



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



Formed 1988

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

NO: 02/2023

Anstey Hill Recreation Park Adventure Playground Outline

The concept of an adventure playground withing the Anstey Hill Recreation Park has been floated by the Friends of Anstey as well as independently at various levels of government. A couple of years ago we developed an outline brief which was presented to local and state government. The Tea Tree Gully Council endorsed the concept of a play space at Anstey Hill in their Precinct Plan. Due to elections at the time, it didn't gain much traction in the state government. The brief was recently sent to the Member for Newland, Olivia Savvas, and we were encouraged by her response that the concept was well and truly on her radar.

What follows is basically what was in the brief. It is at the concept level at this stage and much work needs to be done to put some flesh around this concept and turn it into an actionable plan.

Your comments and ideas are welcome. Please send them directly to me at steve.at.foah@gmail.com.

Background

For thousands of years the Kurna (Gar-na) people lived in areas such as Anstey Hill during the cooler months, using the woodlands for fire, warmth and shelter. During the summer, the Kurna lived along the coast, taking advantage of cool, ocean breezes.

From the early 1800s the area contained numerous quarries that provided materials for buildings and roads. There were attempts at mining for silver, gold and iron ore although none were found in viable quantities. Newman's Nursery was an important element in the history of the park which at its peak covered 190 hectares. In 1932 it was sold and used as a dairy for a short time when in 1935 it was sold again to be turned over to sheep grazing.

In 1962, the South Australian Planning Authority's town planning committee released a report on the development of metropolitan Adelaide. The report, in part, recommended that a regional park be established north of Anstey Hill and southeast of Tea Tree Gully. It took a while but finally on 31st August 1989 most of the then 306.5 ha park was proclaimed with a smaller 55.5-hectare addition in October 2001. It was officially opened by Environment and Planning Minister Susan Lenahan in a ceremony on 17 September 1989. The Department for Environment and Heritage added one last section to the park in 2003.

Today, Anstey Hill Recreation Park is much-loved by families, bushwalkers, historians, nature enthusiasts, geologists, birdwatchers, and artists. With a network of trails, steep gullies, ridge tops, creek lines, mines and ruins such as Ellis Cottage and Newman's Nursery dating back to the early 1800's, it's a park that every family should get to explore.

Key Points

The last major injection into Anstey Hill Recreation Park was a \$750,000 upgrade that included,

- New and improved car parks around the boundary of the park,
- Public toilets,
- Improved trails for both walking and cycling,
- Better signs to help you enjoy the park, including park and trail information, and
- New grassy area for picnics with trees for shade and shelters with seating.

This has led to increased patronage for the park particularly amongst walkers and mountain bike riders.

What's Missing



Although the last upgrade included a “new grassy area for picnics with trees for shade and shelters with seating” there is little else that is attractive about that area in particular.

Why an Adventure Playground

Currently the park doesn't cater well for families with small children or those with mobility issues with the current picnic area missing its full potential due to the lack of family friendly activities.

The demographics of the local area includes many young families living on ever smaller blocks that would welcome new outdoor areas to take their children.

If done correctly, the adventure playground could enhance people's knowledge of the history of the park, and the flora and fauna in the park.

An Example



The new adventure playground at Hope Valley Reservoir provides an example of a well-executed project that could provide some ideas of what could be done at Anstey Hill.

The Proposed Area



This is a large area that allows for creativity in developing something truly unique, the linking of multiple play spaces that explore many aspects of the park's history, flora and fauna. Already some natural play areas exist in the space which I know the local Kindy groups love to explore.



There is the requirement for some remediation at the site to remove road rubble that was dumped there and there will be other considerations such as car parking and facilities. With the right vision and plan the site could be developed over a number of stages as funding was available.

Some Concepts

The adventure playground could be the linking of numerous play spaces that each explore different aspects of the park which could include,

- History
 - Kurna creation stories
 - Significance and utility of the area to the Kurna nation
 - Post settlement history
 - Newman's Nursery history and the ruins
 - Quarrying and mining in the area
- Flora and Fauna
 - The megafauna that lived in the area
 - The present inhabitants of the park
 - Significant flora and a message about its conservation

This would provide a healthy, fun and educational experience that we could share with our children and grandchildren.

