

## **Friends of Parks Inc. - AGM 2020**

# **Conservation Council of SA Report**

**by Andrew Winkler**

The Conservation Council of SA has been the peak body for environmental organisations in South Australia for nearly 50 years. Friends of Parks Inc is one of over 60 CCSA member groups which represent a broad range of community interests, including landcare and coastcare groups, natural history, environmental science and education groups, and groups advocating for economic reform, environmental sustainability, and on nuclear issues.

The Council, consisting of one or two delegates (“councillors”) from each member group, meets on a quarterly basis. (I have been a FoPInc delegate since 2008, along with Cathy Potts, of Friends of Para Wirra, until she retired in 2012.) On a day-to-day basis the CCSA is managed by a paid CEO (currently Craig Wilkins) and office staff, with the support of an Executive Council, which meets more frequently; the current president is Mark Anderson.

The main role of the CCSA centres around advocacy. It is a member of the SA Nature Alliance (consisting of the major eNGOs in South Australia, with Duncan MacKenzie representing FoPInc.), which advocates to the SA Government on natural heritage issues. It also advocates on a number of other issues such as on the Murray-Darling Basin, climate change, renewable energy, fire management, and nuclear waste issues.

The CCSA also provides nominees to key Board, Committee and Advisory groups within the State Governments Charter, such as the EPA, the Pastoral Board, the Lake Eyre Basin Community Committee, and the Wild Dogs Advisory Group, amongst a number of others.

Several programs are managed by the CCSA with funding provided by Green Adelaide and DEW, including Reef Watch, and the “Feral or in Peril” project on marine invasive species, and the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps Recovery Program.

The major award of the CSSA is the Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection, presented at its AGM, to someone has made an outstanding contribution to protecting the State’s environment.

The CCSA's offices are located at 111 Franklin Street, Adelaide, in the old Franklin Street Bus Station building, which was derelict when it was first leased by the CCSA at the end of 2014. Volunteers helped in its transformation into a community hub now known as “The Joinery”. Besides offices for the CCSA and other tenant organisations, the complex hosts the Adelaide Sustainability Centre (a NRM centre funded by Green Adelaide), a cafe, and community garden.

The CCSA's website is at: <https://www.conservation.sa.org.au/>