

**REPORTS FROM Friends of Parks Inc. board members**

# **Public Officer’s Report**

1. Friends of Parks Inc.’s gross receipts were below the $500,000 threshold needed to be classified as a Prescribed Association for the year 2019.

1. No changes were made to the Friends of Parks Inc constitution during the year.



Yours faithfully

Mandy Carter

# Public Officer

# **Friends of Parks Inc.**

15 September 2020

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# **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.**

I hereby advise the Board of the Friends of Parks Inc. that there are no amendments to the constitution to be put forward to the Annual General Meeting to be held In November 2020.



Mandy Carter

# **Public Officer**

# **Friends of Parks Inc.**

15 September 2020

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**REPORTS FROM Friends of Parks Inc. MEMBER GROUPS**

**FRIENDS OF  THE  INNAMINCKA RESERVES**

2019 was the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the group “Friends of the Innamincka Reserves”. Celebration of this milestone took place in February and November 2020. Members from NSW, Victoria and SA attended the annual working bee in Innamincka July-August 2019. These amazing people achieved a great deal in two weeks from repairing fencing, replacing and erecting new fencing – this is a hard task in earth that has not seen decent rain in some years. The annual Noogoora Burr and Bird Survey Work was carried out. This work is physically demanding, and the high quality of reporting is valued by National Parks.

Our Membership for 2019 has been static, with 2 resignations and 2 new members, the annual FOIR Newsletter was published. Our Facebook page has become less active because we miss the regular photographs that used to be sent through by Ranger Erik Dahl.

FOIR Treasurer Malcolm McDonald, who has kept very accurate Membership and Monies records over many years, has decided to step down from this role. FOIR are very grateful to Malcolm for the diligent manner in which he kept these important records.

Kate Buckley

**President**

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**FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN EYRE PENINSULA PARKS**

The National Malleefowl Recovery Team visited in March and gave a community presentation on their work. This was followed up in July when a group of members were trained in the correct procedure to conduct malleefowl monitoring. LiDAR (Light Imaging Detection and Ranging) was used by the department to survey the coastline and using this data possible Malleefowl mounds were found and ground-truthed. Hopefully the whole of the Park can be surveyed in the future and we can assist with the ground-truthing.

Two Pix Stix were installed at Wanna Flat to enable us and others to record the recovery of vegetation in this area over the coming years following grazing management and revegetation.

As key stakeholders in the proposed Nature Based Tourism Proposal, FOSEPP was consulted in meetings in the DEW office and onsite in the Park. We were also included in the public consultation meetings that occurred in Port Lincoln and Adelaide.

Our working bees have continued over the last twelve months with planting in various locations plus watering due to the dry conditions. We also continued to help staff tackle the Polygala problem and now have a data log of sites along with one for Aleppo Pines. Members continued with the upkeep of the walking trails and the campsites. Hopefully we are able to make progress on the upkeep of the Wanna to Sleaford section of the walking trail this year.

Bob DeLaine

**President,**

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**Friends of Private Bushland**

Our group had its usual interesting programme of field days and talks, although talks were not so well-attended as they had been a few years ago. This is disappointing because the speakers have all been excellent.

The year started with a talk entitled “Bugs ‘n Slugs” by Kristen Messenger. She spoke about the vital role that bugs (invertebrates) play in our environment; without them life on Earth would be a poor harsh place. As for slugs, if you feel obliged to dispose of them please don’t use slug bait as this will have consequences for other wildlife, magpies for example.

In April we visited 3 adjoining properties in Rockleigh, where the drought had taken a severe toll on the vegetation – mature trees dead or dying. Despite the dryness, there were plenty of birds drinking in bird baths. Members were taken on short walks in each property, in one to the “Amazon Jungle” where Trees for Life had direct-seeded in 2009, the January 2014 bushfire totally blackened it, but 5 years later it was recovering well.

In June and July two more talks followed, on birds of Scott Creek Conservation Park by Jim Spiker, (132 species have been recorded, plus 60 orchid species) and by Roger Kempson on wheel cactus control in Gum Creek station in the Flinders. Battling wheel cactus is never-ending because of the area of infestation, but obviously enjoyable for participants.

A trip to Onkaparinga Gorge in August had members visiting both the wetlands and the very rugged gorge. The ranger took them to a part of the wetland not normally open to the public. Jim and Fae Trueman and other members of Friends of Onkaparinga Park led the group.

In September we had a delightful two-day field trip to places in and near the Barossa. Organiser John Lyon had found speakers to tell us about the places we were visiting, which included Bushland Park at Lobethal (now burnt out in the Cudlee Creek bushfire), Roachdale Reserve near Kersbrook (owned by the National Trust), Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park, and Barossa Bush Garden at Nuriootpa. Overnight we camped at John and Jeffa’s place, the evening was spent in front of a lovely warm fire, and two members were presented with their Gold Parks Passes. The weather could have been kinder, although truly we should have been grateful for the intermittent rain.

October started with a talk by Duncan Mackenzie about the birds of Gluepot Reserve north of Waikerie. But he spoke not only about the birds, also about how this huge Birdlife Australia sanctuary is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers, the necessary funding coming from grants and bequests.

