

# Para Wirra News

The newsletter of  
The Friends Of Para Wirra

From the Friends of Para Wirra (Patron:  
Mike Johnson) and the Barossa  
Goldfields Historical Society  
- Proudly members of Friends of Parks



## Editor's Desk

Welcome to the first edition of Para Wirra News for 2024!

This year, the newsletter has undergone several changes. Firstly, it is now published twice a year instead of four times. Secondly, it will no longer be available in hard copy; instead, it will be published exclusively online or distributed as a digital copy. These changes were prompted by time constraints and a desire for a more environmentally friendly publication (no paper). We hope that Para Wirra News will continue for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, the minutes of major meetings will now be published, providing everyone with the opportunity to see how the Friends of Para Wirra operate, their milestones, achievements, as well as reports from the Presidents and Rangers.

The future of the newsletter is secure as long as articles are submitted for publication. We extend our gratitude to all those who have contributed to this edition's pages.

A special thank you goes to the patron of Para Wirra News, Michael Johnson, who generously funded the printed version of the newsletter. Michael has always been a dedicated contributor to the pages of PW News, and we are confident that he will continue to provide interesting thoughts and articles.

Darren Williams

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Photos by Author of articles. All other images: D Williams

## Presidents Report-Rupert Thorne

As decided at our AGM, our Friends of Para Wirra newsletter is now an online bi annual production. I am very grateful that Darren has accepted this task, and I am looking forward to another edition of his excellent publication.

Apart from our bi monthly working bees, much work goes on behind the scenes. Our newsletter, as mentioned above, is an example of this. In addition Luke keeps our Facebook page active with excellent photos of our various activities. “ If you like it come and try it “ together with the times of our working bees appears on this site and this encourages people who read it to actually come and try it.

Steve works tirelessly as our Grants Officer and has been very successful in obtaining grants to assist us in our maintenance of the park. Steve is also very active in involving school and other groups in coming to additional working bees and I think the participants enjoy them immensely. This makes these young people aware of the beauty of our Park and the important role which our Friends group have in helping maintain it. This I am certain, will encourage some of these youngsters to become volunteers in the future. Steve also provides photos and articles to the One Tree Hill Grapevine.

Phil is our working bee organiser and together with Steve determines which areas of the park are selected for our activities. Phil’s great knowledge of the Park is due to many years of independent work in the Park as well as coordinating working bees for our Members. Like Steve, Phil puts in so much more than just the normal bi monthly working bees.

Interestingly, apart from an area of dense bone seed around the mining site, the weed is quite well under control. This is a very impressive achievement, and basal bark treatment of olive trees is now actively undertaken together with our bone seed weeding.

I am also very appreciative of the behind the scenes work undertaken by Anne ( Secretary) and Tom ( Vice President) who do a magnificent job of supporting our group.

Finally, all the people who attend our working bees. These are an amazing group of devoted volunteers who turn these activities into a very effective and enjoyable fun occasion.

I would also like to congratulate two of our members, Hayley Edwards and Colin Winsor on their selection as Board members at the AGM of Friends of the Park. It is great to have our group represented at this level. Colin is our longstanding historian and Hayley a young and enthusiastic member of our group.

Again thank you all.

Rupert Thorne

**FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Meeting Opened at 12:00pm**

**WELCOME:** Rupert welcomed everyone to the meeting after a very successful working bee.

**ATTENDANCE:** Ranger Tammy Leggett, Rupert Thorne, Patsy and Mike Johnson, Tom and Anne Stone, Colin Windsor, Phil Gillett, Richard Lacy, Steve Taylor, Geoff Knight, Peter Moyle, Luke and Jack Parsons, Bianca Schomburgk, Tanya Smiljanic

**APOLOGIES:** Bernice Cohen, Kym Smith, Kath Matthews, Leonie Hobbs, Darren and Jasmine Williams, Russell Bone, Michael Slocombe, Helen Thorne

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM held on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Moved: Tom Stone      Seconded: Patsy Johnson

Minutes accepted.

No amendments

**YEARLY REPORTS:**

**PRESIDENT: Rupert Thorne**

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone from the hard working members on the committee who have supported me over the past 12 months, to the people who attend and make our working bees so successful, and our helpful Park Rangers.

