



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

NO: 05/2023



On Sunday the 12th of November we celebrated our 35th Anniversary. We were honoured to have Susan Close, Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and Duncan MacKenzie, President, Friends of Parks to officiate at the event.

It was a time to celebrate but also a time to recognise those that had the vision 35 years ago to take bare grazing lands, abandoned quarries and some gems in flora and fauna amongst the pest plant, rabbits and foxes and turn it into what we have today. A lot more needs to be done but it is a good time to take pause and look at how far we have come in 35 years with the transformation that has happened in the park. As part of that recognition, Susan and Duncan presented Life Member awards and Certificates of Appreciation for length of service.



Life Member Awards went to Rodney Atwood, Don and Margaret Bursill, Roger Collier, Olga and Victor Gostin, and Mary Lane. Unfortunately, Merv and Jill Fenwick, and Davis Sheppard could not be there on the day.



10-year Certificates of Appreciation went to Rob and Jenny Carthew, and Judy and Steve Lukacs. Unfortunately, Jim and Lea Crosby and John Harmer could not be there on the day.



20-year Certificates of Appreciation went to Dennis Broome and Chris Bushell.



25-year Certificates of Appreciation went to Keith Rendell. Unfortunately, Pat Caldwell, Francis Bedford, Rommy Freebairn and Ken Poole could not attend on the day.



30-year Certificates of Appreciation went to Rodney Attwood and Mary Lane. Unfortunately, Merv and Jill Fenwick, and Davis Sheppard could not be there on the day.



35-year Certificates of Appreciation went to Don and Margaret Bursill, Roger Collier, Victor and Olga Gostin and the Friends of Anstey Hill.



The Cake Cutting



A Rabble of Rangers

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FROM THE AGM

Welcome to the Friends of Anstey Hill Annual General Meeting as we celebrate our 35th year, hopefully you can all make it to our celebrations to be held at the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum on the 12th November. I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of those that came before me and saw the vision of the transformation of Anstey Hill from baren pastoral land and quarries into what it is today.

Acknowledging that much more needs to be done, the group continues to provide valuable input to Anstey Hill Recreation Park through our Wednesday Bushcare Group which now includes some Sunday sessions, 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 work into the future.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the committee, the Wednesday Bushcare Group and the membership at large for your support in helping us to improve the park in terms of the environment, biodiversity and sustainability. We had 55 memberships for the last Financial Year, including many family memberships, which is up slightly from the previous year. Every member is important, whether you contribute regularly in the parks or come to an occasional event, or support the work we do

through your membership. You may have noticed some new signs around the park at gates 1, 6 and 18. These we made possible by a grant from Landcare SA and hopefully will encourage others to join us.



Speaking of grants, the good news is that we were successful in our Grant Application from last year. The grant of \$4,803.63 allows us to employ a contractor to tackle the boneseed in the more inaccessible areas up from Gate 5 and fund a portion of the Injecta 400 system which is used for the control of olives. Hopefully this will mean we spend less time in the area to control regrowth. In addition, the Landcare SA offered us a Care for Landcare Grant of \$1,809.50 for the purchase of equipment and materials for the continuation of our land care activities. This grant has contributed towards the signage in the park as well as shelving in the shed and additional tools. As well as grants, we continue to be supported by membership donations and the ReGen Op Shop, where several people donate their volunteer hours which in turn comes to us as additional donations. Many thanks to all and we hope you also continue to support the Regen Op Shop though your donations and purchases.

At last year's AGM we introduced some changes to the constitution which included the introduction of Life Memberships to members that have been with us on the journey for 30 years or more. I congratulate,

- Rodney Attwood (34 years)
- Don Bursill (35 years)
- Margaret Bursill (35 years)
- Roger Collier (35 years)
- Merv Fenwick (32 years)
- Jill Fenwick (32 years)
- Olga Gostin (35 years)
- Victor Gostin (35 years)
- Mary Lane (30 years), and
- David Sheppard (31 years)

for reaching this fantastic milestone. In addition, members that have been active volunteers in the parks for 15 years or more are eligible for a Gold Pass which gives them free entry into South

Australian national parks. Congratulations to Dennis Broome, Chris Bushell and John Harmer. We exist under the umbrella of Friends of Parks Inc and the Department of Environment and Water (DEW). I'd also like to thank them for their support over the year. This support comes in many forms; training, equipment, chemicals and most importantly advice in guiding our activities in the park. Our current rangers, Taylor Heath and Alisha Adams, have been very supportive and have worked with us in the park on a number of occasions.

