



# Friends of Port Willunga

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Winter 2010 Newsletter

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## Bowering Hill and the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

A Spring Forum in September 2009 and Summer Forum held just ahead of the State Election in February 2010 provided opportunities to lobby the state government about their proposals in the 30 Year Plan.

The major issue for the Willunga Basin was the incorporation of 400 hectares of rural land at Bowering Hill into the Urban Growth Boundary.

All members of the Southern Community Coalition (SCC) opposed this, as did the McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association (MVGW&TA) who jointly sponsored the forum.

As a result the land in question has been excluded from being developed for housing in the final version of the Plan.

Legislating to protect the remaining rural land in the Willunga Basin was also discussed at the Summer Forum, attended by around 70 members of the community, and hosted by the SCC and the MVGW&TA.



Barley fields on Bowering Hill Road, part of the Willunga Basin, which has the potential for World Heritage status.

Credit: From the book *McLaren Vale: Trott's View* (Wakefield Press)

## World Heritage potential

World Heritage status for a series of landscapes along the Fleurieu Peninsula, McLaren Vale, the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and Clare was discussed by guest speaker, Professor Randy Stringer, at the Annual General Meeting in January. Professor Stringer outlined work being undertaken at the University of Adelaide's Environment Institute and Waite Institute to investigate the possibility of seeking this World Heritage status.

**Food growing basin or fast food nation? See more inside...**

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# Food growing basin or fast food nation?



Signage encroaching towards the Willunga Basin.

Credit: From the book *McLaren Vale: Trott's View* (Wakefield Press)

## Protecting the Willunga Basin

Legislation to protect the Willunga Basin was introduced as a bill to parliament by Robert Brokenshire MLC, in October 2009.

It was passed in the Upper House but lapsed when parliament rose for the summer break.

The government has not supported the Brokenshire bill but has indicated support for some form of protection of the Basin and the Barossa.

Leon Bignell, MP for Mawson, initiated a committee of representatives from the Willunga Basin and the Barossa Valley to investigate this. The committee met for a second time after the election and the SCC and MVGW&TA continue to lobby for an allocation of resources to establish such legislation.

## Seaford Heights

A proposed new 1130-house development at Seaford Heights (between Main South Road and Victor Harbor Road to the east and west, and between Robinson Road and Wheaton

Road to the north and south) was being planned without any consultation with the wine and tourism industry, or community groups.

It came to the attention of the SCC and the MVGW&TA in July 2010 and both groups made submissions to Council on the related policy amendment, which involves the creation of a large and unsightly commercial zone along Main South Road. Close to 100 people turned up to a public meeting to voice their concern about the insensitive nature of the developer's proposed Masterplan.

The land has been contracted for sale by the government-owned Land Management Corporation to Fairmont Homes to develop, subject to the Council's Development Plan Amendment being passed.

The Amendment, if passed, then goes to Minister Holloway for final endorsement. If Council does not approve the amendment, it is possible the Minister will proceed with his own amendment.

The SCC and the MVGW&TA are lobbying the Council and the State Government on this issue.

## Aldinga Shopping Centre

The proposal for a supermarket and shopping centre development at historic Aldinga was finally approved by the Environment, Resources and Development Court in June 2009.

FOPW campaigned locally and via Council over two years to prevent this.

Although the original proposal was more than twice the size of the final proposal, the approved plan has a 1,200 square metre supermarket with a further 1,200 square metre of specialty shops and parking.

This is the end of the matter unless the development is not commenced within the specified time (although extensions are permitted).

At the AGM, Council was thanked for its support, and thanks also went to Kerry Flanagan who attended court every day for a full week on behalf of the FOPW.

Kerry is now working with Council staff on preserving the streetscape of old Aldinga.

## Old caravan park, dunes, & rec trail to Aldinga

Ongoing discussions have been held with City of Onkaparinga representatives about the future of the former caravan park site.

Work has begun on-site with the removal of weeds and some dune plantings. Long-term plans for the rehabilitation and further development of the linear park and a recreational trail through to the Aldinga Historic Township are in progress.

FOPW believes the site should be rehabilitated so that it can be used safely as a public open space for events such as the annual Adelaide International Film Festival.

A self-guided heritage walk has also been proposed, with associated signage and pathways. It is understood this proposal will go to Council at its next

budget allocation session in May.

In 2011 the perimeter trees will be removed and FOPW members are invited to put their names down to participate in further plantings in the winter of 2011.

## Aleppo pines along Port Rd

It has been pointed out at various community forums that the City of Onkaparinga has a duty to replant and maintain this memorial avenue of pines as it is in Council's Development Plan that they do so.