**Recruitment and Sustainability**

We are encouraging recruitment of younger people. We appreciate how difficult it is for working people to attend but we must encourage younger members to ensure sustainability of the organisation.

**New recruits and Milestones**

**New Recruits in last 12 Months**

Hayley Edwards (10/3/23)

Keira Scott (22/5/23)

Russell Bone (7/8/23)

Tanya Smiljanic (6/2/24)

Bianca Schomburgk (19/2/24)

**Milestones**

Richard Lacy (10 yrs 15/2/14)

Trudi Gayler (15 yrs 19/3/09)

Yvonne Gravier (15 yrs 21/2/09)

Lesley Carnogursky (15 yrs 21/2/09)

Kath Matthews (17 yrs 24/4/06)

Kym Smith (19yrs 15/1/05)

Patsy Johnson (25yrs 3/99)

Colin Windsor (25 yrs)

**Working bees / grants**

Phill and Steve will deal with these in their reports but I just want to say how well they are organised and run, how school groups and scout groups are incorporated, how grants are successfully applied for and

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won, and how we have obtained new skills such as basal bark training. Now not only bone seed plants but also olive trees are effectively treated on working bee days.

Working bees are fun and very effective and our numbers attending are steadily growing.

Safety.

Always a high priority and to this end we have a defibrillator which is stored centrally in our locked cupboard (which is now keyed to the same key that opens gates so any group going on an additional working bee can access it.)

It is routinely taken to all organised working bees and functions.

We have also encouraged eye protection for working bees as it is easy to walk into a branch and of course high vis jackets, long sleeved shirts and trousers. We also carry compression bandages in the event of snake bite.

We have asked Ranger Tammy if she could organise an on site first aid / CPR course for us and she is looking into organising this. There are currently 9 of our members keen to do this course

We have also encouraged volunteers to download a GPS tracking app on their mobile phones so if they become lost they can find their way back to the vehicles.

Social/Events

Christmas Party

We had a most successful Christmas party at Bowden cottage with a BBQ, some live music thanks to Darren and great company. It was really good to see some children and families there enjoying themselves and overall the event was a great success. We are keen to repeat the same this year.

There have been some concerns expressed that some of our older members who are passionate about the park but unable to do working bees lose contact with the FOPW group. We do not want to lose contact with this group, some of whom are the reason we exist. We are thus going to re introduce a cup of tea and a biscuit following the working bees so that they have a chance to catch up. This will be in addition to the brief coffee / snack break we have during the working bee.

Village Fair.

Our stall at the 2023 event sold potted plants, books and concentrated on being an information site. There were many people who were keen to hear about what we do and hopefully one day join us. We raised \$143.

We also had volunteers at the Gawler Council free tree stalls and used this as a means to create awareness of our group.

Communication.

This is a really important part of our volunteer group to let people know what we are doing and how much we enjoy it and how important it is in assisting the rangers to maintain the park. We have a very proactive face book page which encourages people to come along and trial the experience. Steve (Taylor) also sends excellent articles to the local press, we have a website page and we have our newsletter which is now an electronic communication. The reason for this change is both environmental (paper comes from trees which we try to look after) and convenient and cost based.

We also have an information web site on The Friends of the Parks website.

Again, thank you all for your support.

Rupert Thorne

President.

**GRANTS: Steve Taylor**

**Grant status report FOPW AGM 16th March 2024, FOPW Grants Officer**

Grants active, i.e. not yet acquitted.

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### P30 FoP

Further Restoration of South Para Valley

\$5000 Funds held by FoP inc.

Status: all funds spent, acquittal due 31/3/24

### P31 FoP

Protection of Euc odorata Woodland, PWCP by Woody Weed

Removal Stage2

\$5000 Funds held by FoP inc.

Status: all funds spent, acquittal due 31/3/24

### P32 Northern Yorke Landscape Board

Barossa Goldfields Boneseed Control Re-started.

\$6000 Funds held by FoP inc.

Status: All funds allocated to one contractor who is currently working in the project area having been held up by DEW in getting access to site. No invoice received as yet, no invoices paid. Acquittal 30 June 2024

### P33 Green Adelaide Landscape Board

Accelerating Friends of Para Wirra's strategic olive control

### P34 FoP

\$7304.54 Funds held by FoP inc.