Our activities in the park follow a fairly regular cycle which starts with Propagation Day. Last year's event was a great success, so put Sunday 26th November in your calendar for this year. It's a great time to get together at the shed, share some stories and a barbeque afterwards.

Many thanks, as always, to Mary Lane for her work in the seed collection and giving us guidance on the day. Six months later we get together again for Planting Day where we take the seedlings we propagated and put them in the ground. This year we had another good turnout for Planting Day in the old quarry area up from Gate 1. This was our third planting there. We have had great success despite the rocky ground, due mainly to the Wednesday Bushcare Group watering and maintaining the area in the summer months. Next year we will move on to a new area between Rosella and Ellis.

The Wednesday Bushcare Group have contributed over 1,200 volunteer hours in the park over the last year, planting, watering, weeding, fence removal and general maintenance. In an effort to engage the broader membership we have trialled a number of new initiatives over the year. This has included a couple of Sunday Bushcare sessions which were a resounding success, so they will continue next year. Adopt a Patch has been an idea around for a while but this year we had a couple of volunteers put it to the test. Basically, this involves a member selecting an area in the park which they adopt. They can maintain their patch anytime they are in the park within some simple guidelines. Thanks to John and David for taking on this initiative. Finally, Rob Carthew, had suggested we do a 4WD tour of the park for those members who have some mobility issues but would still like to visit Anstey Hill. Rob recently took one of our members on a tour of the park and hopefully we can continue this with some other members in the new year.

Although Anstey Hill is a state park it borders Tea Tree Gully Council and we have tried to maintain a good relationship with the council as we share common interests. As part of that, 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. This was another great opportunity to spread the word about what we do and to network with other like-minded volunteer groups. Further testament to that relationship is that Sabine Koolen, from the council, is our guest speaker tonight and she will talk to us about biodiversity in the area.

One final thanks to our membership and supporters, nature is a powerful force but it can always do with a little help from the friends!

Steve Lukacs

18th October 2023

BUSHCARE REPORT FROM THE AGM

Thank you to all the volunteers that have contributed over this last year. This is not just the weeding, watering and planting but in the sharing of the enormous amount of knowledge that exists within the group. It's been great to include a couple of Sunday sessions to give an opportunity for more members to get involved and a special thanks to John and David for pioneering the "Adopt a Patch" initiative.

This is a high-level summary of activities undertaken from 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023:

- Watering seedlings in the summer months
- Propagation Day at the Friends Shed
- Preparation of the area near Quarry View Hike Track for Planting Day
- Planting Day and the distribution of excess plants in the park around the Bee Hotel
- Boneseed and olive removal in the area uphill from Boundary Track (Gate 5) through to Ridgetop
- General pest plant removal along Ridgetop Track from the lookout down towards Wildflower
- Behind Boehm Track trailhead, African daisy, olives, bridal creeper
- 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
- Erica and olive removal along Kloppers Track up from Gate 9
- Olive and artichoke poisoning at the Gun Emplacement
- General maintenance of the Friends Shed including the installation of new shelving
- Tree guard and fence removal at various sites in the park

Statistics for the Bushcare Group over the last 3 years:

	2021	2022	2023
Activities in the Park	53	53	55
Total Hours	1276	1307	1434
Average Hours per Activity	23	23.3	26
Average number of volunteers per activity	8.3	9.5	10

This table highlights the steady growth in the resources we are able to deploy in the park.

Steve Lukacs

FOAH, Bushcare Coordinator

18th October 2023

RANGER'S REPORT FROM THE AGM

Cluster Overview

Our group of rangers called the 'Barossa Cluster' are based out of Para Wirra, and look after a combined 11 parks within the Northern Lofty District. Currently comprised of 4 rangers (myself, Alicia Adams, Dylan Yates, Aislinn McAleer) working under our senior ranger Tammy Leggett. The last 12 months have seen a few staffing changes and challenges. As you are aware, Tim left our ranger group to pursue a short-term contract at the Australian International Bird Sanctuary, and he has since taken up a 2 year contract with the Northern and Yorke Landscapes Board working on feral animal control. He has been replaced by Alicia, who most of you have met, and between us we are your liaison rangers for Anstey Hill, as well as Angove CP. Our ranger group has been stretched pretty thin lately, with myself taking 6 weeks off to welcome 2 new Heaths into the world, and Tammy breaking her leg. Fortunately Tammy is on the mend, and I am back to help out, and have in fact now been made ongoing in my role, so I'll be sticking around for a while yet!