Later in October we visited a Lenswood property (thankfully spared by the Cudlee Creek bushfire) which is being rehabilitated from an orchard – such a lot of work to do getting rid of woody weeds – and the adjacent Wicks Reserve (owned by the National Trust). NT members took us through the reserve, which had a profusion of wildflowers.

The year finished with a pre-Christmas get-together at Norton Summit. Unfortunately this was poorly-attended because there was a severe fire danger warning and down in Adelaide the temperature was in the high 30s. But those of us who ventured enjoyed the evening breezes and good company.

Barbara Bansemer

**Secretary**

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**FRIENDS OF WINDARA REEF**

Windara Reef is the first completed restored shellfish reef in South Australia that aims to bring back a threatened ecosystem, provide recreational opportunities and produce more fish habitat in the Gulf St Vincent. Friends of Windara Reef are a newly formed group that is supported by The Nature Conservancy and Yorke Peninsula Council. The group held their first meeting in April 2019 and were endorsed as full members of Friends of Parks Inc (FoP) on 2 August 2019. To date five meetings have been held that have focussed mainly on decisions relating to the group’s vision to protect the reef and champion other reef restoration activities on the Yorke Peninsula. The group currently has 39 members. Since FoP membership, the group has had two meetings, on 15 October 2019 and 5 March 2020.

However COVID-19 restrictions and ripple effects only saw the group next meet end of October 2020. Activities that group members have been involved in so far include:

* Reef construction - 14 and 15 September 2019. Over a busy weekend, 21 volunteers were involved in a working bee to produce bags of oyster shells ready for the hatchery. In tanks, baby oysters settled onto them before they were placed onto Windara Reef in November 2019.
* Website/Facebook – Under development is a group website/Facebook page which will provide up to date information about the reef, its progress and the group’s activities.
* Marine education program – The group is leading a project to support Yorke Peninsula schools in marine restoration and citizen science activities such as oyster gardening and being involved in the OysterWatch program.
* OysterWatch – The group has helped set up a citizen science program that involved placing settlement tiles on the Yorke Peninsula coast that will be analysed by the community. This will provide important information on oyster larvae recruitment hotspot areas to identify future reef locations.

Letitia Dahl-helm

**Secretary**

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**Walking Trails Support Group**

Despite program rearrangements due to COVID-19, with Departmental in-kind support, resources and helpful staff, we have had a productive year caring for sixteen interpreted walks in the Flinders Ranges. While observing year on year increases in walker numbers, this year, as with most other destinations, there has been a doubling of numbers, a product perhaps of SA visitors obliged to holiday at home!

The groups routine of three two-week periods in, Southern, Central and Northern Flinders, which involve asset checks, identification of immediate needs and their rectification. This is combined with progressive upgrading of presentation. Consolidation of the tracks is largely a product of users feet, but it is essential that braiding of the foot pad is minimised by controlling intrusive vegetation, removing obstacles and ensuring that drainage is adequate to minimise erosion.

Our support of Departmental policy by encouraging visitation and understanding of Park landscape is regularly endorsed by visitors’ positive comments.

Rob Marshall

**Secretary** \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**SSAA – Conservation & Wildlife Management (SA) Inc.**

**(01 September 2019 – 31 August 2020, inclusive)**

Total member contribution to DEW Five (5) Regions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Number of Activities | Member Participation | Field Hours Volunteered | Kilometres travelled |
| 2019 - 2020 | 31 | 214 | 6,090 | 125,908 |

5 DEW scheduled activities cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

Activities undertaken for Department for Environment and Water (DEW) – 5 regions: South Australian Arid Lands, South Australian Murray Darling Basin, Northern & Yorke, Eyre Peninsula, South East.

The majority of activities focus on feral animal control, however members also undertook an annual malleefowl survey as well as being involved in an adaptive management research program for malleefowl, and undertook some site maintenance works.

CWM held it’s AGM recently and the following persons were duly appointed to the Council of Management:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Rob Parkes | President |
| Chris Carroll | Vice President |
| Andrew March | Secretary |
| Marcus Pickett | Assistant Secretary |
| Charles Hart | Treasurer |
| Isaac Lomman | Council |
| Clare Teo | Council |
| Nicholas Ioakim | Council |
| Gavin Cook | Council |
| John Colella | Council |
| Glen Brittain | Council |

Rob Parkes

**President**

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**SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP INC. (SEG)**

**Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges Scientific Program (V-GRaSP)** – In 1988 SEG along with the assistance of the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) commenced this rainfall monitoring program by placing on the area known as the Plateau a rainfall gauge (pluviometer). Over the intervening 32 years SEG has maintained the pluviometer and installed 3 others in the Park and 2 on adjoining Pastoral properties. Volunteers visit each pluviometer 4 times a year to monitor and upgrade the equipment. The pluviometers are connected by the internet to the BOM in Adelaide and time rainfall is recorded in Adelaide. SEG has expanded the project to include several photo monitoring points within the Park, a stream gauge in Arcoona Creek and when possible carries out opportunistic sighting of feral animals and Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby.

**Minnawarra Biodiversity Project (MBP)** – Commenced in 2001 to investigate and record any change in biodiversity in heritage listed scrub after fencing out domestic grazing animals on "Minnawarra” a south of Myponga and adjacent to the Springmount CP.

