key project partners led by the Northern and Yorke Natural Resource Management Board, WWF Australia, Zoos SA, the FAUNA Research Alliance, with support from the Australian Government and cooperation from local farming communities.

The Australian Government has funded \$2.6 million through the National Landcare Program's Regional Land Partnerships, in the Great Southern Ark. A further \$10 million is to be invested through the Environment Restoration Fund to create additional threatened species safe-havens across Australia.

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Fairies in Humbug Scrub. The visit of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1927

[article from the Para Wirra News newsletter of September 2019, author Darren Williams]

In 1927, the famous author of Sherlock Holmes travelled to Adelaide. His wife was speaking on Spiritualism at the Town Hall, something that was quite popular at the time. During the visit, Arthur Conan Doyle took it upon himself to visit the 'Humbug Scrub Sanctuary'. The sanctuary was very popular at the time and travellers to Adelaide made an effort to visit.

The following extract* is from the *The Mail*, Saturday 24 September 1927, page 1:

- ' Since October, 1919, Mr Bellchambers has kept a visitors' book at Humbug Scrub, and from it some idea of the number and nature of the people who visit Humbug Scrub may be obtained. In the forefront of the book is a message from King George, while names which occur early are Sir Henry Galway, the former Governor of South Australia, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, famous author and spiritualist. When Sir Arthur Conan Doyle visited Humbug Scrub he thought that Mr. Bellchambers might be able to throw light on a subject dear to him.
- ' You are a man living close to nature. Do you ever see any fairies?' he asked. ? To this rather startling question Mr. Bellchambers replied in the negative, but for the information of his distinguished visitor intimated that as Humbug Scrub was blackfellow country,
- ' if they were looking for fairies he had better look for black ones. BESIDE THE POOL' (op.cit)

* the 'oddball' paragraph spacing etc of the extract is an attempt to replicate the layout shown in the Parra Wirra News article, which presumably is itself intended to replicate the layout in the original source *The Mail* article.

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Have you heard of iNaturalist?

[from Sedge Snippet of September 2019]



iNaturalist is a free citizen science app that allows you to use your smart phone to record nature observations.

Once you have submitted an observation, the app provides identification suggestions, and connects you with a community of other naturalists and scientists all over the world.

It's a great tool for improving identification skills, creating a visual database, and raising community awareness of local biodiversity.

Check out the **iNaturalist Protected Parks of SA** to view observations from parks such as Onkaparinga River National Park, Scott Creek and Aldinga Scrub conservation parks. There is also a section for **Marine Life Society of South Australia** and **Fungimap is also moving to iNaturalist**.

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Inchman Ants

[from article in the Para Wirra News newsletter of September 2019, author Kath Mathews. The three photos included below are not attributed in the article, but if by Kath Mathews, then thank you, Kath]

Myrmecia forficata is a species of Australian Bulldog ant. It is the most venomous of all Bulldog ants. Their venom is some of the most powerful in the insect world and there is a tendency for the toxin to induce anaphylaxis.

The symptom of a sting is local swelling, reddening and fever followed by the formation of a blister. Heart rate can increase and blood pressure fall rapidly. Anaphylaxis is caused in about 3% of stings. Treatment for the sting is similar to wasp and bee stings, and there have been deaths recorded from the sting.

They range in size from 15–25mm and are purplish brown with a black abdomen.

Their nests are usually a hole in the ground, under a rock or in a hole in the ground. Adults are omnivores, foraging alone for sweet substances. The larvae are carnivores and feed on captured prey.

These photos were all taken at Para Wirra.



Queen Inchman ant

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Wetland restoration and an elusive little fish

[extract from article in NGT Newsletter #47 June 2019 by NGT's Ben Taylor]

The background to the story of the elusive Australian Mudfish (*Neochanna cleaveri*)...

Back in 1974 someone caught a fish from Bool Lagoon and popped it in a jar, mistakenly identified as a Mountain Galaxias (*Galaxias olidus*). Decades later Michael Hammer (native fish expert and current Aquasave-NGT Committee member), found the old specimen jar while reviewing all native fish records in the South Australian Museum.

