



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL

Formed 1988

ABN: 53 952 413 248

Postal address: PO Box 653, St. Agnes, 5097.

Website address: <http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofansteyhill>

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

Email: anstey.friends@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

No: 1/2020



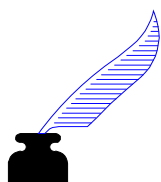
Part of the scene confronting the members attending the mid-week working group at the quarry site in the north-west corner of the park on Wednesday 13 November 2019.

For further details see item on page 7.

Photo by Keith Rendell

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From the Editor's Desk

With the advent of the new FOAH year the role and function of the editor has necessarily changed for the time being. Former editor is no longer able to remain as a financial and practically active member but has committed to receive timely input from members and to manipulate, massage and some might even say mangle, such material into a quarterly publication with the following projected schedule of issue dates:

Issue 1/2020 on 22 Nov. 2019.
Issue 2/2020 on 26 Feb. 2020.
Issue 3/2020 on 27 May 2020
Issue 4/2020 on 26 Aug. 2020

Members who are prepared to submit material for inclusion are requested to submit this to editor one week before the specified issue date.

Editor thanks Lea Crosby, Steve Lukacs and Fiona Lewis for material supplied for this issue.

FOAH and DEW Contacts and Key Dates

1. FOAH

Group Contact Details

Postal: PO Box 653, St. Agnes, S.A. 5097
Phone: 0413 248 290
ABN: 53 592 413 248
Website: www.communitywebs.org/friendsofansteyhill
Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofansteyhill
Email: anstey.friends@gmail.com

Committee Members:

President & Minute Secretary: *Lea Crosby*
Treasurer: *Jim Crosby*
Secretary and Facebook Coord: *Christine Thomas*

General Committee Members

Rob Carthew, Roger Collier, Steve Lukacs, John Harmer, Marie Mudge, David Prest, Anna Rulla

Non-Committee Members

FOAH Seed Collector: *Mary Lane*
Webmaster: *Nathan Lysaght*

2. DEW

Contact Details

Gawler Office
43 High Street
Gawler. SA, 5118
Phone: 8115 4600

Black Hill Office
115 Maryvale Rd
Athelstone,
Phone: 8336 0901

Anstey Hill R.P. Senior Ranger
Tammy Leggett
Phone: 0400 740 583
8115 4626

Anstey Hill Ranger
Norman Schulze
Phone: TBA

**Volunteer Support Office
Central District**
Steph Cole
Phone: 0427 055 719

**DEW Volunteer Support Unit
Central District**
Pam Smith
Phone: 8124 4784

Key Dates 2018-19

Committee Meetings
Wednesday 7.30pm
TTG Heritage Museum
○ 2120 dates TBA

Propagation Day 2019-20

○ *Sun. 1 Dec. 2019*
Meet at Friends Shed
via Gate 18 at 9-30am

Newsletter Issues

Issue #	Target Date
2/2020	26 Feb. 2020

President's Report

The last twelve months has been a busy and productive time at Anstey Hill Recreation Park. What remarkable progress has been made in conserving and promoting the natural and built environment within the park.

We were all sad that our ranger, Nick Purdew left for the Northern Hemisphere in June. Nick was always willing to lend a hand, attend meetings and functions whenever possible. We wish him well and hope he returns to our shores. Prior to Nick leaving he was instrumental in planning the removal of sheep within the park with over ninety sheep taken away. Yes, there are still a few left in the park.

Thank you to Senior Ranger Peter Hannon for his support and guidance for 'filling in' until our new ranger, Norman Schulze commenced working with FOAH last week. Norman is very keen to learn all about AHRP and the work that FOAH volunteers do. Welcome Norman! Our Wednesday group continues to meet weekly with members attending when they can. An average of 6-8 volunteers attend each Wednesday. Weeding, removal of invasive plants and maintenance of previous plantings has been undertaken in the last few months. Our monthly Wednesday morning tea back at the Friends Shed continues to be popular with the volunteers.

A reminder that our Propagation Day is on 1st December from 9.30 a.m. – 12 noon followed by a BBQ at the Friends Shed. Meet at the Friends Shed via Gate 18, Range Road South, Houghton. If there is a Total Fire Ban, the event will be postponed.

