



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



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ST. AGNES SA 5097

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

NO: 02/2025

DIARY DATES

Sunday 25 th May 2025	BirdsSA Event	8.30am Gate 18
Wednesday 4 th June 2025	Committee Meeting	TBA
Sunday June/July – TBA 2025	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



Chestnut-rumped Heathwren

ReBird the Ranges is about creating nature positive change together.

The Mount Lofty Ranges has some of the highest bird extinction rates and concentrations of threatened bird species in Australia. 78 species have been shown to be declining since 2012

‘Around 90% of the original woodland habitats of the Mt Lofty region were cleared by 1980. The birds that survive in the remaining habitat have continued to decline over the last 40 years. This includes honeyeaters, finches, robins, flycatchers, thornbills, and cuckoos to name a few. The prognosis for woodland birds is bleak. Many will disappear from the region unless substantial and appropriate action is taken.’

Assoc Prof. David Paton AM

Group A – Threatened with extinction (IUCN criteria) (8)

Bassian Thrush, Western Beautiful Firetail, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Diamond Firetail, Hooded Robin, Southern Emu-wren, Southern Whiteface

Friends of Anstey Hill is working with the Department of Environment and Water Resources to rebuild the habitat for the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. FOAH has received grants of \$20,000 over the last 2 years for contractors to access areas the Friends are unable to maintain due to unsafe terrain.

BirdsSA Event

If you are interested in birds and the opportunity to spot them at Anstey Hill (and maybe even a chestnut-rumped Heathwren) the you will definitely want to join in this. Members are invited to attend the BirdsSA Excursion on Sunday 25th May in the Park. Meet at 8.30am at Gate 18 on Range Road South, Houghton.

BirdsSA Trip Leader: Lynton Huxley



Superb Fairy-wren



Tawny Frogmouth

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The dry weather has continued over the last couple of months putting a lot of stress on the flora and fauna in the park (not to mention the volunteers). With a couple of total fire bans on Wednesdays, it has also curtailed our activities in the park. This has also resulted in the Wednesday team doing a lot more watering than normal, the upside being that a lot more plants have survived in each of our planting areas. John Duncan has assisted with his trailer and water containers, and combined with the tank on the FOAH trailer we have managed regular visits to most sites. The issue of extra water carrying capacity is on the agenda and up for discussion.

It was great to be able to go away for all of March knowing the group is in great hands, it speaks strongly for the resilience in the group. A big thank you to Diann for organising the Wednesday sessions in my absence. Our next Sunday Bushcare Session is coming up on the 13th April. This is a great opportunity for our members that can't come out regularly on Wednesday to meet the rest of the team and get involved in the activities we undertake in the park. Also, a good time to interact with the general public using the park to showcase the impact of FOAH on the park generally.

Our Treasurer has been busy looking for grant opportunities, (amongst other things), that can further our cause. We had a request from Tony Zappia, Federal Member for Makin, to apply for a Commonwealth Government volunteer grant. We submitted a proposal to purchase a laptop and printer to be used by the Secretary to maintain the records of the organisation and running day to day activities without relying on our personal equipment. In the end this will give us an easily transferable records keeping capability.

We had an approach from Hayley Edwards, recently elected as President for the Friends of Para Wirra Conservation Park.

"Currently our team is a little weary of weed control, as it has been a key focus for many years. As we have now reached a tipping point with boneseed under control across the park, we'd like to start exploring whether we can help other groups with their priorities, and they ours in return, to mix up the activities and opportunities for our members. Through these experiences, I also hope to support a greater sense of connection with SA's nature conservation community, and to inspire more members to join the cause."

What a great idea! I have responded to Hayley outlining our program in the park with a view of seeing how we can make this happen. I'm sure we can find some boneseed for them in addition to FOAH members interested in the workings of another Friends organisation.

I reported at the last meeting about assisting Tea Tree Gully Council with their approach to State Government advocating for an Adventure Playground at Anstey Hill. Letters were sent to relevant members of State Government although as of this report no response has been received. In the meantime, Council has included it in their Federal and State Government Election Project List, so discussions are taking place with the relevant candidates and they will be continuing to advocate for a funding commitment.

