



# Friends of Parks eNews

From the President's Desk...	» Page 1
Community Announcement and Request...	» Page 2
New Friends of Parks Inc. Groups...	» Page 4
Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information...	» Page 4
Butterfly Conservation SA Inc Public Meetings/Talks...	» Page 4
Camels versus Quandong... the loser is clear...	» Page 5
Coach House, Old Government House, Belair NP...	» Page 5
Check before you donate - good advice...	» Page 6
Things you might not know about echidnas...	» Page 6
Pests in the sights of NPWS...	» Page 7
Everything you need to know to outfox foxes in Adelaide...	» Page 8
Kimba Friends 25th anniversary celebrations and presentations...	» Page 9
Prescribed Burns at Para Wirra - Steve Taylor May 2021...	» Page 10
DEW staff and volunteers recognised in Rotary Awards...	» Page 10
The art of seduction, perfected by orchids...	» Page 11
Two gems from the Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve Inc. newsletter No.52 Winter 2021	» Page 12
Water Allocation Plan for Far North Prescribed Wells Area	» Page 12
Items contributed by members and others...	» Page 13
Award of Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service...	» Page 13
Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Volunteers at Parham Dunes...	» Page 13
Friends of Granite Island Volunteers...	» Page 14
Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks reach 25 years milestone...	» Page 15
Departed Friends...	» Page 15
Links - useful/interesting website links...	» Page 17
Friends of Parks Inc. Gift Fund...	» Page 18
Gift Fund Donation Form...	» Page 19

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

It may be the time of year for cold and wet weather, but it is also the time when many of our Groups mail-out their marvellous newsletters. These are filled with descriptions of projects and new ideas for conservation work in our parks and I certainly look forward to going through them 'with a fine toothcomb'!!

Have you also noticed a sharp increase in the number of environmental/conservation articles appearing in our papers ? This is part of a long-term plan to involve community in the preservation and enhancement of our environment and recognize the important work that our community volunteers undertake across the State.

A recent article by Clare Peddie (The Advertiser Climate and Environment Editor) details the story of Biodiversity McLaren Vale, a volunteer group that formed to remove weeds from creek lines and re-plant native vegetation. The interesting part of this story is that the group is removing feral olive trees from our parks and using the waste to produce a type of charcoal that improves soil nutrition and helps tackle climate change.

The olive trees are fed into a carbonator machine and burned at temperatures of 500°C. They are then "quenched" to create biochar, which is sold to local vineyards. Biochar improves soil structure and water-holding capacity. It also stores carbon in the soil, rather than releasing it into the atmosphere.

Another article by Clare details the launching of a comprehensive guide to help foster a deeper connection with nature. The launch took place at Scott Creek Conservation Park and author Jason Tyndall said the book – "Where Birds Sing and Wildflowers Dance" – went far beyond the identification of plants and animals to explore the

emotional connection to nature. Jason was assisted in the production of the book by 50 contributors including conservationists.

Another exciting article concerned the return of a rare butterfly to the Adelaide Plains – the yellowish sedge skipper - which disappeared from the region in 1985. Dedicated volunteers are releasing larvae into habitat at Greenfields Wetlands and the project is coordinated by 'Green Adelaide'.

Like many cities, metropolitan South Australia is under pressure from the impacts of urban infill, climate change and loss of natural habitat. We need to better balance city life conveniences with a healthy environment. Adelaide's growth and prosperity depends on it.

'Green Adelaide' has been formed to educate, partner, influence, and invest in activities that deliver a healthy natural environment across metropolitan Adelaide. There are seven priorities that guide this work: Coastal management; Water resources and wetlands; Green streets and flourishing parklands; Biodiversity and water sensitive urban design; Fauna, flora and ecosystem health in the urban environment; Controlling pest plants and animals and Nature education. It is expected that many Friends of Parks groups might become involved in this new initiative, by helping spread the word about nature, partnering with Green Adelaide, applying for green grants and delivering green activities in your local area.

One exciting initiative is the creation of 'ADELAIDE NATIONAL PARK CITY'. A National Park City is not a traditional "national park" in the way that we all know. It is a vision of what a city could be and a social movement to make it happen. It is a big idea, for the long term, and it encompasses everything within a city. Things you can see and touch, such as nature, people, buildings and infrastructure, but also our less tangible social and cultural aspects. Creating a National Park City means creating a place where both people and nature flourish.

The first National Park City created in the world is London and Green Adelaide is working towards making Adelaide the second city. Your Board will keep you updated as planning and projects develop.

In relation to grants, our Volunteer Support Grants program for 2021-22 will be released shortly. Recently Environment Minister David Speirs wrote to all Landscape SA Boards stating his strong support for the Friends of Parks groups and asking that Boards consider the Groups as partners for funding initiatives, particularly the Landscape SA Grassroots Grants programs.

For those Friends of Parks members who have served their group for 15 years or more, please note that you are eligible to receive a DEW Gold Pass to our SA parks system. Group secretaries should contact Pam Smith to ask for an application form.

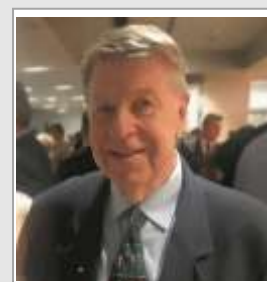
The Friends of old Government House was recently awarded first prize in the SA Architects Award Ceremonies in the Small Project Architecture category. The award was for the group's development of the Coach House at Old Government House – congratulations!! Further information and photos appear in this edition of the eNews.