Some of the highlights over the last twelve months include visits by groups such as university staff and secondary and kindy students. Their contribution is greatly appreciated, and we encourage them all to take a sense of ownership of the areas where they have volunteered. I know some of the students have brought their families to Anstey Hill to check on 'their' seedlings. We are fortunate to have ongoing support from these groups.

FOAH's marketing strategies have included the purchase of a feather banner and a promotional table skirt to use at functions such as the annual October 'Spring in the Garden' event held in the grounds of the Tea Tree Gully museum. It is an opportunity to market FOAH and to promote partnerships within the community. Shane Meyer, a FOAH member, was invited to join us at the event and promoted his popular children's book, *'The Hungry Honeyeater'*. Thank you Shane for donating a percentage of the book sales to FOAH.

FOAH committee member, Steve Lukacs, attended a 'Grow you Group' workshop. The common problem for Friends of Parks groups is the difficulty in attracting new members. A focus of the workshop was on how to attract younger people and the terminology used in marketing Friends groups.

Earlier this year, at the invitation of our local MP and FOAH member, Dr Richard Harvey, I attended a Tourism Roundtable at Inglewood to discuss the existence of the region's distinct identity. It was also a successful networking gathering with a committee established to look at how the region can improve and develop its marketing strategies.

Our Facebook page and website have proved very successful in engaging with and informing people about AHRP. Thank you to Christine and Nathan for managing the sites.

FOAH will be co-hosting with Friends of Black Hill Morialta next year's Friends of Parks forum in Adelaide from 11th – 13th September. It is an opportunity for us to market our group and the volunteering it does to a wider audience. Approximately two hundred delegates attend the bi-annual event. If you know of anyone including businesses who would be willing to be a sponsor for the event, please let me know.

On Sunday 29th September I represented FOAH at Marble Hill for the annual Volunteers Celebration. Workshops included a guided wildflower walk, a Marble Hill history tour, plant propagation, Kaurua cultural carving and wildlife monitoring. It was interesting to learn that the devastating 1955 fire that ravaged the Adelaide Hills including Marble Hill, started at Anstey Hill!

Thank you to everyone who attended our FOAH AGM in October. Our guest speaker was Ali Ben Kahn who gave a very interesting presentation. Ali has worked in the conservation biology field for almost 30 years, first as an arid and semi-arid zone plant ecologist and then, more recently, in the area of bird conservation. She currently works for The Nature Conservation Society of SA as Coordinator of the Mt Lofty Ranges Woodland Birds Monitoring Program and Bush Condition Monitoring Data Coordinator.

We acknowledge the wonderful financial support of FOAH members from their memberships and donations. A local charity op shop, ReGen is a regular donor to FOAH and we thank the volunteers who donate their time there for us. Recently we also received a generous donation from the Tea Tree Gully branch of the CWA.

Our sincere thanks to Keith Rendell our Newsletter editor. It is always a pleasure to read the newsletter including Keith's 'editor's quill'.

Please remember to send Keith any articles and photos related to AHRP.

Recently, FOAH committee member Steve Lukacs attended a 'Grow your Group' workshop with some suggestions as to how we can attract new volunteers. FOAH committee will be looking at strategies to encourage members to volunteer within the park.

Membership renewal fees are now due for the 2019/2020 financial year. Fees can be paid by cash, cheque or direct debit. Membership Renewal Form is provided at page ????

I think this quote sums up how volunteering in nature adds to our overall wellbeing:

