



Friends of  
**Port Willunga**  
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## Friends of Port Willunga 2018-2019 Chairperson's Report

As we head towards the 2019 AGM to be held at **10am** in the **Aldinga Institute Hall** on **Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2019**, here is an update from the Chair on what your committee has been up to over the past year.

### **1. Linear reserve planting and re-dedication of old caravan park site for coastal purposes**

Once again the Friends of Port Willunga (FOPW) welcomed collaboration with the City of Onkaparinga's Natural Area Conservation team to implement a comprehensive planting plan for the foreshore and linear reserve area. To date this has involved planting of 1000s of seedlings in the dune system, the early planting of river red gums along the creek line, and a large community planting event held on National Tree Day on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2018. When the consultation process revealed that the former Caravan Park site was still zoned "Dedicated for Caravan and Camping purposes" a resolution at the 2018 AGM led to FOPW formally proposing that Council request that the parcel be re-dedicated by the Crown "for Coastal Purposes". That was achieved in October 2018 and our thanks must go to former Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg for her support in enabling the rededication to happen so quickly, paving the way for future revegetation and rehabilitation of the dunes at that site.

### **2. ALDI retail development and Aldinga Hotel upgrade**

The first stage of the ALDI development – the supermarket building – was completed and opened at the end of 2017, and the second stage of the development – a set of terraced retail outlets along the north side of Port Road designed to soften the overall development – is currently under



The former caravan park site

construction. The upgrade of Main South Road between Old Coach Road and Malpas Road is completed, however a new proposal for an upgrade of the Aldinga Hotel and construction of a bottle shop in the current vacant car park site will have further impacts on the landscaping and create new access points on Port Road between Main South Road and Old Coach Road. FOPW provided input into the planning approval processes and requested that the treatment of verandahs and facias of the new hotel be improved to fit in better with the historic guidelines for the village, and that pedestrian pathways around the village and new retail areas and bottle shop be improved. The Willunga branch of the National Trust also provided historic photos of the original hotel to assist Council's heritage advisor.

### 3. Development of Renewal SA's 95 hectares south of Quinliven Road, preservation of the 'Green Triangle' and maintenance of the Aleppo Pine Avenue.

Towards the end of 2018 the State Government through Renewal SA appointed a consultant to undertake the master planning of 95 hectares of deferred urban-zoned land between Port Road and Aldinga Beach Rd, which includes the 'green triangle' enclosed by the Port Road Aleppo Pine Avenue, Quinliven Road and Howe Road. Here is the proposed timeline:

Timeline for masterplanning the Renewal SA site

Key milestone	Responsibility	Indicative timeframe
Investigations	Lead Structure Plan Consultant	From December 2018
Preliminary Structure Plan	Lead Structure Plan Consultant	February 2019
Draft Structure Plan	Lead Structure Plan Consultant	April 2018
Open Day/Community-placed events	Renewal SA	May 2019
Final Structure Plan	Lead Structure Plan Consultant	June 2019

An article in the Southern Times Messenger on 21 January 2019 reported that the State Government have identified this area as a possible site for the new southern super school. *"Renewal SA has told the Southern Times that a 94ha vacant block in Aldinga is a potential site for a new birth to year 12 school, which is expected to be open in time for the 2022 school year."*

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/messenger/south/the-state-government-has-unveiled-a-potential-site-for-the-new-southern-super-school/news-story/0f61109c519857ba1865c5e0bb56974a>

Councillor Richard Peat is taking a strong interest in the consultation process given the sensitivity of the site, the history of consultation and recorded significance of the 'green triangle' by all members of the community (including wine and tourism industry stakeholders), and the desire for that triangle of land to be maintained as open space. Many other good ideas were aired during the consultation period conducted over 5 years ago, namely for any proposed subdivision to be developed as an exemplary and sustainable subdivision, with urban design principles and masterplanning guidelines taking their inspiration from the best examples in South Australia and overseas. We encourage members of the Friends of Port Willunga to take a strong interest in the consultation process and we will keep you informed about the Open Days or Community-placed events currently scheduled for May 2019. FOPW also continues to advocate for the replanting of the Aleppo pine avenue along Port Road, and lobbied Council to budget for that in the 2018/19 financial year. The long term concept of a bypass around the east side of St Anne's Church, to reconnect the church to the rest of Aldinga Village, and to separate highway through-traffic from township destination traffic is also supported by FOPW and will be put to the appointed masterplanning consultants.

**4. Star of Greece 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** 2018 saw the 130th Anniversary of the wreck of the 'Star of Greece'. The wreck features prominently in the heritage and culture of Port Willunga and a committee, including representation from FOPW, was set up to facilitate an appropriate commemoration. A series of events took place including laying of wreaths at the grave in Aldinga and on Sunday 15th July a 'readers theatre' based on the inquest was performed in the Aldinga Institute Hall and attended by more than 100 people. The committee wished to create an ongoing commemoration of the historical event and a new plaque listing the names of all sailors who were drowned was installed at the grave in Aldinga. (The earlier existing memorial lists only those buried in the grave at the time of the wreck and some bodies were never recovered.) The plaque cost in excess of \$1,000 of which FOPW contributed \$500, under the association's objective of preservation of the historical heritage of Port Willunga.

## 5. Star of Greece Café lease renewal and upgrade



In 2018 the current leaseholders of the Star of Greece Café applied to council to expand the footprint of the kiosk and verandahs, create a land swap, and to renew their lease to the maximum possible period of 42 years. Noting the kiosk's location on community land and the fact that it is the only cafe/restaurant/kiosk in Port Willunga servicing Port Willunga residents and visitors to the beach, the FOPW made a lengthy, albeit supportive submission on the lease proposal, which was eventually approved. There should be further opportunity to make submissions when detailed designs are submitted to Council.

Evolution of the Start of Greece Café kiosk from the 1970s to the present



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## 6. Mount Lofty Ranges World Heritage Bid

The Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker, Mitcham, Onkaparinga, Alexandrina, Yankalilla, Light, and Clare and Gilbert Valley councils have been collaborating with Regional Development Australia and the University of Adelaide to complete Stage One of a bid for UNESCO recognition of the Mount Lofty Ranges agricultural landscapes - National Heritage listing. The consortium submitted the national nomination to the federal government in early 2017; however a decision to proceed to assessment is yet to be made, mostly due to a lack of State Government commitment to the project to date. A review of the project is currently being undertaken by an expert world heritage consultant, and it is hoped the outcomes of that review will influence the new state government to get behind the project in 2019. FOPW will be encouraging our new Mayor Erin Thompson and the newly elected council to continue the City of Onkaparinga's support for the project into the future.

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2018, and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on January 27th, where we will hear from Mayor Erin Thompson, and provide you with an opportunity to voice any of your concerns or ideas.

**Please note the earlier AGM start time of 10am!**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Johnston", written on a light-colored background.

Stephanie Johnston

**Chair, Friends of Port Willunga Committee**