While on the subject of awards, the Advertiser is seeking local environment heroes. They want to reward people who are making a difference for future generations. The 'PETZER PRIZE' has a cash prize of \$10,000. Heroes must be living South Australians who are transforming our natural world. Please go to the following link for details:

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/pelzer-prize-nominate-green-heroes-making-a-difference-to-the-sa-environment/news-story/e8a30579bf2f139e93869966f645e4e6>



Duncan MacKenzie OAM  
President  
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.



*Volunteers working for conservation*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT and REQUEST  
FROM THE PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. BOARD

Dear Readers

I'm sure that you are all shocked about the bushfire season in 2020 and 2021 that has affected much of this country's population, farmland, and natural habitat.

For our fantastic national parks and all of the plants and animals they are set aside to conserve, the fires have been absolutely catastrophic. What survived the direct flames and heat of the fires now face an uncertain future just to survive.

Friends of Parks SA is a community organisation that is over 30 years old, and is dedicated solely to assist the Department of Environment and Water's (DEW) staff in managing the State's national parks and reserves. There's currently over 130 Friends of Parks groups state-wide are involved directly with on-park activities, such as weed eradication, feral animal control, habitat restoration, wildlife survey and monitoring - to name just a few.

DEW is currently assessing the ecological and infrastructure impacts to each of the affected parks, and will be working closely with the relevant Friends groups and other community organisations to plan the recovery activities, many of which will need to be carefully timed and sequenced.

Friends of Parks groups may be requested to provide assistance with tasks such as seed collection, growing seedlings, weed control and planting events and the Friends of Parks Board will be working closely with DEW and keep communicating with groups about how they can be involved into the bushfire recovery.

The Friends of Parks Board has unanimously agreed that this catastrophic situation affecting so many of our parks and their biodiversity, needs responding to with strong and immediate action.

As a result the Board has agreed that it will dedicate the Board's tax deductible '**Gift Fund**' for a period of two years to help fund post fire recovery activities undertaken by our member groups in 2020 and 2021.

Any Friends of Parks Member Group can apply to the **Gift Fund Committee** for funding, if the parks they are involved in, or wish to become involved in, has been impacted by the fires.

Tax deductible donations to help the Friends of Parks groups to continue their post fire recovery work can be made by completing a simple form and forwarding with your cheque to:

Treasurer, Gift Fund  
Friends of Parks Inc.  
c/- the Secretariat, Volunteer And Visitor Unit  
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001.

Or by bank deposit (please also fill in the form and email to [pamela.smith@sa.gov.au](mailto:pamela.smith@sa.gov.au) so that we know where to send your receipt):

Name of Account:	Friends of Parks Inc. Gift Fund
BSB:	805 050
Account Number:	2339333
Bank:	People's Choice Credit Union

The form can be found on the Friends of Parks SA website; click on the 'Donate Now' button:  
<http://www.friendsofparkssa.org.au/>

Thank you for your consideration and support. The recovery in those parks affected will be a slow process for plants and animals re-populating these areas, and the community support that will be required will be vital.

Regards

Duncan MacKenzie  
PRESIDENT  
**FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.**

Donations to the Gift Fund from the following persons or groups since the previous eNews issued are gratefully acknowledged:

\$100 from an anonymous donor  
2,000 from an anonymous donor  
\$975 from Our Lady Queen Of Peace School  
\$100 from Danny Mansvelders

Grants paid to Friends of Parks Inc. member groups:

Friends of Parks KI Western Districts  
Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

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### **New Friends of Parks Inc. Member Groups**

We welcome the following as new member groups and trust that your involvement with Friends of Parks will be long and mutually beneficial.

#### Full Member Groups

December 2020

Semaphore Largs Dunes Group

February 2021

Friends of Nixon-Skinner Conservation Park

#### Affiliate Groups

December 2020

Big Heart Adventures

February 2021

SA Speleological Council

... and note that there are other groups which have made initial contact, which we hope to be able to tell you about in the next eNews.

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[Go to top](#)

## **Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information**

### **Butterfly Conservation SA Inc Public Meetings/Talks**

[The following texts are a partial repeat of information on BCSA's next four public talks as described on the BCSA website]

.... which you can attend.....

EITHER face to face at the Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long St. Plympton (doors open 6.15 pm),  
OR (except for the September evening at which the AGM is held) **watch and listen at home over the internet as a Zoom meeting** (for which you need to register in advance [by contacting [info@butterflygardening.net.au](mailto:info@butterflygardening.net.au) | Ph: 08 8297 8230]: after registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting).

3 August @ 6.30 am - 8.00 pm

An introduction to butterfly observation

Committee member and former Chairman of BCSA, Mike Moore, will provide practical hints on observing adult butterflies and their caterpillars. Chris Sanderson from the Australian National University will provide an overview of a new butterfly app(lication). A first-of-its-kind citizen science project will put amateur butterfly-watchers at the forefront of research and conservation for the insect.

7 September @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

6.30 pm - 7.00 pm BCSA AGM, then

Public Talk: The current and future prospects for biodiversity conservation on private land. John Fargher, of the Yundi Nature Conservancy, will talk about current policy settings for private conservation in different Australian states, and provide examples from practical experience of managing a re-wilding and biodiversity maintenance program at the Yundi Nature Conservancy on the Fleurieu Peninsula, with some specific examples relating to butterflies and moths.

