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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

NO: 03/2026

Diary Dates

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
Thursday 1 st October 2026	Membership Fee Due	
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	Committee Meeting & AGM	TTG Heritage Museum
Sunday Nov/Dec 2026	Propagation Day	TBA

SILVER MINE TRACK



With this year's Planting Site being down from the Silver Mine location here is just a recap of where it all began:



Silver Mine Shaft (Source HFZCHP 2003)



19th May 1996



Fence: April 2005

The mine lies within an iron-rich fault zone. The ore body consists mainly of limonite(ironstone) mixed with quartz and silica. While small amounts of silver, copper, gold and lead minerals were reported, concentrations were too low to support profitable mining.

The site was originally discovered in 1853. (Water Gully was purchased by Carl Friedrich Neumann in 1854.) Iron ore was mined as a flux for the copper smelters at Port Adelaide but it was short-lived and closed within about a year. It was briefly reopened in 1861-1862, but again proved uneconomic.

The mine's most significant period came in 1888, when the Tea Tree Gully Silver Mining Company (1888-1889) acquired a lease over approximately 160 acres in what is now the north eastern section of the park.

By early 1889, the workings included a large open excavation about 30 metres deep and shafts extending much further underground. Although traces of copper, silver, gold and lead were encountered, no

commercially viable ore body was found. Burdened by debt and unable to finance deeper exploration, the company ceased operations in July 1889.

The fascinating aspect of the Silver Mine is that it is remembered more for what it might have become than for what it produced – a classic example of the speculative mining ventures that swept through South Australia during the late 1800s. Despite the grand name “Silver Mine”, very little silver was ever recovered.

ADOPT-A-PATCH

The Adopt-a-Patch initiative was started several years ago and now we have 7 patches looked after by dedicated volunteers. Adopt-a-Patch 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.

This is an excellent opportunity if you can’t make the regular Wednesday sessions and want to contribute something to our activities in the park. We can supply tools and hi-viz vests if you need them.

Some basic guidelines to get started

1. This opportunity is available to members of Friends of Anstey Hill.
2. You will be required to complete a Volunteer Registration Form to cover you while you are volunteering in the park.
3. In the first instance contact the Bushcare Coordinator to discuss the area in question and the activities you wish to undertake.
4. This will be followed by a site visit to finalise the plan for the site.
5. You will need to join the Adopt-a-Patch WhatsApp group to let us know when you enter and leave the park plus to share general information.

We currently have a couple of areas that would benefit from a bit of TLC. Firstly, there are the Kindy planting sites near the Gate 1 car park and the other one is the current planting site on Silver Mine Track. These sites require someone that can visit them say monthly to check on the health of the seedling, weed around the base of the plants as required, maintain the guards and upgrade the to wire mesh guards as required and in summer check if the seedlings need watering.

Let us know if you interested in these sites or indeed any other site in the park.

LAVENDER IN THE PARK



From David Sheppard:

Picture of lavender plants near SA Water tanks, this site is north of “my patch “.
Been controlling several patches near my zone, to prevent them from seeding.
In the process of spraying them.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

In my last report I mentioned that we had nominated John Duncan for Burnside Rotary Club Volunteer of the Park award. A few of us went to the award dinner on the 29th April to support John. It was a great night with the opportunity to catch up with people from Friends of Parks and Nature and other like minded volunteer groups. Unfortunately, John didn’t win but that did not diminish his contribution to the park and we cannot thank him enough for everything he does. I would also like to thank the rangers for their support.

I also mentioned the David Crisanti is writing a book about the history of the park. I encourage everyone who can, to help David with historical references or point him towards others who you think may be able to help.

Ranger Alex came to one of our Wednesday sessions to give us some basal bark training. This is another technique for eradicating olives where you use a mix of eco oil and a herbicide to spray around the trunk of the tree. This is particularly effective when the weather is a bit warmer and dryer. This adds to our arsenal of weapons in the fight to eradicate olives from the park.

On the 28th of April Diann and Reg went to a departmental presentation on the Corporate Volunteering Program run by the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. The foundation is an Australia wide not-for-profit that creates partnerships with various groups to help protect and restore Australia unique natural environment. Working with Friends groups and the rangers this program is about getting corporate staff out doing real work in nature and not just a staff bonding session. This program has worked successfully interstate for a number of years and they are keen to gauge support, and trial it locally. Reg has taken the lead and registered our interest in the program which could involve a couple of events per year with FOAH being paid \$1,500 each time we participate. This looks like a win/win with the park getting extra resources working in the park and FOAH being paid to coordinate and guide the efforts.