SUNDAY BUSHCARE SESSION 16TH APRIL

It's been a while since we've run a Bushcare Session on a weekend that wasn't planting or propagation day. A lot of members can't make the Wednesday sessions so we wanted to include the broader membership. What a great turnout! Our next weekend event will be Planting Day on the 18th June near Gate 1 with a BBQ to follow. Stay tuned.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although we received the information that we were successful in our grant application a while ago, we are still waiting for the funds to become available through Friends of Parks. In the meantime, Ranger Tim has developed a work order that was sent to Josh Noble Restore Environmental Services. Once we are notified that the funding is available and we do a site visit with Josh to verify the scope, then we can get moving on the project. This will include the purchase on the Injecta 400 and the associated consumables for olive control. A new thing that we will be trialling is running a Bushcare Session on a Sunday. The first one is scheduled for Sunday 16th April. This issue has been raised in the past by members who find it difficult to come to the Wednesday morning session owing to work commitments. We will run a number of these over the course of the year to see if there is sufficient demand to make it a permanent feature of the group's activities. Membership numbers are slightly down on last year but we are hopeful we can get above the 50 mark in the next month or so. And speaking of membership, the constitution changes that were agreed at the last AGM means that members that have been with us for 30 years or more, automatically become Life Members.

Congratulations to,

- Rodney Attwood (34 years)
- Don Bursill (35 years)
- Margaret Bursill (35 years)
- Roger Collier (35 years)
- Merv Fenwick (32 years)
- Jill Fenwick (32 years)
- Olga Gostin (35 years)
- Victor Gostin (35 years)
- Mary Lane (30 years)
- David Sheppard (31 years).

Great to see a number of people that have been there from the very start, we thank you for your support. It is our 35th Anniversary this year and planning for the event is underway. It will be held at the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum on Sunday 12th November 2023.

The outline of the running sheet is below.

10:30am	Setup
11:00am	Official Start
11:30am	Introductions and opening remarks
11:35am	Keynote Speaker (TBD)
11:55am	FOP Speaker (TBD)
12:10pm	Presentations
12:20pm	Lunch (sausage sizzle and salads)
2:00pm	Close

I have corresponded with Oliva Savvas, Member for Newland, and it looks like we may get Minister Close as the keynote speaker. We are also working on a list of invitees from the Department of Environment and Water, Friends of Parks Inc and the Tree Tea Gully Council.

The concept of an Adventure Playground at Gate 1 has been around for a couple of years. The Tea Tree Gully Council has endorsed the idea in their Precinct Plan and I have sent briefings to a number of people. Things have been quiet for a while so I am trying to renew interest in the concept to see if we can get it into the government's planning cycle. Watch this space for further developments.

The organisation continues to be in a strong financial position with the ongoing support of our members and the ReGEN Op Shop. We are always on the lookout for new projects that we can fund whether they be activities in the park or new equipment to make our lives easier and safer. Appreciate any ideas along these lines.

Steve Lukacs

5th April 2023

RANGER'S REPORT:

Visitors

Visitation numbers have had a nice jump over the months of Feb and March, with the cooler temps and more attractive conditions, our traffic counter at Gate 1 has a combined 2 month total of 7028 counts. That averages out to 119 vehicles a day coming through gate 1. Gate 6 combined Feb and March total of 4125 equates to 69 counts per day. So that's 188 single vehicle entries a day! !. .. pretty good numbers for just 2 entry points. The trail counter on Kurna Way on average was triggered about 7500 times a month. That's approx. 250 hits a day.

Events

No major events were held in the park over the last couple of months. SASES will continue to run their search/rescue dog training in the area in from gate 16. They will have signage out informing the public that dogs will be off lead and a SASES vehicle inside the gate. The Saturday morning park run still continues.

Compliance

Motorbikes seem to have been the most frequent issue over the last few months. Rangers have received calls from park users reporting motorbike activity and I have received photos of said offenders. Even this last week reports of cars with bikes on trailers parked up at gate 14. I investigated on the day but no trace of them being in the park but, have taken photos of the vehicles for future reference. No other compliance issues to report.

Works

No major works have taken place, other than the usual park visitor precinct presentation works on a Monday and Friday. A future works planning meeting was held recently where, over the next 3 years, "potential" budget allocations have been tentatively written for possible formalization of the overflow carpark in past the quarry, BBQ facilities in the picnic area and an additional toilet block in the picnic ground. Watch this space for further updates in the coming years.

I'm still waiting to hear back from Josh (Restore) in regards to a site meeting so he can start weed control works in from gate 5. Pam Smith (FOP) did comment on that no works are to be started "Until" the grant money has been received (this is even if the group does have the funds to cover the cost). Hopefully he'll make contact soon or I will chase him up.

Once the FOAH interpretive signs come in we can organise a time to assist with the material, hardware and installation of these. Looking forward to seeing them on Park.

Fire

As the weather becomes more conducive for prescribed burning, the fire management team will start ramping up the autumn burning program. The "secret river" prescribed burn is now planned for this autumn season.

