

FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL

Formed 1988

ABN: 53 952 413 248

Postal address: PO Box 653, St. Agnes, 5097.

Website address: <http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsfansteyhill>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/friendsfansteyhill>

Email: anstey.friends@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

August 2018

No: 4/2018

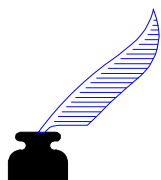


The Wednesday Early Morning Working Group – gate reconfiguration at The Friends Shed in the early morning mist – 27 July 2018. Refer to Park Report on page 10.

In This Issue

Cover.....	1
In This Issue.....	2
From the Editor's Desk.....	2
Cover Theme – Sharing the Park in the Early Morning.	3
Friends of Anstey Hill Committee 2017-18.....	4
President's Report.....	5
AGM.....	5
Sign on FOAH trailer	5
Parks Passes	5
Guest Speaker – 6th June 2018	6
Planting Day 17th June 2018	6
Nature Connections Bird Survey Field Day	7
Banksia Park Kindy	7
Cycling Events in the Park	7
Sedge Snippet – Selected Items.....	7
Friends of Parks Inc. Board – Business Plan Review Workshop	9
Park Report.....	10
Bird Watch Walk.....	11
Membership Renewal.....	12
Opening of Friends Lookout - 20 September 1998	12
2018 Second Planting Day	13
30th Anniversary Celebration	15

From the Editor's Desk



Thankyou to those of you who have either submitted material for inclusion in this issue or made comment on the content of previous issues. Thankyou, too, to those of you who have either read or intend to read this offering.

With little over a month to go before the end of another year's operations it is clear that we have enjoyed many challenges and achievements during the year to date.

This issue is marginally bigger than the target level which I had set at the beginning of the year but when faced with the decision of just what copy to defer I took the easy way out and left it all in.

The power of the reluctant editor!

Cover Theme – Sharing the Park in the Early Morning.

The hardy and dedicated members of the mid-week working group are to be found 'doing their thing' at selected locations in the park most Wednesday mornings. Their report appears on page 10.

This group, albeit with a changing population, has worked within the boundaries of the park for well over 20 years every Wednesday morning except when curtailed by adverse weather or fire risk conditions. The quality of the park conditions bears testimony to their sustained efforts over the years.

The natural residents of the park no longer see them as intruders or treat them with undue suspicion unless they approach too closely. On such occasions silent questions are asked.



Photos courtesy Rob Carthew



Friends of Anstey Hill Committee 2017-18

Group Contact Details

Postal: PO Box 653, St. Agnes, S.A. 5097
Website: www.communitywebs.org/friendsofansteyhill
Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofansteyhill
Email: anstey.friends@gmail.com

Committee Contact Details:

President

Minute secretary

Lea Crosby

Treasurer

Jim Crosby

Secretary

Facebook Coordinator

Christine Thomas

Key Dates 2018

Committee Meetings

Wednesday 7.30pm

- January 10th
- February 7th
- April 4th
- June 6th
- August 1st
- September 5th
- October 3rd - AGM
- November 7th

FOAH 30th anniversary

14th November

(Celebration 11th November)

Scheduled Planting Days

2018

- Sun. May 20th
- Sun. June 17th

Meet at Friends Shed
via Gate 18 at 9-30am

Newsletter Issues

Issue #	Target Date
1/2018	29 Nov. 2017
2/2018	28 Feb. 2018
3/2018	30 May 2018
4/2018	29 Aug. 2018

General Committee Members

Graham Fisher

Rob Carthew

Nathan Lysaght

Webmaster

Steve Lukacs

Marie Mudge

Keith Rendell

Newsletter Editor

Richard Harvey

Mary Lane (non-committee)

FOAH Seed Collector

President's Report

It has been a busy time since our last meeting with working bees conducted out in the park and in the Friends shed, a Planting Day and workshops. All the more important to record our volunteer hours! Thank you to everyone who has participated in any way.

Although it has been quite chilly early in the mornings, our dedicated volunteers led by Graham Fisher have soldiered on each Wednesday morning. They continue to build on the great work of eradicating mainly olives in the park. It is great to see native plants growing where they had previously struggled to survive with introduced plant species taking over.

