



## Friends of Port Willunga 2020-2021 Chairperson's Report

As we head towards the 2021 AGM to be held at **11am in the Aldinga Institute Hall on Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2020**, here is an update from the Chair on what your committee has been up to over the past year.

### 1. Walking and weeding the Linear Reserve

The Friends of Port Willunga (FOPW) continued supporting implementation of the City of Onkaparinga's planting plan for Martin's Barn and the Port Willunga Linear Reserve, with interpretive signage going in at Martin's Barn in 2020. Under the leadership of committee members David Milner, Christine James and Deborah Bogle, two 'Walk and Weed' gatherings were held in mid-September and early December. FOPW are now in the process of entering into an agreement with Council to formalise our participation in regular ongoing planting and maintenance sessions, and we invite all members to participate.



### 2. Council's concept plans for the Port Willunga foreshore

We were pleased to welcome Port Willunga Coast Park project officer Janelle Arbon to the September 'Walk and Weed' session, so that she could explain some of the thinking behind the rehabilitation of the former caravan park site and construction of a shared use path from the Star of Greece car park to the Southern Maslin Beach car park. FOPW then shared our submission on Council's concept plans with the membership and encouraged everyone to make their own submissions. Council received over 200 responses through their website and a further 55 written submissions, demonstrating strong community interest in the proposal. FOPW's core concerns were the maintenance of access to the beach on both the north and south sides of the creek, and strong opposition to the proposal to build a bridge spanning 70 metres across Chinaman's Gully. We also suggested that Council consider closing off the northern (lower) section of Vincent Tce to traffic altogether.

### 3. Preservation of the 'Green Triangle' and maintenance of the Aleppo Pine Avenue.

The consultation report on the Aldinga Structure Plan for the new suburb south of Quinliven Rd came out in late October recommending that the green triangle area between Quinliven Rd and Port Rd NOT be rezoned for urban development. The triangle will likely remain under cropping for the foreseeable future, and reserved for possible location of a railway extension and terminal farther down the track (noting there are no plans or budget allocated at this stage). In the meantime Council's street tree team are cultivating seedlings to plant around the periphery of the triangle, including filling in the gaps in the avenue of Aleppo pines. This will likely be undertaken next 2021 planting season. We thank Mayor Thompson and City of Onkaparinga staff and Councillors for their support on our "Save the Green Triangle" campaign - a win for Port Willie and a win for tourism.



#### **4. South Australian planning reform**

South Australia is currently undergoing the biggest modernisation of its planning system in 20 years. The proposed new system and draft planning code has created much controversy and undergone two rounds of public consultation. FOPW and Friends of Willunga Basin (FOWB) engaged the services of highly respected former Willunga planner Dr Iris Iwanicki to identify the issues that would impact negatively on heritage and sustainable planning for our Character Preservation district. A workshop involving FOPW and FOWB committee members in February informed the initial submission, and a second follow-up submission was made at the end of 2020. Most stakeholders are anticipating significant issues with the rollout of the new system, and the necessity for ongoing work to improve policy over time.

#### **5. Mount Lofty Ranges World Heritage Bid**

The key focus for 2020 was a second external expert review commissioned by the City of Adelaide to examine the potential for combining the Mount Lofty Ranges nomination with the City of Adelaide's nomination of the Adelaide City Layout and Park Lands. The review recommended collaboration on a serial listing of both areas, and Adelaide Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor has since met with the Mount Lofty Ranges Project Steering Group to establish a new working group to develop the combined nomination.

#### **5. Jet Ski Free Zone**

FOPW have started a petition urging the SA Government to establish a Personalised Watercraft (PWC) exclusion zone at Port Willunga Beach under the SA Harbours and Navigation Act 1993, extending for approximately 3 kilometres from the Aldinga Reef Aquatic Reserve at Snapper Point, Aldinga, to Blanche Point, Port Willunga, and extending out 200m from the average high-water mark. Make sure to sign the petition and circulate it amongst your friends!

#### **6. New Website**

Our new website [www.friendsofportwillunga.org.au](http://www.friendsofportwillunga.org.au) will be launched in time for the AGM, and should make joining up much simpler. Thanks to Deborah Bogle for overseeing this, and please encourage anyone you know who is not yet a member to check it out and consider joining.

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2020, and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on Sunday January 17th, where we will hear from our guest speaker Andy Wark, Senior Urban Forest Officer, City of Onkaparinga. All are welcome but please RSVP so we can keep track of numbers for COVID 19 management. Members can renew their membership and new members can join on the day. RSVP Christine James [csjamespw@gmail.com](mailto:csjamespw@gmail.com)

Stephanie Johnston  
**Chair, Friends of Port Willunga Committee**