Status: progress report done 28/2/24. Grant funds spent except one invoice for \$2500 not yet received, to be paid. Acquittal 30 June 2024

### P35 FoP

Strategic Control of Weed Threats to PWCP

\$5000 Funds held by FoP inc

Grant funds received by FoP inc., no expenditure, due to start work this month.

Acquittal 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Green Adelaide Round 5 Grassroots Grants have been announced, see copied timeframe:

- Applications open 20 March 2024
- Applications close 15 May 2024 at 5pm
- Assessment period May - July 2024\*
- Successful applicants announced August/September 2024

In future grant applications involving a social BBQ I intend to apply for catering funds rather than using FOPW general funds.

As I have already reported, we are about to embark on a new grant for \$5k from FoP inc. for strategic weed control (P35) and still have a couple of working bees to allocate to P33, Accelerated Olive Control. I have 2 complete FoP grants to acquit this month and 2 on-track Grassroots Grants to acquit by the end of June. Although I have worked up an outline for 2 prospective applications I feel I only have the capacity to run one in addition to the tasks outlined above. So my intention is to get an application in either to Green Adelaide or Northern Yorke Landscapes Board for just one Grassroots Grant of approx \$8K. If we apply to Green Adelaide, as you can see from their advertised timeframe I can get the application in by mid May which will spread the load acceptably for me.

If we are successful that will mean starting in Oct 24 and acquittal by end of June 25, running concurrently with the FoP grant we already have, which will be due for acquittal at the end of March 25. I think that will be enough for all of us.

**WORKING BEES: Phil Gillett**

## 2023 Working Bees Report for FOPW AGM

Firstly, congratulations to the Friends of Para Wirra for your continuing dedication to the conservation of our Park. This is exemplified in the excellent high turnout to working bees, especially your continuing great weed control efforts. This is also demonstrated by the very positive contribution of new and recent as well as established members.

We schedule working bees on the first Thursday and the third Saturday of each month (except January). We focus on weed control, trail maintenance, planting, clean up days and wildflower walks.

In 2023 our primary focus was on weed control. This is because of a change in funding. The majority of weed control in Para Wirra Conservation Park is done by FOPW, either directly, or by obtaining grants and then managing specialised bush care contractors. (Well done Steve!) A condition of obtaining these grants is that FOPW make an "in kind contribution" to the work agreed. As a result, we are now scheduling more of our working bees to satisfy such obligations.

In 2023, FOPW conducted 22 working bees. The total number of Friends attending them was 279, giving an average attendance of 12.68 per 'bee'. The total number of hours worked in 2023 was 904.45 hours, giving an average of 41.11 volunteer hours per 'bee'.

These are excellent results and the Friends should be justifiably proud of this work and dedication.

Locations for weed control in 2023 were many and varied. As the year progressed olive control by the basal bark method became a regular feature, after training in the method took place in July. This complemented our other focus on boneseed and other olive treatments.

Our year began in February near the Lizard Rock link trail. Then we headed for Wild Dog Creek southeast of the Knob. We returned to the Creek later for another session of boneseed and olive control.

In March we crossed the South Para River to Erik's track (in MU31 off the Quarry Track).

Then in early April we went east to Misery Farm with some students from the Northern Adelaide Senior College. Later that month, with rain threatening, we played it safe by hand pulling the area around Ted's seat.

In early May, with further input from the NASC, we headed east to top of the Quarry Track (MU34).

The heavens opened later in May above the Devil's Nose turnaround – but hardy Friends still managed 32.5 hours!

Also in May 28 Trinity College students and staff joined us for track maintenance and boneseed control near Bowden's Cottage.

We joined Bush for Life in June at Glenburnie Reserve to control plantain weed.

Later in June we returned to the Devil's Nose to continue boneseed and olive control on the northeast flank.

Early July saw us in MU 32 west of the green winch on the Quarry Track.

Later we returned again to the Devil's Nose to continue our push on the flank.

In early August attention we switched to Bridal Creeper control north of the old scout camp. Later in the month another successful 'Whack a Weed' day was held with One Tree Hill cubs and scouts on the ridge west of the ridge above the end of McBeth Track, followed by a welcome barbeque at the lake, well earned.

A very successful wildflower walk was attended by 23 Friends in September.

In October we went west to the area above the Battery in MU 31 continuing the push on olives and boneseed. Later we were joined by the Southern Barossa Scouts for further follow up near the fenced Goldfields area.