Graham is unwell and unable to participate in our working bees for the moment. We wish him well and appreciate his dedication to nature conservation and pest plant eradication in AHRP. Reinforcement of the shed is now complete with our resident possum probably very happy to have some quieter sleeping time!

With funds from DEW, the stolen goods have been replaced.



AGM

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 3rd October at 7.30 p.m. in the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum, Perseverance Road, Tea Tree Gully. Supper will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Sign on FOAH trailer

We now have a professionally created sign by Sally Caston of Houghton on our trailer to promote FOAH while our volunteers are working out in the park. Thanks to Graham Fisher for making the frame for the sign. Our logo has been recreated by Sally to give us a much-improved version.



Parks Passes

A unique code number has been sent to members who volunteer with FOAH. The code is valid until 30th June 2019. If you volunteer in the park you are eligible for a South Australian parks pass.

Guest Speaker – 6th June 2018

Our guest speaker at the June meeting was Ray Hickman, Secretary and Convenor of Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. Ray and a group of dedicated volunteers work in the park during April to September.

Here is a brief outline of his presentation.

History of the Friends Group

1. Established in 2001
2. Inactive for most of 2001-2015
3. Bequest of \$10,000 saw a reactivation in 2015
4. 60+ financial members at June 2018
5. Two projects underway in 2018
 - a) Environmental Monitoring
 - b) Building restoration
6. website is www.rayh.id.au/vulkathunha

Environmental monitoring

This is a citizen-science project based on Weetootla Spring, which is located in the Park, and Nepouie Spring, located on Wooltana.

Components of the monitoring program

1. water quality measurements – pH, salinity, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen.
2. [observations on fish numbers and sizes](#)
3. water bug (macroinvertebrate) observations,
4. weed recognition and removal,
5. assessment of goat impact on vegetation,
6. yellow-footed rock wallaby numbers/habitat.

Note: not all these aspects are covered on every visit

Oocaboolina outstation – located 6 km East of Nepabunna

Currently the building is secure against weather but is not usable.

The aim is to restore the building to a condition where it is suitable for use by the public and/or park authorities.

Work completed so far

1. Installation of a water tank
2. Clearing of roof gutters and installation of gutter guard
3. Surrounding fence to exclude kangaroos and goats
4. Removal of Athel Pine

Possibilities for future projects

1. refurbish plant irrigation system at park headquarters and protect plants from herbivores
2. marking out of camp sites at Weetootla campground
3. sanding and oiling of seats and benches
4. establishment of a long-distance walking trail
5. involvement of students at Leigh Creek Area School in group activities.

Planting Day 17th June 2018

A very successful day was held with the sun shining and 36 volunteers digging, planting and meeting like-minded people. Thanks to Keith, Christine and Nathan for advertising the event.

Please read article on page 13 for event details and photos. Ed.

At our last meeting, the committee decided to have set planting dates arranged well in advance to enable people to note the dates in their diaries. The third Sunday in May, June and August were the dates agreed to.

Nature Connections Bird Survey Field Day

On Wednesday 20th June 2018 President of Birds SA, John Gitsham, led an enthusiastic group of members, friends and our ranger, Nick Purdew, on a walk in AHRP to observe its birdlife.

Please read article on page 11 for event details and photo.

Ed

Banksia Park Kindy

I have met with the director of the kindy who, along with her staff, are keen for the children to plant seedlings in AHRP. They have regular 'Bush Kindy' days in the park so that the children can have a connection with nature. FOAH member Mary Lane kindly supplied 20 plants and another 40 were bought by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) for the children to plant. On 26th July, 'Ranger Nick' assisted the group with each child having two pots including sheoak, SA Blue Gum, hakea carinata, acacias and Silver Leaf Banksia. You can see 'their plants' in the area of the Little Quarry Loop.

Cycling Events in the Park

GESA (Gravity Enduro SA) held an event on Sunday 5th August. The mountain bike group had approximately 160 riders participating.

The Adelaide Mountain Bike Club will hold a cross country mountain bike race on Sunday 26th August.

