



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

NO: 02/2024

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 5 th June 2024	Committee Meeting	Houghton
June 2024	Park of the Month	Anstey Hill Recreation Park
Sunday 9 th June 2024	Planting Day	TBA
Sunday 30 th June 2024	Bird Spotting Walk by Birds SA	Meet at Shed – Gate 18
Wednesday 7 th August 2024	Committee Meeting	Houghton
Sunday 22 nd September 2024	Bushcare Session	TBA
Tuesday 1 st October 2024	Memberships Due	
Wednesday 16 th October 2024	Annual General Meeting	TBA
Sunday November 2024	Propagation Day	TBA

FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL – BUSHCARE MORNING

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL, 2024

THE SHED – GATE 18 – 100 RANGE ROAD SOUTH, HOUGHTON

This event was organised for members who cannot attend the regular Wednesday Bushcare Sessions. We had a good turnout with 13 members tackling the boneseed and removing some barbed wire fencing along Range Road South Track. A cuppa, some biscuits and some great conversation rounded off an enjoyable morning in the park.

Watch out for our next one on Sunday 22nd September.



ELLIS COTTAGE TRANSFORMATION



Nov 1992



Sept 2001



DEC 2007



APR 2024

Friends of Anstey Hill rescued Ellis Cottage with a Grant of \$15,000 in 1997. Working Bees clearing rubbish and weeds from the site started that year.

Finally finished and with the opening ceremony taking place on the 9th September, 2001.

ELLIS COTTAGE HISTORY:

The cottage was built by Mr John Stevens in 1854, an early landowner after whom Steventon was named. After 1990, the name Steventon was no longer used officially and Tea Tree Gully became the town's name. He used the building as a residence and office, mainly at weekends, but did not live in the district permanently. The building had a timber floor, and internal walls were plastered.

Later, the cottage was purchased by Richard Montague Ellis. His son, Claude, lived in the cottage with his family for many years. On the southern side of the cottage there used to be a wood and iron extension that was a similar size to the remaining cottage. The cottage was used intermittently in the Second World War, after which it became a storage area.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The group continues to provide valuable input to Anstey Hill Recreation Park through our Wednesday Bushcare Group, our interactions with the Department of Environment and Water and with the broader community through our website, Facebook page and our newsletter. Overall, we are in a sound financial position to be able to continue our valuable work into the future, supported by a strong membership base with 56 memberships so far this year.

The Wednesday Bushcare Group continues to be the backbone of our activities in the park, watering the new plantings over the hotter months and, with guidance from the Department and the ranger in particular, tackling some of the high priority weeds that are scattered throughout the park. The group has also managed to tidy up the area around the Lookout to restore the view and we also had our first excursion to Angove Conservation Park. The volunteer group that looked after this park no longer operates so we will lend a hand and do a couple of visits a year to keep any invasive weeds under control.

After trialling Sunday Bushcare Sessions, we have made them part of the calendar with the most recent one being on the 14th April. These are in addition to our annual Propagation and Planting Days. Always good to see members that can't make it to the regular Wednesday events. The other option for members who want to help out in the park is Adopt a Patch. We now have 3 "patches" in operation making a contribution of over 40 volunteer hours since the beginning of the year.

We have been working with Birds SA to arrange a bird spotting session in the park. This was originally scheduled for the end of April but has now been confirmed as Sunday 30th June.

Working with Friends of Parks we have been able to secure some training opportunities including a Seed Collection workshop and a Safe and Effective Use of Chemicals workshop. It is always good to build the skills and knowledge within the group.

Finally, we have submitted the final report for the grant-based activities that were undertaken last year. With the help of a contractor, great inroads were made to control the boneseed infestation in the high value area up from Gate 5. In addition, the group successfully trialled a new method for the control of the olives also in this area. We are now setting up for this year's grant activities which are in the steep valley west of Kurna Way.