The survey involves trapping and recording small mammals, reptiles and frogs using pitfall, Elliott and cage traps over four days and nights in eight separate sites. Small mammals are identified, weighed, sexed, marked and released. Bats are captured with harp traps. Vegetation and bird surveys are also carried out. Surveys take place twice per year in autumn and spring. Data collected over the first ten-year period show a strong bias towards seasonal factors such as drought, wet winters etc. The commonest mammals collected are Bush rats, Swamp rats and Antechinus, but Pygmy Possums have also been recorded.

**Innes National Park** – SEG was invited by the Northern & Yorke NR to establish a baseline biological survey of the Innes National Park as part of the Great Southern Ark (GSA) Rewilding Project. In Over the next 15-20 years the GSA project anticipates the reintroduction of 2 native soil engineers – the woylie (Bettongia penecillata) and the southern brown bandicoot (Isoodon obseulus). In October/November 2019 SEG carried a survey of portions of the National Park.

Graeme Oats

**Scientific Expedition Group Inc.**

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**marine life society of sa**

The Marine Life Society of SA became a new affiliated FoP member in 2019, following the encouragement of a FoP Board Member. We were advised that FoP was taking a greater interest in marine-related matters, and that similar groups were becoming members.

We were encouraged by the benefit information provided to us, and soon joined FoP. We soon noticed the benefits, and we could see that similar groups were also joining.

The regular information received from FoP has been helpful & useful. We also appreciated the member access to parks and the Gold Pass provided for one of our members recently.

We effectively moved away from the Conservation Council of SA to the FoP. We note that we still have that link with CCSA through FoP.

For all of the reasons mentioned above, we look forward to a long membership with FoP.

Steve Reynolds

**President**

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**FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK**

This was another busy and productive year for the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park, in which we completed the sixth year of our ten year Almanda Project and we also celebrate our group’s 30th anniversary (officially on 17th September 2020). As part of this celebration, we have updated and re-published our popular bird brochure, with an all new design that includes a tick list for the birds found in Scott Creek CP, many new photos of the birds likely to be seen, and a new map showing our regular bird banding locations. To assist visitors better appreciate the park, we've also created and installed five new signs around main access points to the park. With a specially designed map and information about the park and our group, these were produced with support from our former NRM VSO.

Thanks to all of our contributors – our wonderful volunteers, the support of the staff from NPWSSA and the NR AMLR (which has now been replaced by Green Adelaide and the Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board in our region), and to those who have provided funding for our project. Last year grant funding was received from NR AMLR and DEW, we completed the final year of our NR AMLR funded three year work plan, and there were also very generous donations from the Carthew and Fisher families through their Carthew Foundation and from another member of our group. These tax deductible donations were made possible with the support of Landcare Australia’s Fund Landcare platform.

With the strong support of David Speirs, Minister for Environment and Water, during the year we have almost had our 20 year goal of having the land parcel containing the historic Mackereth Cottage handed over to the Park from SA Water realised. In addition to the opportunities (and challenges) that come with the cottage, this land transfer also enables us to continue our restoration work on this section of creekline, which is a crucial addition to our Almanda Project showcase site.

The group schedules three regular working bees each month, spread across the 720 hectares of the Park, in addition to the small number of volunteers that gather most weeks to restoring the above Almanda Creek showcase site. Our bird banding program, which began in 1994, continued to run smoothly one or two weekends a month, with a number of new members attracted to this activity. While not under COVID-19 lock-down, the group also had social activities including monthly lunches and a few field trips.

There was a total 4,151 FoSCCP volunteer hours contributed for the year to 30th June 2020, as reported to DEW, including 2,344 at bushcare activities and 944.5 for bird banding. This represents a significant increase over the previous year, and is a terrific achievement for our small group of volunteers, especially considering the period when organised activities had to be suspended due to COVID-19.

Peter Watton

**President**

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**Friends of Cleland Wildlife Park**

The past financial year certainly kept the Cleland Wildlife Park Volunteer team on its toes. As the new Volunteer Coordinator, I joined the team in December 2019, shortly before we accepted a number of koalas, rescued from the summer bushfires. A total of 13 of these animals were juveniles requiring 3 daily bottle feeds. After initially engaging the Australian Defence Force to assist with this, Friend of Cleland Wildlife Park Volunteers accepted this challenge, amounting in 508 hours of volunteer time (feeding and laundry)! Also relating to the summer bushfires, we hosted a fundraiser for the Nature Foundations Wildlife Recovery Fund, where volunteers together with staff helped to raise close to $6000 through donations and the sale of goods.

In March 2020, we welcomed our largest ever single group booking at Cleland Wildlife Park, hosting 1600 visitors from an international cruise ship. Volunteers were able to assist with animal food sales as well as welcoming and directing guests. Shortly thereafter, we had to temporarily suspend the volunteer program (and indeed close the wildlife park) due to COVID-19.

Despite the interruption caused by the pandemic we were still able to record a total of 11,212 volunteer hours for the financial year. Contributing to these hours were 72 regular volunteers (across 12 volunteer programs), 11 corporate groups and one community youth group. Now that restrictions have eased, our volunteers have returned and we look forward to recruiting additional volunteers in the near future.