5 October @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

The disappearing 'inscape'

Soil is one of our most precious resources and the composition of the top 15cm is critical to the survival of all plants and micro organisms. Committee member Andrew Walters will provide an insight into what happens to our soil over time and how we can assist our plants to grow, by managing the 'inscape' or top 15cm.

4 November @ 3:00 am - 11:00 pm (ticketed event)

Why nectar is important to butterflies and where they find it.

Nectar is the major energy source for butterflies but species differ greatly in the range of flowers they exploit. Recent research has shown that only a small range of herbs, shrubs and a few trees account for most visits. These include native daisies, teatrees and bursaria as well as certain weeds such as scabiosa and blackberry.

Presented by Dr. Peter McQuillan from the University of Tasmania, this talk will be of interest to those wishing to provide nectar for butterflies visiting a garden and those interested in remnant vegetation conservation.

[Go to top](#)

### **Camels versus Quandong... the loser is clear**

[article from the Landscape South Australia Alinytjara Wilurara newsletter Palya Autumn 2021 edition]

Quandong (native peach) is an important high-vitamin C bush food for Traditional Owners in the AW region. Annual photographic and analysis records of transects have been carried out by AW since 2015 with the base-line survey undertaken in 2009.

Monitored trees across all transects clearly show heavy impact from camel browsing and in some cases irreversibly damaged. There is a direct correlation between the growth of feral camel populations with increasing and excessive impacts on the region's native ecology.

Repeated monitoring of some transects showed increased loss of biomass in relatively short periods of time with a recorded trajectory of around 90% of the trees having either major damage or no leaves left except the crown.

A 'tree health score' is assigned annually by analysing photographs taken of each quandong tree to provide historic reference of change. These photos also show the likely source of damage through observation of the biomass (tree's branches and leaves) gain or loss and other visible indicators such as Camel kuna (scats) or tjina (tracks).

The data collected on these surveys informs project planning and help support a stronger more sustainable landscape to flourish.

More information: [aw.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au](mailto:aw.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au)

[Go to top](#)

### **Coach House, Old Government House, Belair NP**

[emailed message from [Tina Gallasch](#), Friends of OGH Inc., sent to VVPU 11 June 2021]

Hi Everyone,

I am truly pleased and proud to tell you that the development of the Coach House at Old Government House was awarded first prize in the SA Architects Awards Ceremonies last night, in the Small Project Architecture category.

This project was made possible by the funding of the Federal Government under the Adelaide City Deal, which in turn was facilitated by the Member for Boothby, Nicolle Flint. Ian and Haylee of Arcuate came up with a delightful design which fits well into our surroundings, and of course G-force made it all come to life. And we can't forget the guiding hand of Peter Stokes, as Project Manager, who was so easy to work with.

The extension of the Coach House has made an enormous difference to our Volunteering lives, and has enabled us to raise more funds for on-going projects.

Thanks to Ian Hamilton of Arcuate Architects we watched the Awards on a broadcast, and were able to make a small speech of acceptance.



View of the exterior of the Coach House  
(photographer Tina Gallasch)



View of Old Government House through the open doors  
of the Coach House (photographer Wayne Gallasch)



L-R: Dene Cordes PSM, OAM; Nicolle Flint, MP Member for Boothby;  
Wayne Gallasch, President of the Friends of Old Government House,  
at the opening of the newly extended and renovated Coach House.  
Nicolle Flint MP did the honours. (Photographer Tina Gallasch).



View of the newly refurbished interior of the coach house  
(photographer Wayne Gallasch)

Kind regards,

Tina Gallasch, Secretary, Friends of Old Government House Inc., PO Box 2 Belair, SA 5052

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/foghbelair/> | Website: <https://www.oldgovernmenthouse.org.au>

[Go to top](#)

## Check before you donate - good advice

[From Friends of the Coorong Newsletter, Summer 2020-2021]

The loss of income for some charities this year has been significant, especially those that relied on public fundraising events. However you are urged to do a quick online check of a charity's credentials before donating this festive season – [www.acnc.gov.au/charityportal](http://www.acnc.gov.au/charityportal)

Tips for safe giving include:

- Look for established and registered charities that are running verified Christmas/festive season appeals.
- If you get a call from someone claiming to be from a charity, ask to call them back. Search the Charity Register and call back using the phone number published there.
- If you get a call from someone claiming to be from a charity, ask to call them back. Search the Charity Register and call back using the phone number published there.
- Don't click on links in unsolicited emails and social media posts. It is safer to visit a charity's website.
- Don't give out your credit card or bank account details on social media and be cautious when doing so online or on the phone.
- Always ask for identification from door-to-door and street fundraising collectors.



[Go to top](#)

## Things you might not know about echidnas

[from Friends of the Coorong Newsletter, Summer 2020-2021]

They're spiky, slow-moving and native to Australia, but there is more to echidnas than meets the eye.

The spines you see on an echidna are actually long, tough, hollow hair follicles. They are also covered in shorter fur to keep them warm. These spines are their main line of



defence when predators strike. When under threat, they will roll up into a ball, radiating spines to protect themselves. They will also dig themselves into the soil, leaving only a rounded mound of spines visible. The claws on an echidna's hind limbs are curved backwards to help them dig.

Echidnas found in SA tend to be much darker in colour than their eastern states counterparts.