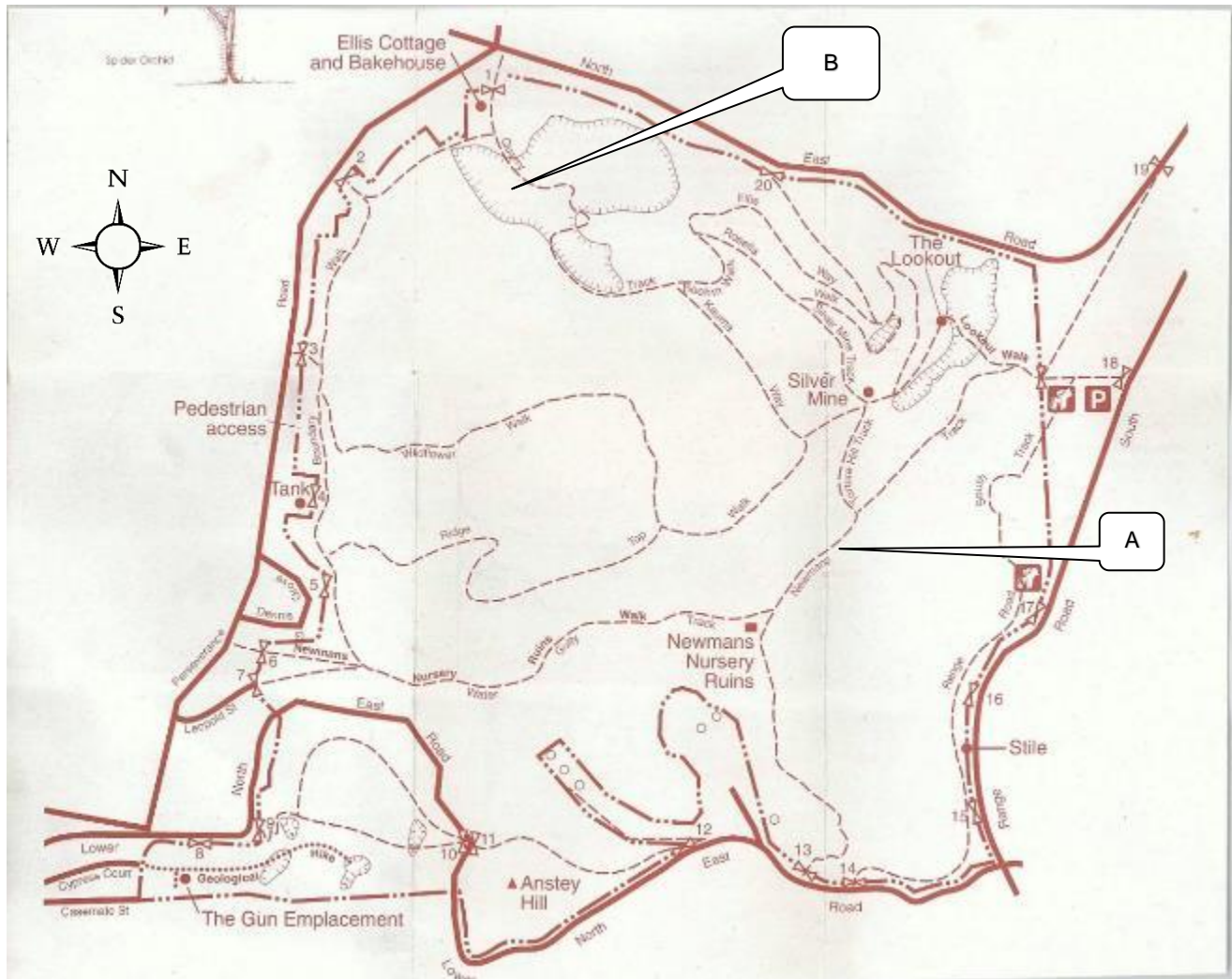
Nature does amazing things for people, and people can do amazing things for nature'.

The last twelve months has been a busy and productive time at Anstey Hill Recreation Park. What remarkable progress has been made in conserving and promoting the natural and built environment within the park.

**Lea Crosby
November 2019**

Where the Action Was

Check the following map to see where the work activities have been concentrated since the publication of the previous Newsletter in August 2019.



Code	Activity	Date(s)
A	Recent planting maintenance and follow-up along Newman's Track – both sides of track.	July - October 2019
B	Weed clearance in quarry floor.	13 November 2019

Mid-Week Working Group Activity – Wed. 13 November 2019

A wonderful turnout at the disused quarry via Gate 1 with in excess of 20 enthusiasts comprising FOAH members and a contingent of willing volunteers from SA Power Networks eager to support our ongoing maintenance activities within the park. Also present were Rangers Norm Schulze who welcomed the attendees and Allian Taylor-Wilkins. One wonders what the turnout would have been had it not been for the clash with Whoopi Goldberg's birthday – or am I just looking for excuses?

John Harmer set the objectives for the session which was to selectively remove and/or treat invasive species such as olives (isolated), thistle (isolated), boneseed, {extensive) and acacia saligna {extensive).