Bess Hillyard

**Volunteer Coordinator**

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**Friends of KaiserStuhl Conservation Park**

The majority of our working bees are held during Spring and early Summer so fortunately our main activity of weeding was not greatly disrupted by COVID-19. However, the emphasis on visiting DEW managed Parks to get exercise during lockdown restrictions led to unwelcome inappropriate activities in this Park. Therefore our first working bee back after the lockdown was spent cleaning up the large amount of mess, including fireplaces left by illegal campers in a remote area of the Park. The start of a drug growing enterprise was also discovered, which the DEW Rangers removed promptly. If more tourism and visitation is going to be encouraged to our parks then more DEW on-ground staff to monitor and educate the Public about the Parks' importance for biodiversity protection are needed. This is particularly so for the smaller regional conservation parks, where there is no permanent ranger presence. We are also concerned about the current increased push by higher impact Recreational groups to get access to the smaller, very biodiverse conservation parks. These are the only places left in these Regions for people to go for a walk in nature, bird watch and to enjoy the native plants and animals and the parks' peaceful ambience. So much native habitat was burnt in the Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo island fires last Summer that the remaining good areas of habitat and biodiversity need more protection to help act as refuges, not less.

Fortunately our spirits have been lifted by the recent rain, which has led to the most beautiful Spring in our park, with many more native orchids, lilies and other shrubs in flower than for many years. The Group recently had two walks in our park to celebrate our 30th anniversary by enjoying this abundance of native life and to brush up on our plant identification skills.

Our group has also been successful over the last 12 months in winning grants to get contractor help with weed control in the Park.

Cathy Potts

**President**

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**FRIENDS OF shepherds hill recreation park**

Family Fun Day to Celebrate our 20th Anniversary September 29th - the 20 year celebration was the highlight of the year and it was thanks to the work of a small group lead by Ron that it happened and was successful. The $600 from the NRM Community Action grant paid for most expenses. Mitcham Council also contributed. The invited guests who attended were: The Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, the member for Elder, Carolyn Power, Councillors for the City of Mitcham, Lindy Taeuber and Karen Hockley, also Ann Prescott OAM who was a mentor to the group in the early stages. Mark Parnell was the MC.

The programme for the day included a Treasure hunt organised by Charles and Guided Walks, two in the morning and one in the afternoon with good participation and appreciation from participants. There was a history display organised by Lindy and Children’s craft activities which I organised and Ingeborg and Margo supervised. There was live music played by David Gomer and a friend. The Koala rescue people had a stall and brought a young Koala and talked about their work.

Certificates for the Friends volunteers who have given 20 years service to the park were presented by the Ranger, Eric De Smit.

As part of the NRM Community Action Grant I had delivered 100 letters to households adjacent to the park with information about Environmental Weeds which we have to deal with in the park and including an invitation to the family Fun Day. There were a number of families that came and had a picnic lunch and participated in activities possibly as a result of this and our advertising.

We noted sadly the death of Tim Fuhlbohm in March. He was a dedicated Ranger with a vast knowledge about the plants of the Mount Lofty Ranges, not just their identification but where exactly they are growing.

2020 has been a very different year. The group suspended working bees for several months but we are now back in full force with practising distancing and regulations required by COVID- 19.

Robyn Guy

**President**

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**NATIONAL PARKS HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

It has been a quiet year for the Committee. It still has keen members who pay their subs. However, most of the numerous projects have been completed. The Committee remains alert and responsive to any heritage matters that arise or need attention. It is a “holding situation” and the Committee is always at the ready for when it has to quickly respond to heritage needs or threats. The office bearers have continued to serve if and when necessary.

Dene Cordes

**Heritage Convenor**

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**Friends of mound springs**

The Friends of Mound Springs (FOMS) group was established in 2006 to support the conservation and management of the mound springs, natural outlets of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), in Far North South Australia. The group currently has around forty active members, with a similar number of associates. Unlike many other Friends groups, the Friends of Mound Springs (FOMS) has a strong off-park focus and undertakes much of its work on pastoral country, although it does provide direct support for DEW in the management of parks containing mound springs, particularly Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park.

FOMS had a busy schedule of field activities in 2019. Maintenance work was conducted on walking trails – established by FOMS in 2011 – at Strangways Springs and at the Peake Overland Telegraph (OT) site and the associated Freeling Springs. At the carpark for the Peake OT site, FOMS volunteers replaced deteriorating timber bollards with recycled plastic bollards. The bollards are needed to prevent vehicle access to nearby springs and the heritage OT site. Brochures for the Strangways and Peake OT sites were reprinted in 2019 with funding assistance through the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and on-site brochure boxes were replenished. Wetland vegetation monitoring and some fence maintenance were also undertaken at four springs on the Peake pastoral lease, fenced by the State Environment Department in the mid-1980s.