Along with the platypus, the echidna is the only other living egg-laying mammal species. Almost a month after mating, the female deposits a single, soft-shelled, leathery egg into her pouch. The gestation period is quite quick – after only 10 days the baby echidna (known as a puggle) hatches.

Echidnas are toothless mammals, but they make up for this with their long sticky tongues. Their tongues work very quickly, enabling them to slurp up ants, worms and insect larvae. Their scientific name, *Tachyglossus* means fast tongue.

[Go to top](#)

## Pests in the sights of NPWS

[from the DEW blog THE WEEKLY of 23 June 2021. Author and photographer not attributed]

A project to rid Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park of cats and foxes is having a positive impact for the re-introduction of the brush-tailed bettong.



Landscapes SA Project Manager Max Barr (left) and Senior Ranger Mark Davison deploying a new Felixer feral cat management system

The Marna Banggara project is being undertaken in partnership between DEW and Northern and Yorke Landscape Board along with other project partners and community organisations, as well as NPWS staff have been contributing significantly to the on-the-ground delivery of the project.

Fortnightly baiting is presently underway in Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park and Warrenben Conservation Park in preparation for the release of brush-tailed bettongs.

The objective of the program is to reduce fox and cat numbers and baiting has been happening since the tammar wallaby reintroduction back in the mid-2000s.

Other species that will benefit directly from red fox and feral cat control include the malleefowl and western whipbird, to name a couple.

Further methods of identification and control include that cameras are also used throughout Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park in order to ascertain fox and feral cat numbers prior to the release.

Additionally, a trial of Felixer grooming traps began this month which uses cameras to detect cats walking past a trap and shoots a gel of bait onto the animal, which it in turn grooms off.

To complement the baiting and monitoring, a local contractor has been engaged to undertake trapping and surveying to determine feral animal activity and aerial baiting is occurring for the first time in Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park and Warrenben this month.

Marna Banggara comes from Narungga dialect. Marna means 'healthy or prosperous' and banggara signifies 'Country'. It reflects the project's aim to improve economic and agricultural outcomes by enhancing biodiversity and the health of the district's natural systems.

Marna Banggara is based on a model of rewilding that involves returning native species that can help restore the landscape's ecological function. It is unique from most other rewilding projects in that the project area is part of a working landscape, where agriculture, local business, the community and reintroduced species will co-exist.

Staff involved in this important project include Mark Davison, Aaron Smith, Chloe McSkimming, Dion Bromley and Rick Muller.

*This project is jointly funded through the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, the South Australian Department for Environment and Water, WWF-Australia and Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. Other partners actively involved in developing and delivering the project include Regional Development Australia, South Australian Tourism Commission, Zoos SA, FAUNA Research Alliance, BirdLife Australia, Nature Conservation Society of SA, Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Primary Producers SA, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Legatus Group, Yorke Peninsula Council, Yorke Peninsula Tourism and the Scientific Expedition Group.*

[Go to top](#)

## Everything you need to know to outfox foxes in Adelaide

[from the Green Adelaide blog of 17 May 2021]

Foxes are quick and cunning, which makes them a threat to many South Australian native animals, along with your chickens, pet birds, guinea pigs and rabbits. Read on to find out what you can do to reduce that threat.

Did you know that foxes are everywhere in Adelaide? You may not see them, but they see you.

In fact, around southern Australia there are more foxes in cities than in rural areas, for the simple reason that city life suits them.

In our cities and suburbs foxes become scavengers and feed on anything – rubbish, food left out for pets, even fruit that's fallen from backyard trees. They're opportunistic feeders. They also don't need much living space and can build a den under a house, or a quiet part of a neighbourhood.

### Is this a problem?

Sometimes. It is for native wildlife, and for chickens or pets kept in unsecure pens outdoors.

Foxes are good climbers and can climb pens. So the best way to protect your pets outside from raids, is to fox-proof them in a fully enclosed pen or coop.

Foxes also carry a few diseases like mange that can spread to dogs, and they like to dig and can even pinch washing off the line.

Many ground-dwelling mammals like brush-tailed bettongs, bilbies and quolls once occurred across metropolitan South Australia. But because of foxes (cats and loss of habitat), they are no longer around. A few have some ability to outfox a fox. For example, brushtail and ringtail possums race up tree tops and move around on roofs and power lines to keep safe, which is why we have healthy populations in metro SA. And the aquatic lifestyle of our native water rats (or rakali) helps keep them safe as foxes prefer to stay dry.

However, some young native birds and other species can be more susceptible to fox attacks and for rarer species any loss can be devastating. Conservation work is underway to help protect threatened species from fox attacks.



Photo credit: Nora Feddal, West Hollywood USA

As foxes have been around since the 1870s, most of our remaining wildlife have adjusted to their presence, so eradicating foxes from our suburbs and cities is less critical. Importantly though, eradicating foxes from these areas is not feasible either.

The best way you can help to reduce foxes in the urban environment, is to make your area uninviting by not providing them with food or shelter.

Foxes go where they feel at home, so remember:

- don't feed them
- don't leave food lying around (including pet food)
- cover your compost

reduce access to spots they could use for shelter (e.g. wood piles).

And don't feed native animals. This can make them less wary and more susceptible to fox attack. Also, remember, though some may look cute, it's illegal to keep foxes as pets in SA.

[Go to top](#)

### **Kimba Friends 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and presentations**

[from email of 19 May to VVPU from Sue Grund, Kimba Friends. Photos not attributed.]