Following the visit from Friends of Para Wirra last year we had always planed a reciprocal visit sometime in the future. We have finally settled on the 1st October, which will be an ideal opportunity to see the wildflowers in the park. We will send out a reminder note closer to the date.

The Tea Tree Gully Council is in the process of rolling out a new Heritage Trail in the district. In conversations with the council, David Crisanti pointed out that an omission on the trail is the Newmans Ruins, which is a significant heritage site in the area. In subsequent conversations, I pointed out that Ellis Cottage was also not on the trail. Fortunately, our timing was right as they hadn't completed to formal roll out and the council was able to include both sites on the trail.

Diann and I had a meeting with Olivia Savvas on the 26th May at which we discussed a number of topics.

1. Although Olivia supported the proposal for an Adventure Playspace at AHRP in the end the funds were needed for the restoration works following the outbreak of the giant pine mite in Highbury. This covers both the reservoir and adjacent council site. The playspace will have to wait for another time, on hold but not forgotten.

2. We talked about getting some Kauria input about the park which is very limited at the moment. Olivia undertook to get in touch with some contacts to see if they may be able to help.

3. We raised the concept of doing restoration work at the Newman's Nurse Ruins. Olivia offered to contact the department to get some background information on what may be possible. In the meantime, she encouraged us to raise the question with federal MP Tony Zappia.

Just a reminder that Planting Day is on Sunday 21st June starting at 9:30am with a sausage sizzle to follow. This is one of the highlights of the FOAH calendar and we would like to thank Mary Lane for sorting us out in terms of propagation but also procuring the additional plants we need on the day plus those for the kindy plantings.

We are continuing our interactions with Banksia Park and Kathleen Mellor Kindies. We had 2 signs made to identify the planting sites and hope to get them installed with the help of the rangers. We are still trying to organise a date for the plantings this year and we will try to get the signs put up at the same time to create a bit of an event. We mentioned it to Olivia Savvas and she would be delighted to take part in the event; we just need to get all the planets to align.

Thanks once again to the committee and all the membership for your ongoing support. Every contribution helps with the work we are doing in the park.

Steve Lukacs 3rd June 2026

BUSHCARE REPORT

Period: 1st April 2026 to 31st May 2026

This is a summary of activities undertaken over this period:

- Kindy and quarry planting sites, guard and general maintenance
- Newman Track - down from Ridgetop olives, African daisy (Sunday session)
- Kauria Way olives, African daisy, Rhamnus - basal bark training
- Ridgetop (past Kauria) both sides aloe vera, olives, Rhamnus, African daisy

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

- Eastern side of Ridgetop (past Kauria), 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

- Kaurna Way near the roundabout tree, support grant activities
- Newman Track - down from Ridgetop - olives
- Return to Gun Emplacement and Kloppers (Erica, olive, dog rose, blackberry, boneseed)
- Return to Conservation Park bulbous weeds

Statistics for the Bushcare Group activities for this period:

- 9 Wednesday mornings sessions plus a Sunday Bushcare Session
- Total of 342 hours plus 155 hours from Adopt a Patch (497 hours in total)
- Average number of hours per Wednesday morning session is 34
- Average number of workers per Wednesday morning session is 13

I think we set a new record this period, one foggy, drizzly Wednesday we managed to get only 4 of us out for the session! We also had some Wednesdays where we have had 16/17 volunteers on hand so the overall numbers still look good. Many thanks to all.

Steve Lukacs

Bushcare Coordinator



Basal Barking Olives - Training Morning

SUNDAY BUSHCARE 19TH APRIL 2026

Thank you to all who were able to come out to the Sunday Bushcare morning. The weather started off looking threatening but it cleared up and it was a beautiful morning in the park. We worked down Newman's Track clearing Olives, Dog Rose, Boneseed and African Daisies followed by a cuppa at the Shed.



PLANTING DAY 21ST JUNE 2026

Thanks to Deb Shaw for these photos









YOUR 2025-2026 COMMITTEE:

President:
Steve Lukacs

Secretary:
Diann Lozoraitis

Treasurer:
Kevin Laurance

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

Rodney Attwood
Don Bursill
Margaret Bursill
Merv Fenwick
Jill Fenwick
Rommy Freebairn

Victor Gostin
Olga Gostin
Mary Lane
Roger Collier
David Sheppard
Frances Bedford

Get ready for the next

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COUNT**



**19-25
October
2026**

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Contact Details

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