That fish was the first South Australian record of the native Australian Mudfish previously known only from Tasmania and coastal Victoria. Thus began the quest to rediscover the South East population of Australian Mudfish. But despite targeted surveys, not a single Mudfish was found. The South East Fish Inventory in 2002, surveyed 182 sites across the region and found none. Australian Mudfish aren't big, rarely longer than 8 cm. Maybe the 1974 specimen was a member of a local population that was now extinct?

Then in 2008, at the height of the Millennium Drought, Michael was dip-netting the Sutherland Drain looking for another threatened fish species, Little Galaxias (*Galaxiella toourtkoourt*), when he found a single live whitebait (juvenile) Australian Mudfish. Perhaps in the drought conditions fish had concentrated in the small amount of remaining habitat? This exciting rediscovery led to funding for a targeted Mudfish survey of the Sutherland Drain area. A commemorative (now coveted), "I'm Mad About Mudfish" beanie was worn by the Mudfish survey team and volunteers.



said beanie

Meanwhile, in November 2009, future NGT Ecologists Ben Taylor and Greg Kerr were wading through a fairly full Lake Hawdon South (25km inland from Robe), when Greg spotted a dead fish floating on the surface. At that time the fish community of Lake Hawdon South, one the South East's largest and most intact wetlands, was virtually unknown. Ben emailed a photo of the fish to Michael Hammer, who immediately identified it as an Australian Mudfish. Lake Hawdon South and surrounding areas were added to the hit list for the targeted Mudfish survey.

By September 2010 when Michael Hammer, Mel Tucker and Ben Taylor arrived at Lake Hawdon South it was very full; around 3,200 hectares under water. Far from the concentrated pools of the drought, these conditions were hardly ideal for catching rare fish. With low expectations, the fyke nets were set on a cold grey afternoon.



Michael Hammer and Mel Tucker set a fyke net in the extensive sedgeland of Lake Hawdon South, 17th September 2010 (Photo: Ben Taylor)



Australian Mudfish: Note there are no scales, and the dorsal (top) fin is well back towards the tail, and above the anal (bottom) fin. The species can also be distinguished from *Galaxias* species by their small pelvic fins, very small eyes and large tubular nostrils

The [NGT article](#) continues with more information which is too extensive to include in this eNews. Editor.

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Collaboration to deliver 450km Murray Coorong walking and cycling trail

[from Environment SA News 23 October 2019]

The State Government is collaborating with three regional councils to continue to develop a walking and cycling trail, which will eventually stretch 450 kilometres from Cadell in the Riverland to Salt Creek in the Coorong.

The partnership agreement will see the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) working with the Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB), Mid Murray Council (MMC), and the Coorong District Council (CDC), to continue to develop the Murray Coorong Trail.

The trail was initiated in 2015 as a collaborative project between the three regional councils, who agreed to use existing trails and build new trails to develop a linear path largely following the River Murray.

The proposed trail route will traverse council reserves, levee banks, DEW-managed parks and reserves and Crown land, linking river towns, major tourism attractions and existing trail networks.

Once complete, the 450 kilometres of trail will promote wellbeing, encourage tourism and business expansion – as well as showcase the Murray and Coorong, and conserve and protect biodiversity.

Funding from the three Councils and State Government has supported the first 25km of construction – with a stage in each council district.

Parts of the trail remain under construction, but once completed it will be formed in more than 20 sections along the route.

With support from the Australian Government, work is also underway to engage with the local Raukkan community to feature local Aboriginal history along the trail.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Dave Burgess, representing the three Councils, said it's exciting for the Councils to be working with the State Government to bring this multi-use recreational trail to life.

"Working in partnership at the ground-level will be vital to the successful completion of the trail," said Mayor Burgess.

"Working through matters of land management, maintenance, access and safety across multiple jurisdictions can be complicated, so a coordinated and collaborative approach will help deliver the best outcome."