Finally, the membership numbers are currently sitting at 59 which is a new high. Thanks all the committee for supporting the Friends with your time and effort.

Steve Lukacs



Lookout Watering March 2025

BUSHCARE REPORT

Period: 1st February 2025 to 31st March 2025

The dry weather continued over this period with one session being cancelled and another restricted to working near the shed due to total fire bans. As a reminder we do not work in the park if a total fire ban is declared for the Mount Lofty Ranges and / or the day's fire rating is Extreme or Catastrophic. As a result of the dry weather, there has been more of a focus on watering planting areas that would normally be the case.

This is a summary of activities undertaken over this period:

- Gate 1 quarry planting area, watering, mulching and tree guard replacement
- Rosella planting site – watering
- Lookout - watering
- Down from Kurna 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)
- Kurna 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 Road, Blackberry, Boneseed)
- Return to Angove 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:

- 7 Wednesday mornings sessions
- Total of 168 hours plus 40 hours from Adopt a Patch
- Average number of hours per activity is 24
- Average number of workers per morning session is 10

Steve Lukacs



Kurna Way Bushcare

RANGER'S REPORT:

- Volunteer Unit has some funding for PPE, will use FOAH's allocation on riggers gloves and hearing protection. Anything else, please let me know.
- VSP – still haven't heard back from Volunteer Unit about the requirements for the new VSP procedure; will continue to follow up.
- Olive mapping – have begun mapping olives in the park using a new program that I am trialling. Started on the NW side of the park, between Ellis Way and NE Road. Ground covers in pretty poor condition, and predominantly weedy middle storey, so not suggesting any imminent olive work occurring in this area.
- Playground – still no response delivered from DEW to CoTTG.
- Gun Emplacement area of the park has had lots of compliance issues lately, largely stemming from the quarry. Have recently issued two expiations for unauthorised vehicle entry (vehicles caught on trail camera), but almost certainly will not resolve the issue.
- Speaking of the quarry, the sheep in the area are planned to be culled sometime in the coming months. We have had some forays into the park as well, which I am monitoring. Please reports any sheep sightings or signs of sheep in the park to me.
- Prescribed burning season has begun, but no burns planned this season for Anstey Hill. Also, be aware that due to the dry conditions CFS have extended the Fire Danger Season until the middle of May.

Taylor Heath (Ranger)

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS – SALA COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Tea Tree Gully council is hosting a photographic exhibition of local images '**From life**'

The exhibition space is across the road from Anstey Hill at Gallery 1855, 5 Haines Road, Tea Tree Gully.

There are spaces for people to exhibit. Members are encouraged to submit a photo.

More information here:

<https://www.teatreegully.sa.gov.au/community-and-recreation/arts-and-culture/about-gallery-1855/exhibit-at-gallery-1855/from-life-sala-community-photography-exhibition>



Grey Kangaroo



Ringtail Possum visitor to The Shed



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY - SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 2025 AT ANSTEY HILL

A small but eager group of Members took part in this event. Cleaning up at Gates 9, 8 and near 16. Removed: Used fireworks, a television, tiles, fast food containers, bottle tops, and a variety of miscellaneous packets/paper were among the items removed. A cuppa and biscuit followed the hard work, back at the Shed. Watch out for this event in next year's calendar.



SUNDAY 13TH APRIL BUSHCARE MORNING



Thanks to all our members who made it out for this Bushcare Morning. We watered and installed new guards at the Lookout followed by a cuppa and biscuits back at the Shed. We were joined by the Greens candidate for Sturt - Katie McCusker and Anne Nunn (Community Advisor). FOAH are not affiliated with any political party.

YOUR 2024-2025 COMMITTEE:

President:
Steve Lukacs

Secretary:
Diann Lozoraitis

Treasurer:
Kevin Laurance

Committee Members:

Marie Mudge
Rob Carthew
Jenny Carthew

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



Echidna - spotted in the park on Clean Up Australia Day

Thanks go to our Sponsors:



Club of
Modbury Golden Grove



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MEMBER FOR NEWLAND

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