



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



ABN: 53 952 413 248

PO Box 653

ST. AGNES SA 5097

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

NO: 02/2026

DIARY DATES

Sunday 19 th April 2026	Bushcare Session	The Shed – Gate 18 – 9.30am
Wednesday 3 rd June 2026	Committee Meeting	56 RRS
Sunday June 2026	Planting Day	The Shed – Gate 18 – 9.30am
Wednesday 5 th August 2026	Committee Meeting	56 RRS
Sunday 20 th September 2026	Bushcare Session	The Shed – Gate 18 – 9.30am
Sunday 27 th September 2026	Orchid Walk	TBA
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	Committee Meeting & AGM	TTG Heritage Museum



Thanks to David Crisanti for the today photo to compare with the Water Gully Track after the 1983 fires.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Monday 23rd February 2026, FOAH set up a stall at the Seniors Community Forum hosted by the Member for Newland, Olivia Savvas. Part of our strategy is to increase community connection, and hence increase the opportunity to attract new members by taking part in various forums and community activities that come up from time to time. Four of us attended over the 2 sessions in this case and it was great to learn about other community groups and engage with the attendees. Lots of stories from people who were interested in the park, we gave away a plenty of printed material and attracted 1 new member. Now this may sound like an ordinary result but in this case that new member attracted another 3 members. Maintaining and building our membership is a challenge and we have been lucky to slowly build our membership base over the last few years. Thanks to all the volunteers that have contributed to making us "lucky".

So far this year we have signed up 12 new memberships bringing the total number of paid memberships to 68 (including Life Members). This includes a number of family memberships, and since we have started recording the actual members in the family, we can proudly say that we have 100 members.

The membership numbers have reflected in the turnout to the Wednesday Bushcare sessions where the average attendance over the last 2 month is over 15 with a record setting 20 at one session. This is fantastic but also a challenge to make sure we have enough tools, protective gear to keep everybody safe and activities that cater for all levels in the group. As always, I welcome feedback from all the volunteers to provide advice as to how we can make the whole experience better. In my view, we have a number of objectives that include improving the natural biodiversity in the park, providing a place for people to engage, to have fun, and not necessarily in that order.

Another increasing part of our activities in the park has been through the Adopt-a-Patch Initiative (AAPI). This is at the point where it is providing over a third of our contribution, in terms of hours, to the work in the park. A fantastic effort, and thanks to all those that have adopted a patch or have joined the WhatsApp group and helped out where they can. I won't single out any one contributor, or maybe I will.

I am delighted to announce that we have nominated John Duncan for the Rotary Volunteer of the Park Award. Thank you to Rangers Alisha and Taylor for their contribution and making the nomination process happen. John is a hard worker and an innovator, always challenging the accepted practices in search of a better and more efficient way of achieving our goals in the park. He is constantly coming up with new inventions, whether it is to remove star droppers from old fences or straightening horribly bent star droppers or devices to roll up barbed wire or fencing mesh, the list is endless. Another contribution is the care, maintenance and monitoring of the planting sites. His efforts here have taken our survival rate of plants from below 50% to well over 80%. Thank you John and fingers crossed that you get the gong on the big night of the awards.

Banksia Park International High School approached us to see if there was an opportunity for the year 12 Outdoor Ed students to have an interactive visit to the park as part of their curriculum. As a result, we organised 2 sessions with different classes to visit the park and learn a little bit about what we do and then invite them to help us tackle some of the invasive weeds. Lots of enthusiasm and hopefully some of the information will help them in their final assessment. The sessions ended with the concept that they may want to consider being part of the Adopt-a-Patch Initiative (AAPI) which would allow them to spend more time in the park and contribute to our overall goals. This has been put to the ranger to see if it feasible from an access and safety point of view.

There is a concept that we may be able to develop a restoration project centred on the Newmans Ruins. At this stage we are waiting for feedback from the Department about what plans, if any, they have that could contribute to at least a stabilisation of the ruins. The initial concept was to run some stone masonry courses at the site that could contribute to stabilising the site but also broaden the skills base to allow further works to happen. Early days but FOAH

stands ready to contribute in any way we can to elevate this site to the level of recognition it deserves.

Finally, I just want to mention that David Crisanti has undertaken the task of producing a book about the history of the area that is now Anstey Hill Recreation Park. David has been busy scouring the archives, interviewing people with knowledge of the area and taking photographs in the park to compare with historical ones. David is not unfamiliar with this type of undertaking having previously completed a book detailing the history of the Tea Tree Gully Football Club. I encourage all members that may have some knowledge or material that could assist David in this endeavour to please get in touch.