Our November Thursday was cancelled due to a proposed prescribed burn in MU34. Later we tackled the slopes on the east side of the ford at Wild Dog Creek.

Our final working bee for 2023 consisted of a safety induction by Senior Ranger Tammy on Risk management procedures and protocols for working in the fenced Goldfields area. This was followed by a shortened working bee in that area.

All in all it was another very productive and successful year in the challenge to conserve Para Wirra. Sincere thanks to all.

Phil G, working bee coordinator.

**TREASURER: Kym Smith**

## **Friends of Para Wirra Treasurers Report 2023**

As at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Surplus	4800.38	3349.75
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>4800.38</b>	<b>4131.65</b>

Represented by:

### **Current Assets**

Cash on Hand	0	0
Cash at Bank - CBA Account	4800.38	5733.45
Petty Cash - abolished in 2023	0	50
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4800.38</b>	<b>5783.45</b>

### **Current Liabilities**

Unspent Funds - Project 13 Safety Equipment	0	1416.6
Unspent Funds - Project 14 Weed Control United Way	0	235.2
These two old grants returned to general funds		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1651.8</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>4800.38</b>	<b>4131.65</b>
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**AUDITOR : Helen Thorne**

Report pending

**HISTORIAN: Colin Winsor**



The group historian task is never complete as life goes on...!

This year I have been reviewing history articles and news of the Friends of Para Wirra National Park in general.

There is a great deal of information and notes to be collated. In future I intend to work more closely with the person involved in producing the groups newsletter.

Any history news item that members have would be appreciated.

Dr Colin Winsor, Group Historian 16.3.2024

### **RANGER: Tammy Leggett**

It's been another busy year with lots of jobs happening. – Sorry I forgot to mention that Richard de Groot retired last year and that Tony Magor started in this role in April 2023. He is getting to know the Adelaide Region and everything that comes with our busy Region.

Staff - we have had a couple of changes with Tim Howard moving to the Northern & Yorke Landscape until June 2025, so Alisha is working with us for a little longer. Aislinn has taken a role with the Fire Management Unit, until May at this stage and Silvia is back filling her role. Otherwise Taylor and Dylan are here, we have 3 DIT crew still and I am around, although acting in the District Ranger role whilst Janine is on leave for a few weeks. I had some time off throughout last year as I broke my leg, but getting back to some normality.

Projects - We haven't had any significant projects, the water project was completed and all going well with that. Currently we are building a retaining wall around the flying fox and have a small irrigation project to do on the Gawler View area to try and keep the grass green in this area.

The Grazing Pressure program has commenced for this year and we have had 2 weeks in the park so far.

Mike is continuing with the deer control program on a Wednesday evening.

We have been approached by PIRSA to take part in an Aerial Deer Control Program, which will include Forestry SA, SA Water and NPWS public lands, but we are also looking for larger private properties who would like to be involved. This will target deer throughout the Landscape, using thermal cameras and shooters. During this time, over two weeks in June, there will be no access to the parks, which include Para Wirra, Hale, Warren, Cromer and Kaiserstuhl. I will keep people up to date as I find out more information.

Track upgrades have been completed on Quarry and Bowden's Track, much nicer to driver through this area and the Besser block track has been extended down to the ford crossing, making this safer to driver over. We have started the verge mowing program within the park, this is being completed along road/ track edges in the park.

Glenburnie and Langley sites - We are still working on these. Contractors are being using to undertake weed control on both sites, following up previous works. Staff have been out when we can, targeting weeds. We will be planting trees again in Glenburnie this year, the site is going ok with revegetation. We will see how this heat goes on the plants.

Park of the Month was going to be in June 2024, but after finding out about the aerial program, we have decided to move these to Anstey Hill & Cobbler Creek, as it is not worth doing activities in the Barossa Cluster when the park will be closed for a period of time.

Again I just wanted to mention that staff are working hard across the cluster of parks, with lots going on. Cobbler Creek has taken up lots of time with the native panic grass causing issues over the spring/ summer months. Presentation and trail working taking up a lot of our time, but we are getting through our works program.

Burning – The Quarry Track burn is being planned for autumn, which will depend upon rain as it is very dry at the moment.

For 2024/25 Gawler View and continuing Humbug Scrub burn which was started last year, burning Yacca's during winter to burn off the undergrowth.