## Caffrey Reserve

The Caffrey Reserve Neighbourhood Park gardening group is in its fifth year of activities where local people meet once a month to propagate local native plants and garden in the park. The cup of tea and occasional cake seems to keep us all



Simon accepting instruction from Kiki and Beady about the use of plant guards at the 2009 Caffrey Reserve planting day.

keen, as well as the pleasure of doing something with others that improves the neighbourhood.

The yearly planting will happen mid spring and include a BBQ, with neighbourhood homes invited with a flyer in the letterbox.

This year we will be planting out the drainage swale that runs through the middle of the park.

If anyone has an enquiry, please contact Ian Mason on 8556 6098.

## Is a second World Heritage site for South Australia on the cards?



World Heritage listing of the Australian Fossil Mammal site at Naracoorte generates \$10million per annum in direct and indirect income and created 47 new jobs. Gillespie Economics, July 2008.

Credit: Karora, Wikimedia Commons

*Continued from page 1:*

Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg, in attendance at the AGM, invited Professor Stringer to give his presentation to local government representatives from those regions and arranged a meeting of relevant councils.

A second meeting of council representatives was held in June, and Professors Mike Young and Randy Stringer are now in the process of pitching the concept to the elected members of each Council.

It is expected this process will continue through to 2011, when interested Councils will be asked to support a feasibility study into the idea.

# Council elections

Local government elections will be held in November, and while there is not a list of wine coast ward candidates yet, FOPW members might like to note the following in regard to the current Mayor and wine coast ward councillors.

## GEORGE APAP

While Councillor GEORGE APAP was supportive of FOPW agendas at Bowering Hill and elsewhere early on, the FOPW committee was disappointed that he voted against the Council's motion to support the Willunga Basin Protection Bill, despite being present at the FOPW 2009 AGM where the resolution to support the bill was passed unanimously.

## YVONNE WENHAM

We note that Councillor YVONNE WENHAM moved Council's motion to support the protection bill.

More recently it was Councillor WENHAM who questioned aspects of the controversial Seaford Heights development in its early stages, to deaf ears it seems. Councillor WENHAM always makes herself accessible to the FOPW committee and to the Southern Community Coalition.

So if you would like to stand, or vote for those willing and able to better represent the views of the WINE COAST WARD in future, please note the important dates in the table below.

### Key dates

#### Friday 13 August 2010:

Voters' Roll Closes

#### Tuesday 7 September 2010:

Nominations to stand as a candidate OPEN

#### Tuesday 21 September 2010 (12pm):

Nominations to stand as a candidate CLOSE

#### Monday 25 to Friday 29 October 2010:

Ballot Packs sent to enrolled voters

#### Friday 12 November 2010 (5.00pm):

Voting closes (completed ballot forms must be lodged and received by Electoral Officers).

## LORRAINE ROSENBERG

Mayor LORRAINE ROSENBERG exercised her casting vote in favour of Councillor YVONNE WENHAM's motion to support the Willunga Basin Protection Bill.

Mayor ROSENBERG has also been supportive of airing Professor Randy Stringer's proposal for World Heritage listing of landscapes from Clare to the Fleurieu, chairing two meetings to introduce the concept to relevant councils over the past six months.

(See the cover story for more on the proposed World Heritage listing.)

## DAVID ARBON

Councillor DAVID ARBON has been inaccessible for most of his term.

## RICHARD PEAT

Councillor RICHARD PEAT went interstate half way through his term.

# In brief

## Find us on facebook

Join the Friends of Port Willunga on facebook for the latest updates, links and related events.

You can find us here:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=51203778398&ref=ts>

Or enter the terms 'Friends of Port Willunga, Facebook' into a search engine and follow the links.

## Food security under the microscope

The entry into Australia of foreign food, as well as housing developments on prime growing countryside, are causing concerns over Australia's food security:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/08/06/2976212.htm>

## Canadian research could apply to Australia

The impact of importing food:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV5ykQL\\_i6A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV5ykQL_i6A)

## Seaford Heights housing plan to be revised

Onkaparinga Council revises plans for Seaford Heights:

<http://southern-times-messenger.whereilive.com.au/news/story/seaford-heights-housing-plan-to-be-revised/>

## Committee

**Chairperson** Christo Reid

**Secretary** Ann Winnall

**Treasurer** Ian Mason

**Committee members:**

Stephanie Johnston, Jim Hullick, Zannie Flanagan, Liz Sanders, Leigh Taylor and Rita Reitano.