Ranger Lindsay did a wonderful job of organising a BBQ at Lake Gilles (35 kilometres to the north-east of Kimba) for the presentation. The Central Hills 4WD group were in Kimba for five nights and Lindsay had them putting up fences and planting trees at Lake Gilles where extra visitors over COVID were degrading the area.

John and I were involved with a bowls tournament in Kimba for the first few days but helped where we could. We were asked to take them on a tag-along tour through Lake Gilles after the BBQ and the next day a full day tag-along to the station country north of Kimba. They thoroughly enjoyed the tours and we enjoyed their company. They then went to the Gawler Ranges Park and planted trees and we went up to help for one day.

Not all of the awards were presented but Austen and Thelma Eatts, and Geoff and Aileen Woolford along with John and I, were able to be there and everyone was very happy to be there and thrilled with the beautiful certificate. Lindsay plans coming back next month to put up signage and hopefully present the rest of the certificates.



Kimba Friends awardees



Central Hills 4WD group assist with fencing and planting



Kimba Friends and Central Hills 4WD group

[Go to top](#)

## Prescribed Burns at Para Wirra - Steve Taylor May 2021

[from Para Wirra News newsletter of March 2021. Article author and photographer Steve Taylor]

Para Wirra and adjacent SA Water land at Barossa and South Para along with parts of Mount Crawford forest constitute a large and significant area of native vegetation in a landscape where around 10% of the original vegetated area remains uncleared.

This block of native vegetation is vital in maintaining populations of flora and fauna that once occurred commonly throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges and Government agencies have considerable challenges in managing it effectively. The need to protect built assets can conflict with the needs of flora and fauna populations and agencies have to manage weeds and public access while protecting built and natural assets including water resources.

DEW conducts prescribed fuel reduction burns on its reserves and SA Water land as part of its management responsibilities and these burns are planned months and years ahead. DEW uses a complex planning process that balances asset protection and environmental sustainability, mitigating risks to both as much as possible and burns are done during Spring and Autumn when conditions are suitable.

One of the mechanisms to reduce the risk of losing important habitat trees is to temporarily remove fire fuel from the base of such trees; often all that is needed is for the leaf and bark litter to be raked back from the tree bases

before the burn. Experience with prescribed burning at Para Wirra from mid 2000s has demonstrated how successful this simple measure can be and it has now become standard practice as a means of reducing damage and loss of habitat for various birds, bats, possums and other small mammals such as the Yellow footed antechinus.



Mature Pink gum starting to develop hollows and vulnerable to fire where dead wood is exposed in the centre of the ring of attached branches. Raking has protected this area and also protected smooth barked branches from damage due to radiant heat (prescribed burn 6/5/21)

[Go to top](#)

## DEW staff and volunteers recognised in Rotary Awards

[from document received by VVPU early April 2021. Photos by David Dewar, PHF Editor, Youth Director, Rotary Club of Burnside]

Two DEW staff and several valuable volunteers have been recognised by the Rotary Club of Burnside, winning the club's 2019 Volunteer of the Parks award and the Leadership in Conservation award.



National Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Mike Williams, District Ranger Jen Pitman (on behalf of Nick Purdew), First Peoples Coordinator Fiona Giles, and District Governor Elect Jeff Neale

The award ceremony took place at the Maylands Hotel last month, after being impacted twice by COVID restrictions last year. It was a case of third time lucky and the event went ahead with 40 people attending the award presentation.

Two DEW staff members were announced as the recipients of the Leadership in Conservation award – First Peoples Coordinator Fiona Giles, and Northern Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Ranger Nick Purdew.

Friends of Mark Oliphant Conservation Park and Woorabinda Bushland Reserve volunteer Philip Hicks was awarded the 2019 Volunteer of the Parks award, while Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park volunteer Ray Hickman and Friends of Old Government House and Belair National Park volunteers Tina and Wayne Gallasch were awarded certificates of recognition.

National Parks and Wildlife Service Executive Director Mike Williams addressed the gathering on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs, and at the end of the evening South Australia's Deputy Premier, Attorney General, member for Bragg, and Rotarian Vickie Chapman thanked all award winners and nominees.

For more information about volunteering in our national parks, contact Friends of Parks Admin Officer Pam Smith on (08) 8124 4784 or via [email](#).



National Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Mike Williams, Volunteers of the Parks Award winner Philip Hicks, and District Governor Elect Jeff Neale

[Go to top](#)

### The art of seduction, perfected by orchids

Reprinted from Green Adelaide Landscape South Australia - Nature Education Weekly Digest, 6 December 2020.  
[from BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC. NEWSLETTER No. 74: February 2021]

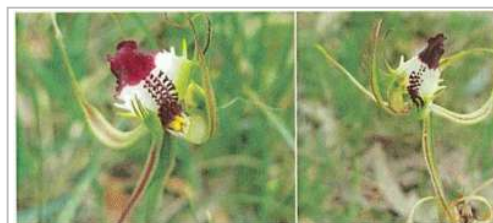
There are over 200 species of orchids in Australia but the Large Green-comb Spider-orchid, *Caladenia tentaculata*, is one of the easiest to identify in the Adelaide region. Their large and brightly coloured spidery-looking flowers appear over spring and summer, and can be up to 12cm in width.

They are found in open woodland, heathland and forest.

Sadly, the Large Green-comb Spider-orchid and many other native orchids are in decline. Key threats include vegetation clearance, climate change, weed invasion, herbivory/grazing, in-breeding, recreational activities and lack of pollinators.

