



Friends of Parks eNews

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Patrons and Life Members -	Dr Barbara Hardy AO
	Hon. David Wotton AM
	Mr Dene Cordes PSM OAM
Patron -	Mrs Jean McLaren
Life Members -	Mr Brian DuBois and Mrs Noeline DuBois
	Mr David Mitchell AM and Mrs Margie Mitchell

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Since our last eNews in April your Board and Groups have been working on a number of new and interesting projects that will be of interest to members.

Following the 'problems' associated with a lack of communication between DEW and the community in regard to the KI development, your Board has spent a great deal of time working closely with DEW executives to develop a "Friends of Parks Engagement Charter" that will help ensure that the relevant FOP groups and community are actively engaged in joint discussion with DEW, when new initiatives are proposed for our national parks.

An example of how effective this engagement can be, was a proposal for low impact glamping at Donington Beach and September Beach campgrounds in Lincoln National Park and a change to the management of Donington Cottage. A number of meetings were held (including one in Adelaide) with DEW, Crown Lands staff, the two FOP Groups involved and the community generally. The outcome was a resounding success, in that everyone was happy with what was being proposed and the consultation process used to obtain the end result.

In our last eNews, we detailed an invitation from 'Earthwatch' to join them in developing Climate Monitoring Trails – this is a great 'Citizen Science' project that will interest many of our FOP members.

The 2019/20 'Volunteer Support Grants' applications and guidelines for on-park activities were circulated in late August 2019. Pam Smith has emailed the documents to all groups directly, noting the closing date of 11 October 2019. Once again, the successful applicant groups will have the monies transferred into their bank accounts (including the GST component) by the Board's Treasurer.

We have been approached by BirdLife Australia to participate in another Citizen Science program – providing volunteers to act as 'Guardians' in monitoring 'Key Biodiversity Areas' (KBA's) for South Australia's nature

hotspots. The details of this program are shown elsewhere in this eNews, and all FOP members are strongly encouraged to consider investing some of their volunteer time in working on this project.

The 2019-20 State Budget featured \$86 million in new funding for the environment. This covers \$52.4 for restoration of our coastline, \$11.8 million for South Australia parks, \$9.4 million for maintenance of floodplain infrastructure and \$12 million for Waste and Resource Recovery. This is the largest budget increase for the environment that we have seen in a number of years and I believe that the Environment Minister, David Speirs, should be congratulated on managing to get this increase through Cabinet.

A new National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia was launched at Belair National Park in July. Over 200 people attended and 10 new Rangers received their uniform badges – this brings the number of new rangers appointed to 18 since March, 2018. South Australia has some of the best natural landscapes in the world and DEW has renewed focus on building environmentally sustainable recreation areas for all South Australian families and communities to enjoy.


Another new initiative is the '100 Volunteer Ranger Program' – this program is centred on providing volunteer rangers in a number of SA parks. These volunteers will pass on their environmental knowledge to visitors thus improving the visitor experience across our parks and Reserves. The program will be trialled in October at Morialta Conservation Park in Adelaide and Innes National Park on Yorke Peninsula. Already, DEW has received 68 applications for Volunteer ranger positions. If you have a passion for the environment and connecting people to nature, why not apply!

The FOP SA Website Subcommittee has held a number of meetings and has obtained proposals for the development of the new website. A provider has been chosen and work on the new website is underway.

Our 2019/20 Educational Scholarship Programme is now open and our [new-look brochure](#) is included with this eNews. Please note that scholarships have been expanded to include all areas of South Australia and now include higher degree university students.

Our hard-working FOP Secretary, Pam Smith, has been on extended sick leave, and during that time Tina Falcone and Edi Jarman stepped in to undertake Pam's duties. On behalf of all FOP members, I would like to thank Tina and Edi for the great job they have done. Pam being away also meant that Ian Radbone and Gill Peacey were 'burdened' with an extra workload.

During Pam's time away from DEW, her husband Jim passed away. Jim was a strong 'supporter' of Pam, and along with son Josh, attended almost all the events that Pam worked at (Board meetings, AGM's, FOP Forum etc.) to lend a hand and assist with the organisation of these events. Our condolences and affection go to Pam and Josh in their time of sorrow.



Duncan MacKenzie OAM
President
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.



New Friends of Parks Inc. Member Groups

We have received enquiries for membership from community groups since the previous eNews. Since December 2018 these have been

New Hindmarsh Island Landcare Inc
Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Action Group
Friends of Windara Reef

Affiliated to Full membership Friends of Torrens Island CP

... and we welcome the following former member groups back into Friends of Parks Inc. fold
Campground Hosts
Friends of Scott Conservation Park

We trust that your involvement with Friends of Parks will continue to be long and mutually beneficial.

This New Friends feature was introduced in eNews33. Editor.

From the Editor regarding eNews

A practice that we'd like you to adopt for the eNews is for you to send in articles of your own on subjects that you think will be of interest to the wider Friends community (4000+ of us! ... and please don't wait to be asked), rather than group-specific information such as working bee timetables that you put in your group newsletter for information of just your own group. We will continue to draw on your group's newsletter sent to Friends of Parks Inc. Secretary, Pam Smith in the VSPU, as a major source of information for eNews.

Further from the Editor - How information in the eNews is to be viewed

The aim and hope of the eNews is to present news and information thought likely to be of interest to Friends. The sources of information are from three quarters -

1. a lead article by our hard-working President giving his overview of Friends of Parks Inc. affairs
2. cherry-picking (by the Editor, so inevitably subjective) of items selected (with due attribution) from the vast swathe of information received by VSPU and kindly forwarded to this Editor. The selection also includes numerous links leading to websites thought to be of interest to Friends but having information too copious to transpose to the eNews
3. articles provided in response to the Editor's appeal for contributions from Friends themselves (which provide a valuable counterbalance to the subjectivity of the editor's choices in 2. above).

Of eNews content derived from these three sources only that in 1. above from our President should be taken as statement of official Friends of Parks Inc. position (when such matters are addressed). The remaining eNews content from 2. and 3. above is general information, and sometimes entertainment, provided by and shared between Friends. It is all gratefully received. However, any views expressed therein are those of the source authors (who are named wherever possible).

The Editor has felt it advisable to ensure understanding of how information in eNews should be viewed. Please view any material relating to the current issue of KI Flinders Chase developments in the manner described.

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Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information

Bad news about Buffel

[text and photo from MMLAP (Murray Mallee Local Action Planning) News, relayed to VSPU 28 June 2019]

Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*, *C. pennisetiformis*) is an introduced, summer-growing, perennial pasture grass 0.2–1.5 m high. It is also a declared plant under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

Buffel grass has spread from planting for pasture, mine rehabilitation and erosion control across much of northern and inland Australia.