Excellent outcomes as pictured below. A couple of hours well spent after which time the band of workers retired in most military fashion.



Ranger Norman Schulze
welcomes visiting
volunteers from SA Power
Networks.

Photo by Steve Lukacs

Let's start here!
Photo by Keith Rendell





Signs of progress as the pile grows!

Photo by Keith Rendell

Outlook at end of shift.

A good morning's work

Photo by Keith Rendell



Marching back to barracks at end of shift.

Photo by Steve Lukacs

Native Orchid Calendar

Editor's Introduction.

Longstanding member Fiona Lewis has a fascination with the native orchids that are to be found within our park. She is also a keen and enthusiastic photographer. Fiona has prepared the following article for the current interest of members and for retention in club archival records. The large number of photographs which Fiona and colleague Lisa Incoll have taken will be progressively featured in this and subsequent issues of the FOAH Newsletter. Where possible these will be featured to reflect the sequence of the Native Orchid Calendar which appears on pages 10 and 11 of this Newsletter.

The first three are included herein and appear at the end of this section.

The Native Orchids of Anstey Hill Recreation Park.

My name is Fiona Lewis and I have 2 passions in life; one is my role as a CanTeen Volunteer, the other is all things Anstey. It is now 30 years since I discovered the delights of walking on Anstey Hill. I try to get up there 5 mornings a week. If you see an old lady wearing a hat with a CanTeen bandanna, carrying a CanTeen backpack, hiking sticks and three cameras, that will be me. I am a keen photographer and over the years I have accumulated a large collection of photos documenting the flora and fauna of the Park.

The Native Orchids which bloom every season are the Jewels of Anstey Hill. It is pleasing to see so many walkers taking an interest in them and helping to preserve them for future generations. This season has been a very good one with many different orchids blooming in profusion.

The season starts with the dwarf greenhoods, mosquito and gnat orchids. Next come the blood greenhoods, nodding greenhoods and maroon hoods. These can all be found on the three tracks behind the quarry face. Each grows in a particular spot each year, some of them abundant, some only a few specimens. They are identifiable by the leaves, which are the first things to emerge. After these come the spotted donkey orchids which are widespread throughout the park. Their bright yellow colour, black spots and perky donkey ears make them easy to spot. Wildflower Wander begins its display with the blue beard orchid. Tiny and deep blue, these flowers have a single bloom and a distinctive beard. Large shell orchids are few but can be seen here with careful observation. Next come the purple cockatoos, varying in colour from lavender to deep purple; by far the most numerous of the orchids on this track. Occasionally a pure white one will be found. They grow singly and in groups and have a distinctive beak in the centre of each flower. A few pink finger orchids raise their tiny heads during this time; they hide in the bushy scrub. Next, the spider orchids, mainly king and narrow lipped but with some veined, bloom in profusion throughout the park. Wallflower donkey orchids, still with perky ears but in the colours of wallflowers, dot the area halfway up Wildflower Wander. Salmon, lemon and yellow sun orchids can be difficult to see in flower as they need strong heat and sunlight to induce them to face the day. Notched onion orchids, green all over and very tiny, raise their heads mid-October. They do not look like the other orchids but are still intricate and beautiful in design. Slender white sun orchids can also be found at this time. Quarry View track is home to lots of slender blue sun orchids, which open their petals in the late October heat.

Four years ago, I noticed 2 strong spikes emerging from the soil three meters from the side of Wildflower Wander. Intrigued, I consulted my orchid book and identified them as great sun orchids, classified as rare by the Native Orchid Society of South Australia (NOSSA). I watched, watered, waited and shielded the shoots from roos with brush. They were also protected by a colony of meat ants which swarm all over me when I water the plant. However, they only nip and do not sting or itch, so I try to ignore them. (Apparently meat ants have a cavern full of fungi underground that they tend and feed from). I was rewarded with two tall stems with 10 buds opening on each in a beautiful shade of blue. Since then I have found ten more specimens; a group of eight and two more individual ones. They are in a largely inaccessible area of the bike track. I make my way up, often twice a day, to monitor and care for these plants. This year they were spectacular with flowers ranging from lavender to dark blue. A fellow walker, **Lisa Incoll**, has found two more specimens higher up on Wildflower. The flowers on these orchids again require heat and sunlight to open and it can be quite frustrating trying to photograph them. They grow up to 90cms tall and can have 10 to 20 buds on each stem. I always put small signs on these orchids to identify them to walkers, asking them not to pick the blooms. It is a sad fact that if the stems are picked the orchid will not flower again and its beauty will be lost forever. A bloom picked will not open and will wither away in a few days. A photograph will last forever. Entering the park from gate 18 will give you access to woodland areas in which grow slender blue and white orchids, peppertops and spotted blue sun orchids. Another great sun orchid can be seen there blooming at the end of a fallen log. You may also see the hare orchid, which rarely flowers, woodland onion orchids and bearded greenhoods in their season. I have included pictures by Lisa Incoll of some of these orchids.