A lack of pollinators spells particularly bad news for orchids because the Australian orchids are the queens of deception. They deceive male insects – mostly wasps – into believing that they've found a female mate by releasing a chemical copy of the female wasp's pheromones. The orchid flower also mimics the female wasp visually, which further deceives the male. When a male wasp lands on the flower, the shape ensures the male is in the right position to make contact with the pollen (to deposit or pick up). Most Australian orchids that mimic female insects are pollinated by male Thynnine wasps. These are highly specific relationships with each orchid being adapted for pollination by a single species of wasp pollinator. Habitat conservation and restoration is vital to ensure the survival of both pollinators and the orchids that rely on them.

If you're interested in orchids, you might like to download the Native orchids of the Adelaide Hills identification chart on the Nature Education website



Large Green-comb Spider-orchid  
Photo: Steve Walker

[https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/adelaide\\_and\\_mt\\_lofty\\_ranges/nrm\\_education/a  
mlr-native-orchids-2015-gen.pdf](https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/adelaide_and_mt_lofty_ranges/nrm_education/mlr-native-orchids-2015-gen.pdf)

To learn more about your local biodiversity and what you can do to take action, please visit the Land Based Environments section on the Nature Education website

<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf/education/for-educators/plants-and-animals/land-based-environments>

(Other) References:

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/orchidkey/index.html>

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment>

[Go to top](#)

## **Two gems from the Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve Inc. newsletter No.52 Winter 2021**

[text and images by Peter Bird]

### **Tree guard repair tip**

Corflute tree guards are light and effective but after a couple of years the slits that house the stake are prone to travel. Once this happens the guards loosen and ultimately blow off.

To repair, place a small (100mm) zip tie at each corner of the original slit. This reinstates the snug fitting of the stake and prolongs the life of the guard for several more years. The cost is a couple of minutes work and less than 2 cents per zip tie.

### **Jewels of the night**

On my latest spotlight walk through the reserve the ground was positively glittering with the eye shine from dozens of Wolf spiders. Like most spiders, Wolf spiders have 8 eyes, but unlike most others, theirs are spectacularly reflective, visible from 50m or more. These terrestrial spiders are often hugely abundant, although a bizarre trait keeps their numbers lower than they might otherwise be. Wolf spider mothers carry their egg case around with them. When the young hatch, they climb onto her back. The spiderlings remain there for several weeks, safe from other predators but not from their siblings. The young gradually cannibalise each other until large enough to find their own food, by which time only a few remain.



[Go to top](#)

## **Water Allocation Plan for Far North Prescribed Wells Area**

[from the DEW blog The Weekly – Edition 408, received by VVPU late March 2021]

The [Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan](#) has been released this month, following adoption of the plan by the Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs.



The Bubbler Mound Spring (image courtesy of A. Jensen)

The new and improved plan was developed over three years and outlines how the Great Artesian Basin and other valuable ground water resources in the state's far north will be protected and managed.

It was developed in a partnership between the [SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](#) and DEW in consultation with First Nations, community and industries dependent on this finite resource.

The plan outlines how the take and use of water, including from the South Australian portion of the Great Artesian Basin, will be sustainably managed and how mound springs and non-spring groundwater dependent ecosystems and sites of cultural significance will be protected.

The water allocation plan aims to strike a balance between all users of this water so that industries, environmental assets, social and cultural values in the far north can be preserved into the future.

[Go to top](#)

## Items contributed by members and others - to whom special thanks

### Award of Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service

[from an email of 16 June to the editor from Tina Gallasch, Secretary, Friends of Old Government House (FOGH) and Belair NP]

The Premier's Certificate of Recognition for outstanding volunteer service in 2021 was awarded to Barbara Warburton, and was jointly presented at the Volunteers Centre in Belair National Park on Saturday 5 June, 2021 by Mark Pedlar, President of Friends of Belair NP, and Wayne Gallasch, President of Friends of Old Government House.

The occasion was celebrated with a special afternoon Devonshire Tea at a joint meeting of Friends of Belair National Park and Friends of Old Government House.

As far as Friends of Belair National Park is concerned, Barbara is one of their unsung heroes. She has been a FBNP member for 25 years, worked her own adopt a block for many years, was a Trees for Life seedling grower, was part of the Dam Ladies team, and was for a time, Membership Secretary.

And for the Friends of Old Government House, Barbara, above all other volunteers, has worked tirelessly in the garden for up to 15 hours a week for the past 3 years. Most of that time she was also a member of FBNP. Although she has only been a formal member of FOGH for a short time, the work she has done in the garden has been instrumental in transforming it.



L-R: Mark Pedlar President of Friends of Belair National Park, Barbara Warburton, Wayne Gallasch, President of Friends of Old Government House.

Tina Gallasch, Secretary, Friends of Old Government House Inc. and Belair NP, PO Box 2 Belair SA 5052

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/foghbelair/> | Website: <https://www.oldgovernmenthouse.org.au>

[Go to top](#)

### Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Volunteers at Parham Dunes

[Submitted by Maree Merchant, Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary]

The morning of 20th June was a crisp, beautifully sunny start to **Arbor Day**, and Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) Rangers Andrew Cowley and Warrick Barnes supplied 25 Friends of AIBS (FAIBS) volunteers with a variety of native seedlings to plant in the Parham dunes.