The major project for FOMS in 2019 was the fencing of ten springs at Levi Springs, also on the Peake pastoral lease. Levi Springs comprise an important group of GAB springs, about 100 kilometres north-west of William Creek. It is an area of great importance to Indigenous people and includes impressive rock outcrops with petroglyphs. The area also includes the remnants of a shepherd’s hut and coolabah yards - rare surviving relics of early pastoral times when sheep were run on the country. A group of nine FOMS volunteers undertook this work in July 2019, installing around 2.5km of fencing to protect an area of about 25ha including the ten springs, shepherd’s hut and coolabah yards. This followed an extended period of negotiation with the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation and the pastoral lessees (originally S Kidman & Co, then the Williams Cattle Company) to secure agreement regarding the fence alignment and fencing materials to be used. The Department for Environment and Water provided some fencing materials and the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and Friends of Private Bushland provided very welcome funding assistance.

FOMS volunteers also had significant input to the development of an Adaptive Management Plan for GAB springs – a project instigated and coordinated by FOMS Patron, Lynn Brake, who sadly passed away in December 2019. The Adaptive Management Plan has been completed and, it is hoped, will provide a practical template for springs’ management across the GAB and a lasting legacy to Lynn Brake’s decades of effort to secure the conservation and wise management of GAB springs.

Finally, FOMS acknowledges the ongoing support by DEW staff, particularly Tony Magor,
National Parks and Wildlife Manager, Flinders and Outback.

Simon Lewis

**Secretary**

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**FRIENDS OF BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION PARK**

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COVID 19 has impacted on Park activities particularly through restricting movement around SA, between states and from overseas. This has hindered ongoing research in the Park. The University of New England ant project was unable to be completed with a collection of soil inside and outside the warming chamber as researchers were unable to cross the border between NSW and SA. The group has maintained the research site by fixing the chamber and ensuring it is still in place – in the hope that the researchers can return soon to collect their data.

Allison Johnson’s (University of Nebraska and University of Chicago) fairy wren project has been awarded further grant funding but none of the research team was able to travel to Australia from the U.S. Luckily a team of volunteer expertise was organized to make sure some data is collected this season and we have assisted with engaging Steve Winderlich and Anne O’Dea to assist with bird banding and surveys later in the year.

The Friends of Brookfield CP was successful in getting a grant through the SAMDB NRM Region for just under $1000 for a camera trap and accessories. This has been installed and is capturing significant data on wombat activity, especially monitoring the health of certain individuals.

The Seed Orchard exclosure has finally exploded with Stipa! There is an area of 50m x 60m crammed full of naturally occurring native grass that under normal circumstances wouldn’t get beyond a couple of cm because of the kangaroos grazing it to the ground.

The photopoints at Brookfield have continued to be taken quarterly.

The Friends of Brookfield Facebook page is getting more activity and followers from locations around the world. We now have 216 Followers and some posts have received a reach of nearly 2,000!

DEW has replaced the information signage at the entrance to the Park with input from the Friends. It is very visually pleasing and is interesting to read. Much appreciation to our rangers!

Next year marks 50years since the Chicago Zoological Society purchased Glen Leslie Station, naming it Brookfield Zoo Wombat Reserve, later the Reserve being gifted to the State Government and becoming Brookfield Conservation Park . The Friends of Brookfield will be holding celebrations to recognise 50 years of volunteer engagement on the Park along with the 25 year celebration of the Friends of Brookfield.

Tricia Curtis

**President**

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**FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA**

In July 2019, trail maintenance and weed control was carried out, including Lady Alice Mine area and planting was done with Scout groups and other volunteers, led by the Rangers including Aislinn McAleer. Bob Swarbrick was presented with his 30 year badge and certificates, and Kath Moloney will have hers delivered to her. John Dawkins achieved his 20 year milestone. It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Pam Smith’s husband, and a card and flowers were sent on our group’s behalf.

Phil and Steve built and installed two bench seats, one near the tramway tunnel and the other at the old Scout camp. A third seat was later installed at Mack Creek.

In August, the One Tree Hill Primary School came for their yearly visit, with about 60 children plus teachers and parents participating in Waterwatch, weed control, guided walk and planting. This year was the first time the school used their own equipment at Para Wirra, purchased with a grant sponsored by us, but they had already christened it on their own excursions. A great morning as usual, and volunteers Leonie, Tom, Anne, Michael Slocombe, Steve and Paula and myself were happy with the work and fun achieved. The August working bee went well, and the Goldfields area cleared up for now. Kath Matthews gave an excellent talk and slide show on Fungi after the working bee. There were excellent photos and lots of knowledge from her passion about this life form. Thank you Kath!

The September working bees and Wildflower Walk no doubt went well also, but unfortunately I was unable to attend.

Thursday October 3rd Star of Africa, Boneseed below Devil’s Nose. Saturday October 19th, Boneseed on Blue Gum track and Ornithogalum (Star of Africa). Thursday November 7th,Tangier Pea, Boneseed at ford and other side of river. Saturday November 16th, olives at unit 32 down Western side neat tramway tunnel, and Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting. Thursday December 5th, top of Devil’s Nose, boneseed.

Saturday November 2nd Village Fair stall, was a worthwhile event as usual, especially for showing what we do and talking to people who did not know about the park or us, as well as those who love it and visit fairly often. We sold a good amount of cards and some children’s art packs, but no plants available this year. Thanks again to volunteers Leonie, Helen, Rupert, Val, Mike, Anne and any I did not see on the day! (I was running the Rotary Youth Art Exhibition that day).

