



# Friends of Port Willunga

*Caring for the natural environment  
and historic heritage*

## **Friends of Port Willunga Summer Newsletter 2023**

Ahead of our 2023 AGM here is an update on some of the things your FOPW committee has been up to over the past year. I am also pleased to announce that Mayor Moira Were AM will be guest speaker at our AGM at 11am on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.

### **1. PORT WILLUNGA COAST PARK PROJECT & LOCAL HERITAGE NOMINATIONS**

Nathan Farnell, Urban Designer at the City of Onkaparinga, is now in charge of the coast park project, and has been undertaking engagement with council's First Nations advisory group, the Friends of Port Willunga and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for Kurna and European heritage interpretation at pathway nodes. In the meantime the Friends of Port Willunga have nominated the harbour master's cottage, jetty ruins and caves for local heritage listing. FOPW continue to oppose any bridge construction across Chinaman's Gully and use of the old caravan park site for helicopter landings has been ruled out by all. Council will provide an update on the project ahead of the 2023 AGM.

### **2. FOPW BUSH GARDENERS**

Friends of Port Willunga Bush Gardeners celebrated our second year of working bees on the second Sunday of each month, which aim to increase biodiversity in the Port Willunga Linear Reserve. Guided by Leanne Lawrence, Council's Community Conservation Officer, we have continued to help control weeds, plant tube stock, mulch planting beds and mark out and protect reed beds in key areas of the reserve. We've also created a picnic area under the trees at the bottom of Mindarie Street, thanks to Council's delivery of giant logs for seating and some (exceptionally) flat rocks for a table. Bush Gardeners has evolved into a committed group of friends who enjoy working side by side outdoors, 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 (and dogs) enjoying the new picnic area at the end of Mindarie Street

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

The future of the Aldinga green triangle is once again under question due to the new government's decision to move the future train terminal site and railway corridor a further 1000 metres south of its original location on the triangle. In December the Friends of Port Willunga wrote to transport Minister Koutsantonis to raise our concerns about impacts of the new train terminal location on the quality of the design of the new suburb, on the Aldinga Arts Ecovillage farm and the implications for preservation of the triangle as regenerative open space. In the meantime, after ongoing lobbying from FOPW, Council's street tree team have finally filled in the gaps in the heritage-listed avenue of Aleppo pines along Port Road and removed the excessive car park signage that was installed with the opening of the new school.



Baby Aleppos now fill the Port Road heritage avenue gaps thanks to FOPW lobbying over 20 years



#### 4. A SUSTAINABLE SUBURB FOR ALDINGA

The City of Onkaparinga collaborated with community and business leaders to develop a prospectus for a sustainable development at Aldinga, and word is that a number of high quality proposals were received by Renewal SA before the new government pulled the pin on the project. Council and community groups continue to advocate for a leading-edge sustainable development here. More information can be found at the [Renewal SA website](#) and you can find council's prospectus on their [website](#). An update on the project has been requested from Renewal SA ahead of the AGM.

#### 5. MAIN SOUTH ROAD DUPLICATION AND GRADE SEPARATION AT ALDINGA

South- and north-bound traffic will now flow beneath an overpass that incorporates a bike/pedestrian path linking Aldinga to Flour Mill road. Riders can then continue their ride through to Willunga. A new shared bike path will also be constructed along the entire length of the duplication, linking our region with the existing Coast to Vines bike trail.

FOPW and Friends of Willunga Basin lobbied the transport minister to incorporate a pedestrian and cycle underpass at Little Road but this request has fallen on deaf ears. In addition to the Anzac Highway Gallipoli-style underpass at Aldinga another new underpass and realignment of the Willunga Road with Aldinga Beach Road is now proposed 1 km down the road. An initial concept plan for Stage 2 can be found here

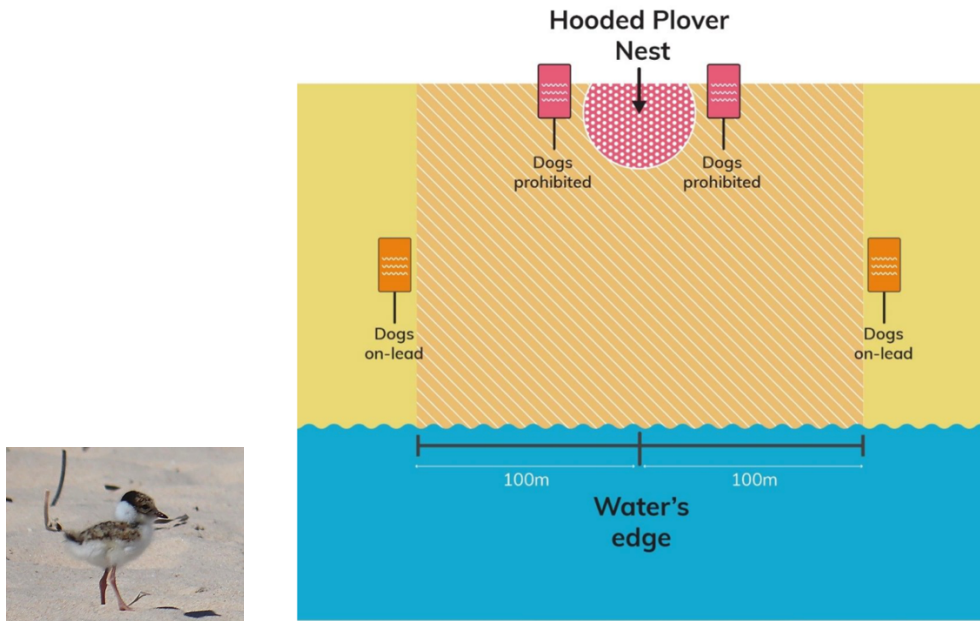
[https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1154716/DIT-MSRD-S2-07-Concept-map-roll-plot-Updated.pdf](https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1154716/DIT-MSRD-S2-07-Concept-map-roll-plot-Updated.pdf) with more information at <https://fcalliance.com.au/projects/main-south-road>. Friends of Willunga Basin are leading a campaign for the current plans be put aside and a new lower-impact design to be brought forward, and will present these views at the FOPW AGM.



Stage 1 of the Main South Road duplication and Gallipoli-style underpass is under construction at Aldinga.

#### 6. CHANGES TO BEACH BYLAWS

A new by-law now provides Council with the power to apply dog on-lead and dog prohibited areas as the need arises. The fenced Hooded Plover nesting areas prohibit dogs altogether while the area within 100 metres of the nesting area and to the water's edge requires dogs to be on leash during the breeding season (ie while the signs and fences are up). There are currently 3 nesting areas in place along Port Willunga beach. With only a 2.5% chance of survival from egg to fully fledged adult these new chicks need all the help they can get!



New dog on-lead and dog prohibited areas protect nesting “hoodies” on Port Willunga beach

#### 7. VALE BRIAN “MAC” MCPHEE

The Friends of Port Willunga committee were sad to learn that Brian “Mac” McPhee passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> November aged 86 years. Mac served as FOPW treasurer for many years, and committee members always enjoyed his teasing demeanour and left-of-field sense of humour. His presence on the beach is missed and we extend our condolences to Mac’s extended family.

#### 8. 2023 AGM AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2022, and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM at 11am on Sunday January 22nd. 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