Visitor Numbers

Visitor numbers in the park have been excellent, particularly over the past few months. The pedestrian counter on Kurna Way has registered between 7000 and 8000 over each of the past 3 months, which is excellent for the cooler (and still sometimes rainy) weather. For reference, the same months last year did not exceed 5000 pedestrians, so certainly seems more people are utilising the walking trails. Vehicle numbers are also reflecting this higher visitation, with the last 3 months each registering over 4000 vehicles access the gate 1 carpark, and over 2000 vehicles monthly at gate 6. Fantastic numbers all around, really great to see.

Compliance

Despite the higher visitation, we haven't seen an increase in compliance-related issues. We still have the occasional dog off lead, cyclist or hiker on the wrong track, or rubbish left behind, but overall I am very pleased with how compliant park users have been. Part of this can be attributed to your work and presence in the park, as when people see the park being cared for, it encourages them to care too, and that is reflected in behaviour.

Events

The past year has seen the park well-utilised for events, particularly trail running and mountain bike skills events. There have been no major issues arising from these, and would expect them to continue. We also have SASES utilising the gate 16 area on occasion for rescue dog training, and even had MFS use the old quarry area above gate 1 for rope drills. We did have some issues with a dog training group using the gate 1 picnic area without the proper licences; she has since decided to move elsewhere, however Alisha bumped into a different group last weekend that seemed to be doing the same thing, so we are following that up. The planting event went well, with over 200 plants going in the ground. It was a great turnout, with plenty of interest from passers-by, and seeing how well previous years' plants have survived, I'm looking forward to seeing the site transformed.

Works

Has been a fairly busy year for works in the park. We have had a number of track works completed, most notably the erosion works on the gate 18 driveway and recapping the section of Newman's track between the ruins and Torture Hill. We have also completed some more minor track works around the park, patching up a long rut along Water Gully Creek, and some residential protection along Boundary Track. I'm aware there are still a number of our fire tracks that are heavily rutted, rest assured they have been raised. Vehicle track maintenance/repair is a responsibility of the Fire Management Team, so we raise the tracks that need attention and they decide how best to prioritise their resources across the region (Barossa to Deep Creek). Fortunately for us, the guy making those decisions is a local who walks around Anstey all the time, and he is well aware exactly how dire some of our tracks are (I'm looking at you, Ellis Way!). The other major works completed this year was the installation of 3 signs advertising FOAH, and encouraging new members to join. They look fantastic, and I hear they are already working in swelling your numbers, which is fantastic.

Looking Forward

Over the coming months, Josh Noble and his team from Restore Environmental Services should be giving a good whack to the boneseed up from gate 5. This will need some follow-up from myself and the group, but it will be great to see the volume of weeds in this area drastically decrease, and hopefully we get a few more native guys poking their heads through. Josh is also the contractor I have got to quote on this year's grant proposal, which has just been submitted for work on olives and buckthorn in the valley south of Kurna Way. This is a follow-up of some work done in 2018 to control weeds in the area, and I'm very hopeful it will get up as it would be great to protect that valuable habitat of the park. Steve has also nominated the next area of the park for future planting, an open grassy area downhill from the silver mine. This will be a great area to introduce new habitat to (provided we can stop the kangaroos from munching everything) and a look forward to planting this area out over the next few years.

Thankyou very much for your invaluable time and service over the past year. The park would be what it is without you, and I am very grateful to have such a dedicated group of volunteers working at Anstey Hill ☺

Cheers, Taylor Heath (Ranger)

AGM SPEAKER – SABINE KOOLEN

Revegetation of natural open space 2024

Every year between 10,000 to 15,000 local native plants are planted into natural open spaces as a part of council's revegetation program. Revegetation provides:

- habitat for wildlife
- improves the aesthetic appeal of reserves, and
- contributes to cooling of the local climate.

The objective of the revegetation program is to eventually provide continuous quality habitats through these corridors where wildlife can safely move through the landscape, forage for food and reproduce.

Revegetation is usually undertaken in 3 different stages, being:

- Stage 1: Commencing with dense shrubs that grow quickly to shade out weeds and provide refuge for wildlife.
- Stage 2: Introducing further biodiversity by replacing some dense shrubs with smaller, slower growing shrubs and groundcovers.
- Stage 3: Further enriching the sites by including native grasses, wildflowers and delicate species.

Staged revegetation mimics natural processes and assists in creating a high quality, high biodiversity outcome with minimal resources input.