Nature and heritage-based tourism contributes \$1.7 billion to South Australia's visitor economy, with 42 per cent of visitor expenditure in the state's regions.

It's anticipated the Murray Coorong Trail will be a wonderful drawcard for visitors to the region with it being less than an hour's drive from Adelaide to many of these sections. It's also the perfect day trip or weekend camping experience for visitors to the region.

For more information, visit the [Murray Coorong Trail](#) Facebook page.



A section of the Murray Coorong Trail in Murray Bridge



A section of the Murray Coorong Trail in Meningie



Sightseeing along the Mannum section of the trail

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New direction for a climate smart South Australia

[extract from [Environment SA News](#) of 11 December 2019]

" A new paper has been released which outlines South Australia's commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change – improving environmental outcomes and creating new job opportunities ... across government.

The *Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia* paper looks at five practical policy directions to help guide government planning including:

- unlock innovation and economic opportunity
- reduce net emissions
- build resilience and adapt
- provide accessible information
- government leading by example.

Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia sets the government's agenda for practical action to harness economic opportunities, create jobs, reduce emissions and help South Australians adapt to a changing climate.

South Australia is leading in affordable and reliable renewable energy and we can build on this position of strength to develop new climate smart services and industries, such as clean energy through hydrogen.

Climate change is increasingly being factored into government decisions and there is a lot of work underway across government to help people, places and the economy to adapt.

Initiatives such as our \$52 million investment to [secure the future of our coasts](#), as well as [Green Adelaide](#), and the [Greener Neighbourhoods program](#) will help us achieve more climate resilient, ecologically vibrant and liveable places.

The Chair of the [Premier's Climate Change Council](#) Martin Haese said the government's directions statement highlights the critical link between climate change and our economic growth and community wellbeing.

"The physical impacts of climate change and the global transition to a low carbon economy presents both opportunities and challenges for South Australia's economic growth and employment," said Mr Haese.

"By becoming 'climate smart', we can build on the state's current leadership position and capitalise on increasing demand for clean energy, climate resilient food and fibre production, and new technology.

"A well-planned government response to climate change can also help to preserve and enhance the liveability of our state."

"Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia will guide climate smart planning and action across government.

"It sets the agenda for a new whole of government climate change strategy, due for completion in early 2020, and for the delivery of government initiatives such as a Hydrogen Action Plan, Blue Carbon Strategy and an Electric Vehicle Strategy."

For a copy of *Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia* visit the [Department of Environment and Water website](#).

South Australian Seed Conservation Centre

[this article from the [Botanic Gardens website](#) is reached via two links ([Postage stamps sow seeds of knowledge about seed banking](#), then [Seed Conservation Centre](#)) starting in DEW's WEEKLY blog of 15 January 2020]

Established in 2002, the [South Australian Seed Conservation Centre](#) helps to protect the state's threatened plant species from extinction, while supporting the restoration of habitats around South Australia. In 2003 the Botanic Gardens of South Australia formed a partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Millennium Seed Bank (UK) as part of the Global Millennium Seed Bank Partnership, which involves 80 countries.

The Centre is also currently a member of the Australian National Seed Bank Partnership.

The native plants of South Australia form an integral part of our unique landscapes and ecosystems, however 1 in 4 native South Australian plant species (more than 1,000) are threatened due to loss of habitat and competition with introduced species.

[A Youtube clip is provided this point in the source web page. Click on the following link to view it. Editor]

[Protecting South Australia's Plants from Extinction](#)

Throughout the Centre's program, wild provenance seeds have been collected from regions across the state and safeguarded in long term storage at subzero temperatures. Approximately half the species in the state (about 2,000) and nearly 70 per cent of the state's threatened species are currently stored in the seed bank and form part of the living collections at Adelaide Botanic Garden.

By 2020 we aim to have at least 90 per cent of our state's threatened plant species in the seed bank.

Species diversity in South Australian plant communities is in decline and it's important to conserve our most threatened species while the opportunity still exists. Many species are threatened with bioregional extinction and the aim program is to collect seeds from remaining provenances while they are still extant.