The orchids of Anstey Hill are delicate plants, easily overlooked and often trodden on before they can bloom. That's why it is important to stay on the tracks and not wander off into the scrub, tempting as it is. If you need to leave the track to take a photo, please watch where you put your feet, so you don't destroy something precious in the process.

I consider it a privilege to live near and walk in the park and I hope my small efforts will help in recording the flora and fauna of the Park for future reference.

Native Orchid Calendar

Mosquito Orchid; April to August – Featured on page 12 of Newsletter # 1/2020.

Blood Greenhood Orchid; April to September - Featured on page 12 of Newsletter # 1/2020.

Large Shell Orchid; May to August – Featured on page 12 of Newsletter # 1/2020.

Banded Greenhood; June to September

Nodding Greenhood; June to November

Maroonhood; July to September

Dwarf Greenhood; July to October

Spotted Donkey; July to October

Bluebeard; July to October

Veined Spider; August to October

Notched Onion Orchid; August to November

Gnat Orchid; August to November
Purple Cockatoo; August to November
Lemon Sun Orchid; August to November
Bearded Greenhood; September to October
Woodland Onion Orchid; September to November
Yellow Sun Orchid; September to October
Great Sun Orchid; September to November
Salmon Sun Orchid; September to October
Slender blue Sun Orchid; September to October
Small White Sun Orchid; September to October
Pink Fingers; September to October
Blue Spotted Sun Orchid; September to November
Pepper Top; September to November
Wallflower Donkey; September to November
Hare Orchid; September to November (rarely flowers)
King Spider; September to December
Narrow Leafed Spider; September to December

Here are the first three photos:



Mosquito Orchid
Photo by Fiona Lewis

Blood Greenhood Orchid
Photo by Fiona Lewis



Large Shell Orchid
Photo by Lisa Incoll

Membership Form for Year 2019-20



Membership Form and Donation Advice (for year ending 30 Sept. 2020)

Friends of Anstey Hill, P.O. Box 653, St Agnes SA 5097

ABN 53 952 413 248

Please indicate membership category by ticking appropriate boxes:

☐ Single \$14 ☐ Single concession* \$12
☐ Family* \$16 ☐ Family concession* \$14

Note: * Standard definition for concession/family apply.

☐ Group \$22 community association/club, business, government body etc.

I would also like to include a donation of \$..... towards future and ongoing projects.

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (mob) _____

Email: _____

For family memberships, please feel free to add additional names and email addresses so that all family members can be informed of FOAH activities and receive the club newsletter.

Normally all correspondence will be by email, but if you wish to receive a hard copy of our newsletter (approx. 4 each year), please let us know.

Payment methods:

☐ direct debit ☐ pay by mail (see below)

1. Payment by direct debit can be made to our bank account:

Friends of Anstey Hill, BSB: 105 155, Account no: 578 101 140

Please include the reference 'membership fees, your surname and initials'

Post this form or, alternatively, email the above details to anstey.friends@gmail.com

2. Mail this form together with your cheque/money order/cash (no coins please) to the above address. *(as our postal address is a PO box, it should be safe to mail cash, although other forms of payment are preferred)*

For more information on FOAH refer to <http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofansteyhill>

Volunteer safety reminder: if you intend to help us undertake activities in the park, you are required to complete a Department for Environment and Water 'Volunteer Activity Registration Form' which can be accessed via our website.

Submit the completed form either via email or post (see address above).