Site security, please make sure everything is locked and secured when you leave the site. We had a break in at the workshop about a month ago and a trailer was stolen. We have purchased trailer locks for the trailers, so if you need one, just need to let me know. I am trying to find a trailer we can borrow in the meantime.

Grants - our Friends groups were successful with grant applications for the Friends of Parks small grants,

which I think received 6 in total. It's great to see the support from the groups in applying for these grants, this work goes a long way in supporting the biodiversity within the park.

A project which I have been working on is Tech tools, I am very passionate about use of tools to assist staff in their works. Currently we are looking at works which we can record out in the park using an app, which goes straight into a database, rather than writing on a piece of paper or trying to remember. We are also talking about a weed app as well. This is a little more challenging, but seems like it will be possible. I have mentioned that will be great to have something that the Friends could use as well.

Thanks again everyone for your continued support over the past year. It has been a challenging year and I'm looking forward to the next 12 months and the positive outcomes and Friendships from the group.

## **PED count report: Rob Marshall**

### **Walking Trail use monitoring**

2023

#### **Site numbering**

#### **Friends of Para Wirra Conservation Park**

1 Devils Nose; 2 Barossa Goldfields; 3 Warren Conservation Park

#### **City of Burnside/Walking Trails Support Group**

4 Chambers Gully; 5 Mount Osmond, 6 Michael Perry Reserve, 7 Brock Reserve

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	411	456	478	1063	857	778	723	857	1654	688	518	495
2	455	432	527	794	526	842	764	865	1335	658	445	423
3	225	408	204	465	701	683	637	671	508	446	272	204
4	3233	3157	3114	4952	3300	3653	3553	4281	4067	4221	3043	5016
5	3247	3369	3032	4464	3878	3254	3150	4781	4934	4005	3647	3998
6	4776	4945	4470	6105	4880	5492	5337	5463	5214	6013	5334	5501
7	4165	5114	4539	6845	5716	4932	5717	6105	5675	5185	5095	5307

The meeting was handed over to Mike Johnson for election of the President.

The meeting was then handed over to the elected President, Rupert Thorne.

The remaining positions were declared vacant and Rupert conducted the elections.

## **RESULTS**

POSITION	NOMINATED	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY	ACCEPTED Y/N	ELECTED
President	Rupert Thorne	Tom Stone	Colin Winsor	Y	Rupert Thorne
Vice President	Tom Stone	Phil Gillett	Jack Parsons	Y	Tom Stone
Secretary	Anne Stone	Jack Parsons	Phil Gillett	Y	Anne Stone

Treasurer	Kym Smith	Tom Stone	Colin Winsor	Y	Kym Smith
Grants/Contractors manager	Steve Taylor	Tom Stone	Jack Parsons	Y	Steve Taylor
Working Bee Coordinator	Phil Gillett	Anne Stone	Jack Parsons	Y	Phil Gillett
Publicity	Luke Parsons	Anne Stone	Jack Parsons	Y	Luke Parsons
Assistant Publicity	Bianca Schomburgk	Steve Taylor	Jack Parsons	Y	Bianca Schomburgk
Newsletter Editor	Darren Williams	Colin Winsor	Phil Gillett	Y	Darren Williams
Auditor	Helen Thorne	Tom Stone	Phil Gillett	Y	Helen Thorne
Catering	Leonie Hobbs	Mike Johnson	Jack Parsons	Y	Leonie
Group Historian	Colin Winsor	Anne Stone	Phil Gillett	Y	Colin Winsor
Webmaster	Richard Lacy	Phil Gillett	Jack Parsons	Y	Richard Lacy
PED Counter	Phil Gillett	Anne Stone	Steve Taylor	Y	Phil Gillett

**FEES:**

It was moved by Patsy that we increase our membership fees to \$12 for an individual or family and \$8 concession. Seconded – Phil All agreed.

Fees may be paid directly to:  
 Friends of Para Wirra  
 BSB 065502  
 Acc 00903659

**Fees are now due to be paid.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Steve and Phil have met with Kyle Cameron | Sport Studies and Outdoor Education Teacher from the Northern Adelaide Senior College to discuss the possibility for students to come to work in the Park. Their schedule does not fit in with our working bee times and a decision was made for them to come on Tuesdays at a time to be finalised on a trial basis.
- Tammy reported that the Department has finished maintenance of the seats in the Park apart from those that are allocated to other people to maintain. Tammy will check to see if Rotary are maintaining their seats.
- Scenic drive will not be reopened to the public as a vehicular road. It can still be used as a walking or cycle track.
- Several members are keen to undertake or upgrade their first aid qualifications. Tammy will see if this can be organised by the Department.

