



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



ABN: 53 952 413 248

PO Box 653

ST. AGNES SA 5097

Website address: <https://friendsofparkssa.org.au/members/members-directory/friends-of-anstey-hill-recreation-park>

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

Email: anstey.friends@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

NO: 03/2023

HAVE YOU SEE THIS BIRD??



Photo: c Harvey Perkins (Subspecies pyrrhopygia)

CHESTNUT-RUMPED HEATHWREN (MOUNT LOFTY RANGES)

The last official sighting of this bird at Anstey Hill was November 2019.

Description: This is a small terrestrial bird with a long tail which is held upright. Sexes are similar in adult plumage with female being duller in appearance. Adult males are brownish grey above while their underbody is off-white with grey-brown streaking on the chin, throat and breast. They have a prominent off-white eyebrow and rich chestnut coloured rump. Very similar in appearance to Shy Heathwrens (*Hylacola cautus*).

Habitat: Mostly occur in heath and dense undergrowth within Eucalypt forests and woodlands, most commonly found in rocky areas (H. Possingham). Although the vegetation type varies throughout their range, the presence of a dense understory appears to be a chief characteristic of their habitat (Brooker and Rowley 1991, Brooker 1998, Higgins and Peter 2002).

Good luck with sighting this bird and if you do, please let us know where and when so that we can pass the information on to those who can follow it up and make an official sighting record.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The funds for our successful Friends of Parks grant have become available. This has meant that we could proceed with briefing the contractor about the area of interest up from Gate 5. We visited the site with the contractor and Ranger (Taylor Heath), and agreed scope and timing for tackling mainly the boneseed in the area. In addition, we were able to purchase the Injecta 400 which will add a new tool to our arsenal for tackling the larger olives in the park.

Whilst on the subject of grants, the Landcare Association of South Australia offered us a Care for Landcare Grant of \$1,645.00 (GST exclusive [\$1,809.50 GST inclusive]) for the purchase and/or hire of equipment and materials for the continuation of our Landcare activities. We have accepted the grant and will put the funds towards the purchase of new tools and signage.

Watch out for these new signs in the park to be put up at Gates 1, 6 and 18. It has taken a while, but with some help from the Department we had the design completed and have now had them manufactured. Next step will be installation, hopefully again with some help from the Department. Hopefully with a bit of promotion we will see new members signing up.



Join us

Friends of Anstey Hill

Friends of Anstey Hill are a group of like-minded community members who make a valuable contribution towards protecting and rehabilitating this recreation park.

Formed in 1988, this dedicated group of volunteers have donated their time into restoring the park from its most recent life as sheep grazed paddocks and quarries. Substantial revegetation and weed management has contributed to what you see around you today.

With your help this can continue into the future.

How can you help?

Follow us on Facebook via facebook.com/friendsofansteyhill/
Become a member by visiting our website and downloading our form.
friendsofansteyhill.org.au/members/members-directory/friends-of-anstey-hill-recreation-park/
Join us in the many activities we run in the park.
Prior bushcare experience is not necessary. Training and equipment will be provided.
For more information contact us at: ansteyfriends@gmail.com

Pink Spotted Orchids (Thelypodium rotundifolium) Photo: Fiona Lewis

Yellow-bellied black cockatoos Photo: Jeff Grayson

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Friends of Anstey Hill

After a number of requests from members who are unable to make the Wednesday Bushcare sessions, we

decided to trial a Sunday session on 16th April. This was hugely successful with 16 members turning up to tackle mostly the African daisy in the area west of Ellis Way. Great to see some new and young faces at the session. Given the success we will hold a few more during the course of the year to supplement the Propagation and Planting Days.

Speaking of Planting Day, we are hoping for a good turnout on Sunday 18th June, Gate 1 at 10am followed by a BBQ at one of the shelters near the carpark. It's a great opportunity to get out in the park, get your hands dirty and share your thoughts about the group. This is our third time in the quarry area and the survival rate has been pretty good given we are digging into mostly rock. Watering the seedlings over summer has made a huge difference. The area will be totally transformed over the next 10 to 20 years.