New Planning Code concerns: At the meeting on 25th November at Conservation Council building re the new Planning Code, 5 of our members attended, Steve, Phil, Mike, myself, Tom Stone, as well as Pam Smith and other park volunteers. Very intense feelings from all Friends of Parks members as the SA Government through the Dept Planning aim to make it easier for commercial Tourism organisations to get plans passed for using our Parks for business purposes and constructing tourist facilities, which could threaten conservation of our precious flora and fauna.

We and other groups put in a submission regarding our concerns about this. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (and other roles) replied, as emailed to members, but it was not a satisfactory answer to our concerns. A third consultation with Parks is planned early this year, and hopefully many Parks groups will send representatives.

Saturday December 14th was our Christmas Party at Para Wirra. A great time and good turn-up, with good food and fun shared by all. Thankfully, the weather was mild enough to use our park venue.

On January 18th we enjoyed our first get-together for the year, with shared lunch followed by a meeting. Great attendance, and good to see everyone again. Members were reminded of the Working With Children Clearance, with 10 members so far having theirs.

The new **Planning Code** for parks was discussed in detail, a very worrying proposal, which seems to give commercial tourism businesses an easier access to permission for using parks and also for building approvals. Mike, Tom, Steve Phil and myself attended the meeting in the Conservation Council building. Particularly worrying is the plan to use existing Park Management Plans to assess what can be approved, as these are often very out of date, as is Para Wirra’s, and this no longer reflects the best management for a park. A further meeting was planned, but has been put on hold due to the current virus problems.

It was great to hear that we were successful in obtaining a Volunteer Support Grant of $5,500 for work on Devil’s Nose weed control, and since then we also obtained a $9,033 AMLR NRM Grant for continuing the restoration of the South Para River area, which will include the involvement of local groups such as an environment day with the local primary school, promotion at One Tree Hill market and in the community newspaper, a Park sign to promote FOPW activities as well as engagement of bushcare contractors.

The Thursday group worked in the park in early Feb and we managed to have a working bee next to the new “Glenburnie” section of the park on Feb 15th, with a good turnout and much successful effort on the boneseed there. We also had our AGM that day, with my position of President continued, and the following positions also filled: Secretaries Anne Stone and Helen Thorne, Treasurer Kym Smith, Publicity Darren Williams, Assistant Publicity Ian Roberts, Newsletter Editor Darren Williams, Auditor Anita Corbran, Catering Val Lacy, Group Historian Colin Winsor, Webmaster Richard Lacy, and PED counter Phil Gillett.

After the AGM, we were given a talk about Cycling Safety by Darren, and most of us were surprised at the rules of the road regarding this, including being able to cross the double lines to go around cyclists. Thanks to Darren for this valuable talk, much appreciated.

We had working bees again in April and May, attacking Boneseed in the new park area, with morning tea on site. In June we walked the Link Trail and removed some small boneseed plants in that area, with morning tea again, although rather chilly and only rocks to sit on! After the working bee, we had our first lunch meeting since February, with correct Covid social distancing in the Resource Room, and sadly no shared food or drinks allowed. Many thanks to those who attended the working bees and to Phil for organising them, and to those who stayed on for the June meeting. It was really good to get back to almost normal, and to catch up with what is happening in the park.

I was able to visit Kath Moloney and her husband earlier this year, to present her with her 30 year badge, certificate and letter from the Minister, which she was not able to collect before, and had been rather reluctant to accept. I convinced her that she had certainly deserved the recognition of her many years of active service before she retired from the group.

On 26th May, Mike, Steve Taylor and I showed Minister Speirs and his two assistants the new Park area previously part of Glenburnie, and he was very happy to see the various areas and native vegetation types available.

In June we walked the Link Trail and removed small boneseed, then had our bi-monthly meeting

Progress on our Volunteer Support Grant –$5,500 to eradicate Olives and Boneseed on Devil’s Nose slopes. Josh Noble has completed this work, and has now been paid. Good to have less of these pest plants in the park!

$9033.00 AMLR NRM Grant, which has been augmented by a generous $1,100 donation from Kersbrook Landcare, will improve the biodiversity of the South Para River area of the park, by removal of woody weeds such as Olives and other major invasive plants. Work should be completed by October this year.

Numbers on the PED counters have been higher, due to the Covid situation which reduced the indoor activities.

No doubt all parks groups are glad to be able to get back to work and to meetings, now the Covid restrictions allow us to get on with the important work of improving our parks. It cetainly is good to be back to meetings as well as working bees, and to catch up with each other again.

An eventful period, with good and bad happenings, but we certainly achieved excellent results in our weed control forays, and I thank Phil Gillett for organising these, and all who took part in the fun and fellowship and the hard work of improving the health of our wonderful Para Wirra and helping to increase the valuable Conservation aspect of the areas within.

Patsy Johnson

**President**

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**FRIENDS OF ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL BIRD SANCTUARY**

FAIBS has now been running for three years. (to end 2019) We are growing our membership and broadening our reach to the local community and beyond. Promotion to community groups, local newspapers and councils has resulted in an increased awareness and stewardship of local people to the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

We established contact with East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and have had several reports published online and on Facebook – so our group is now getting global recognition. The EAAFP covers 18 countries and 145 flyway network sites.