Studying the seed biology of each species is an ongoing requirement for curating the collection. A large component of the research undertaken at the Centre is to investigate methods to overcome dormancy mechanisms in native seeds so they can be used for restoration.

Learn more

- Images and data compiled during the collection and curation of the seeds are made publicly accessible via the Seeds of South Australia website. The website is a work in progress, but it already contains information for over 2,000 plant species and provides information to assist community and industry-based restoration projects.
- See what the Centre's Seed Hunters have been up to by checking out their blog.
- Check out a list of the Seed Centre's current projects.
- Find out about how the Centre is helping inspire the next generation of South Australian environmental custodians through the schools SEEDS project.
- Find out about some of our most threatened plants on the Seeds of South Australia website.

Learn about three of SA's most threatened endemic species

- [Olearia arkaringensis](#)
- [Thelymitra cyanipicata](#)
- [Brachyscome muelleri](#)

Discover three plant that were presumed extinct but have recently been discovered to be still extant

- [Swainsona dictyocarpa](#)
- [Cullen microcephalum](#)
- [Veronica parnkalliana](#)

The South Australian Seed Conservation Centre is proudly supported by CMV Foundation, Thyne Reid Foundation, Antony & Mary Lou Simpson, ElectraNet and High Noon Trust.

Volunteer safety

In early September 2019, VPU received an email inviting participation in the 2019 Spring Wetland and Waterfowl Surveys, which carried several PDF attachments relevant to conduct of the survey. While the survey is now over (though should you be interested in future such surveys, contact phone 8207 7730), one of the attachments - a water hazards risk control checklist of safety measures drawn from DEW's official statement on safety under its VOLUNTEER SAFETY policy - caught the editor's eye as being of broad interest and usefulness also for each of us as private individuals ... so that we may be as safety-aware when, for instance, we are on a private family outing boating or bushwalking etc, as when we undertake DEW volunteer activities.

Visit the DEW website [here](#) for an introductory statement (italics below) on the safety policy, and a list of PDF documents on safety in various volunteering contexts.

" Volunteers are recognised as a key part of our agency and we are committed to their health and safety.

As a result, the department has in place a comprehensive volunteer safety structure that helps staff and volunteers effectively manage health and safety across all areas of our business, from short volunteering events over weekends and school holidays to long term projects and school work experience.

The DEW volunteer health and safety framework assists in the management of risks, identification of hazards and their controls, induction and training, as well as providing clarity around roles and responsibilities when in the field.

The following form and hazard checklist can be used when volunteer groups are beginning to plan for an activity which will require endorsement from a DEW district/branch/unit manager:

- [Hazard Identification and Risk Control Checklist - Surveys](#)
- [Hazard Identification and Risk Control Checklist - Surveying near water](#)
- [Hazard Identification Checklist - Bush care, weeding, planting and seed collecting](#)
- [Volunteer Attendance Record](#)
- [Volunteer Registration Form](#)

More information:

- [Work Health and Safety, Volunteer Safety Framework - frequently asked questions](#)
- Volunteer Program Unit on (08) 8124 4784 "

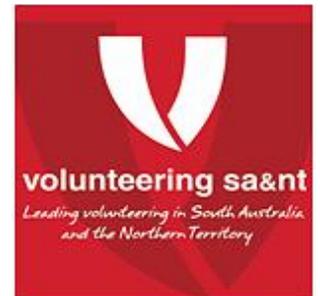
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Volunteering SA&NT-- Member Benefits Reminder

[from email of 1 August 2019 to VPU]

One of the benefits of Friends of Parks Inc. being a Volunteering SA&NT member* is the opportunity for a two hour 'National Standards for Volunteer Involvement' consultation. This will assist in identifying how your organisation is going and identify any gaps. If you are a current member and would like to book a consultation please [email](#) to book a time.

* Be aware Friends of Parks Inc. has a membership with [VSA&NT](#), so if there are any VSA&NT activities you are interested in, feel free to register as a member of Friends of Parks Inc., and let Pam Smith, VPU, know that you have done so.