The plants were donated by Green Adelaide and sourced from the Two Wells Nursery. Soil conditioner and water crystals were mixed into the soil to aid seedling survival, while Corflute tree guards were installed to protect the

plants from any rabbits tempted to sample them! Later the Corflute tree guards will be removed and recycled. 600 seedlings were planted.

Big thanks are due to all the volunteers for this wonderful effort along with the Adelaide Plains Council and Department for Environment and Water for their contributions.

FAIBS' next activity will be **'The Big Clean'** to be held on July 18th, also at Parham. Anyone interested in helping to remove dumped rubbish is most welcome to join in. Volunteers will meet at the Parham Sports and Social Club at 9am and spread into neighbouring areas until 3pm. A Barb-B-Q lunch is planned. Hat, work gloves, closed toe shoes, snacks and water are recommended, while rakes and shovels will be helpful. Volunteers can come and go anytime between those hours. Further information will be available on the FAIBS [Facebook](#) page in the near future.



Volunteers So Muny and Touch assist with the Parham plantings



FAIBS planting group after placing 600 plants at Parham

Enquiries: [faibssa@gmail.com](mailto:faibssa@gmail.com)

[Go to top](#)

### Friends of Granite Island Volunteers

[Submitted by Jean Flamank, Secretary Friends of Granite Island]

The Friends of Granite Island are a small group of volunteers which has been going for over 20 years. This dedication was recently recognized with a presentation by Minister Speirs and the Hon. David Basham, and the commemorative planting of two Norfolk Pines on the island.

The volunteers meet on the Island every fortnight to carry out numerous jobs, weeding and clearing the planting areas of broken branches and rubbish. Slashing the winter grasses is always a big job. During the drier months we have had to keep the new plantings on the North side watered till they take hold due to the area being in a rain shadow and extremely dry.

We are absolutely delighted with the growth of previously planted "Dianella", which is a favorite with the penguins for nesting, it has covered a large area of the sandy hill side. The pigface is also spreading well.

Now that the rains have arrived, we have set about planting bare areas adjacent to and on either side of the board walk with plants supplied by DEW. One of our volunteers has also been successfully propagating Casuarina trees from seeds gathered on Granite Island. The trees are being planted near the top of the embankment and behind our shed where there was a large bare area.

With the completion of the new Granite Island causeway due in December 2021, it is even more important to keep the unique ambience of the island both intact and further developed.

Most visitors comment on and appreciate the natural landscape, magnificent sea views, and the special wildlife, which includes penguins, two elusive wallabies, Buff banded rails, Quail, native rats, Pacific gulls and even Terns.

We are currently concentrating on what we like doing best, planting!

Anyone who wishes to volunteer with our group is more than welcome you can contact us through our [Facebook](#) page or by email on [flamank@tpg.com.au](mailto:flamank@tpg.com.au).



Jean, Andrew, Stephen, Kym, Pip



Mary Jane



Rosalyn, Trevor



Kym, Pip



Stephen



Pip

[Jean Flamank](#), Secretary Friends of Granite Island

[Go to top](#)

### Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks reach 25 years milestone.

[from email of 21 June from Jim Egan, Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks to the editor]

Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks reached the milestone of 25 years since inception in the middle of last year's COVID restrictions. Hence no opportunity at the time to celebrate this milestone with our members.

But we will be making amends with a belated celebratory lunch for all members at Donington Cottage in the Lincoln National Park on Sunday August 15. And to add to the occasion, our local Park Rangers have volunteered to provide and cook the BBQ lunch for us.

Here's hoping for fine weather and a large turnout of members.

Jim Egan, Secretary, [Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/fosepp/>

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[Go to top](#)

### 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, while for our eNews newsletters we have been providing a list of those who have passed away since the previous newsletter. But in view of the disruption to the sequence of Forums since Forum 2018, in this edition of eNews we are providing the names of all Friends who have passed away since Forum 2018. In future eNews (eNews40 on) we will revert to providing a list of those who have passed away since the previous newsletter

We apologise for any omissions. Please let Pam Smith, VVPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

#### IN MEMORIAM 2018-present

Lois Margaret Hasenohr  
Allan Coppick  
Margaret Bolster, AM  
Lorraine Hancox  
Trevor John Rowe  
Toni Beattie

Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.  
Fort Glanville Historical Association Inc.  
Conservation Council of SA Inc.  
Friends of Simpson Desert Parks  
Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.  
Friends of O'Halloran Hill RP/Friends of Glenthorne Farm Inc.