Buffel grass displaces native vegetation and causes habitat loss, competes with other plants for water and nutrients, is drought and fire resistant, withstands heavy grazing, and is a significant fire threat.

Buffel grass is found in South Australia and has been identified in the Murray Mallee region and Adelaide Hills.

Please contact your local Natural Resources Centre to report sightings.

For more information on Buffel grass please visit the [PIRSA](#) website. Or find out more about declared plants in South Australia [here](#).



Buffel grass

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Dedicated duo awarded for decades of environmental stewardship

[News Release information relayed to VSPU by email of 11/6/2019 by Lynne Giles, Administration Volunteer, SE Parks and Regions, NR South East, DEW. Text authored by Charlene Riley, Media and Communications Coordinator]

For the past decade, Robe couple Jim and Judy Smith have volunteered their time to protecting and enhancing our local parks. Now, with a total of 30 years of parks volunteering across the state, they're making the move to Mount Gambier.

Senior Ranger Cath Bell said throughout their volunteer history with Friends of Parks groups in Robe and the Adelaide Hills, Jim and Judy have made a significant contribution to protecting these natural areas.

"As President and Treasurer respectively, Jim and Judy have worked with the Friends of Little Dip group and local parks staff on a multitude of projects," Cath said.

"We really value having such passionate community members involved in the conservation of our local Parks and reserves, and we're so grateful for the time and effort towards improving and protecting the local parks and coast".

With the dedicated duo moving on, the Friends of Little Dip are looking for new members and to fill the President and Treasurer positions at their upcoming AGM.

Jim said the group's activities can be broad, and it's up to the particular interests of the volunteers as to which activities the group undertakes.

"We have members interested in a range of things from revegetation and bird surveys, to beach clean-ups and monitoring," Jim said.

“Becoming a volunteer with the Friends of Little Dip is a wonderfully rewarding way of experiencing and enjoying the park as well as giving something back.”

“If you’re interested in doing your bit to help conserve and improve our local area, come along and join us (enquiries: ph.0428 320 748 | foldcp@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome.”



Judy and Jim Smith

For more information on the group or other volunteering activities in parks, contact Senior Ranger [Cath Bell](#).

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Echidnas are nature's ecosystem engineers

[from Natural Resources SA Arid Lands *Across the Outback* e-Bulletin | Issue 84 | July 2019]



Echidna numbers are on the increase at Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park!

Monitoring cameras used by park rangers as part of the Bounceback program are capturing a greater number of echidnas. A marked increase in echidna diggings has also been noticed in areas around the Park.

Echidnas use their powerful front paws to dig up the soil in their hunt for ants to abate their voracious appetite. It has only recently been realised how important echidnas are as

eco-system engineers as their diggings for ants also act as a trap for seed and water, naturally helping native plants to become re-established.

While official echidna numbers are not known in the park, it is thought that the Bounceback program's fox and cat control is helping increase the echidna population by reducing predation on young echidnas.

If you are out and about and spot their diggings in the soil, you will know there are echidnas about. And if you happen to see an echidna, you can report it on [Echidna CSI](#) – a citizen science program looking at echidna numbers and dispersal. More information, including the links to download the app, is on their [website](#).

SA partners with California for fossil research

[from Environment SA News of 30 July 2019]

The State Government has partnered with a Californian university to continue researching the Flinders Ranges' Ediacaran fossils. The University of California, Riverside has been carrying out Ediacaran fossil research at Nilpena Station in the Flinders Ranges for the last 20 years.

With the land becoming a national park in the near future, this formalised partnership will ensure the university's continued presence at the site to support the management of the fossils into the future.

Ediacaran fossils tell us much about how the planet and life have evolved, they preserve snapshots of the seafloor as animal life unfolded some 500 million years ago.

The University of California, Riverside has played a central role in the preservation of the site as it exists today and in continuing to explore the Ediacaran fossils for clues to our planet's history.

University of California, Riverside Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox said that the university is honoured to help inform the future of research and conservation at this historic site.

“The university shares the South Australian Government's desire to maintain Nilpena Station for future generations of students and scientists,” Mr Wilcox said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 23 July 2019 between the South Australian Premier and Chancellor of the University of California, Riverside.

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Download Emergency+ app

[... from Sedge Snippets June 2019]

If you work in remote areas we recommend downloading [Emergency+](#) app onto your smart phone.

Emergency+ is free and developed by Australia's emergency services with government and industry partners. The app uses your phone's GPS to automatically provide emergency services with critical location details required to mobilise emergency services. Emergency+ also includes SES and Police Assistance Line numbers as options, so non-emergency calls are made to the most appropriate number. Save the app that could save a life. Apple Store and Google Play.



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Minton Farm* Freedom Flight

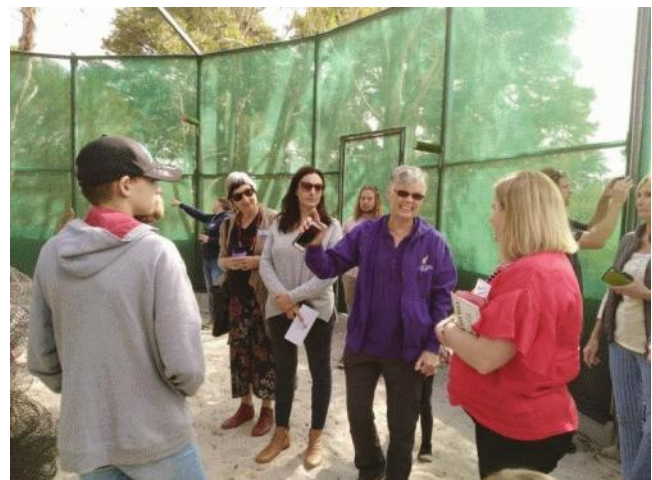
[extracts from Friends of Scott Creek *Bandicoots Tails* newsletter #175 of Jun-Sep 2019. Text of first paragraph by Peter Watton , Friends of Scott Creek CP, and text of second paragraph by Bev Langley** of Minton Farm. The Freedom Flight aviary was officially opened on 6 April 2019]

" I was very pleased to be invited along to represent the Friends Group at the official opening of Minton Farm's new Freedom Flight. This is a purpose designed and built flight aviary for larger birds, such as raptors. After a drink and some socialising, we all wandered down to the aviary for the official proceedings to take place. We were given the opportunity to walk around inside the aviary and see how it worked and then headed back for more refreshments and networking. Below is Bev's Facebook post following the event. " Peter

" *What can I say? The opening of the Freedom Flight was indeed a great day of celebration! Minton Farm volunteers excelled with preparations, hosting, cooking and being the best team anyone could dream of. It was a day filled with kindness and joy and I am grateful to Nat Cook for coming along, Rebekha Sharkie's kindness and Geoff Eaton and Steve Murray for finding time to come along. Plus Chris Daniels and the Cleland team, NRMA, SCCP, BCCS, Cherry Chatter, Flinders Private, Belperio Clark, staff of Bank SA, and Suzanne Elliott Trust Fund. The list goes on but I have to mention Saekey Engineering who designed and built the flight for bringing all the staff and families. And of course last but not least Sue MacKenzie from Cleland who told me about them! (and her mum). Thankyou everybody. I hope you can all benefit from this wonderful rehab facility one day in the future, should you come across an injured owl, kookaburra, tawny, falcon or eagle! "* Bev



The purpose designed and built flight aviary to rehabilitate injured birds of prey in preparation for release



Guests looking around inside flight aviary

Photos by Peter Watton, FoSCCP

* Minton Farm is an Animal Rescue Centre; **Bev Langley is its leading light.