- As the park will be closed for two weeks in June due to the Deer Control Program, our working bee/meeting program will need to be adjusted. It was suggested that we visit Sandy Creek Park in June for our Saturday working bee.

**Meeting Closed at 1:22pm**



## Barossa Goldfields Boneseed Control Re-started Steve Taylor May 2024

Boneseed is a weed of National Significance and in the open woodlands of Para Wirra can be a devastating invader, creating dense shrub layer that competes with the grasses, daisies, orchids, lilies and



other herbs that naturally occur in the spaces between patches of native trees and shrubs.

An extensive survey in 2000 showed how serious the boneseed situation was across the northern and central parts of the park. Determined efforts by Friends of Para Wirra over 2 decades eventually reversed the boneseed invasion over all but the steepest



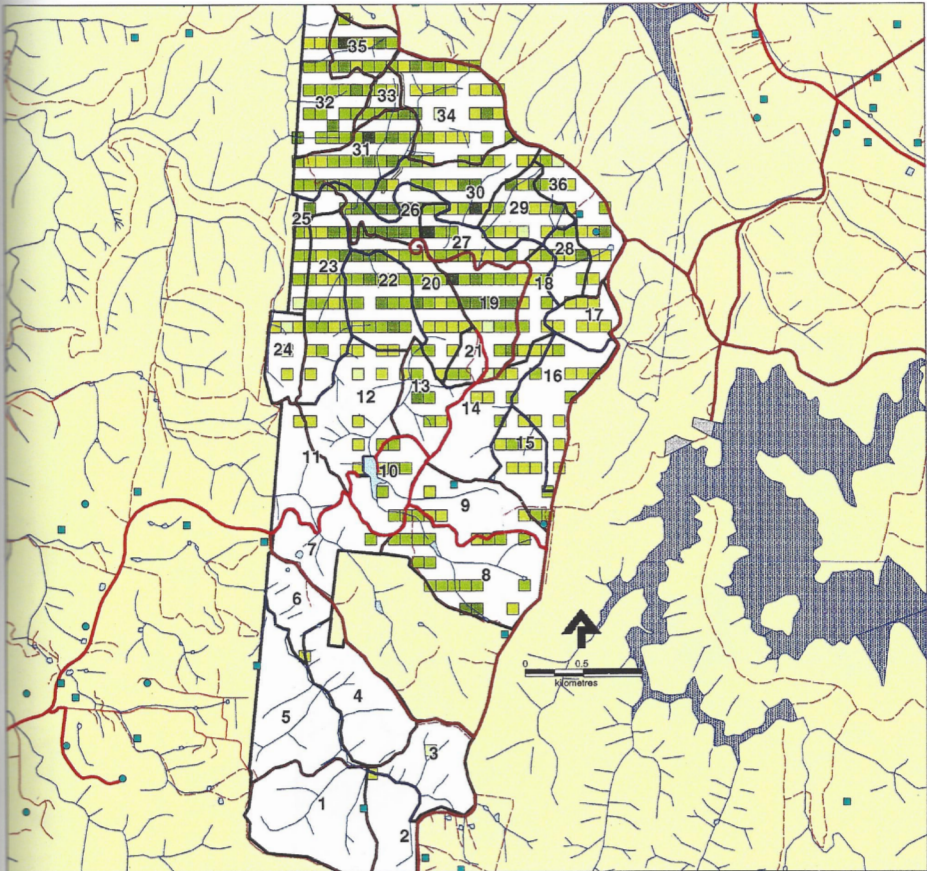
valleys and including the restricted access area around deep gold mines of the Victoria 'Rush' of the 1860s, the so called 'Barossa Goldfields'.

But then safety

concerns led to a ban on entering the restricted area and 3 seasons of boneseed growth from the seedbank left us with the situation where this area was wall to wall boneseed while the surrounding area was restored grassy woodland with ground plants recovering and open ground for robins and finches to feed.