George Murphy	Kangaroo Island Consultative Committee
Margaret King	Kangaroo Island Consultative Committee
Arthur 'Mate'	Osborne Danggali Conservation Park
Garry Clifford	Lower South East Consultative Committee
Jim Ayliffe	Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Conservation and Wildlife Management (SA) Inc.)
Joan Hawthorne	Friends of Mount Monster Conservation Park
Lindsay Best	former Senior Wildlife Management Officer/Director NPWS
Norma Skinner	Friends of Marino Conservation Park
Dianne Cordes	Friends of Old Government House; Belair; Heritage Committee, and others
Roxeanne Cattermole	Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Colin Griffen	Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.
Jim McLafferty	Friends of Angove Conservation Park
Garry Thompson	Friends of Simpson Desert Parks
Betty Klau	Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Helen Murdock	Friends of Innes National Park
Val Conry	Friends of Old Government House
Cyril Davis	Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Harm Folkers	Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Ron Bert	National Parks Heritage Committee
Neville Forde	Birds SA
Wally Luscombe	Friends of Simpson Desert Parks
Donald Webster	Friends of O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park
Doris Fowles	Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.
Betty Franche	Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.
Darrell Kraehenbuehl	Field Naturalists' Society of SA Inc.
Steve Clarke	Nature Glenelg Trust
Ray Beyer	Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Wally Davies	Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Bill Gowling	Friends of Simpson Desert Parks
David Keane	Butterfly Conservation SA
Jim Smith	Friends of the Volunteer and Visitor Programs Unit
Dennis Shearing	Friends of Parks KI Western Districts
Graham Trethewey OAM	Kangaroo Island Consultative Committee/Friends of Dudley Peninsula Parks
Bill Williams	Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Leighton Smith	Friends of Glenthorne Inc.
Peter Needle	Friends of Streaky Bay District Parks
Bob Elliott	Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Parks Inc./Athelstone Kiwanis
Wil Van Deur	Conservation SA
Eric Grant	Friends of Cox Scrub Conservation Park
Dr Ralph Foster	Friends of Belair National Park
Gordon de Rose	Friends of Sturt Gorge
Joseph Dafoe	Birdlife Australia/Friends of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary
Garth Jackson	Friends of Parks KI Western Districts
Ian Preston	Friends of Onkaparinga Park
Paul Franche	Friends of Onkaparinga Park, Friends of Belair National Park
Kent Treloar	Yorke District Volunteers
John Ackers	Friends of Aldinga Scrub
Joyce Lonzar	Friends of Parks, KI Western Districts
Alex McDonald	SSAA – Conservation and Wildlife Management (SA) Inc.
Val Wales	Friends of Tennyson Dunes
Joan Woolford	Friends of Para Wirra
Roy Caldwell	Friends of Anstey Hill
Florence Newell	Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park
Kevin Roberston	Friends of Innes National Park
Dean Jacobs	Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks
Norma Muggleton	Friends of Old Government House

## LINKS

**Friends of Parks Website** [www.friendsofparkssa.org.au](http://www.friendsofparkssa.org.au)



'Like' us on Facebook - Friends of Parks SA has a [Facebook](#) page. It was launched on 6 October 2016, and now has had over 2100 'Likes' and growing. A rich source of information and pictures. Have a look and 'Like' the page to receive regular notifications.

Friends group **Wombats SA**, whose aim is to promote and raise public awareness of the value of conserving the native Australian flora and fauna through the maintenance and re-establishment of natural ecosystems and wiser land use, wish to make their presence more widely known. Visit their [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages to acquaint yourself with their activities.

Have you heard of the concept of **re-snagging** waterways as a technique for restoring in-stream habitat? If (like this editor) you have not, then visit [here](#), where, by reference to work on the River Murray, the following enlightenments, are provided:

What are snags? Why re-snap the River Murray? What are the benefits of re-snagging? How do we know that it will work? What work has been done? How were snag habitats rebuilt?

Visit the [Australian Plants Society S.A Region Inc. website](#) whose "members from diverse backgrounds unite to celebrate, grow, conserve and promote Australia's wonderful flora", to share the wealth of information on offer. Its list of South Australian [native plant nurseries](#) might be particularly useful to you.

For professional guidance on snakes visit expert Geoff Coombe's website <https://livingwithwildlife.com.au>. Details on his courses and books (including the newly released *Working With Snakes* which is available at a discounted price to Friends of Parks) are provided.

Treat yourself to an informative 8.5 minute ABC video titled "[The Magic of Moths](#)" [Thanks to Gil Hollamby, Butterfly Conservation SA Membership Officer, for this lead]

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

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 'Bush Babbler' is the Volunteer Programs electronic newsletter produced by VVPU, DEW, which aims to bring some light-hearted banter and joy to you all during these challenging COVID-19 times. Find it [here](#).

You can use GPS technology to discover trails in national parks – even without a network connection.

Find out how by clicking [this link](#).  
[item from DEW blog *Good Living* of 1 May 2020]

Visit <https://www.feralscan.org.au> for general interest, but maybe also to consider helping to map feral animal sightings and the damage they cause in your local area, as part of a CITIZEN SURVEILLANCE project. The project was launched in 2009 and now hosts over 200,000 community records, and shows national mappings for Rabbit, WildDog, FeralCat, Fox, FeralPig, Toad, Myna, MouseAlert, Camel, FeralGoat, FeralFish, Starling, Deer.

This activity is supported by the [Banksia Foundation](#), [PestSmart](#), and the [NSW Government's Local Land Services](#)

If you're wondering what to do with an old, no longer needed, mobile phone, check out the suggestions for its disposal at this website:

<https://www.mobilemuster.com.au/recycle-a-mobile/>.

## 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 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. A new Gift Fund sub-Committee has been formed - made up of three Friends of Parks Inc. Board Members: Kevin Osborn (Treasurer), Mandy Carter (Public Officer) and Benjamin Page (Board member).

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

All Gift Fund documents are on the website [www.friendsofparkssa.org.au/](http://www.friendsofparkssa.org.au/) via the Donate button, 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 Mandy Carter, mobile 0407 604 512

See Gift Donation form next page

Editor and Design: Hugh Lambert      © Friends of Parks Inc. 2014

Many thanks to those who have provided articles for this eNews - Editor

Stop Press!!!

Please note the recent change of Volunteer Programs Unit's name to **Volunteer and Visitor Programs Unit**



**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](mailto: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 and Visitor 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.