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Vista seen during Dutchmans Stern working bee by the Suburu 4WD club

A lovely view seen by Paul and Matthew Shinks, Robert Tink, Debbie Clements, and Paul Ewins with Ella and Izzy, at some time during the Suburu 4WD Club's Dutchmans Stern CP annual working bee of 9-11 August 2019. Paul, in his report on the working bee declared "Our group was small, but we certainly accomplished a good number of jobs, enjoyed each other's company and soaked in the splendor of the Southern Flinders Ranges". One cannot but agree that this view is indeed 'soak-worthy'!



The world's highest clean-up

[text and photo from [Friends of the Coorong](#) Newsletter, Spring 2019]

As the numbers of commercial trekkers and adventure holiday enthusiasts visiting Mount Everest soar – a record 800 people reached the Himalayan summit in 2018 – so too has the amount of rubbish left behind.

The landscape of snow and ice is littered with tents, empty oxygen tanks, climbing equipment, food containers and human waste left by the nearly 5000 mountaineers who have followed in the footsteps of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, the first to reach the summit in 1953.

The Nepalese government has introduced a deposit system to force tour operators to cut their waste. They only receive their substantial deposit back once an official confirms their expedition was clean. To do this, climbers are expected to bring back at least 8kgs of rubbish. A helicopter is provided to assist in removing the waste.

The base camp on the Tibetan side of the mountain can be easily reached by car and the number of tourists has skyrocketed in recent years. As a result, the Chinese authorities have closed the area to anyone but mountaineers with climbing permits.

The Asian Trekking company now leads Eco Everest Expeditions with the sole purpose of collecting trash from the slopes. So far they have collected 18,800kgs. Unfortunately, removing waste from such high altitudes is a big challenge

An aluminum foil bag with chemicals to decompose unavoidable human waste has been developed. Each bag bears the name of its owner who has to deposit it once they return from Everest. Apart from the obvious danger of stepping in human waste, it can contaminate the snow which is melted for drinking water for the climbers and the glacier which provides drinking water for communities around the mountain.



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Hot Hot Hot - hypothetical heatwave video

[article presented by Sedge Snippets of June 2019]

Videos from the 6 February 2019 Hot Hot Hot event, held in the Adelaide Town Hall, are now available online. See well-known media identity Amanda Blair guide a panel of experts through a hypothetical 3-week heatwave in 2025.

Based on current climate science, the scenario included a new temperature record of 48 degrees. Guests learnt about the challenges presented by heatwaves in Adelaide, as well as practical actions that can be taken to manage the risks.

Panellists were from Business SA, the State Emergency Service, SA Power Networks, Events South Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology, Adelaide Sustainable Building Network, SA Health, and the Australian Red Cross.

See [short video](#) – 4 minutes

See [full video](#) – 1 hour and 54 minutes

Stay informed by signing up to [Carbon Neutral Adelaide](#).

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South Australia's annual aerial kangaroo count Monday 17 June.

[extract from SA Environment blog of 17 June 2019]

The count informs the department about trends in kangaroo populations across South Australia.

The state's annual aerial survey is used to estimate the kangaroo population and guides the establishment of commercial kangaroo harvest quotas.



The survey area was expanded to the pastoral areas and some agricultural land in the mid-north to also include areas in the Yorke Peninsula, Murray Plains, and a large part of the South East.

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) spokesperson Anthony Freebairn said the aerial survey has been done annually since 1978, with two trained observers flying at low altitude in a Cessna 206 aircraft.

“This year’s aerial survey will increase the survey area from about 230,000 square kilometres to about 300,000 square kilometres,” Mr Freebairn said.

Mr Freebairn said while recent dry conditions have resulted in a natural decline of kangaroo numbers in the north of South Australia, populations are likely to be high across some agricultural areas of the state where seasonal conditions have been favourable.

“The upcoming survey will inform the department about trends in kangaroo populations across the broader landscape,” Mr Freebairn said.

The survey was carried out over five weeks.

For more information visit the [DEW website](#).

The additional areas being surveyed are included in the draft 2020-2024 South Australian Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan, which is currently out for public feedback on the [YourSAy website](#).

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2019 Private Land Conservation Conference

[Text and photos as posted in *Mt Burr Swamp Habitat Restoration Reserve, News, Walker Swamp* by Nature Glenelg Trust's (NGT's) [Ben Taylor](#). See also [Nature Foundation SA's web page](#) concerning the conference]

The 2019 Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) Conference, PLC19, will be held at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide from 8th to 10th October, hosted this year by Nature Foundation SA. This annual conference brings together many of Australia’s key nature conservation organisations working on privately owned or managed land. ALCA organisations collectively work across more than 2.9 million square kilometres of Australia (an area more than 5 times the size of France).

PLC19 will pose urgent and compelling questions to the private land conservation sector, industry and businesses, governments, researchers and educators, communities and supporters - how do we work smarter, faster, at larger scale, together? How do we make the profound and positive changes that will propel us further down the path toward large scale, meaningful outcomes?

NGT’s Mark Bachmann will present at the conference on the afternoon of Wednesday 9th October. Mark will tell the stories of how NGT’s private reserves came into being. These are the stories we are often asked to tell but they are not straight forward. You can register for the conference to hear more.

As part of the conference NGT are offering a rare opportunity to participate in a guided tour of two of our cherished wetland properties: Mount Burr Swamp and Walker Swamp. NGT ecologists, including Mark Bachmann, Ben Taylor, Bryan Haywood and Greg Kerr, will lead the tour and explain how we purchased the properties, how we go about restoration planning, funding and implementing restoration works, technical aspects of wetland restoration, monitoring biotic and abiotic responses including threatened species, overcoming the challenges of restoration projects in fragmented landscapes, transitioning land from production to conservation, community involvement in the projects, and next steps in restoration at each site.

Although the tour is intended for conference delegates (including three places reserved for students – free of charge), if the tour does not fill they will make places available for non-delegates. If you are not attending the conference, but are interested in attending the tour, please email [Ben Taylor](#). If there is enough interest, they may also repeat the tour independently of the conference.



