



# FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



ABN: 53 952 413 248  
PO Box 653  
ST. AGNES SA 5097

## **NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2024**

**NO: 05/2024**

### **DIARY DATES**

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Propagation Day	The Shed – Gate 18 – 10am
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Committee Meeting	56 RRS
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Bushcare’s Christmas Lunch	Modbury Hotel
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Bushcare Christmas Break	Return Wednesday 8/1/2025
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Committee Meeting	56 RRS

*Dear Member,*

*We appreciate your support for Friends of Anstey Hill. A reminder that membership fees are due on the 1st of October each year. We currently don't have the ability to send out individual membership reminders, but it is something we will work on in the coming year. If you are not certain of your membership status, please email our Treasurer at [klaurence1@bigpond.com](mailto:klaurence1@bigpond.com)*

### **PRESIDENT’S AGM REPORT**

**1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024**

Welcome to the Friends of Anstey Hill Annual General Meeting in our 36<sup>th</sup> year as a community-based group of volunteers, dedicated to supporting, preserving and restoring the Anstey Hill natural and cultural environment. We do this 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, participation in community events 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 56 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 park, come to an occasional event, or simply support the work we do through your membership.

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. As part of that recognition, Susan and Duncan presented Life Member awards and Certificates of Appreciation for length of service.

On the 26th of November, 21 members attended Propagation Day at the Friends Shed. A successful day with everyone lending a hand and then staying for the sausage sizzle, a cuppa and a chat.

After trialling Sunday Bushcare Sessions, we have made them part of the calendar with ones held in April and September. These are in addition to our annual Propagation and Planting Days. Always good to see members that can't make it to the regular Wednesday events. The other option for members who want to help out in the park is Adopt a Patch. We now have 3 "patches" in operation making a contribution of over 290 volunteer hours since the beginning of the year.

Working with Friends of Parks we have been able to secure some training opportunities including a Seed Collection workshop and a Safe and Effective Use of Chemicals workshop. It is always good to build the skills and knowledge within the group.

The highlight of the year for me has always been Planting Day. We spend so much time in the park getting rid of pest plants that it is a nice contrast to actually plant something. The dry weather had meant that the date was postponed to Sunday 23rd June, but this gave us some more time to prepare the site. And it is a challenging site, with the usual rocky ground as well as the site being a favourite for the kangaroos who enjoy nothing more than chewing on a tasty seedling. We have had to beef up the plant guards using wire mesh, and I am confident they will protect the plants until they are big enough to no longer be attractive to the kangaroos.

National Parks and Wildlife Service designated Anstey Hill Recreation Park as one of the Parks of the Month for June. We had 2 events for the month as part of that designation, namely the Planting Day on the 23rd of June and a BirdsSA bird watching event on Sunday 30th June. Both of those events were highly successful.

On the theme of attracting new members, we once again participated in the Tea Tree Gully Council Community Expo on Friday 7th June. This was a great opportunity to mix with like-minded volunteer groups and engage with the general public as they wandered through the expo. We actually managed to sign up 2 new members as a result, so it was a resounding success. Many thanks to those who helped out with our stand.

In terms of grants, we have submitted the final report for the grant-based activities that were undertaken last year. With the help of a contractor, great inroads were made to control the boneseed infestation in the high value area up from Gate 5. In addition, the group successfully trialled a new method for the control of the olives also in this area. We have revisited this area recently to check for regrowth and for general maintenance.

With support from the ranger, we received a new grant for \$4,500 titled "Woody Weed Control to Protect Chestnut-Rumped Heathwren Habitat". This work, to be carried out by a contractor, is in the area west of Kurna Way and is a follow up to some work carried out in 2018.

We also received a grant from LandcareSA for 2024 of \$1,893.94. These funds have been used for tools and equipment that support our activities in the park. We have purchased a “dropper knocker” for installing star droppers, additional mattocks and secateurs, and a second reciprocating saw. Part of the grant was also used to replenish the capsules we use as part of the new olive control system. 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 continue to support the Regen Op Shop through your donations and purchases.

As part of our constitution, we confer Life Memberships to members that have been with us on the journey for 30 years or more. I congratulate,

- Rommy Freebairn
- Frances Bedford

for reaching this fantastic milestone.

In addition, I'd like to congratulate the following members for reaching major milestones,

- Rodney Attwood (35 years)
- Elizabeth Venning (10 years).

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.