Steve Lukacs

BUSHCARE REPORT

Period: 1st February 2026 to 31st March 2026

This is a summary of activities undertaken over this period:

- Creek line going up from the ruins, Rhamnus, african daisy, olive
- Gate 5, clearing fresh growth of boneseed, olives (emu walk)
- Gate 1 area, mesh guards on Kindy plants, emus walk – olives, artichoke, fennel

Future activities include (based on 2026 Adaptive Weed Plan):

- Return to western side of Ridgetop (past Kurna), agave, olive, bridal creeper
- Eastern side of Ridgetop (past Kurna), olive, Rhamnus, bridal creeper
- Return to gate 1 emu walk for olives, fennel, artichoke and castor oil
- Arum lilies coming up from gate 6 following the creek line
- Kurna Way near the roundabout tree, support grant activities
- Return to Gun Emplacement and Kloppers (Erica, olive, dog rose, blackberry, boneseed)
- Return to Angove's Conservation Park – 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 plus a Sunday Clean Up Australia Day
- Total of 328 hours plus 263 hours from Adopt a Patch (591 hours in total)
- Average number of hours per Wednesday morning session is 41
- Average number of workers per Wednesday morning session is 15.5

Fantastic to see a number of new faces coming out for the Wednesday sessions.
Many thanks to all.





Our surprise to find we have been looking after Stinkweed.....

Stinkwort, Stinkweed, Stink-weed, Camphor Inula, Khaki Weed, Cape Khaki Weed

Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) is a weed of pastures, crops, lucerne, fallows, roadsides, railways, slightly saline areas, summer moist areas, watercourses, summer crops and irrigated and disturbed areas. Historically, the species was mainly a weed of agricultural areas, but it is also regarded as an environmental weed in some areas invading conservation areas. Stinkwort exudes a strong-smelling oil from glands on most parts of the plant. This causes allergic contact dermatitis in some people.



FOAH PAST COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



Photo taken by David Crisanti - Angela Stuart (First Secretary of FOAH- 1988), Roy Manning (First President of FOAH-1988) and Libby Manning (First, First Lady)

Angela was Secretary from 1988 to 1992 and then serviced as President in 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997. Roy was President from 1988 to 1992 and then continued in the Wednesday Group for a couple of years. Here is an extract from the first newsletter 33 years ago.



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL NEWSLETTER

12th February 1993

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Another year has started, and, with it, we are hoping to send out a regular Newsletter covering our program of events and aspirations for the year, as well as interesting and informative snippets about our park

The dates for our meetings in the National Trust Building, Perseverance Road, Tea Tree Gully, are Wednesday 24/02/93, 23/06/93 and 27/10/93 at 8 p.m.

Subscriptions for Membership for this year are now due, and if you wish to resume your membership with us, we would be very pleased if you could send it to our Treasurer, Mr. G. Nye, 457 Yatala Vale Road, Fairview park, 5126.

Annual Membership Fee is \$5.00 per person/family/organisation.

We hope you have enjoyed our first Newsletter, and we would be pleased to receive any information on sightings in the Park or anything of relevant interest.

FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL PRESIDENT SECRETARY

Angela Stuart, PH. 264 5173

Beth Wreford, PH 251 1264

This newsletter has been produced by Weston Properties-Tea Tree Gully
for all your Real Estate Needs
Contact Ron Lomax 263 0466

BARRY WOODWARD RETIREMENT FROM WEDNESDAY GROUP

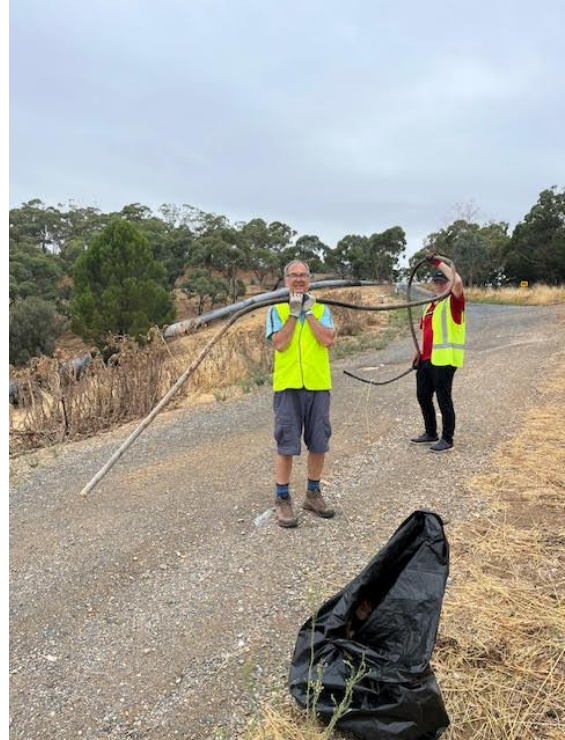


Barry Woodward, Dennis Broome, John Harmer



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – 1ST MARCH 2026

Thanks to all who attended this morning and welcome to 4 new members. We worked at the Aurko's Lookout on Lower North East Road. A well-earned cuppa was had at the end of our efforts.