NGT's restoration reserves: (left) Mount Burr Swamp (photo: Mark De Jong) and (right) Walker Swamp (photo: Greg Kerr) that will feature in a field visit as part of the 2019 Private Land Conservation Conference.

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Seven South Australian reservoir reserves that are now open to the public

[extracts from GOOD LIVING of 20 June 2019]

SA Water's reservoir reserves are being progressively opened for people to visit and enjoy – providing more rest and recreation opportunities right across the state. Seven are already open, and different activities are on offer at each reserve, depending on what suits the area.

1. Myponga Reservoir

Myponga Reservoir Reserve is nestled near the township of Myponga on the Fleurieu Peninsula. There's a 3.3 km trail which is ideal for walking and running, and room for families to enjoy a picnic. A lookout enables you to take in the scenic surrounds. There is a spectacular variety of flora and fauna – including more than 120 bird species and a variety of native animals.

2. Warren Reservoir

A short drive south-east of Williamstown in the Barossa Valley, Warren Reservoir is open for fishing either from the shore or from a canoe or kayak. It is stocked with Murray cod (catch and release), golden perch and silver perch. If you want to drop a line from the shore, or from a kayak or canoe, you will need a [RecFishSA fishing permit](#). There are also three picnic areas, and one has toilet facilities.

3. Beetaloo Reservoir

Beetaloo Reservoir, the state's smallest reservoir, is east of Port Pirie in the southern Flinders Ranges. It offers shore-based fishing and is stocked with golden perch, silver perch and Murray cod. Once again, you'll need a [RecFishSA fishing permit](#) if you intend to fish. There's a sheltered picnic area with barbeque facilities, and lots of birdlife to enjoy. Be mindful however that Beetaloo Reservoir is not open all year round, so check access details before you go.

4. Mount Bold Reservoir

Mount Bold Reservoir, the largest reservoir in South Australia, is about 40 km south of Adelaide. The reserve is surrounded by more than 5,500 ha of land. The area is mainly covered with stringybark woodland, but also has manna gum woodland, swamps and creeks. More than 160 native animals live in the area, including the southern brown bandicoot. The reservoir doesn't offer any specific recreational activities, but there's a lookout and you will enjoy views of the impressive dam wall. There are also toilet facilities.

5. Barossa Reservoir

The Barossa Reservoir is a popular tourist destination north of Adelaide, just an hour's drive from the city centre. The reservoir is close to Williamstown and Gawler, just south of the Barossa Valley, making it a great day trip from Adelaide. The reservoir is famous for its Whispering Wall.

6. Tod River Reservoir

The Tod River Reservoir is 27 km north of Port Lincoln on the Eyre Peninsula, and an ideal spot for a barbeque picnic and a hit of tennis on the court.

7. Bundaleer Reservoir

Bundaleer Reservoir, near Spalding in the southern Flinders Ranges is open for fishing. The reservoir is stocked with golden perch, silver perch, Murray cod, rainbow trout and brown trout. With a [RecFishSA fishing permit](#), you can drop a line in from the shoreline inside the fishing zone. The area is also suitable for birdwatching.

For further information see also the reservoirs.sa.gov.au website.

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Survival of captive bred kangaroos in the wild

[article by Patsy Johnson, appearing in Para Wirra News of May 2019. Patsy is the President of Friends of Para Wirra]

Some years ago, I undertook a Degree in Applied Science, Natural Resource Management course at what was then Roseworthy College, but which was amalgamated with the University of Adelaide towards the end of my studies. Ian Falkenberg was also a student in my year, and I have kept up a casual contact with he and his wife over the years.

As part of our final year studies, we were required to do a substantial project of our own, and I chose to study the survival rate of kangaroos released from captivity, in the old Marine Studies station at Chinaman's Creek, between Port Pirie and Port Augusta.

Doug Rielly was the owner of the station, which was of course on the coast, with various types of vegetation from samphire to mallee. I was able to stay in the station for the practical parts of my studies, assisted by Doug, who had several kangaroos, one or two wombats, and a yellow-footed rock wallaby in and around the property. Doug was a Fauna Rescue member, as I was for some time myself, and took in local injured or abandoned native animals, for release where possible.

We chose about six kangaroos for the project, some female and some male, including a large male Red Kangaroo. These were provided with radio collars and housed at the time in a couple of large fenced-off areas next to the house. I had some experience with attaching the collars in Para Wirra during my studies – not as easy there, with no fences to stop them! Not quite so bad at Doug's.

Both of the yards were provided with water and feed – hay mainly – and when we decided the time was right, we released them but left the outside gate open, so that they could come back and forth until they were familiar with the outside world and able to find their own tucker.

The staff at Roseworthy had lent me radio collars, a radio, and a radio antenna for tracking the roos once they were released, and Doug lent me his 4-wheel drive, after taking me around a few times to make sure I was ok. It was an interesting learning experience driving around the property at night, getting out every now and then to use the radio-tracking equipment, and sometimes having to shoo off an amorous or angry kangaroo! Using the noise of the radio worked at first, but after a few nights tracking I had to yell a bit and frantically jump back into the vehicle. Quite a heart starter!

During my visits, I helped Doug to bottle-feed the young roos and wombats - the latter will bite if given a chance – no gratitude! One of the very young roos became very friendly with me - I had actually given it its first bottle of milk immediately after rescue from being thrown from the pouch by its mother, who later did not survive, and it was a wrench to have to leave it up there, as I had no facilities in Gawler to safely keep it, and was working part time as well. I knew it was in good hands with Doug.

During the tracking sessions, I recorded on a map the locations of sightings or radio recordings, and built up a picture of the most frequented areas of the property where the released roos could be found. Gradually, over some months, some of them left the property altogether, and a couple of collars were retrieved after time.

The results of my project were interesting – at least one female stayed on the property and produced a joey, and most of the other roos survived – one was hit by a car some distance from the property, and the collar was collected by a local and given to Doug.

What the project proved was that captive-bred roos can survive in the wild, if given the chance to become familiar with the outside area by the access to food while they were settling down to freedom and self-sufficiency. Some theories were given in those days that this would not be the case.

Altogether an interesting and exciting time in my Uni days, and one which will never be forgotten.

Patsy Johnson, BAppSc., NRM, University of Adelaide, Roseworthy Campus.

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Volunteer Awards

[text, logo image and photos from *Sedge Snippets* of August 2019]

Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service

Congratulations to those receiving a Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service. These awards recognise excellence and significant achievements in making an outstanding commitment and contribution.