As well as monthly activity days we have had contact from other interest groups to learn more about the Sanctuary and FAIBS. Field trips were held at St Kilda, shorebird ID sessions and mangrove boardwalk talks. We hosted Coastal Ambassadors, school groups, Flinders Uni Coastal Management students, Friends of Belair National Park and other groups for tours and contact days in our park.

With our Rangers, Coastal Officer, Birdlife Australia, DEW and other organisations our members are becoming involved in projects to re-establish Gahnia filum habitat for the Yellowish Sedge Skipper, conducting mudflat monitoring and undergoing shorebird surveys.

In 2020 we will be initiating mid week activity days in accordance with requirement of the Rangers and Coastal Officer.

We look forward to welcoming any people who may be interested in becoming involved in our activities.

Mary-Ann van Trigt

**President**



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**FRIENDS OF OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

The 2020 Old Government House AGM was finally held on August 9th in the Belair National Park Volunteer Centre. Due to COVID-19 it was long delayed from its usual date in March. It was well attended by 25 members.

A number of awards were presented by Jarrah Bailey, Liaison Ranger, to the following:

10 years’ service to Libby Wagener; 35 years’ service to Helen Petersen; 35 years’ service to Dene Cordes.

Awards to members who were unable to be present: 25 years’ to Harold Pinkus; 30 years’ to Anne Emmett; 35 years’ to Pam Tamblyn; 35 years’ to Norma Muggleton

The new committee was elected and the main executive roles are:

President: Wayne Gallasch Vice-President/Works: Phil Marlow

Secretary/Weddings: Tina Gallasch Treasurer: John Wagener

I would especially like to thank the outgoing President Dene Cordes for his excellent work, leadership, and positive influence on our group, guiding it from difficult times 3 years ago to a period of present strength. Dene has been president on 3 occasions, a record that will probably never be equaled.

Facing the huge challenges that COVID-19 is causing the community, all activity in the way of meetings and house openings have been suspended since March. However, the gardening group resumed some time ago, following strict guidelines, the building work on the Coach House and the OGH garden landscaping have both been proceeding very nicely over recent months. The works included increasing the size of the Coach House, kitchen and store area so that it can better function as a modern Visitors’ Centre. This work has been made possible thanks to a Federal grant secured by Nicolle Flint last year, plus extra funds from our own Friends of Old Government House account.

The Coach House renovations were completed on Friday 23rd October, and Minister for the Environment & Water, David Speirs MP will be making an inspection visit on Tuesday 27th October, along with Sam Duluk, MP member for Waite. The official re-opening of OGH and the new Coach House will be performed by Ms Nicolle Flint, MP, Member for Boothby on Saturday October 31st followed by our first Open Day of the year, with house and garden tours.

Wayne Gallasch

**President**

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**FRIENDS OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS UNIT**

One very loyal administration volunteer continues to assist in sending out information to Friends of Parks Inc. member groups from the Waymouth Street office. Assistance is also received in the preparation of milestone awards (10/20/25/30/35 years) by framing the certificates, and sending out the badges to the group contact. In 2019 Mary Fairweather received a Gold Pass in recognition of her fifteen years of contribution to the Unit.

Pam Smith

**Convenor**

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**FRIENDS OF INNES National Park**

Due to COVID-19 we deferred monthly gatherings of Friends of Inness, but met as a group again in September 2020 and agreed to recommence. We had several new members join and Andy Standen is now President and Donna Edwards is Secretary/ Treasurer.  Monthly meetings are held third Tuesday of the month and we are assisting Innes National Park with their planting, propagating, weeding and other duties as directed by the Rangers.

Donna Edwards

**Secretary**

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**FRIENDS OF BLACK HILL AND MORIALTA**

FOBHM has just expanded the number of projects in parks to 15 which cover multiple work sites across Black Hill, Morialta and Horsnell Gully Conservation Parks. 2511 volunteer hours have been documented to mid-October since January 2020:



As with all groups COVID-19 slowed us down considerably this year, however post COVID we have been busier than ever. Our group has experienced phenomenal growth the past 6 months with a 20% increase in membership though we have not been doing anything differently. It just seems we have more younger people out of work and looking for something meaningful to do.

Major achievements: The group was granted Deductible Gift Recipient status for the Friends of Black Hill & Morialta Gift Fund by the Federal Environment and Finance Ministers late last year. Acquiring this status has taken over 3 years of bureaucracy to achieve and it was a great relief to finally receive the news.

We continue to expand the area of Mount Lofty Chestnut-Rumped Heathwren (EPBC listed as endangered) habitat under management, particularly in Morialta and have successfully applied for funds to support this objective. A number of project sites are slowly being linked together. We also had enormous success with our Free A Tree campaign in Black Hill. The objective was to engage with community to try to save significant trees being inundated by olives. A campaign held in conjunction with Landcare Australia was highly successful raising just over $7500 and has been instrumental in huge gains on the ground. We are very grateful to those people who donated. <https://fundlandcare.org.au/campaigns/free-a-tree/>.