Steve Lukacs

3rd April 2024



BUSHCARE REPORT

This is a summary of activities undertaken from 1st January 2024 to 31st March 2024:

- The dry conditions since the beginning of the year have meant that we have continued to water in the 3 primary areas; the quarry plantings near Gate 1, the area near the Lookout and the area near the bee hotel.
- Trimming some of the foliage to restore the view from the Lookout.
- We had our first session at Angove Conservation Park focussing on Flinders Ranges Wattle, Olive and Goosefoot (Fat Hen).
- A large area of Agave down from Ridgetop was dug out, still need help removing dug out plants
- Several visits to the Wednesday Loop tackling Broom, Olives, African daisy, Blackberries, Rhamnus and Dog rose
- “Adopt a Patch” has added a third area near the Friends Shed

Future activities include:

- Powerline Track / Range Road South Track - boneseed
- Weed control on Wednesday Loop
- Ellis Way – Olive, Artichoke
- Preparation of new planting area
- Remove old fencing, particularly those which include barb wire strands.

Statistics for the Bushcare Group activities for this period:

- 11 Wednesday mornings sessions
- Total of 286.5 hours plus 40 hours from Adopt a Patch
- Average number of hours per activity is 26
- Average number of workers per morning session is 10

3rd April 2024

Edible Weeds: Goosefoot or Fat Hen



RANGER'S REPORT:

There was a prescribed burning planning meeting and looks like Anstey will be getting a couple of burns (not imminently, but over the next few years) which will be good to talk through closer to the dates.

Possible areas of burn –

1. Between Ridgetop Track and Wildflower Wander,
2. Below Lookout – Blackberries towards Newmans Track.

Trail verging: There will be a tractor in the park over the next few weeks (likely early April) to verge vehicle tracks, most notably Wildflower and Ridgetop.

Concern was raised with respect to over watering of plantings. This would lead to stunted root development. FOAH will revise next summer's watering schedule to ensure over watering is not occurring.

Interest in FOAH about sending a representative to the newly formed 'North/East Hill Environmental Network' meetings (name still under development). A Hills and Fleurieu Landscapes Board initiative to connect environmental volunteer groups. Anstey falls just outside the boundary, but group can join if inclined. More information will be provided when available.

Amendments to the park management plan for Anstey, and a host of other parks, are currently open for comment in regards to grazing pressure from western grey kangaroos. Open until May23rd, so happy to talk this one through with the group too.

First Aid Training and Refreshers to be encouraged. 2 spots are available for training.

Green Adelaide has given funding for weed control through the Manna Gum Woodlad Project –Weed control contractor will undertake this work west of the ruins.

Anstey Hill with Cobbler Creek will be Parks of the Month in June 2024. Activities that can be officially included in that are the Bird SA walk and Planting Day. FOAH to suggest other activities.

Friends of Parks Forum will be held on the 30th April at Belair – attendance by FOAH to be considered.

Complaint received after someone was stung by a bee from a feral hive on the Quarry View Hike trail. Signage to be installed to alert walkers and a temporary side trail to be opened.

Bottom of the Wildflower Wander track possibly dangerous as slippery. By-pass track being considered.