Now we have worked with Rangers to get permits to enter and control boneseed and with the help of a grant provided by **Northern Yorke Landscape Board** we have started to restore the restricted area, shown on the map as Unit 35. The first grant was nowhere near enough but we are hopeful that our second grant application, just submitted will be successful. We expect that the efforts of a Bushcare contractor funded by the second grant, along with several planned FOPW working bees will 'turn the tide' and bring this area back to a manageable level of boneseed with improved opportunities for native flora and fauna.

# Para Wirra Recreation Park: Distribution and Density of Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monolifera*\*)



## Location Map



### Boneseed Density

□ solitary plant	(10)
■ sparse to very sparse	(124)
■ plentiful, but small cover <5%	(159)
■ between 5-25%	(55)
■ between 25-50%	(5)



Department for  
Environment and Heritage  
Government of South Australia



Map Produced by Faye Mitchell using PAMS

Date: 14 June, 2000

Path:Z:\pamswork\veg\_survey\pwveg\boneseed\_density

# 16 Presentations @ Green Adelaide- Tom Stone

Leonie, Anne and I attended a community information session at the impressive Para Hills Community Hub on May 13<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Green Adelaide and the City of Salisbury Council. The numbers attending were quite disappointing, but it was good to hear the presentations from different groups. After introductions from Green Adelaide and Salisbury council staff there were presentations from 3 volunteer groups.

It was interesting to find out about the Friends of Dry Creek Trail who are doing a good job of looking after sections of this watercourse/walking and cycling trail which cuts across many north eastern suburbs from Grand Junction Road to Mawson Lakes. Anne and I recently explored/cycled a middle section of the linear reserve and were impressed with what we encountered.

I presented a PowerPoint presentation to promote Friends of Para Wirra to the public and we had handouts to distribute. We managed to sell a couple of Flowers of Para Wirra booklets on the night. Leonie then gave a brief presentation on the Barossa Goldfields and the Historical Society.

Our presentations were followed by the Playford Greening and Landcare Group who work with the council on various environmental projects, particularly planting days, which prove very popular.

The evening ended with a very generous supper in which we could all mix and chat.

Tom





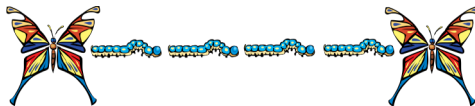
A remembrance plus some googling

Mike Johnson

Working on the side of a steep hill on the side of a valley in Glenburnie the whiff of corruption wafted on the air. As a farmer friend of mine once said “Where there’s Livestock there’s Dead Stock” and in the Park the kangaroos could be thought of as livestock. Certainly we have all know that when they die of old age the carcass rots down and that distinctive stench attracts the flies that come and lay their eggs so the resulting maggots recycle the dead animal. Normally there is no interest in getting closer to the smell but this time for some obscure reason a search was made for the source of the smell. It was not a dead kangaroo, it was not any dead animal. It was a fungus on decaying leaves and vegetation. About the size of a fist the top was covered in a shiny soft looking brown substance covered by clouds of flies. Asking around it transpired that it was a stink horn and that it is by no means uncommon.

Stink horns occur in many countries and the fungus grows on decaying vegetation breaking it down into re-usable nutrients and enriching the soil. In the immature state it has the form of a round white oval and these in some areas are called “witches eggs” and can be eaten although smelling the stinking phase that does not appeal. The stink is the adaptation of this life form to reproduce. The smell like carrion attracts flies that come and settle on the brown skin and rather than getting a meal of rotting flesh get spores of the fungus. These are then distributed around as the flies continue seeking a suitable place to lay their eggs which the fungus is not despite that carrion stench.

The next time you are working in the Park and think there is a dead animal around that you cannot see perhaps you might like to investigate. You also might find a stink horn. Talking to Steve Taylor he also recalls seeing a stink horn but of a different variety. His was a red phallic shape in the north of the Park and apparently Phil has also seen stink horns while working in the Park. The stinking phase only lasts a short time so maybe you have to be lucky to catch the “witches egg” at the right time. Happy hunting and hold your nose!



*A few glimpses of history that you might not know, from your group historian -Colin Winsor*

On 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1838 a group of men formed the South Australian Bush Club, for those gentlemen who may be desirous of embarking in pastoral or agricultural pursuits, as well as a friendly contact between those individuals for the mutual protection, preservation and restoration of each other's property. The patron of the Club was the Governor of South Australia, George Gawler. John Hallett was a Trustee and committee members included Thomas Wilson.