Well done to the following for their efforts:

Ron Bellchambers – [Friends of Brownhill Creek](#)

Bodo Jensen – [Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide](#)

Roger Collier – [Friends of Anstey Hill](#)

John Edmeades – [Friends of Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park](#)

Colin Taylor – [Friends of Pledger Wetlands](#)

Mary Cole – [Friends of Belair National Park and Friends of Old Government House](#)

Group recipients – [Friends of Innes National Park](#)



'The Andamooka' Community Project Award

Congratulations to [Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group](#) for turning a heavily degraded area with blackberry and broom into an educational site.

They received an SA Volunteer Community Project Award, for works of significant community benefit, presented by His Excellency, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of SA and the Hon Michelle Lensink MLC.



Sturt Upper Reaches volunteers with SA Governor Hieu Van Le AC and Michelle Lensink MP

This motivated group sought a typical location in the Mount Lofty Ranges that represented the challenges most landholders are faced with, such as steep degraded slopes with remnant native vegetation. Since 1995, they showed how sensitive, staged habitat rehabilitation can be done. They also share their successes and mistakes with the wider community. They emphasised a slower pace of work so as not to overwhelm landholders and volunteers, or deter them from realistic time frames. They also run public talks, workshops and have produced written resources such as their informative [guide](#), 'Frogs, reptiles, mammals and how to restore their habitat'.

Their [site](#) includes plant ID labels, interpretive signage, nest boxes, an access path and boardwalk.

A well-deserved award – congratulations!

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Congratulations on Native Vegetation (Natural) Heritage Agreement Achieved

[following text is sourced from the Woorabinda Bushland Reserves [website home page](#), and the [63 FOWBRnews201905](#) newsletter mentioned below in the text]

The Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves* are delighted to announce that a Natural Heritage Agreement** covering all four reserves has been approved by the State Government.

The Agreement protects the biodiversity and the natural character of the flora and fauna in these reserves in perpetuity. The bushland reserves are important in their own right as well as providing a vital wildlife corridor between existing Conservation Parks.

On Wednesday 22 May 2019, the Agreement was celebrated by many people meeting at the Woorabinda Environment Centre. They included the Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon David Speirs; local Member of Parliament Josh Teague; Adelaide Hills Council Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom, and CEO Andrew Aitken; Woorabinda Patron Prof Chris Daniels; Emily Jenke Presiding Member of the Native Vegetation Council; as well as Ministerial, Departmental and AHC staff, several journalists, and several members of Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves.

A newsletter has been published which covers this great occasion, and also provides information about what the Heritage Agreement means to the Reserves. Read about it here: [63 FOWBRnews201905](#).

A [heritage poster](#) with pictures of the reserves to celebrate this achievement has also been produced.

* Woorabinda Bushland Reserves (Stirling Park, Woorabinda, Hender Reserve and Madurta Reserve), in the Adelaide Hills, is a natural reserve close to the centre of Stirling in South Australia. The Park contains large areas of natural bushland providing significant conservation and biodiversity value to the Adelaide Hills.

** A Native Vegetation (Natural) Heritage Agreement is a legal covenant between a landowner and the State Government, through the Minister for the Environment and Water, to permanently protect a special area of high biological value. The agreement is entered into voluntarily and binds current and all future owners of the area to protect the biodiversity of that title in perpetuity. It is registered on the title of that land and continues if the land changes ownership.

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Items contributed by members - to whom special thanks

Droughts and Soaks

[contribution from George Sobolewski of Conservation and Wildlife Management (CWM) who initially submitted a short article for this eNews, illustrating the ravages wrought on Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges acacia vegetation by drought-afflicted feral goats, which mentioned the word "soaks". Your editor, being unfamiliar with the word "soaks", asked George to explain, and this has brought about the much expanded following discourse.... firstly by George (subtitled **Droughts**) and then an article (subtitled **Soaks**) with multiple photos by Kym McKenney, also of CWM]

Droughts

[text by George Sobolewski]

One of the images of soaks ... recently received (from me), was used in Conservation and Wildlife Management's June News newsletter, which is available on: <https://www.conservation-wildlife.asn.au/> (recommended viewing - Editor)

The item was prompted by a (CWM) group leader's comment on conditions today which mirrored George Hubert Wilkins' biographer's description of the 1901 drought in SA. Our own cull reports inform us that much of our mid north is in drought and feral goats are in poor condition as are other herbivores.

Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges cull 28/4 to 4/5: Observations by all attending CWM members indicated an overall dry and dire situation in the park. Carcasses of native animals were widespread with a lack of food being the apparent cause of death as water is available in various locations.

Kym McKenney's image of a soak in the Gammon-Vulkathunha Ranges shows us that drought has always been, and is, a part of life in SA, particularly beyond the Goyder rainfall line.

The Goyder line was said to divide the "hopeless farmlands from the merely heartbreaking".

Simon Nasht in his "The Last Explorer: Hubert Wilkins, Australia's Unknown Hero" speaks of the conditions experienced by those pioneers who settled the north of this state.

" Of all Australia's periodic dry spells, none was more catastrophic than the "Federation Drought" of 1901. Rivers dried up and half the entire stock of sheep and cattle perished. In the cities they feared the taps might stop flowing, and just weeks after it had been celebrating nationhood, the government declared a "Day of Humiliation and Prayer". God turned a deaf ear. At Mt Bryan East, where the dry came earlier and hit harder, the settler farmers hung grimly to the edge of the barren plains that seemed eager to be rid of them. Their stock grew progressively thinner and weaker, bleating and moaning through the scorched days and sweltering nights, the soil turned to dust by their desperate clawing for roots.

Back then, before the age of bulldozers, the bodies were left to rot where they fell. Death on this scale, with the terrible stench of rotting carcasses and the plague of flies that followed, left a deep impression on young George (Hubert Wilkins). "

In later life he referred to these years of misery ...

" as the most depressing of any that I have experienced. Instead of spending my days at high school or college as I hoped, I was doomed to herd the starving animals and to rescue them from the mud of the waterholes. But they died in spite of all we could do. I can still shudder at the thought of these conditions...It was a terrible thing for an impressionable child to experience. "

Soaks

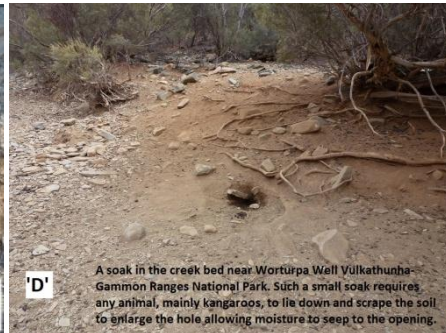
[pictures A - O and text supplied by Kym McKenney of CWM]

This photo A taken in April 2019 shows a prickly acacia bush that has had starving herbivores trying to gain sustenance from its softer bark and root systems. Drought and over population over the past few years have greatly reduced the limited food sources. Many of the animals are dying of starvation as they can still access limited moisture from scattered diminishing soaks and springs. Photo B is another example of the acacia bush being stripped. This photo was taken November 2017.



