



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



ABN: 53 952 413 248
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

NO: 01/2025

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 5 th February 2025	Committee Meeting	
Wednesday 2nd April 2025	Committee Meeting	TBA
Sunday 13 th April 2025	Bushcare Session	Meet at The Shed Gate 18
Wednesday 4 th June 2025	Committee Meeting	TBA
Sunday 9th June 2024	Planting Day	TBA
Wednesday 6 th August 2025	Committee Meeting	TBA
Sunday 21st September 2025	Bushcare Session	Meet at the Shed 9.30am
Wednesday 1 st October 2025	Membership Fee Due	
Wednesday 8th October 2025	Annual General Meeting	TTG Heritage Museum – 7.30pm

PROPAGATION DAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 2024



Excellent turnout for Propagation Day

9 Boxes holding 28 pots were prepared for our June 2025 Planting Day.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the first President's Report since the AGM so there is a bit of material to cover.

Our first event for the new financial year was Propagation Day held on Sunday 24th November 2024. It was another great day by all accounts (sadly I couldn't attend), with 19 people in attendance. Always a great start to the growing year culminating in Planting Day sometime in June (rain permitting).

The group has been involved in a number of community events aimed at fostering better relationships with like-minded groups, increasing awareness of FOAH, and soliciting for new members.

1. On the 22nd October I attended an Environment forum with Minister Tanya Plibersek at the invitation of federal minister Tony Zapia. It was interesting to listen to the federal government's environmental agenda and also meet some of the other environmentally focused groups in the area.
2. On the 2nd November Marie Mudge, Diann Lozoraitis and Dot Dudzinski attended the TTG Sustainability Event. Lots of people stopped by and took our information and we managed to sign up 3 new financial memberships.
3. On the 9th December Marie Mudge, Diann Lozoraitis and I attended the Newland Community Seniors' Forum after an invitation from Olivia Savvas MP. Lots of interest however we can't claim any new memberships.

Our last Wednesday Bushcare session was on the 11th December which we followed up by a Christmas lunch at the Modbury Hotel. Nice way to finish off the year with good food and great company.

One area that I have been interested in over a number of years is an attempt to get more Kaurna related history as it relates to the park. With that in mind, I met with Kelly Morris from the Tea Tree Gully Council. Kelly was instrumental in the development of the Reconciliation River Walk as a joint venture with Campbelltown Council. For those that are interested the walk begins across the road from 60 The Dress Circle, Athelstone. This ultimately led to a meeting with Kaurna Elder Uncle Ivan and a wander through the park with Diann Lozoraitis, Jacqueline Scaffidi and me. It was a fascinating adventure in the park and we were left with the feeling of wanting to know more (see attached report).

Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu Board has led the push for the nomination of feral olives (European and African) as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). They believe national coordination would raise the profile of feral olives, provide an opportunity to bridge information gaps, support the development of a best practice management guide and bolster research efforts that could support both the management of feral olives and support a sustainable farmed olive industry. In early January, they approached us to assist with their application by providing a letter of support which we happy to provide (see attached letter).

DEW is implementing a new Volunteer Management System and invited us to attend workshops about the new system and assist with developing requirements. Unfortunately, we have as yet been able to attend a workshop but hopefully, we can assist with the development later in the year. The system promises to make it easier for groups to capture information about their activities. Hopefully we will find out more later in the year.

At the AGM, we conferred Life Memberships to members that have been with us on the journey for 30 years or more, Rommy Freebairn and Frances Bedford and for members for reaching major milestones, Rodney Attwood (35 years) and Elizabeth Venning (10 years). Thanks to Diann these members have now received their certificates of appreciation.

At our last committee meeting we discussed the concept of FOAH funding a contractor to undertake relevant project in the park. It was decided that we would solicit our membership for proposals up to the value of \$10,000 that could be undertaken over the year. So far, we have had proposals about olive reduction and improved plant watering capacity. We will evaluate all proposals, with inputs from the Ranger, over the course of the next 2 months.

Jessica Hawkvelt, Councillor with Tea Tree Gully Council approached me about supporting her motion to council:

That Council instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to the:

- a. Member for Newland;
- b. Member for Morialta; and
- c. State Government Minister for Climate, Environment and Water to request the consideration of a playground being provided at Anstey Hill Recreation Park.

I sent her a copy of our latest brief on the Adventure Playground and presented to council at their meeting (see attachment). The motion was carried unanimously on the night, one small step.