Sedge Snippet – Selected Items

Published monthly, Sedge Snippet helps volunteers keep up to date with volunteer achievements, case studies, upcoming events, grants and training opportunities. Here are a few important and interesting articles from the latest editions of the Volunteer Support Newsletter:

July 2018 Edition

Volunteer hours

At the end of every financial year the figures for volunteer hours in all-natural resources management projects supported by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) are collected. This is a great way to display all the hard work groups have put in throughout the year, with work valued at \$40 per hour.

Changes to natural resources management

A brief update about the Marshall Liberal Government changes to natural resources management in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region:

- There will be significant reform of natural resources management in South Australia including the repeal of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 (NRM Act) and replacing it with a new Landscapes South Australia Act. The introduction of the new Landscapes SA Act represents a significant opportunity to reset and reform natural resource management in South Australia, holding onto what is working well and making improvements where necessary.

- The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board will continue as usual until June 2019. From July 2019 the regional areas that it serves will be covered by two new boards established to serve the Hills and Fleurieu region and the Plains and Valleys region north of Adelaide. Each Landscape Board will have seven members, three of which will be directly elected by the community.
- The Landscape Boards will be at arm's length from government, responsible for their own budgets and the employment of a general manager who will be responsible for employing and directing staff.

Volunteer discovers alert weed

The great value of volunteers to the environment has been shown again with South Australian Seed Conservation Centre and State Herbarium volunteer, Ron Taylor, recently identifying the weed [Salvinia](#) while visiting a property in Basket Range in the Adelaide Hills.

Salvinia is a free-floating perennial weed from Brazil and has become one of the world's worst aquatic weeds. It is a Weed of National Significance and is also listed as a state alert weed, meaning it is a declared plant that is not yet established in South Australia but poses a serious threat. If you think you have seen this weed, please contact our ranger.

August 2018 Edition

Schools and volunteer groups working together

Schools and community groups are joining forces to help protect and expand natural places in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges. Through volunteering, students have the opportunity to gain skills in conservation and bush care, spend time with community role models and make a difference through hands-on learning. It also benefits their well-being.

There are a range of activities that students can take part in, including weeding, mulching, water and monitoring, and on park volunteering can be linked to learning areas such as Science, HASS, Geography, Maths, English, and Health and Physical Education.

Get park maps on your mobile

Did you know you can download the free [Avenza PDF Map](#) app on your smartphone or tablet and have interactive national park maps on hand when you need them?

The app uses your device's built-in GPS to plot your real-time location within the park onto a map. The app can be used without a network connection and without roaming charges. You can also measure area and distance, plot photos and drop placemark pins.

How to get it working on your device:

Download the Avenza PDF maps app from the app store whilst you are still in range.

Open up the app and click the shopping cart icon.

Click 'Find' and type the name of the national park or reserve you are looking for.

Click on the map you are after and install it (all of the National Parks South Australia's maps are free).

You will now find a list of your installed maps on the home page of the Avenza app.

Use our maps through the Avenza PDF map app while in the park and never take a wrong turn again!

Friends of Parks Inc. Board – Business Plan Review Workshop

On 10th July I attended a workshop for Friends group Presidents at Belair National Park. The objective was to identify priority focus areas for the board's future strategic business plan. Ian Radbone, Team Leader, Community and Volunteer Support Programs Unit, DEW, who had put the business plan together, facilitated the workshop.

John Schutz, DEW Acting Chief Executive spoke of the importance of Friends groups and highlighted the importance of Friends groups being part of the fabric of parks and stressed that the business plan needs to suit all Friends groups. John mentioned that 20 additional rangers will be employed by DEW as they are critical to front line management.

The *Landscapes of South Australia Act* will replace the NRM Act, with a simpler approach at the coal face. There will be significant legislative reform, for example, in respecting biodiversity and valuing nature. Friends of Parks will have a much stronger role to play in the process. The new legislation is planned to be adopted in March 2019.

The small group discussions centred around future strategic options for the FOP Inc. The groups had to create a list, prioritise those lists before giving a presentation and reasoning. After the presentations, it was obvious that we were all 'on the same page'. The Community and Volunteer Support Unit will collate the information and present it at the Friends Forum to be held at Stenhouse Bay, Yorke Peninsula in September this year.