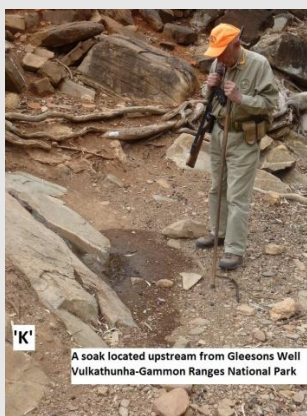
Over the years, Conservation and Wildlife Management members have built up a considerable degree of first-hand knowledge regarding the location of soaks. This term is used amongst ourselves to describe any seepage of water from underground sources or from a cliff face/base. These locations are recorded on CWM maps and such information is handed to new members or members attending the location for the first time.

Soaks can appear in a creek bed such as these three C, D and E



Photos C, D and E were all taken within a few metres of each other near Worturpa Well over a three year period.

Photos K and J were taken upstream from Gleasons Well, at a location where water had been known to seep from the rocky creek bed. The photos were taken over a three year period.



Examples of a soak established near the base of a cliff are shown in the following photos F, G and M. They are at the same soak.



And another example of a cliff base soak that was photographed in April 2019. H and L are at the same soak.

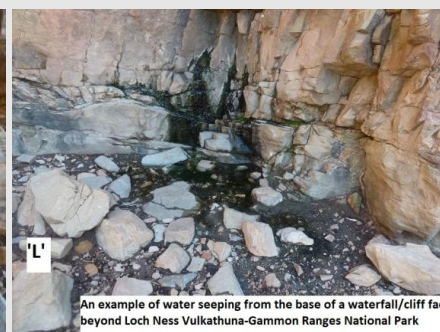
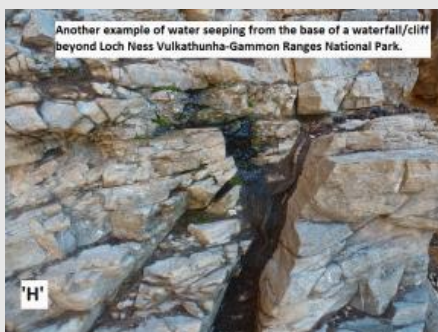


Photo N shows a fully grown red kangaroo that died of starvation, located near ground water. Photo O shows the lack of active predators in the park seeking a feed. Carcasses are normally torn apart and consumed.



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KI status update

On strike but not idle

[article provided by Bev Maxwell, Friends of Parks KI Western Districts]

Friends of Parks KI Western Districts together with two other Kangaroo Island Friends of Parks groups have withdrawn their services from the Park estate in protest against the Department for Environment and Water's (DEW) support for the Australian Walking Company's proposal to build two accommodation villages on fragile untouched coastal areas in Flinders Chase National Park.

While no longer volunteering on DEW land the Friends have not given up their environmental activities and are still getting their hands dirty. In the last six months they've cleared weeds, carted away rubbish, planted native trees and shrubs and recently assisted another community group with an ongoing project on Kingscote's historic Flagstaff Hill.

For several years Advance Kingscote volunteers have enhanced Flagstaff Hill's surroundings by planting trees and shrubs and establishing garden beds. With the onset of winter, weeds have flourished and a working bee was called to tackle a range of tasks. Friends of Parks volunteers were happy to offer assistance.

'Normally at this time of the year we would be planting trees and removing bridal creeper in our parks,' said Friends President Deb Laver 'so we're glad to be able to assist other groups with their projects while still maintaining our opposition to the location of the proposed buildings'.

The combined group removed tree guards, weeded garden beds and shovelled and spread mulch. It was a satisfying experience to see the plants freed from the thicket of weeds and grass that were overwhelming them.

You just can't keep good Friends idle.



Friends help out Advance Kingscote volunteers

Public Parks NOT Private Playgrounds —update on KI Wilderness Trail accommodation

[article provided by Bev Maxwell, Friends of Parks KI Western Districts]

The State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) has approved the Australian Walking Company's proposal to build two accommodation villages in Flinders Chase National Park, despite the impact they are likely to have on vulnerable coastal vegetation, the habitat of threatened plant and animal species. The decision was made despite the overwhelming evidence of the potential damage that locating these villages and the additional six kilometres of tracks and trails needed to service them will have, causing fragmentation of the landscape and the introduction of weeds, feral animals and diseases into pristine areas.

Nor was the community able to have formal input into the decision making. While numerous submissions opposing the development were made to the Native Vegetation Council (including many made by Friends of Parks

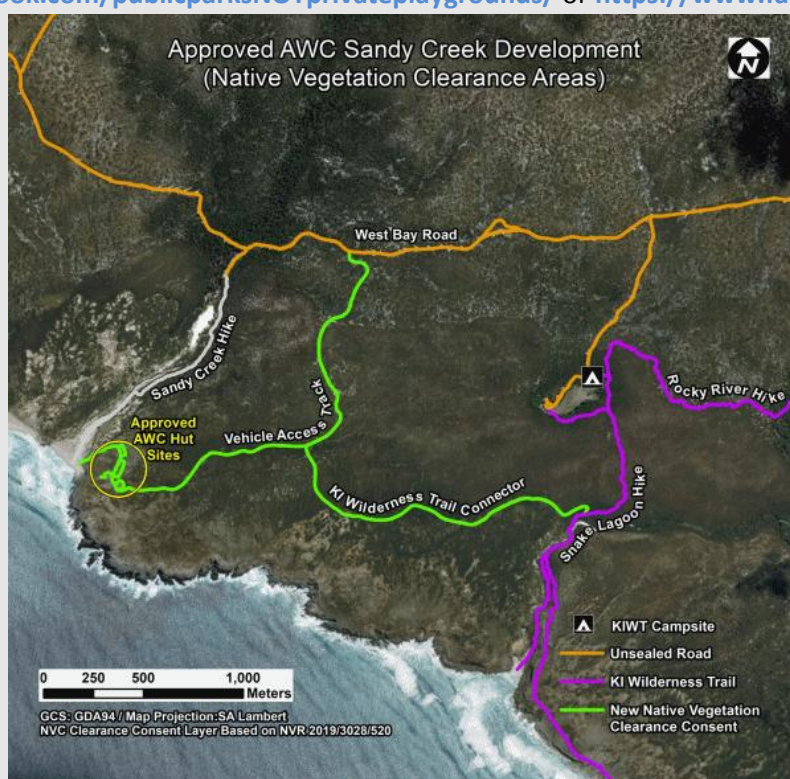
members around South Australia) the SCAP made its decision before the Native Vegetation Council had completed its assessment. It ignored the submission from the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board opposing the accommodation villages in their proposed locations far from the KI Wilderness Trail.