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Troubridge Lighthouse makeover

[from email of 4 February 2020 to VPU from Jenny Oldland, Friends of Troubridge Island & Yorke District Outer Parks]

Troubridge Island's lighthouse tower is dominating the skyline again. given a new coat of paint as it heads into its 164th year looking if anything, better than new.

"We are thrilled that after seven years of lobbying to get the tower repainted it finally happened, with the brighter red a wonderful addition that stands out even from shoreline," Friends of Troubridge Island President Peter Stockings said.

The contract was awarded to Vertigo, a South Australian company whose operations manager grew up on the peninsula so was aware of what the iconic structure means to the community.

Four Vertigo staff — Ty Pfeiffer. Andrew Spear. Ryan Miles and Brenton Clark - spent three weeks on the job working more than 12 hours day; most of that time suspended on rope harnesses, as they removed rust and prepared the surface for six coats of primer and paint.

More than 500 litres or 1.2 tonne of paint was used, all of which was transferred by current cottage lessees Mark and Lois Petersons, and former lessee Chris Johnson.

"We are grateful for the Petersons' continued support, as it turns out they were as passionate about the project and the Island itself as Chris and Judy Johnson.

As a Friends group we extend our thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising or gave donations as we sought to raise money to contribute to the project, with a federal government Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal grant for \$4500 a welcome boost.

"Well done to all. thanks particularly to the Department of Environment and Water for covering the bulk of the costs after Minister David Speirs promised it would be done with funds available through Heritage SA, with staff from that department advancing the project over the last three months to get it completed before Christmas."

Friends of Troubridge have been responsible for costs associated with transporting equipment and supplies to the Island and accommodation for the crew; with money left in the kitty we will look at costs associated with replacing the balustrade and hopefully get that job done before winter.

BIRDS EYE VIEW... After seven years of lobbying by the Friends of Troubridge Island the Troubridge Island lighthouse tower has been repainted and now looks as good as new.

Photo courtesy Peter Cooper. Vertigo



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Items contributed by members and others - to whom special thanks

2020 Milestones - Friends of Parks Groups - 10, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years

[Message from Gill Peacey, Manager, Volunteer Programs Unit, DEW, sent 28/11/2019]

Dear Friends Groups

Many of you would be aware that the Department of Environment and Water encourages our Friends of Parks groups to formally recognise significant milestone year achievements (10, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40) for both Friends of Parks member groups, and individual members. Please note that affiliated groups celebrate their milestone achievements independently as they are not established or operating as a specific Friends of Parks group.

To ensure we can best support your celebration events, please read and keep in your records for future reference the arrangements detailed to recognise and acknowledge our Friends of Parks member groups and individual member significant milestone years of achievement:

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).

A number of Friends groups will be celebrating significant milestones in **2020**:

	<u>Formation date</u>
<u>40 years</u>	
Fort Glanville Historical Association Inc.	19/12/80
<u>35 years</u>	
Friends of Belair NP	16/09/85
Friends of Brownhill Creek RP	06/07/85
Friends of Kyeema CP	12/05/85
Friends of Little DipCP	19/05/85
<u>30 years</u>	
Friends of Cobbler Creek RP	28/05/90
Friends of Coffin Bay Parks	18/10/90
Friends of Kaiserstuhl CP	29/03/90
Friends of Marino CP	31/05/90
Friends of Scott Creek CP	17/09/90
<u>25 years</u>	
Friends of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP	13/06/95
Friends of Mt Gambier Area Parks	15/11/95
Friends of Streaky Bay District Parks	14/08/95
<u>20 years</u>	
Friends of Granite Island Recreation Park	08/09/00

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, and gender/salutation (e.g. 'Chris' could be male or female)
2. if a couple is willing to have a joint letter/certificate - please group them together
3. let Pam Smith know by email that your group intends celebrating the milestone, and we will liaise with the relevant staff.

Some Friends groups also recognise members as they reach personal milestones, even if the group itself is not celebrating a milestone year.