On the 29th January we received a notification from the Office of the Deputy Premier, the Hon Susan Close MP, that our application for Woody Weed Control to Protect Chestnut-Rumped Heathwren Habitat at Anstey Hill Recreation Park, Stages 2 & 3 has been successful and will receive \$15,000.00 from the Friends of Parks & Nature grant funding. This is a continuation from the grant from last year but 3 times the size, so the work in the area down the valley from Kaurna Way will continue. That also means we will supplement this work with our volunteers on Wednesdays and possibly Sundays as well. Keep your eyes out for the Chestnut-Rumped Heathwren and report your sightings to measure the efficacy of the work being carried out. Also, we have just submitted the final acquittal for last year's grant.

Overall, we are doing a fantastic job. This was recently endorsed by Regional Ecologist, Anthony Abley, when he toured the Park with Ranger Taylor. Anthony congratulated the team for the work they have done in the park. He identified a few issues which we will attend to in the course of the year and hopefully we will continue to get this valued input about our efforts in the park.

Finally, the membership numbers are currently sitting at 58 which is a new high. Thanks to Diann and Kevin for keeping on top of the memberships and thanks to all the committee for supporting the Friends with your time and effort.

Steve Lukacs 5th February 2025

Meeting with Kaurna Elder Uncle Ivan at Anstey Hill Recreation Park

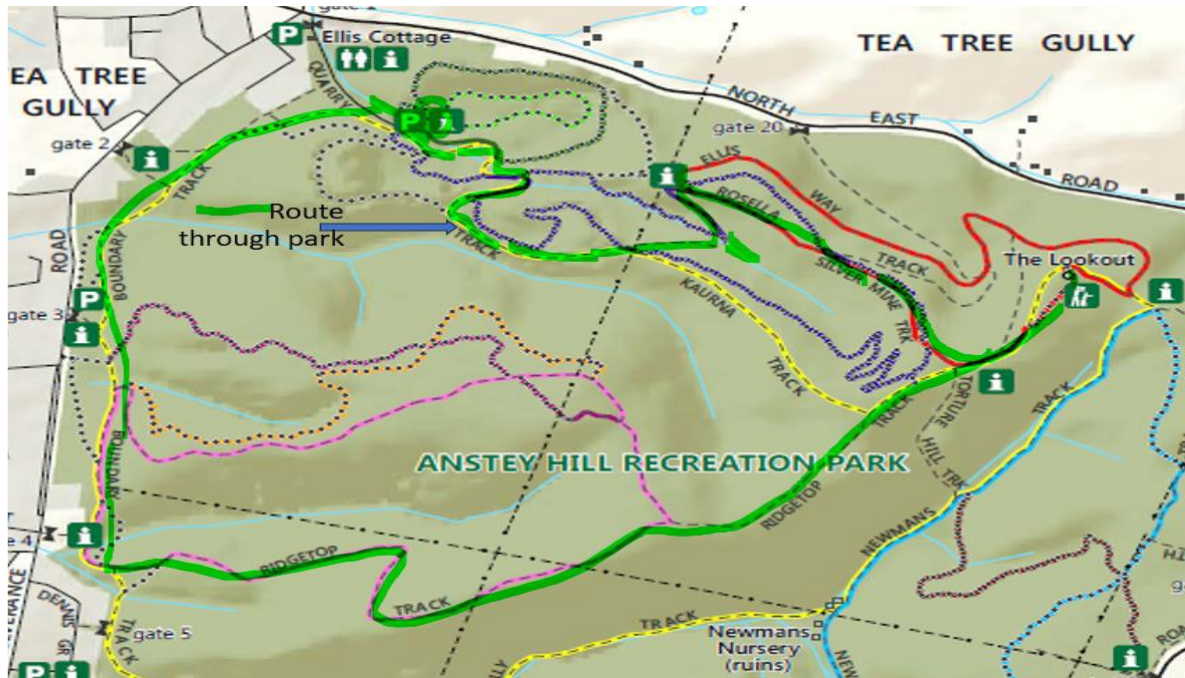
Monday 9th December 2024, 9:30am to 11:30am

Present: Steve Lukacs, Diann Lozoraitis, Jacqueline Scaffidi

We met at gate 1 and drove around some of the park (see map) stopping at a number of locations to discuss the significance of the area and the uses for the various plants found there.

Uncle Ivan had an abundance of information about the uses of various plants and seed in medicine and food. We spend a significant amount of time in the Friends Valley identifying various scars on old trees and learning about the uses for the bark as shields, carry baskets and bowls.

He also identified a number of locations that would have been lookouts and part of the communications network from the coast to the hills.



Conclusion

It was an interesting and informative journey through the park and it is clear that Uncle Ivan and many others have a great deal of knowledge about the traditions, land, plants and animals in the area and are willing to share this information. It is important that this information is captured in some way and made available for future generations.