So what happens now? The three KI Friends of Parks groups and KI Eco-Action together with the numerous opponents to the AWC proposal will continue to maintain their opposition to the placement of the development. 'We are not opposing the development as such, it is its location away from the Wilderness Trail on remote, pristine coastal headlands that concerns us' said Public Parks NOT Private Playgrounds and Friends of Parks member, Bev Maxwell. 'We believe that the proposed location lies outside the minor development zones identified in the 2017 amendment to the Flinders Chase (et al) Management Plan and therefore contravenes the plan. We're encouraged by the support we've received from individuals, Friends of Parks groups and other organisations in opposing this development' she said.

KI Eco-Action on behalf of those opposed to the development has initiated legal action in the Supreme Court. If you would like to help fund the legal campaign please go to the [Fight for Flinders Chase](#) crowdfunding page or send to a donation to Kangaroo Island Eco-Action BSB 105-094 Acc: 035312540. Please confirm donations at publicparksflch@gmail.com.

As the 100th anniversary of Flinders Chase takes place on 16 October, KI Friends group members and campaign supporters will make this the focus of their protests. We hope your Friends group will also direct protests to the Minister and the Department then – as you know, it may be your park or special place that is threatened next.

To be in the know, join our email list through ppnotpp.org or email publicparksflch@gmail.com. Follow us on FaceBook: www.facebook.com/publicparksNOTprivateplaygrounds/ or <https://www.facebook.com/FPKIWD>



Sandy Beach map showing additional track and trail required for AWC hut sites.

2019 *Ornithogalum* – a plant to watch for on your sites!

[contributed by Liz Milner, President, Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Parks]

Ornithogalum thyrsoides is a problem in our bushland settings as it forms dense infestations which compete with ground storey native vegetation. Like many environmental weeds it is a garden escapee and is unfortunately still available in garden shops (often incorrectly labelled Star of Bethlehem). It is also used by the cut flowers trade.

Ornithogalum has been contained in Black Hill and Morialta Conservation Parks under the NRM emerging weeds program over the past couple of years and treated by volunteers in the Horsnell Gully Conservation park where the outbreaks are extensive.

The *Ornithogalum* plant is a bulb which can reproduce quickly by both seed and division of bulbs. The seeds are able to disperse long distances and the plant is toxic to both humans and stock. Cut flowers which have not opened are able to develop viable seed. Our Senior Ranger Dave kept a bulb on a window sill for over a year and without any soil or water this bulb still produced a viable flowerhead a year after being removed from the ground!

Extensive work has been done locally by a number of groups including Tree for Life and our NRM Officers to try to establish the best method for control of the infestations in the Adelaide Hills. To date the best known method for volunteers is still to hand remove them, bag and remove from the site – a laborious task which kept our Green

Army teams very busy in Horsnell Gully in 2016! Chemical trials have given patchy results with the best solution being the chemical Imazapyr which kills not only the *Ornithogalum* but everything else including the soil itself! The trial patches from 2016 are still showing no signs of recovery and timing of application is critical, it is only effective when applied at the post emergent/pre-flowering stage. Bulbs must be disposed of by double bagging and sending to landfill, they should not be placed in greenfill (green waste bins).

As with all things, vigilance is the key! If you notice this weed growing in any of our parks please note the location and report directly to DEW. It was a passing Facebook post which located last year's Ghost Tree Gully patch!



Ornithogalum thyrsoides



somewhere in the Ghost Tree Gully

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Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

Almanda Open Day

Sunday 13th October 2019

10:00am to 3:00pm

Come along and see the results of our work restoring the plant communities along Almanda Creek, a showcase site for our ten year Almanda Project, which started in 2014.

Self-guided walks, see the wildflowers with a list of plants and other items of interest that are labelled along the walk*.

Bird banding demonstration.

Light refreshments courtesy of Scott Creek Primary School.

Park information for sale including maps, bird brochures, our 25th Anniversary Book and our History Book – proceeds support the Park's conservation.

Nature play activities for the children: 10:00am - 12:00pm.

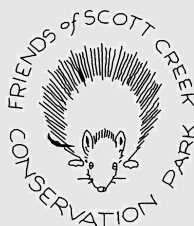
Short talks by Prime Minister's 2003 environmentalist of the Year Dr John Wamsley: 11:00am & 2:00pm.

Meet Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary animals: 1:00 - 2:00pm.

Where: Almanda Mine, Gate 15 Dorset Vale Road, Dorset Vale, north of the junction with Matthews Road.

Website: www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

*bush track, wear suitable footwear





Scott Creek CP Almanda Open day in 2018

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Departed Friends

At each Forum we have a memorial table with a list of all Friends who have passed away since the previous forum, and a posy of flowers. But for this newsletter we provide a simple list of names, sufficient for you to make your own enquiries, of those who have departed since the previous newsletter. We apologise for any omissions. Please let Pam Smith, VSPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

*Graham Trethewey OAM
Dennis Shearing
Leighton Smith
Peter Needle
Jim Smith
David Keane*

*Chair of the K.I. Consultative Committee in 1981
Friends of Parks KI Western Districts
Friends of Glenthorne
Friends of Streaky Bay District Parks
Friends of Volunteer Support Programs Unit
Butterfly Conservation SA*

... information from VSPU records and Friends' newsletters and communications

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LINKS



'Like' us on Facebook - Friends of Parks SA has a [Facebook](#) page. It was launched on 6 October 2016 and now has had over 1200 'Likes' and growing. A rich source of information and pictures. Have a look and 'Like' the page to receive regular notifications.

Visit the [Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Inc. website](#) for a stunning visual experience of that part of the world.

No need to spend a lot of time researching how to get those 'butterfly plants' which you need to bring butterflies to your garden. A list of native plant nurseries can be accessed from BCSA website using [this link](#).
(advice from Butterfly Conservation SA)

BCSA public talks are held in Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long Street Plympton. Enquiries to [Secretary BCSA](#)

The *State of Volunteering Online* - an e-newsletter/bulletin distributed by the Office for Volunteers for many years to volunteers, community organisations and government agencies - has reached its 260th and final edition.

Subscribers wishing to stay in touch with the sector can continue to do so by subscribing instead to [VNEWS](#), a regular newsletter distributed by Volunteering SA&NT.

Follow progress and activities at the new Glenthorne National Park through its [Website](#) or [Instagram](#) or subscribe to its [e-news newsletter](#)

Thinking of getting another family pet? Check this advice from the DEW blog Good Living of July 2019 ...
['How to care for your pet bearded dragon'](#)

[from DEW's GOOD LIVING blog of 10 August 2018] 7 tiny birds to look for in South Australia. You'll need sharp eyes to spot these species next time you go birdwatching – they all weigh less than 10 grams. Visit [here](#).

