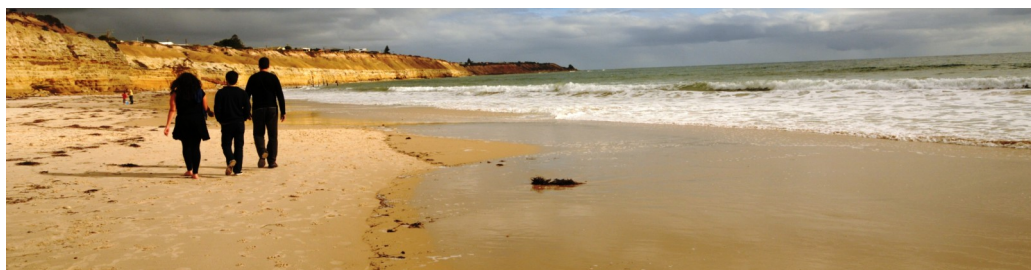


Friends of Port Willunga Summer update

By Stephanie Johnston, Chair, Friends of Port Willunga and Spokesperson, Southern Community Coalition

Special points of interest:

- * Historic Aldinga township upgrade and supermarket update
- * Star of Greece trail; Port Willunga Creek to Chinamans Gully
- * Port Willunga to Sellicks foreshore project
- * Character preservation legislation
- * Council's Heritage Reference Group
- * UNESCO World Heritage
- * New secretary and committee resignations



Aldinga township supermarket

The development application by Leascorp to build a supermarket and shopping centre in the historic township zone has lapsed. It was not renewed by the City of Onkaparinga (from now on referred to as 'Council'), due to changes in the development plan that reduces the maximum allowable size of any building in the zone to a 900m² floor area.

Aldinga historic township upgrade

Council has commenced planning for a township enhancement concept. Two community workshops were held (29 September 2011; 9 November 2011) the latter attended by a number of FOPW committee members to hear an overview of the project and to obtain initial ideas.

Council will set up a community reference group which will meet to provide input into the development of a draft concept plan. The aim is to present a draft concept plan in May 2012 for endorsement by Council for broader community engagement via a survey.

Star of Greece trail; Port Willunga Creek to Chinamans Gully

According to the Council's website, this project is to formalise a sanded and cement-treated pathway, lined on both sides by a rural-style fence, and provide fencing to control cliff top access from Port Willunga Creek to Chinamans Gully.

Consideration will also be given to controlling beach access from the cliff base adjacent to the creek boardwalk. FOPW is seeking further clarification from project leader Ronald Ganzevoort.

Port Willunga to Sellicks foreshore project

The Council has signalled that they will develop a plan for the foreshore between Port Willunga and Sellicks Beach that will involve the creation of a bike track. The FOPW look forward to having input on that project in the new year, although we are disappointed that it doesn't address the former caravan park site.

Character preservation legislation

FOPW, along with other members of the Southern Community Coalition and the McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association made a submission in response to the discussion paper and draft legislation.

We are generally supportive of the intent of the legislation as we basically got what we asked for; no further housing subdivisions

Summer 2011-2012 update continued



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or land divisions within the boundaries of the character preservation zone, or outside the township boundaries without a vote of both houses of parliament.

The protection area includes Bowering Hill and will also be exempt from declarations of Major Project Status.

There are some ongoing issues concerning:

- boundaries
- unintended consequences
- impact on local government planning powers
- hobby farms
- automatic dwelling rights
- declaration and assessment of developments of 'significant impact'.

We're working with Council and members of the opposition to create amendments to the legislation that will resolve those issues.

Council's Heritage Reference Group

A proposal to create a heritage reference group for Council has been abandoned due to a lack of volunteers to be on the committee.

FOPW Chair Stephanie Johnston volunteered, however not enough others did, so the Mayor and Council are looking at alternate ways to involve the community in developing Council's heritage policy.

UNESCO World Heritage

The four councils involved in the World Heritage bid feasibility study, (City of Onkaparinga, and the Barossa, Adelaide Hills and Mt Barker Councils) delivered an interim report, and the City of Onkaparinga is expected to support completion of the report, which is due for delivery in March 2012.

The report provides participating councils and interested stakeholders with a current assessment regarding progress by the Mount Lofty Ranges Working Group in identifying the potential benefits, implications and likelihood of producing a successful UNESCO World Heritage site bid for the Mount Lofty Ranges Agrarian Landscape.

The report explains the World Heritage study background, presents initial findings on procedures, summarises stakeholder reactions to date and looks ahead to further activities. The working group also brought two international guests to Adelaide to speak at three seminars; Barossa, Adelaide and Willunga.

A workshop with the Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board is scheduled for December, when Professor Randy Stringer, proponent of the project, returns from study leave in Europe.

New secretary and committee resignations

Committee member Jen Bratovic agreed to take on the role of Secretary from next year.

Jen has been a valuable and committed member of the committee throughout 2012, and we look forward to working with her to improve our systems in the future.

On a sadder note, Jim Hullick and Louise Portway signaled their intent to step down from their official and unofficial involvement with the committee at the next AGM, understandable given some ongoing health issues, and the fact that they have sold their Port Willunga home to move back to the city.

We suspect however that we will not see the end of them, and look forward to persuading them to continue their involvement with the FOPW as interested associate members, and visitors to Port Willunga.

The strategic support and advice that has been offered by Jim over the last few years has directly resulted in the formation of the highly effective Southern Community Coalition, in a strategic alliance with the McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association and the subsequent saving of Bowering Hill from housing, and the instigation of the character-preservation legislation, among many other initiatives.