With so little known about Anstey Hill Recreation Park from a First Nations perspective a project to capture and disseminate this information would greatly enhance the value of the park for all the community.

Next Steps

1. Prepare a brief on what a Reconciliation Walk could look like at Anstey Hill Recreation Park. This may include a number of themed trails through the park with information stops along the way as well as targeted activities in the park with amore hands on approach to the passing of knowledge.
2. Identify a supporter base including other groups and local schools as well as the local, state and federal government.
3. Identify a source of seed funding to define and cost the project.
4. Present proposal to the appropriate funding source(s), whether it be grant or directly through state or federal government.

Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu Board: Letter of support:

Invasive Species National Coordination and Programs

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

e. weedpriorities@aff.gov.au

3rd January 2025

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Support for the nomination of European Olive (*Olea europaea* L. subsp. *europaea*) and African Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) to be considered together a nationally significant weed

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Anstey Hill (FOAH) to confirm our support for the nomination of Olive to be considered a nationally significant weed by the National Established Weed Priorities Steering Group.

The Friends of Anstey Hill is a community-based group of volunteers dedicated to supporting, preserving and restoring the Anstey Hill Recreation Park's natural and cultural environment. Working closely with the Department of Environment and Water, the group has for over 35 years made a significant contribution to the reduction of invasive weeds in the park as well as an annual planting program.

One of the principal pest plants in the 362 hectare park is the European Olive and our group has devoted considerable resources over the years to their control. Despite our efforts, they remain distributed throughout the park.

Olives in the park compete with native plant species for nutrients, water and light, and alter microhabitats threatening the natural biodiversity. Given that Anstey Hill has some of the last remaining areas of remnant vegetation in the Adelaide Hills Face Zone the spread of these invasive plants cannot be left unchecked.

Olives have been one of the major targeted plants of the group for over 35 years. We use various techniques for control including cut and swab, drill and fill and more recently using an herbicide capsule that is delivered by a drill and plug technique. All these methods have proven to be effective and over that period we have made major inroads in controlling and indeed eliminating olives in certain areas of the park. However, given the size and complexity of the park there are areas that are either inaccessible for a volunteer group such as ours or, the area is deemed low priority compared to other areas in the park. Unfortunately, olives continue to spread in the park from these areas, mostly with the assistance of local wildlife.

The recognition of olives as a Nationally Significant Weed would provide a more focused and coordinated approach to the management and, ultimately the eradication of the plant from national and state parks. In addition, there would be efficiencies gained, through the sharing of information about location, dispersion and eradication techniques across private, state and national boundaries, unfortunately olives do not recognise these boundaries.

Friends of Anstey Hill believes that there is a need for a nationally coordinated approach to the ongoing management of Olive across Australia. We support the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board's nomination of Olive as a nationally significant weed.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Lukacs

Steve Lukacs

President, Friends of Anstey Hill

Presentation to the Tea Tree Gully Council Meeting

28th January 2025

My name is Steve Lukacs, and I am the President of Friends of Anstey Hill.

For over 35 years our group of volunteers have contributed to:

1. the biodiversity in the park through the reduction of invasive plants and, revegetation with more appropriate native plants,
2. the historical significance of the park through restoration and maintenance in areas such as Ellis Cottage, Rumps Bakery and the Newman Ruins, and
3. education through our interactions with the community including bush kindies, high school excursions and public forums.

Having lived in the council area adjacent to the park for over 45 years I have personally witnessed these changes and the rise in popularity of the park.

Recent visitor numbers in the park, provided by the Department of Environment and Water, show 5,000 vehicles accessing Gate 1 car park and about 2,000 vehicles at Gate 6 car park per month with 4,000 to 5,000 pedestrians passing the Kurna Way pedestrian counter, again per month.

The numbers suggest that Anstey Hill is already a treasured part of our region, known for its natural beauty, hiking trails, and opportunities to connect with the outdoors. But we have an incredible chance to make it even more inclusive by creating a space where children, families, and visitors of all ages can come together for recreation, learning, and play.

Adventure playgrounds go beyond traditional play equipment. They inspire creativity, physical activity, and problem-solving while helping kids build confidence and social skills. By incorporating natural materials and sustainable designs, we can create a space that aligns with the park's natural environment and explores the diverse history of the park. Areas could be devoted to various aspects of the park whether it be flora, fauna, Kurna significance, the Newmans Nursery, quarrying, mining and farming as examples. These areas would be connected by trails to create a true adventure in learning and fun.

Most importantly, this project is an investment in our community's future. It's about giving families a safe, engaging, and healthy place to spend time together.