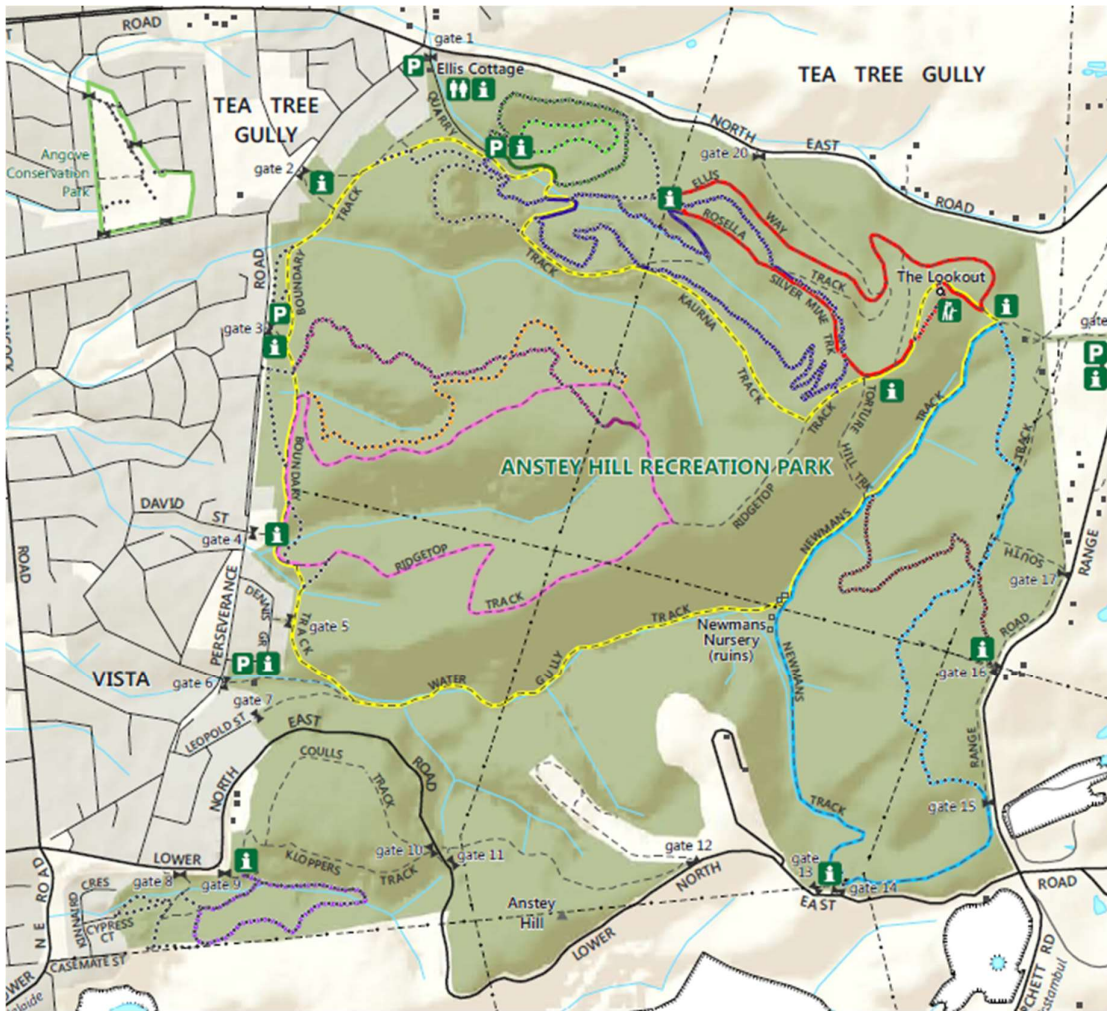
Due to the over population of kangaroos the removal of the trough over from the Shed to be undertaken.

Adopt a Patch

Over the years Friends of Anstey Hill have done a number of things to try and engage the membership who can't make it to the regular Wednesday Bushcare Sessions. This has included Planting and Propagation Day and more recently Bushcare Sundays. We value your membership regardless of how much time you can spend in the park, it is a vote of thanks and support for the things we do in the park. Having said that we are also keen to give people the opportunity to contribute in other ways to the efforts of restoring and preserving the park.

One new idea we are trialling at the moment is the concept of "Adopt a Patch". This essentially involves members, as individuals or family groups, "adopting" an area in the park and undertaking maintenance in that area at times that are convenient to them. They can do as little or as much as they can manage and adopt new areas if they want to explore a new site. The main initial activity would be invasive weed control and could lead to plantings in the area if that was deemed beneficial and in line with other plantings in the park. Note that this could also include Angove Scrub Conservation Park.

Please contact Steve Lukacs, President & Bushcare Co-ordinator via our email: Anstey.friends@gmail.com to discuss your involvement.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new member who has joined since our last newsletter.

Derek Chamberlain



YOUR 2023-2024 COMMITTEE:

President:
Steve Lukacs

Secretary:
Diann Lozoraitis

Treasurer:
Kevin Laurance

Committee Members:

Marie Mudge
Rob Carthew
Jenny Carthew
Jacqueline Scaffidi

Roger Collier
Christine Thomas
Roberta Swift

Newsletter: Diann Lozoraitis

Facebook: Christine Thomas

Bushcare: Steve Lukacs

Ranger: Taylor Heath

LIFE & HONORARY MEMBERS

Rodney Attwood
Don Bursill
Margaret Bursill
Merv Fenwick
Jill Fenwick

Victor Gostin
Olga Gostin
Mary Lane
Roger Collier
David Sheppard



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