The regional staff will send the information to the Volunteer Programs Unit which coordinates the Certificates of Appreciation, and letters signed by the Minister 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.

The certificates are now provided in frames, so we also need to organise collection from our Waymouth Street office prior to the event through the liaison Ranger.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Volunteer 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. You may need to also forward to the appropriate liaison/contact Rangers/Staff.

Regards

Gill Peacey

Manager, Volunteer Programs Unit

National Parks & Crown Lands Branch National Parks and Wildlife, DEW

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Status of Friends of Parks Inc website

[advice from Carole Pinnock (Chair Marketing Sub-committee, Friends of Parks Inc. Board), Pam Smith (VPU) and TreeTop Web Studio. Information as of January 2020]

You may have heard that the Friends website is being renewed. A refreshed, modern and mobile-friendly website, with an enhanced members section including searchable interactive map and easily, self-managed member web pages is planned. A switch to the new website will be in the first half of 2020, but meanwhile much industrious activity is taking place behind the scenes by Board members and our chosen designer, Treetop Webstudio.

For the time being, as seekers of information, we can trust the dependability of the current website, which will continue to have general information for the public and Friends Groups updated. However, general information from individual groups (e.g. newsletters, event details) is no longer being uploaded on a regular basis, whereas the new website will allow groups themselves to upload their own newsletters, event details etc.

The same website address - www.friendsofparkssa.org.au - will apply to the new website.

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20th Anniversary of Friends of Mt. Billy, 1999-2019

[Article provided by Marion Mackenzie, Secretary, Friends of Mt. Billy]

2019 marks the 20 year anniversary of FOMB. Mt. Billy Conservation Park came into being when SA Water transferred the land adjacent to the Hindmarsh Valley Reservoir, to DEWNR. Since that time in 1999 FOMB, sponsored by Friends of Newland Head initially, has been committed and worked to conserve and maintain the Park.

We have always been a small group with under 10 members but our love of and care for Mt. Billy has been consistent with monthly working bees and averaging 1500-2000 volunteer hours per annum. Currently we have 8 active members including two new members. Weed eradication especially *Watsonia*, blackberry, rosa, *Dissa bracteatum* and boneseed is our mainstay, however we take time to note the exceptional variety of orchids, birds, and wildflowers which call the Park home.

Throughout our 20 years we have worked with a number of individuals and various stakeholders including:

- DEWNR past and their present Fleurieu rangers
- KESAB Roadside clean up
- 2006 Mt. Lofty Threatened Species Network monitoring *Pterostylis bryophylla* with Joe Quamby
- 2008 and 2009 Pat Uppill gave a talk to U3A and National Trust Branch, Victor Harbor
- 2008-2009 Bushland Monitoring Course and establishment of a bushland monitoring quadrant
- 2014 Pat Uppill and Jill Stone showed Friends of Private Bushland around the northern end of the Park
- 2015 Marion Mackenzie, Pat Uppill and Jill Stone spoke to the Victor Harbor Garden Club
- 2018 Pat Uppill led a walk for the Fleurieu Birdwatching group

- Ecologists from Mt. Lofty Natural Resources Management Board monitoring Heath Goannas, Western Pygmy Possums and eradication of Bridal Veil.

FOMB acknowledge and thank all past and current members who have given their time, expertise, knowledge and labour to Mt. Billy Conservation Park throughout the last 20 years.

The 20 year founding members who are still active are: Guy Fishlock-Smith, Marion Mackenzie, Pat Uppill, Gerald Uppill, Jill Stone.

(If you would like to see more of our work and Mt. Billy then check out our Instagram posts @friendsofmt.billy)

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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, VPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

*Wil Van Deur
Eric Grant
Tim Fulbohn
Dr Ralph Foster*

*Conservation SA
Friends of Cox Scrub Conservation Park
DEW Ranger who interacted with many Friends groups
Friends of Belair National Park*

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

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LINKS

Friends of Parks Website www.friendsofparkssa.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 1500 '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.

