



Friends of Port Willunga

*Caring for the natural environment
and historic heritage*

Friends of Port Willunga 2022 Summer Newsletter

In the light of the postponement of our 2022 AGM here is an update on what the FOPW committee has been up to over the past year. I am also pleased to announce that Nina Keath will still be guest speaker at our rescheduled AGM at 10am on Sunday 20th March 2022. We will have a Covid Plan and social distancing in place, so please come along, masks in hand.

1. FOPW BUSH GARDENERS

Friends of Port Willunga Bush Gardeners celebrated our first year with a working bee and picnic just before Christmas. Meeting on the second Sunday of each month, the group has worked closely with the City of Onkaparinga to help increase biodiversity in the Port Willunga Linear Reserve. Guided by Leanne Lawrence, Council's Community Conservation Officer, we have helped control weeds, plant tube stock, mulch planting beds and mark out and protect reed beds in key areas of the Reserve. This has involved working through Council to encourage slight changes to the path of the mowers. We've also created a picnic area under the trees at the bottom of Mindarie St, thanks to Council's delivery of some giant logs for seating. Apart from helping to make a difference in the Reserve and learning about native species, Bush Gardeners has evolved into a committed group of friends who not only enjoy working side by side outdoors, but getting to know each other and forming valuable community connections over coffee and cake afterwards. We encourage anyone - regardless of ability or fitness - with an interest in nature or gardening, or simply a desire to meet neighbours in a relaxed setting, to join us.



Friends of Port Willunga Bush Gardeners meet the second Sunday of every month

2. PORT WILLUNGA COAST PARK PROJECT UPDATE

Keith Davis, Team Leader Projects, at the City of Onkaparinga has taken charge of the coast park project and has been undertaking engagement with Council's First Nations advisory group to identify opportunities for low impact Kurna and European heritage interpretation at the former caravan park site and its archaeological surrounds. While the project is focussed on providing a shared pathway according to state government specifications, Council and FOPW see weed control, revegetation, dune restoration and heritage interpretation as an essential aspects of the project. We also continue to oppose any bridge construction across Chinaman's Gully or future use of the site for helicopter landings.

3. PRESERVATION OF THE 'GREEN TRIANGLE' AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ALEPPO PINE AVENUE.

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. 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 and this will now be undertaken in the 2022 planting season.

4. A SUSTAINABLE SUBURB FOR ALDINGA

The City of Onkaparinga have been working hard to develop a prospectus for a sustainable development at Aldinga. According to Senior Strategic Planner (and AGM guest speaker) Nina Keith, this is the result of a huge collective effort across council, business and community. Council are currently advocating for the state to invest in a Sustainable Development Manager for Aldinga to ensure that the desired sustainability outcomes are effectively implemented and they will soon commence a letter writing campaign to ensure that all relevant politicians and state government CEO's are aware of council's goals for the development. Renewal SA have commenced the tender process for selection of a developer and the prospectus will be added to the tender documents. Registrations of Interest closed on 30 November 2021 and notification of the preferred proponent will be in June 2022. More information can be found at the [Renewal SA website](#) and you can find council's prospectus on their [website](#).



City of Onkaparinga prospectus for a sustainable development at Aldinga

5. WORLD HERITAGE BID

In the wake of the proclamation of the Aldinga Washpool and Aldinga Scrub as a new state conservation park in January this year we are hopeful that the state government will formally get behind another longterm project ahead of the March state election. With the support of Adelaide Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor the World Heritage nomination of Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes – including the landscapes of McLaren Vale – is currently aiming for Tentative Listing by October 2023, and the State Government will need to help progress that ambition.



Proclamation of Aldinga Washpool as a conservation park by Premier Stephen Marshall

5. JET SKI MANAGEMENT

The FOPW petition urging the SA Government to establish a Personalised Watercraft (PWC) exclusion zone at Port Willunga Beach is ongoing, so please sign it if you haven't already. In addition to the petition we are also gathering evidence of jet ski incidents at the request of Council and the State Department – thank you to David Smallacombe and Zanny Twopenny who are well placed to do this! We have also been lobbying Council and local Member Leon Bignell, and the suggestion has been to work with the local Surf Life Saving Clubs to further a Jet Ski Management Plan for our coast, and especially for the Aldinga Reef Aquatic Reserve.

6. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2021, and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM at 10am on Sunday March 20th. In the meantime members can renew their membership (and make donations!) at this link <https://friendsofportwillunga.org.au/join-donate/> and I thank many of you for already doing so.

Stephanie Johnston
Chair, Friends of Port Willunga Committee