I'm asking for your support in making this vision a reality. Together, we can lobby the state government to ensure Anstey Hill Recreation Park continues to be a place of connection, inspiration, and pride for generations to come.

Thank you.

BUSHCARE REPORT



1st December 2024 to 31st January 2025

The Ranger has provided an Adaptive Weeds Plan for 2025 that we will use as guidance for this Year's activities. Within the plan he has provided the following guiding principles.

Due to the large size of Anstey Hill, a targeted conservation-based approach should be used to ensure work is sustainable, working with the vegetation to set the pace of weed removal. To achieve this, bushcare principles should be followed to ensure long-term success and maximum efficiency of the work.

1. Work from the good native vegetation outwards towards more weed-infested areas. This encourages natural recruitment and sets the pace for weed control.
2. Follow-up first! Following up on previous years' weed control efforts should always be undertaken before beginning control in new areas. This consolidates previous efforts, and limits growth of new seed-producing plants.
3. Cause minimal disturbance to soils and existing plants. Soil disturbance leads to further weed growth, but targeted herbicide use not always most effective/desirable method. Balance needs to be struck between efficiency of control, minimising soil disturbance and chemical handling.
4. Less weeds is sometimes better. An 'emu walk' through good native vegetation that only yields 6 weeds in an hour is just as, if not more, effective than 200 plants out of a weed-infested area.
5. Always consider 'why is this weed being controlled' and 'what is the most likely vegetation to grow back'. If controlling a weed in a particular area is largely futile in the long run, best to leave it and focus on other priorities.
6. Avoid over clearing. Doing 'too much' can create an unsustainable follow-up regime, so always ensure group has capacity to follow-up in all weed control areas.
7. Promote biomass breakdown. Cut up removed weeds into smaller pieces so that as much vegetation is in contact with the ground as possible.

This is a summary of activities undertaken over this period:

- Gate 1 quarry planting area, watering and tree guard replacement
- Down from Kaurna Way near roundabout tree, olive, rhamnus, african daisy (supplement grant work)

Future activities include:

- Gate 5, clearing any fresh growth of boneseed, check on olives (emu walk)
- Kaurna Way near the roundabout tree, support grant activities
- Watering as required during summer months
- Gun Emplacement and Kloppers but would seek guidance from ranger on the priority areas and plants (Erica, olive, dog rose, blackberry, boneseed)
- Return to Angove's Conservation Park (note new ranger Matt Shattock) bulbous weeds
- Remove old fencing, particularly those which include barb wire strands.

Statistics for the Bushcare Group activities for this period:

- 6 Wednesday mornings sessions
- Total of 139.5 hours plus 51 hours from Adopt a Patch
- Average number of hours per activity is 23
- Average number of workers per morning session is 9

Steve Lukacs

Bushcare Coordinator

5th February 2025

RANGER REPORT

A few dot points for the committee meeting.

- The Minister for Environment has received the letter from the City of Tea Tree Gully in regards to an adventure playground at Anstey Hill, and has sought advice from the Director of Regional Operations, AMLR NPWS manager and District Ranger to provide an appropriate response. Until such a time that that response is delivered, it wouldn't be appropriate for me to provide comment or feedback.
- The Biodiversity draft Bill has been put out for public consultation. I urge you all to read through the explanatory guide prior to the 18th of Feb, if you wish to provide comments as a group I can help support that, otherwise just having an awareness of what is being proposed to be put into law is advantageous.
- Congratulations on your successful FOPN grant application. \$15K towards woody weed control in the Kaurna Way Valley is a huge contribution. After discussions with Josh Noble, he will likely do the work towards the end of the year (October-ish), the plants are just too heat or water stressed now.
- Further compliance issues arising from the abandoned Holcim Quarry. We are now having vehicle cut park fences and drive through the gun emplacement side of the park to get into the quarry. We will look to put cameras up and try to expiate the offenders if possible.
- The Total Grazing Pressure Management Plan Amendment Omnibus has now been approved by the Minister, with Anstey Hill being one of the parks to have amendments made to the management plan. I brought this up last year when it was drafted and open for consultation, so no new news here, just official now.

Tea Tree Gully Sustainability Saturday Market – 2nd November 2024

City of Tea Tree Gully held a Sustainability Market on Saturday 2nd November, and we were asked if we would like to participate. We took the opportunity to introduce Friends of Anstey Hill to local residents. It was a success as we were able to sign up new Members and explain the work we are doing at the park to a very big crowd. Thanks to Marie, Dot and Diann for attending our stand.