Visit [Trees For Life \(TFL\) 'Resources'](#) page for indexes to TFL's splendid [ReLeaf](#) and [Bushcarer](#) Magazines, and various other publications - brochures, reports, etc.

Visit the website of the [Malacological Society of Australasia](#) - a group dedicated to the appreciation, study, and sustainable use of molluscs - for a surprisingly fascinating glimpse at a life form most of us know little about, or possibly even care about. Note also: following the Friends of Onkaparinga Parks (FOOP) AGM on 12 November, speaker Peter Hunt will be giving a presentation on Australian native and introduced land snails.

Keep an eye on the [Invasive Species Council](#) activities. Their mission is to Keep Nature Safe from Dangerous New Invaders (such as weeds, feral animals, diseases). Note, too, an app "Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia" is available on the AppStore.

The DEWNR monthly blog/publication [GOOD LIVING](#) offers splendid viewing of high quality pictures and interesting articles.

The Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) monthly blog/newsletter offers a wide range of high quality pictures and interesting articles. Sign up for its blog/newsletter at the bottom of its [website PUBLICATIONS page](#).

Keep up with all the latest from the Botanic Gardens of South Australia. Visit the websites of [The Botanic Gardens of South Australia](#), or of the individual gardens: the [Adelaide Botanic gardens](#), the [Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens](#), and the [Wittunga Botanic Gardens](#).

The message was forwarded on 28 June to VSPU offering that if your Friends group would like a simple Wordpress website, or a 6-8 minute documentary, developed by UniSA students and hosted at no cost to your group, then contact [Dr Alice Dodd](#) of UniSA to register your wish to apply for a place on UniSA's next cycle of this offer.

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FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. GIFT FUND

**Do you want to make a donation to the work of Friends of Parks?
If so, do it through the Gift Fund.**

Friends of Parks Inc. operates a Gift Fund which is on the Australian Government's Register of Environmental Organisations which means that **donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible**. Receipts can be provided for tax purposes. There are many reasons for people wanting to give a donation, e.g. after experiencing a wonderful time in the park, people may wish to donate towards that park. It should be noted that although a donation **cannot be specified for a particular park or project**, donors may indicate to the Gift Fund Committee that they enjoy a particular park or project. For full explanations please read the Gift Fund documents mentioned below.

Through your generosity the Gift Fund hopes to support projects from various Friends Groups into the future.

The Gift Fund has been undergoing some changes

Electronic fund transfer is again available. The Gift Fund Sub-Committee is made up of Friends of Parks Inc. Board Members, including Kevin Osborn (Treasurer), and Mandy Carter (Public Officer).

The Gift Fund will issue receipts for donations, arrange meetings with the Gift Fund Committee Members in order to assess Gift Fund Applications, and respond to all Applicants.

All Gift Fund documents are on the website under the Members Area www.friendsofparossa.org.au/donate, namely:

- Gift Fund Information
- Donation Form - to use when someone wants to make a donation
- Assessment Criteria - how grants requests are assessed
- Gift Fund Application Form - for Friends of Parks Inc. member groups to request a grant.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Kevin Osborn, m.0407 608 057

See Gift Donation form next page



FRIENDS OF PARKS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Volunteers working for conservation

DATE

Friends of Parks Inc Gift Fund

DONATION FORM

ABN: 32 457 858 155

NAME:

FRIENDS GROUP (IF APPLICABLE)

CONTACT DETAILS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Would you like to be acknowledged as a donor in the Friends of Parks Inc. eNews ? YES / NO

DONATION AMOUNT

\$

Please email this form to: pamela.smith@sa.gov.au

Please send your donation electronically to:

Name of Account: Friends of Parks Inc. Gift Fund

BSB: 805 050

Account Number: 2339333

Bank: People's Choice Credit Union

OR

via cheque to: Treasurer, Gift Fund
Friends of Parks Inc.
c/- the Secretariat, Volunteer Support Programs Unit,
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001.

The purpose of the Gift Fund is to receive donations which are tax deductible to the Donor.
Donors who request an official tax receipt cannot state which group or project is to receive the donation. This is an offence against the Tax Act.
Donors who do not wish to receive a tax deduction, can donate direct to the Friends Group of their choice.

The educational focus offers many tangible benefits:-

- It utilises existing regional community networks through school/college/university communities.
- It engages young people in becoming involved in conservation and land management through the State's national parks.
- It offers financial support and assistance to schools, classes or individual students.
- It utilises the student's own curricula or course requirements and learning outcomes.
- It encourages schools and students to become aware of and work with a Friends of Parks group(s).

Rationale:

In 2015, the Friends of Parks lost two of its most dedicated and longest standing members - both were Presidents of Friends of Parks Groups.

Tom Hands and Colin Malcolm were deeply committed to ensuring the State's parks and reserves maintained their rich biodiversity, while at the same time, providing educational and recreational opportunities to the South Australian community.

In 2017 - to remember both for their wonderful contributions - the Friends of Parks Board, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) decided to sponsor educational grants in their names, to students of all ages across the State. This is the third year that the Scholarships are being offered.

S.A. Friends of Parks Inc.



2019/20 Educational Scholarship Prospectus

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.” Dr Seuss

In memory of;-
Tom Hands &
Colin Malcolm

Aim of this Scholarship

To engage students – i.e. primary, area schools, high schools, TAFE and Universities in on-park /off-park environmental activities by providing financial support through a collaborative learning process with a local Friends of Parks group.

Criteria

- reflect broad environmental /conservation learning outcomes
- reflect course and curriculum priorities
- involve students to work collaboratively with a Friends of Parks group
- report learning outcomes to their partnering Friends of Parks group



Methodology

- This scholarship is an annual program which focuses on relationship building between Friends of Parks groups and the broader community.
- Those Friends of Parks groups that are interested in becoming involved in the program will approach and work with their (school/tertiary) community in exploring ideas for activities etc. This may mean working with parents, teachers, course coordinators, principles etc.
- In collaboration with a school/college/university, Friends of Parks groups will assist in completing an application form and submitting it to the Friends of Parks Board for assessment.

Methodology (con't)

- 2 x cheques for \$2,500 each will be presented to the successful applicants which will enable them to undertake their proposed activity(s).
- Depending on demand and the nature of the proposal, the full amount of \$5,000 could be made available to the one applicant.
- A final 'report' (in whatever format the school/student chooses) is made to their partnering Friends of Parks group and (either directly or indirectly) to the Friends of Parks Board on completion of their activity(s).
- The school/student can take up to 2 calendar years to complete the activity/project.

Enquiries

Pam Smith

Secretary, Friends of Parks Inc.

T: (08) 8124 4784

E: pamela.smith@sa.gov.au

W: <http://www.friendsofparkssa.org.au>