New revegetation sites (Stage 1 planting) are most often located in a public reserve within a connected or semi connected string of reserves known as a wildlife corridor. Wildlife corridors in the City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG) include reserves adjacent to Dry Creek, tributaries of Dry Creek, Cobbler Creek and the River Torrens Linear Park.

In August each year, Council's Biodiversity Technical Officer undertakes an audit of all revegetation sites. These sites are assessed to determine the quality of maintenance and the development of the site against developed CTTG Biodiversity Standard Methods (BSM). The BSM is a best practice operational document to guide biodiversity staff in achieving high quality habitat restoration outcomes.

The audit of revegetation sites identifies which sites are under serviced and what is required to improve the site (ie. additional weed control, guard maintenance, pruning). The audit also determines which sites are over serviced to ensure that limited resources are reapportioned as necessary to reflect the service level and purpose of the revegetation.

Another important objective of the audit is to determine which revegetation sites are ready for further development. Many sites will undergo staged species enrichment to improve the biodiversity value of the habitat. Sites ready for enrichment have very little weed competition to allow new smaller and slower growing plants to thrive. Some other sites do not undergo enrichment, but serve as connectors between higher biodiversity sites including remnant bushland and they provide vegetation cover to wildlife as they move between higher quality habitats.

Seventy revegetation sites were audited in August 2023, with 86% conformed to the BSM. The high-quality maintenance undertaken by biodiversity staff now allows for a greater proportion of sites to be enriched with new species in 2024. This successional approach requires the removal of some dense shrubs that have suppressed weeds in Stage 1 of revegetation to then provide space for a variety of new species.

In 2024 grove plantings of small tree species will be introduced into the revegetation program. Weeping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) and Native Pine (*Callitris gracilis*) will provide an important food source for the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo. This Cockatoo has a conservation rating of vulnerable in South Australia.

The below image is Stevens Reserve, Ridgehaven. Stage 1 planting in 2020 (looking west).



The below image is Stevens Reserve. In the background (looking south) are 2020 plantings ready for Stage 2 enrichment planting in June 2024. In the foreground is a mulched site prepared 2 years in advance of planting for optimal weed control and soil conditioning, and will be ready for planting in June 2024.



The below image is Sherwood Reserve, Redwood Park and an example of informal connector revegetation (planted in 2021), using large dense shrubs as cover for wildlife such as small birds. Weedy understory is acceptable in these plantings.



SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER BUSHCARE MORNING



Despite the weather being a bit warmer, we had 15 turnout for the Sunday Bushcare morning. Thanks to all who attended. African Daisies along Ridgetop Track were the target, and some progress was made. Coffee and cold drinks were provided at the end of the session.

WEDNESDAY - BUSHCARE GROUP

Working at the Quarry Planting Area.



Jacqueline Scaffidi, Dot Dudzinski, Diann Lozoraitis, Dennis Broome, David Waterman and Kevin Laurence



Roger Collier, Barry Woodward and Dennis Broome



Robyn Pawley, Diann Lozoraitis and Dot Dudzinski

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our new member who have joined since our last newsletter.
Dot is a welcome participant of our Wednesday Bushcare Team

Dorota (Dot) Dudzinski

DIARY DATES

Sunday 26 th November 2023	Propagation Day	10am Friends Shed Gate 18
Wednesday 7 th February 2024	Committee Meeting	Houghton
Wednesday 3 rd April 2024	Committee Meeting	Houghton
Sunday 14 th April 2024	Bushcare Session	TBA
Wednesday 5 th June 2024	Committee Meeting	Houghton
Sunday 9 th June 2024	Planting Day	TBA
Wednesday 7 th August 2024	Committee Meeting	Houghton
Sunday 22 nd September 2024	Bushcare Session	TBA

YOUR NEW 2023-2024 COMMITTEE:

President:
Steve Lukacs

Secretary:
Diann Lozoraitis

Treasurer:
Kevin Laurance

Committee Members:

Marie Mudge

Jacqueline Scaffidi

Rob Carthew

Christine Thomas

Jenny Carthew

Roger Collier

Roberta Swift

Newsletter: Diann Lozoraitis

Facebook: Christine Thomas

Bushcare: Steve Lukacs

Ranger: Taylor Heath

LIFE & HONORARY MEMBERS

Rodney Attwood

Victor Gostin

Don Bursill

Olga Gostin

Margaret Bursill

Mary Lane

Merv Fenwick

Roger Collier

Jill Fenwick

David Sheppard

Thanks go to our Sponsors:



Club of
Modbury Golden Grove



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FRIENDS OF PARKS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Volunteers working for conservation



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Contact Details

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