It was valuable to network with other groups, some of whom travel great distances to volunteer in our state's parks. The Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park have created a free app to download that includes tours, guides, information and offers. Check out their website. The Walking Trails Support group have also created a free app with information on 16 available walks in the Flinders Ranges.



Lea Crosby
August 2018

Park Report

The number of volunteers on Wednesdays over the past couple of months has been down to only 3 or 4 sometimes due to inclement weather and absences on holidays. However, numbers are back to 7 or 8 over the past couple of weeks.

Work undertaken by the group recently includes:

- Preparation for planting day by clearing areas to be planted and erecting temporary fencing.
- Shed maintenance – internal reinforcing and improved tool storage
- Further improving security of the shed and environs by moving Gate 21 further up the entrance track and installing a separate gate to the shed car park and bollards.
- Eradicating artichokes, olives, boxthorns and other feral plants from the area adjacent to the overflow car park.
- Preparation of an area adjacent to the overflow car park in from Gate 1 for planting by Banksia Park Kindy students. See photo below.

Jim Crosby



Photo courtesy Keith Rendell

Bird Watch Walk

On Wednesday 20th June 2018 President of Birds SA, John Gitsham, led an enthusiastic group of members, friends and our ranger, Nick Purdew, on a walk in AHRP to observe its birdlife (and a koala or two).

It was a most interesting walk on a brisk, sunny day. John was able to point out birds that we would have missed, if not for his expertise and knowledge.

Thanks to Nick for providing us all with binoculars.

The birds we encountered in the park were:

- Little Raven
- Grey Currawong
- Australian Magpie
- Crimson Rosella (Adelaide)
- Crescent Honeyeater
- New Holland Honeyeater
- Striated Thornbill
- Red-browed Finch (Firetail)
- Fairy Wren (Superb) female
- White-throated Tree Creeper
- Grey-shrike Thrush
- Red Wattlebird
- Brown Thornbill
- Striated Pardalote

Towards the end of our walk, we met Ray Hickman 'practising' walking with a load on his back in preparation for volunteering in Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges...dedication and commitment!



Eyes Right!

Photo courtesy Lea Crosby

Membership Renewal

At 18 August 2018 we have 44 members paid up for year ending 30 September 2018 compared with 41 at 27 May 2018.

All memberships are welcomed, no matter to what extent you are able to physically or financially contribute to the group.

There are many ways in which you can support the FOAH in achieving our objectives of conserving and restoring the natural and cultural environment of Anstey Hill Recreation Park, without the need to engage in some of the more physical or time-consuming activities undertaken by the group. At the most basic level, for example, the more members we have the stronger will be our voice in commenting on issues concerning the Park.

The Membership Form can be found at our website

www.communitywebs.org/friendsOfAnsteyHill/assets/form/membership-form.pdf

While you are about it, why not get your friends and neighbours to sign up as well?

No doubt many of them also enjoy walking, exercising or relaxing in the Park!

Opening of Friends Lookout - 20 September 1998

Here's a test for the 'oldies'.

See how many faces you can remember.

A few of the more reticent of the team have deliberately hidden themselves. Which makes your task even harder.

The occasion was the opening of the Friends Lookout which marked the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Anstey Hill.

There's a bit more vegetation to be seen there now. Check it out when you are next there.



2018 Second Planting Day

Sunday 17 June 2018.

Another excellent turn-out with about 36 present including some enthusiastic young family members. This is indeed an encouraging trend in our working profile and augurs well for the future.

In about two hours we were able to plant over 200 seedlings in the gully between Silver Mine Track and Kaurana Way to complete the placement of the stock which had been lovingly nurtured by members and friends since our December 2017 Propagation Day.

Followed by refreshments and a special FOAH sausage sizzle back at the Friends Shed.

The sequence of Propagation-Planting Days which we actively follow each year just get's better and better. Looking forward to next year's already.

Here's a few photos of this year's successful exercise.





30th Anniversary Celebration

FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
30TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

**11th November 2018
2 – 4 p.m.**

**in the grounds of the Tea Tree Gully Museum
Perseverance Road Tea Tree Gully**

RSVP: anstey.friends@gmail.com by 19th October 2018



. . . . And another one's gone, and another one's gone. Another one bites the dust.

Freddie Mercury