Visit the [Red Cross website](#) or the [Red Cross emergency services blog](#) to see how this splendid organisation provides help to those in distress ... particularly germane now, following the distress created by bushfires.

The [History Trust of South Australia](#) has a number of travelling displays available for loan to community groups and organisations, local government and schools. Engaging and professionally produced, the displays are simple to transport and install. Contact the History Trust SA on 08 8203 9888 or [email them](#) to enquire about availability and scheduling.

Have a look at the global scope and issues of rangerhood by initially visiting and exploring the International Ranger Federation's [The Thin Green Line Foundation](#) website.
See also [SA rangers recognised at international congress](#).

Visit the [Australian Plants Society S.A Region Inc. website](#) whose "members from diverse backgrounds unite to celebrate, grow, conserve and promote Australia's wonderful flora", to share the wealth of information on offer. Its list of South Australian [native plant nurseries](#) might be particularly useful to you.

Follow progress and activities at the new Glenthorne National Park through its [Website](#) or [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) or subscribe to its [e-news newsletter](#)

Take a [virtual tour](#) of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary in which, using 360° photography, the range of habitats and features within the sanctuary are displayed.
[thanks to AMLR NRM's Sedge Snippet of December 2019 for this lead]

DEW's [GOOD LIVING](#) blog is always interesting, but in particular its photographs are consistently spectacular. The following bird sequences are highly recommended
[7 tiny birds to look for in South Australia](#). from 10 August issue

[10 parrots you can see in South Australia](#) from 7 November issue
[10 parrots you can see in South Australia](#) from 19 December issue.

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

Visit the website of the [Malacological Society of Australasia](#) - a group dedicated to the appreciation, study, and sustainable use of molluscs - for a surprisingly fascinating glimpse at a life form most of us know little about, or possibly even care about. Note also: following the Friends of Onkaparing Parks (FOOP) AGM on 12 November, speaker Peter Hunt will be giving a presentation on Australian native and introduced land snails.

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. Visit [this page](#) of the Invasive Species Council's website for an extensive summary of progress under the leadership of Australia's first Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer's first year of appointment.

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](#).

Visit [first green tyre-recycling plant in Warren in central–northern NSW](#) and [green light to Tasmanian company Phoenix Rubber Products to develop a \\$3.5 million tyre recycling plant](#) for news on recent developments in the re-cycling of vehicle tyres.

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](#).

The message was forwarded on 28 June to VSPU (now VPU) offering that if your Friends group would like a simple Wordpress website, or a 6-8 minute documentary, developed by UniSA students and hosted at no cost to your group, then contact [Dr Alice Dodd](#) of UniSA to register your interest.

Visit <https://www.feralscan.org.au> for general interest, but maybe also to consider helping to map feral animal sightings and the damage they cause in your local area, as part of a CITIZEN SURVEILLANCE project. The project was launched in 2009 and now hosts over 200,000 community records, and shows national mappings for Rabbit, WildDog, FeralCat, Fox, FeralPig, Toad, Myna, MouseAlert, Camel, FeralGoat, FeralFish, Starling, Deer. This activity is supported by the [Banksia Foundation](#), [PestSmart](#), and the [NSW Government's Local Land Services](#)

Tick bites can make you really sick — so what is the best way to deal with them?
Read [this ABC website NEWS article](#) for information and advice.

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Advance notification of the FoPInc 2020 AGM

The Friends of Parks Inc. AGM will be held on **Monday 4 May, 2020**, at the Volunteer Centre, Belair National Park, commencing at 9.30am with morning tea, and the meeting start at 10am.
The Friends of Belair will be hosting the meeting and catering the morning tea.

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 Benjamin Page (Board member).

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.friendsofparkssa.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 Mandy Carter, mobile 0407 604 512

See Gift Donation form next page

Editor and Design: Hugh Lambert © Friends of Parks Inc. 2014

Many thanks to those who have provided articles for this eNews. Editor



FRIENDS OF PARKS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Volunteers working for conservation

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

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 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.