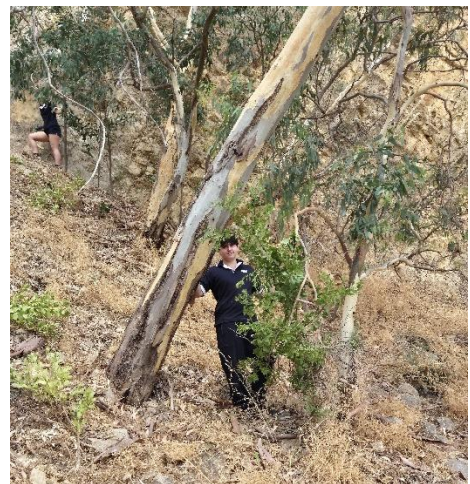
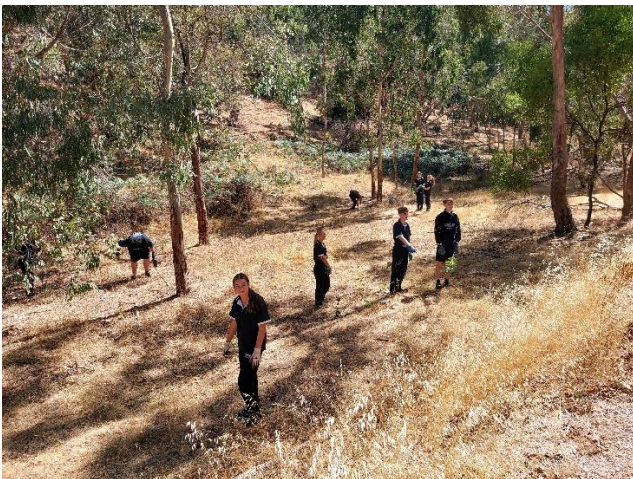




Thanks to Val Rigby and Don Bursill for the photos.

BANKSIA PARK INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Banksia Park International High School attended to park on the 25th and 26th of February as part of their Outdoor Education.



AUTUMN in the Park

Autumn in the Park sees new life given to the gullies, bare soil and dry rock faces. With moss, lichen, orchids, and fungi appearing in hundreds of different places.

1. Explore Water Gully Track after autumn rains and spot moss, bright lichen, droplets of rain on fern leaves and notice the smell of damp earth and soft ground beneath your feet.
2. From Gate 8 walk down to the Geological Hike and find the towering quarry rock face that was once used as a venue for performances by the Festival of Arts in 1980 and 1988.
3. From the picnic area at Little Quarry Loop head up to Kurna Way and spot grazing Western Grey Kangaroos. Take a moment to imagine how the Kurna people used the gullies, trees, and wildlife around you.
4. Stroll along Water Gully Track listening for Kookaburras & spotting the different coloured fungi such as Dye Balls, Collared Earthstars, and Spectacular Rust Fungus.
5. Looking at the Park map and starting from Gate 1, create your own hike using the network of trails throughout the Park.
6. In late autumn walk the Quarry Views Hike and spot the glistening leaves of the insect-eating Scented Sundew as they begin to emerge.
7. Map your own route to Silver Mine Loop where you'll discover old mine shafts from 1853, keep an eye out for ant mounds – they provide important homes for families of ants.
8. Take a stroll along the Wednesday Loop, named after the day that the Friends of Anstey Hill Recreation Park commit to weeding, revegetating and monitoring flora and fauna.
9. Challenge yourself by taking a hike along the Pink Gum Loop; incorporating Wildflower Wander (walking only) and Ridgetop Track and spot Tawny Rock Dragons or the rare Cunningham's Skink which is protected in all states. Listed as endangered in South Australia.
10. Head to the nearby Angove Conservation Park to explore one of the last remaining stands of Drooping Sheoak.

AMARYLLIS BELLADONNA LILY

Removal of the Amaryllis Belladonna Lily in the Gate 5 valley.

It looks lovely but it is a garden escapee and it is from South Africa. There are several patches in the park. We hope to continue their removal every year while in that area controlling the Boneseed.



Chris Bushell, Marian Hathazi and Kevin Laurence. Gate 5 valley.

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.

Katherine Lloyd

Jeff High

Jock Bannister

Marian Hathazi

Val Rigby

Anthony Ellis

YOUR 2025-2026 COMMITTEE:

President:

Steve Lukacs

Secretary:

Diann Lozoraitis

Treasurer:

Kevin Laurence

Committee Members:

Rob Carthew

Jenny Carthew

Christine Thomas

David Crisanti

Reg Smith

David Sheppard

Duncan McAuley

Newsletter: Diann Lozoraitis

Facebook: Christine Thomas

Bushcare: Steve Lukacs

Ranger: Taylor Heath and Alisha Adams

LIFE & HONORARY MEMBERS

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Margaret Bursill

Merv Fenwick

Jill Fenwick

Rommy Freebairn

Victor Gostin

Olga Gostin

Mary Lane

Roger Collier

David Sheppard

Frances Bedford

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Olivia Savvas MP

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Drakes.

Drakes Community Dollars

Contact Details

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/friendsofansteyhill>

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