After being quiet for a couple of years we are back in contact with Mountain Trail Bike Riders group after being contacted by Aiden Wescombe. This small group does maintenance on some of the bike tracks at Cobblers Creek and Kersbrook and want to continue the work at Anstey Hill after the previous person stepped away from the roll. I know that mountain bikes in the park can be a controversial topic but it is important that we stay close so that we can share issues and find solutions that benefit all.

The group participated in the Tea Tree Gully Council Community Services Sector Expo where we set up a stall amongst other volunteer groups from the area. Another great opportunity to spread the word about what we do and to network with other like-minded volunteer groups.

Two of us attended the Field River Networking Bus Tour. Field River is located down south near Hallett Cove. We visited two sites and had the opportunity to see the challenges other groups face in trying to restore a natural, biodiverse environment. One of the First Nation Rangers talked to us about traditional controlled burning techniques that took many factors into account to allow for control of temperature and burn rate. We also got some hands-on experience using the olive control tool that we have also purchase for our group. We have passed the milestone of 50 membership having reached 51, hopefully we can continue to creep that number up with new members signing up from now getting the advantage of next financial year's membership being included. Overall, 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

RANGER'S REPORT June 2023:

Working Bees

First off, I just want to thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication in promoting the health and biodiversity of the native bushland in the park. The impact you guys make is exceedingly commendable and is very much appreciated. I'm very pleased I've managed to make it out to a couple recently, targeting the bluebell creeper up from the ruins, and digging a few holes for the upcoming planting day. I'm very happy for you to conduct your working bees in areas you deem appropriate, you have a great handle on what needs to be done and how long various tasks are going to take. I have given Steve a list of areas to work in as some extra inspiration, in case you need a helping hand on where some weeds are located, and hopefully get the group into some different areas of the park.

Weed Control

Recently I put forward a few lesser-known weeds for the group to keep an eye out for, and work to control within the park. Montpellier broom was tackled along the bottom of Wednesday Loop, Western Cape bridal creeper was dealt with near the lookout and the local bluebell creeper population was handed a crushing blow. Just goes to show its not all olives, daisy and boneseed :)

Speaking of boneseed, Steve and I had a site meeting with Josh Noble last Wednesday, who has been contracted with your successful grant funds to tackle the boneseed infestation in the valley up from gate 5. I'm sure Steve can fill you in on this in person, but the plan is to spray and cut and swab the smaller ones, whilst waiting until summer to tackle the larger plants with a tungsten-headed brush cutter. Apparently, they won't grow back very well, so this technique minimises chemical usage, and allows a much larger area to be covered in the time available.

On a quick side note, I have confirmed that we are definitely out of the natural range of the Flinders Ranges wattle, and it is classed as a weed in the park. I just had a couple of people want to make sure before we removed any further shrubs. There is also some differing opinions on whether to cut the bush down and swab, or drill and fill to leave it standing. I certainly see merits to both techniques, perhaps even a combination of the two would work best, but I'm happy to get together for a discussion with the group to sort the direction we wish to go.

Visitors

The numbers for May at gate 1 were 3791 vehicle entries, with 1928 being recorded at gate 6. These are both very good for this time of year, in fact gate 1's number is the 2nd highest for the year-to-date, being only April, which has the Easter weekend to help bump up the numbers. The pedestrian counter on Kaurana Way recorded 5609 hikers, which again, is showing high levels of visitation to the park.

Events

The Parkrun event on Saturday mornings has just had its agreement approved to continue for another 12 months. This has been successful in attracting a number of new visitors to the park and hopefully continues to do so.

There is a mountain bike skills event taking place this weekend on the 10th, called Head for the Hills: Adelaide Dirt League. They will be using the overflow carpark for participants, as well as the concrete pad near the old quarry to set up their marquees and such. Should be all wrapped by 11:00, and one of the rangers will pop by to make sure everything is running smoothly (it's my weekend off).

Obviously, you have the planting day coming up on the 18th of June as well. This one I will be in attendance for, so I look forward to seeing you all then. Hopefully the weather behaves itself for us, and we can continue the restoration work in the quarry area.