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**

2nd October 2024



Francis Bedford receiving Friends of Anstey Hill Life Membership from President Steve Lukacs

## TREASURER'S AGM SUMMARY 2024

Cheque Account (plus Gift card):

Opening Amount 01/10/2023:	\$24,223.47	
Closing Amount 30/09/2024:Chq.	<b>\$30,872.35</b>	<b>Gift Card \$50.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,922.35</b>	

**Income:**

	<b>\$11,442.03</b>	
Membership	\$ 680.00	56 Members 2023/24
Donations from Members	\$ 721.00	
Gully Environment Network Donation	\$ 7,907.70	
Grants	\$ 2,083.33 (inc. GST)	
Interest	\$ 0.00	

**Expenditure:**

	<b>\$ 4,743.15</b>	
Administration	\$ 1,603.23	
Contract Weed Removal	\$ 0.00	(separate Grant)
Equipment & Maintenance	\$ 2,800.10	
Subscriptions	\$ 70.00	
Reveg/Propagation	\$ 269.82	

**Major Expenditure**

\$1005.40	Di-bak Capsules for Injector Tool (x2 pack)
\$970.50	35th Anniversary Certificates, Presentation, food and Cake at TTG Museum
\$628.00	Makita Reciprocating saw & batteries
\$515.90	Di-bak Capsules for Injector Tool (x1 pack)
\$329.73	Shirts for members
\$154.00	P.O. Box at St Agnes

# **BUSHCARE AGM REPORT**

**1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024**

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 as well as the members participating in the "Adopt a Patch" initiative.

This is a high-level summary of activities undertaken from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

- Watering seedlings in the summer months
- Propagation Day at the Friends Shed
- Preparation of the area near Rosella Track for Planting Day
- Planting Day and the distribution of excess plants in the park around the Bee Hotel
- Planting Day with Banksia Park Kindy
- Boneseed and olive removal in the area uphill from Boundary Track (Gate 5) through to Ridgetop as a follow up to the contractor activities in the area
- Gate 1 quarry area tackling boneseed, WA wattle, olive
- Angove Conservation Park - Flinders Ranges Wattle, olives, goosefoot (fat hen)
- Ridgetop track past Kaurna, African daisy, olive, aloe vera
- Wednesday Loop - African daisy, olives, boneseed
- Water Gully Track - Arum lilies plus olives
- Tree guard and fence removal at various sites in the park

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Activities in the Park	53	53	55	55
Total Hours	1276	1307	1434	1585
Average Hours per Activity	23	23.3	26	30
Average number of volunteers per activity	8.3	9.5	10	11

This table highlights the steady growth in the resources we are able to deploy in the park. In addition, we have 290 volunteer hours from Adopt-a-Patch activities. Using the departments deemed value of volunteers per hour of \$43, we as a group have contributed \$80,000 to the maintenance of the park. These are numbers we can be truly proud of as a sign of our commitment to Anstey Hill.

Steve Lukacs  
FOAH, Bushcare Coordinator  
2nd October 2024



## **Change of Name:**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Deputy Premier Susan Close announced the change of name for Friends of Parks to: *Friends of Parks and Nature*



## **Ranger Report - FOAH AGM October 2024**

### **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, Alisha Adams, Dylan Yates, Georgie Sneyd) working under our senior ranger Tammy Leggett. The last 12 months have seen a few staffing changes and challenges, with one ranger role being vacant for the past few months. We have recently had Georgie join the team, as well as a new field officer Ed Hunter. Both are only a month into their stint with us, but I'm sure you'll see them around at some point.

### **Visitor Numbers**

Visitor numbers in the park have been excellent, although somewhat lower than last year. Regardless, the Kaurna Way pedestrian counter has recorded between 4000 and 5000 pedestrians a month for the last 5 months, so very steady numbers which we could expect to increase as the weather improves and holidays arrive. Interestingly vehicle numbers are reflecting higher visitation, another consecutive year of growth in this space with over 5000 vehicles access the gate 1 carpark per month over the last 4 months, and 1800-200 vehicles monthly at gate 6. Fantastic numbers all around, really great to see, and possibly an indication that people are exploring additional trails in our park.

### **Compliance**

Despite high 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. The exception to this is an apparent increase in dirt bikes being sighted in the park. I believe some of this is referred behaviour from the abandoned Holcim quarry and have discussed strategies with their caretaker at length. I attempted to expiate one case, but it didn't eventuate unfortunately. There has also been a recent incident regarding bow-hunting of kangaroos, again in the quarry site. I know we don't work a lot in that area, but might be worth, if there is a need, ensure no work is done alone on that side.

### **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 SASSES utilising the gate 16 area on occasion for rescue dog training and have issued a licence for dog training in the gate 1 picnic area but haven't heard from them in a while. The planting event went well, all plants successfully guarded and put in the ground. The new guarding style seems to be doing its job in keeping the kangaroos out from a very populated area, great to see!

### **Works and Fire**

Has been a fairly quiet year for works in the park, with only a few minor 'in-house' jobs done. Some future work is planned for the long rut along Water Gully track, as speaking to the trails manager, he is waiting on his budget to be delivered before he can allocate funds but has indicated to me that Anstey is hopefully in line for

some attention, in particular Ellis Way. Looking forward, I am also hopeful on some potential works on Newman's Ruins. DEW hosts a Heritage Stonework Masonry course as part of its ranger development program, and next year is planned for the North Lofty District. I negotiated that Newman's would be the best place for it, and the district ranger agreed, which is excellent in two ways; firstly, having a training course working on the ruins, and secondly getting trained myself to continue this work. A slight hiccup is that this year's training got postponed last minute due to an injury to the educator, so not sure whether this pushes Newman's back or not.