Electorate of Newland – Seniors Forum – 9th December 2024



Membership Anniversaries for 2024



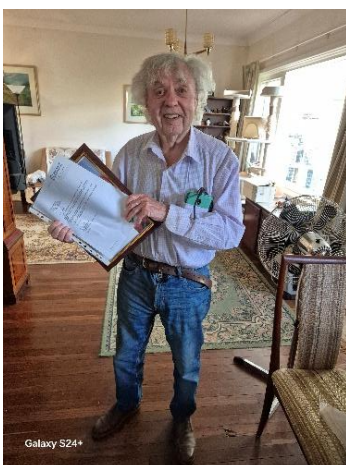
Elizabeth Venning – 10-year Membership – Elizabeth often drives to Gate 1 with a coffee, sit and enjoy the bush before setting off to do the lap of the Little Quarry Loop. She worked in this area clearing Artichokes and Fennel. Elizabeth was also a Committee Member for the 2015-2016 year.



Rommy Freebairn – 30-year Membership and Life Member of FOAH – Rommy was one of the community activists that fought to save Anstey Hill from development. She was also involved in saving Angove Conservation Park from being developed.



Frances Bedford – 30-year Membership and Life Member of FOAH – Frances has been a great supporter of the Friends while she was an Independent Member of Parliament and after. Her support of attending AGM's when she could to the yearly Lion's Christmas cake for the Wednesday Bushcare Group has always been appreciated.



Rodney Attwood – 35-year Membership and Life Member of FOAH – Rodney lives on Perseverance Road and advised that some of the land was owned by a local butcher and he asked Rodney to write to the government (Molly Byrne MP) of the day in 1962 to see if they would buy the land from the butcher. In 1962, the SA Planning Authority's town planning committee released a report that recommended that a regional park be established north of Anstey Hill and southeast of Tea Tree Gully. From 1966 to 1977, land was purchased under the auspices of the State Planning Authority, for what was then "reserve 13".

In the Park



George Scott - Wednesday Group had the pleasure of meeting George and Poppy while they were on their travels down Kurna Track. George has been coming into the park for over 7 years and been observing the Tawny Frogmouths birds at Gate 1. He has contributed many photos to our Facebook page over the years. Good to have a chat with him and learn more about the Tawny Frogmouths that live in our park.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members who have joined since our last newsletter. Hope to see you at one of the events during the year.

Maddy D'Angelo

Louise Kyriaki

Doreen Marchesan

Noah Sarunic

Benjamin Wheal

Domenica Middleton

Ricky Carbone



Websites that may be of interest to you:



Birdlife Australia – Birds in Backyards Seasonal Surveys

Contribute valuable data to help Australia's birds

Birds in Backyards seasonal surveys are super simple to do, and it's free to take part. All you have to do is hop onto the Birddata website or the Birddata app and follow the instructions. It only takes 20 minutes, plus a moment to jot down some simple information about your garden. Anybody can participate. The data you gather is vitally important for our team of scientists.

Birds in Backyards Seasonal Surveys take place across the year, with four survey periods, one for each of the seasons:

- Autumn (March and April)
- Winter (June and July)
- Spring (September and October)
- Summer (December and January)

[Birds in Backyards Seasonal Surveys - BirdLife Australia](#)

iNaturalist AU

Contribute to Science

Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. We share your findings with scientific data repositories like the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe.

Nature At Your Fingertips:-

- **Keep Track** - Record your encounters with other organisms and maintain life lists, all in the cloud.
 - **Create Useful Data** - Help scientists and resource managers understand when and where organisms occur.
 - **Crowdsourcing Identifications** - Connect with experts who can identify the organisms you observe.
 - **Become a Citizen Scientist** - Find a project with a mission that interests you or start your own.
 - **Learn About Nature** - Build your knowledge by talking with other naturalists and helping others.
 - **Run a Bioblitz** - Hold an event where people try to find as many species as possible.
- [A Community for Naturalists · iNaturalist](#)

YOUR 2024-2025 COMMITTEE:

President:
Steve Lukacs

Secretary:
Diann Lozoraitis

Treasurer:
Kevin Laurance

Committee Members:

Marie Mudge
Rob Carthew
Jenny Carthew

Jacqueline Scaffidi
Christine Thomas
Roberta Swift

Newsletter: Diann Lozoraitis

Facebook: Christine Thomas

Bushcare: Steve Lukacs

Ranger: Taylor Heath and Alisha Adams

LIFE & HONORARY MEMBERS

Rodney Attwood
Don Bursill
Margaret Bursill
Merv Fenwick
Jill Fenwick
Rommy Freebairn

Victor Gostin
Olga Gostin
Mary Lane
Roger Collier
David Sheppard
Frances Bedford



Thanks go to our Sponsors:



Club of
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