Looking back, I never actually caught up with how the morning with Andy Sheath went. He is a superbly knowledgeable man, so hopefully you were able to glean a bit from him. I will catch up with you next time and find out more about how that went, but I think it is fantastic to branch into a few different activities other than just weeding, especially ones that can be so informative.

Tracks and Trails

Work on the section of Newman's Track between the ruins and Torture Hill has been completed, certainly a lot smoother to drive down there now. We'll see how the winter rains impact it but looks like it is holding up well so far.

The same can also be said for the track works the team did at gate 18 on the way to the Friends Shed. The speed humps may not be the most popular solution, but so far it seems to be helping with the erosion issue.

Fire

A few weeks ago, there was a prescribed burn undertaken on the hillside between the old quarry and gate 2. You may have walked around this area with Andy, but just as a recap, a 4.0-hectare burn was undertaken on Monday the 15th of May. The results were fairly positive, with the northern slopes burning very well. Some areas of the southern side facing the valley were harder to ignite, making the burn a bit patchy in that area. Good news is now that area is over to the Weeds Team for the next couple of years for follow-up weeding. The work that was done on that hillside was greatly beneficial in giving the site a head start, but for the time being we can focus on other areas.

NPWS staff

As I'm sure you're all aware by now, Tim has taken off to the Australian International Bird Sanctuary for a backfill role until October. In his stead we have a new ranger starting up this week named Alisha, who joins us from the Botanic Gardens. I'm sure you'll see her around at some point and make her feel welcome, she will certainly be a valuable addition to the team.

That's all from me for now. As always, feel free to reach out at any time with park, animal or weed queries, I always love hearing from you, and I look forward to seeing everyone for the planting day on the 18th!

Taylor Heath

BUSHCARE REPORT

This is a summary of activities undertaken from 31st March 2023 to 31st May 2023:

- The main focus during this period has been weed control at various locations in the park
 - Broom, African daisy, bridal creeper, olives along the Wednesday Loop
 - Bluebell creeper just south of the ruins off Newmans Track
 - Plant identification session with Andy Sheath and Kendall Whittaker along Newmans Track and at the controlled burn near Gate 1
 - Sunday Bushcare Session tackling mostly African daisy in the area west of Ellis Way
 - Preparation for Planting Day in the quarry up from Gate 1
 - Removal of the fence on the track between Ridgetop and Ellis.

Future activities include:

- Angove Conservation Park targeting Sparaxis (bulb removal)
- Gun emplacement creek line (olives and dogrose) and Klopers Track (Erica)
- Bursaria Loop below Gate 18 house (gorse)
- Pipeline area near Gate 14 (boneseed, gorse, olive)
- Behind Boehm Track trailhead (boneseed)
- 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:

- 9 Wednesday mornings sessions plus a Sunday session
- Total of 298 hours
- Average number of hours per activity is 30
- Average number of workers per morning is 11

Great to see an increase in the number of people turning up for the Bushcare sessions including the successful trialling of a Sunday session where we had 16 people turn up.

Steve Lukacs



PLANTING DAY – 18TH JUNE

Preparation for planting day at the Quarry face started on the 24th May. This is the 3rd year we have planted in this area. Considering how bad the soil is in this area we are happy with the results so far. This year we will be infilling where plants have not survived and expanding on the area.



NEW MEMBERS

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

John Duncan. John has joined the Wednesday Bushcare Group

TEA TREE GULLY COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER EXPO

Thanks to Steve Lukacs, Marie Mudge, Christine Thomas and Diann Lozoraitis for setting up our table and attending this Expo on Friday 2nd June. Thanks also to our Rangers for supplying the tote information bags for us to give away. A very well worth exercise for promoting ourselves and meeting other volunteer groups.



Thanks go to our Sponsors:



Club of
Modbury Golden Grove



Olivia Savvas MP
MEMBER FOR NEWLAND

Office 4, 1257 North East Rd,
Ridgehaven SA 5097
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

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

Newsletter: Diann Lozoraitis

Facebook: Christine Thomas

Bushcare: Steve Lukacs

Ranger: Taylor Heath

FUTURE EVENTS:

18th June	Sunday - Planting Day
2 nd August	Committee Meeting
20 th August	Event TBA
17 th September	Sunday Working Bee
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