Rangers – Barossa Cluster

Current Staffing –

Senior Ranger – Tammy Leggett
Ranger – Tim Howard
Ranger – Taylor Heath
Ranger – Aislinn McAleer (part-time)
Ranger – Dylan Yates

Total of 11 Parks with over 4000 hectares to manage.

Ranger: Tim Howard

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.

Trevor Mattiske, Tessa, Maverick and Isabelle St Clair, Jacqueline Scaffidi and
Kyle Giovannetti

WEDNESDAY - BUSHCARE GROUP



Dennis Broom, Steve Pawley and Kevin Laurence



Taylor Heath(Ranger) Kevin Laurence, David Waterman and Steve Pawley

This is a summary of activities undertaken from 8th February 2023 to 31st March 2023:

- The main focus during this period has been on watering the newly planted seedlings and weed control at various locations in the park
 - Watering is an important activity this time of year and the focus has been around the bee hotel, the Lookout and quarry area up from gate 1 carpark.
 - Weeds of focus have been boneseed, African daisy, artichokes, broom, bridal creeper and olives in a number of areas including,
 - Gate 1
 - Up the hill from Gate 5
 - Lookout, and
 - Lower part of Wednesday Loop
 - Removal of the fence near the Friends Shed.

Future activities include:

- Continue watering as required
- Continue activity on Wednesday Loop
- Boundary Track tree guard removal and general weed control
- Friends Valley tree guard removal and general weed control
- Boneseed control and olive control in area up from Gate 5
- Remove old fencing, particularly those which include barb wire strands.

Statistics for the Bushcare Group activities for this period:

- 6 Wednesday mornings sessions with 2 days with high temperature
- Total of 156 hours
- Average number of hours per activity is 25
- Average number of workers per morning is 10

Good to see some new members signing up, look forward to seeing them in the park.

Steve Lukacs

Thanks go to our Sponsors:



Club of
Modbury Golden Grove



Olivia Savvas MP
MEMBER FOR NEWLAND

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8264 4482
newland@parliament.sa.gov.au



OliviaSavvasNewland



FRIENDS OF PARKS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Volunteers working for conservation



UNIT 2, 140 TOLLEY ROAD, ST AGNES 8396 3685

Advice to Members Growing Seedlings for Anstey Hill Planting Day – 18th June

Mary offers the following suggestions to those who are growing seedlings.

1. All seedlings must now be out in FULL sun all day.
2. Thin out seedlings to only ONE strong seedling in each tube.
3. It is getting too late to transplant seedlings.
4. Check for slugs etc in the boxes. A good tip is to take all the tubes out of the which box, checking for slugs on the bottom, then hose out the box. Replace the tubes, grading them from tallest to shortest, so small plants aren't shaded by taller ones.
5. If your seedlings are still small (or to push along smaller plants) water with HALF strength liquid fertilizer. (With natives fertilising more is not better.)
6. Maintain watering but be aware that as the weather cools less moisture is ok.
7. Any problems feel free to call Mary Lane (0419 671 819)

FREE APPLICATIONS:

Here are two applications that may be of interest to you.

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

iNaturalist is a social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe. iNaturalist may be accessed via its website or from its mobile applications. As of 21 September 2022, iNaturalist users had contributed approximately 115,651,000 observations of plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms worldwide, and around 245,700 users were active in the previous 30 days.

<https://www.feralscan.org.au>

FeralScan – Providing a community pest animal recording and management tool.

YOUR 2022-2023 COMMITTEE:

President:
Steve Lukacs

Secretary:
Diann Lozoraitis

Treasurer:
Kevin Laurance

Committee Members:

Marie Mudge
Rob Carthew
Jenny Carthew

Roger Collier
Christine Thomas
Anna Rulla

Newsletter: Jameson Ellis-Steinborner/Diann Lozoraitis

Facebook: Christine Thomas

Bushcare: Steve Lukacs

Ranger: Tim Howard 0437 700 988

FUTURE EVENTS:

16 th April	Sunday Working Bee – Meet at The Shed – Gate 18
2 nd June	TTG Community Expo
7 th June	Committee Meeting
18 th June	Sunday - Planting Day
2 nd August	Committee Meeting
September	Sunday Working Bee -TBA
4 th October	Committee Meeting & AGM
12 th November	35 th Year Anniversary Celebration – TTG Heritage Museum at 11AM

LIFE & HONORARY MEMBERS

Rodney Attwood
Don Bursill
Margaret Bursill
Merv Fenwick
Jill Fenwick

Victor Gostin
Olga Gostin
Mary Lane
Roger Collier
David Sheppard