There weren't any prescribed burns this year, although we did have an 'accidental' ignition on the hill above the SA Water tanks last summer. CFS crews were quick to extinguish, and thankfully no real impact. There are two prescribed burns that are upcoming: ridgetop track and the lookout. Ridgetop will be first, unsure exactly when, but possibly in the next 12 months.

### **Weeds**

At the beginning of the year, I wrote up and talked through an adaptive weeds plan for 2024, to act as a bit of a guide towards prioritising work in the park for both myself and FOAH, being more strategic with our efforts, and reinforcing good Bushcare principles. I have been really pleased with the results, and the efforts that have been made this year, and commendations to each and every one of you. In particular efforts on boneseed, artichoke, gorse, agave, and bluebell creeper have been incredibly satisfying, with each of these weeds getting a real knock on the head, particularly in our high conservation zones. I think this plan was quite informative, so will look to do it again heading into next year.

We were helped out somewhat by Green Adelaide chipping in with some funding this year and next. This enabled blackberry and boneseed control on the south-east of Newman's Track, fountain grass control around gun emplacement and North East Road, bluebell creeper work (which with additional funding this year will have the whole footprint covered) and upcoming boneseed work on the creek opposite gate 4. Follow-up will be required at some stage, but not imminently, so we can enjoy our weed free areas for now!

Over the coming months, Josh Noble and his team from Restore Environmental Services should be giving a good whack to the olives and buckthorn in the valley off Kurna Way. There is potential for follow-up, even future grants, in this area, but will need some ongoing discussions to clarify this.

Thank you 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



Taylor Heath presenting the 2024 Anstey Hill Adaptive Weeds Plan to Wednesday Bushcare Group

## **Banksia Park Kindergarten Bush Kindy Program**

A site was prepared by John Duncan (Wednesday Group Volunteer) near the Car Park at Gate 1 for 30 plants to be planted on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August by the Kindergarten Children. Mary Lane advised the children on how to plant and Marie Mudge and Diann Lozoraitis were on hand to assist. It was followed up a fortnight later with Ranger Alisha Adams demonstration on the Rangers Working Vehicle. Lights flashing, siren sounding and using the water hose was a great hit. Many thanks to Alisha for coming out.



**Before Planting**

**After Planting**



**NEWMAN'S TRACK VALLEY**

A beautiful show of the Jonquils, Snow Drops and Daffodils this year.





## **BUSHCARE SUNDAY SESSION – 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

Thanks to all who braved the weather and came out on the Sunday. Luckily it cleared by the time we started to tackle the top of Newmans Track. Removal of African Daisy, Large Dog/Briar Roses, and Artichoke Thistles was accomplished followed by a well-deserved cuppa and cake.



Daniel, Tessa and Isabelle tackled the Dog Rose on the side of Newmans Track



## **REMOVAL OF FERAL PINES BETWEEN ELLIS WALK AND NORTH EAST ROAD**

The fire crew were busy cutting down some feral pine trees down from Ellis Way towards North East Road. This was to reduce the fire load in the area. We, at FOAH will look at the site as a future planting site, particularly as a food source for the yellow tail black cockatoo



**RETIREMENT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF OUR LIFE MEMBER: ROGER COLLIER**

Roger has been a member of Friends of Anstey since the very beginning and has served on the committee since the late nineties having been Secretary for 6 of those years. We would like to thank Roger for his valuable contribution over all those years. He will be missed on the committee, but we hope we continue to see him out at our Wednesday Bushcare sessions.



*Thank you, Roger.*

## 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.

Nick Lukacs and Family      Tammy Fox      James Kerr

### YOUR 2024-2025 COMMITTEE:

**President:**  
Steve Lukacs

**Secretary:**  
Diann Lozoraitis

**Treasurer:**  
Kevin Laurance

#### **Committee Members:**

Marie Mudge  
Rob Carthew  
Jenny Carthew

Jacqueline Scaffidi  
Christine Thomas  
Roberta Swift

**Newsletter:** Diann Lozoraitis/ Steve Lukacs

**Facebook:** Christine Thomas

**Bushcare:** Steve Lukacs

**Rangers:** Taylor Heath and Alisha Adams

### LIFE & HONORARY MEMBERS

Rodney Attwood  
Frances Bedford  
Don Bursill  
Margaret Bursill

Roger Collier  
Merv Fenwick  
Jill Fenwick  
Rommy Freebairn

Victor Gostin  
Olga Gostin  
Mary Lane  
David Sheppard



Family Day Picnic at Newman's Ruins 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1991

## 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



**UNIT 2, 140 TOLLEY ROAD, ST AGNES 8396 3685**

### Contact Details

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](mailto:anstey.friends@gmail.com)