We have major concerns with the funding of the emerging weeds program run by the past AMLR NRM Officers. Both Muraltia heisteria and Ornithogalum thyrsoides being huge problems locally and potential problems much further afield than our area if they are allowed to expand through the Hills. Both have had significant funds invested in control and now funding has been cut just as good results were beginning to be observed. It seems better not to bother than to spend well over $100,000 and then walking away at such a critical time.

Liz Milner,

**President**

**FRIENDS OF CANUNDA AND BEACHPORT PARKS**

2020 has been a very mixed year for our group. The widespread damaging wild fires last summer had its affect both in SA and interstate. The losses were severe in various Parks and Reserves in the Cudlee Creek fire of the Adelaide Hills, and much of Kangaroo Island. Our SE region too had fires affecting parks in the Upper SE at Carcuma CP (NE of Coonalpyn) Bunbury CP (E of Salt Creek) and Hanson CP in the Keilira fire in December. These events had a significant disruptive effect on ‘normal’ operations and staff deployment. Groups such as ours needed to have understanding and render whatever support we could provide.

Our weekly working bees were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic in March, and resumed in June. Our weekly working bee’s since, have achieved a wide variety of works – when the weather allowed.

The Annual March in May event we hold for 200 Primary school students unfortunately was cancelled due to the pandemic. We stand ready to hold the event once again when the opportunity returns. The March continues to be one of the great fitness and Environmental educational things our group can do for the youth in our Region and it makes the Canunda National Park more well-known.

The pandemic also led to having no locally held DEW event for volunteers. Last year also missed out due to changes to Landscape SA and staff upheavals. It’s a pity, as it is one of the few opportunities for the volunteers of our Region to get together and share experiences.

We successfully obtained a Wattle Range Council Community Assistance Grant which enabled us to replace a heavy duty brush cutter.

Our appreciation especially goes to Ranger Glenn Jackway and his staff for the continuing great working relationship that we have.

Michael Bleby

**President**

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**Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park**

2020 Current Projects:

1. **Balcanoona Headquarters revegetation**

Two working bees saw revegetation work around the Park’s Balcanoona Headquarters continued with 155 more seedlings planted. Tree guards and irrigation pipe was supplied to each plant. Previous plantings were maintained. All seedlings are now grown by the members from seed collected from the local area. The area around the Ranger’s office was also planted and planning commenced for the revegetation of the Old Homestead has commenced

2. **Oocaboolina outstation refurbishment**

Work continued on painting the interior walls and levelling the floors of this historic residence. New windows and insect screens were installed and painted and internal door frames were prepared for fitting doors. A rainwater tank was connected to outside taps and overflow pipe installed. The feral Athel Pine in the surrounding grounds were again cut, swabbed and the stumps burned. Some replanting was done in the grounds.

3. **Weetootla and Nepouie Springs fish and water quality monitoring**

This citizen science project of monitoring water quality by measuring water parameters in the permanent Weetootla Spring continued. The unique Flinders Ranges Gudgeon was also monitored for size , growth, health, population numbers and breeding.

In addition: We have removed much Tobacco Bush from Weetootla; Done vegetation browsing surveys and begun assessing the condition of the Springs using a tool that will allow the assessments to be compared over time. And reached out to the Nepabunna and Iga Warta communities. We are now officially Guardians of the Gammon Ranges-Arkaroola Key Biodiversity Area, an initiative of BirdLife Australia.

Martin Caon

**President**

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**FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK**

The past 18 months has been busy and productive for the Friends of Onkaparinga Park. During this period:

1. Held our three working bees per week and our monthly meetings except for the coronavirus lockdown period.
2. Continued with the release and distribution of cochineal beetle infested prickly-pear material onto the large infestations of the pest plant. The huge patch downstream from the Long Gully Road track [Gun Club and Coaxial cable crossing] is showing good signs of the insects doing their work.
3. Controlled large infestations of Artichoke Thistles along Piggott Range Road in the locked section. The results of this activity are quite graphic when viewing the before and after photos.
4. Our volunteers have continued efforts to clear the hillsides above Old Noarlunga of olives and re-introduce native canopy trees as well as grasses and shrubs and to continue this work further to the west.
5. Highlights were the public planting day in the Recreation Park behind Port Noarlunga oval on an extremely windy and wet day, and the Park of the Month event held at Perry’s Bend.
6. Further weed control in our work sites at Hardy’s Scrub, Punchbowl Lookout, Springs, the Echidna Trail project area & the estuary sites. Revegetation work was completed adjacent to the Sundews link trail.
7. Our 33rd birthday celebration was held at the Pink Gum campground whilst our 34th celebration was held at the Chapel Hill picnic area. Both were very well attended and various presentations were made for service to the group.
8. There was a total of 2442 volunteer hours contributed for the year to 30th June 2019, and 2,040 volunteer hours contributed for the year to 30th June 2020, not including attendance at meetings or administration. This includes the lockdown period where no working bees or meetings were held.
9. Thanks are extended to our supportive Ranger Steve Johnson and also to our now departed Volunteer Support Officers, who gave our group tremendous assistance in achieving the goals of our various projects.
10. Finally, thanks to all at the Volunteer Programs Unit & the Friends of Parks Board, especially Pam Smith who continues her efficient support for all Friends of Parks groups.

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