With the discovery of Gold in 1868 in Spike Gully north of the Park a mini gold rush occurred and townships of Barossa, Victoria and Alice sprung up. The Alice township developed around what has the Bellchambers Wildlife Sanctuary.

The inaugural meeting of the Friends of Para Wirra was held in 1989 at the One Tree Hill Hall. Thirty people attended, with Ted Hughes elected President, Narell Rawnsley as Secretary, Ken Hyne was the local Ranger. The Friends celebrated its ten-year anniversary in July 1999 at the One Tree Hill Hall and more recently the twenty year anniversary in 2009 at Para Wirra.

[https://friendsofparawirra.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/59152950\\_2281621001931563\\_4847040420837851136\\_o-1024x683.jpg](https://friendsofparawirra.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/59152950_2281621001931563_4847040420837851136_o-1024x683.jpg)

Activities have included maintaining trails throughout the Park and have proved very useful in eradicating foreign floral species throughout the Park, but this is a never ending 'on going' activity. In 2001 the lease to the Kiosk in the Park expired and the Friends of

The friends of Para Wirra have enthusiastically taken on the duties as Park of the Year through the overriding group Friends of Parks Inc. As a group the FoPW have taken on issues that have been a concern relating to Park access and intrusion, such as horses, mountain bikes, hikers and campers in the Park, although not always successful they are a determined committed group of Volunteers.

In recent years the Friends of Para Wirra have organised two successful open days to the public. This initiative has been taken on by the Department Environment and Water, who have initiated of the Month Activity across a number of Parks throughout the state.

FoPW Group Historian, Dr Colin Winsor



## FOPW Programme 2024 June-December

Thursday	June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Weed control as required. Morning tea at work site.
<b>Saturday MEETING.</b>	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Weed control as required Bring morning tea and lunch if attending meeting. <b>Mid-Year</b>
Thursday	July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Weed control and trail maintenance as required. Morning tea at work site.
Saturday	July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Weed control as required. Morning tea at work site.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>August 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Weed control as required. Morning tea at work site. <b>Committee MEETING.</b>
Saturday	August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Weed control. <b>Whack A Weed Day.</b> <b>may include local community groups.</b> Morning tea at work site and perhaps a BBQ to follow
Thursday	September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Weed control as required. Morning tea at work site.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>WILDFLOWER WALK</b> or working bee. <b>Quarterly MEETING &amp;/or Social Function.</b> <b>All Family and friends encouraged to attend.</b>
Thursday	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Weed Control and trail maintenance as required. Morning tea at work site.
Saturday	October 19 <sup>st</sup>	Weed control, possibly a visit to another "Friends" park. Morning tea onsite.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 2<sup>nd</sup> ?</b>	<b>Rotary Village Fair Stall??</b>
Thursday	November 7 <sup>th</sup>	*Weed control as required. Morning tea at work site.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 16<sup>th</sup></b>	*Olives, Boneseed as required. Morning tea on site. <b>Committee MEETING.</b>
Thursday	December 5 <sup>th</sup>	*Weed control and trail maintenance as required. Morning tea at work site.
Saturday	December 14 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup>	End of year social breakup/Christmas party

Group in recess until February 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

**\*CHECK CFS/BOM OR OTHER WEBSITE FOR FIRE BANS & SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** This program may be varied/added to if/when guest speakers or special training opportunities arise. Members are encouraged to please advise the President or Secretary by text, email or phone if they learn of potential guest speakers or training/educational programs.



**THE FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA**

For more information please contact:

**friendsofparawirra@gmail.com**

**Or visit our web page: [bit.ly/4bMduZ2](https://bit.ly/4bMduZ2)**

*\*Please check CFS Website. Events cancelled during days of Total Fire Ban.*



**THE BAROSSA GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Bowden's Cottage: Cnr Goldfields & Allendale Roads

For more information contact:

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**Website: <https://bghs.org.au>**

Friends of Para Wirra is now  
on facebook.



Newsletter Articles and Correspondence Welcome  
Email: Darren Williams, [dgwillsguitar@hotmail.com](mailto:dgwillsguitar@hotmail.com)