



Friends of Port Willunga

*Caring for the natural environment
and historic heritage*

Friends of Port Willunga Summer Newsletter 2024

Ahead of our 2024 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 confirm that **Mark Western**, Director of Integrated Coasts will be guest speaker at our AGM at the Aldinga Institute Hall, 11am on Sunday 21st January 2024.

1. PORT WILLUNGA COAST PARK PROJECT

Early in 2023 staff recommended that the City of Onkaparinga proceed with the Coast Park project with a slightly revised design, which included a redesign of the public space at the bottom of the Star of Greece carpark, and an increased number of nodes along the route to the Maslin Beach Southern Car Park. The revised design proposed a lease arrangement with property owners to send the route around the clifftop at Chinaman's Gully, however it did not address removing the two stobie poles and undergrounding the electricity supply. Due to the number of unresolved issues – including replacement car parking for parks lost on St Vincent's Terrace and safety issues around the steepness of the path up the hill to Lions Head lookout, as well as the stobie pole issue – a series of workshops with various groups including FOPW was held over 2023. Staff are now planning to report on the project at the 20 February council meeting.



Image: City of Onkaparinga

2. COASTAL ADAPTATION PLAN

The City of Onkaparinga has started the process of preparing a Coastal Adaptation Plan which will provide a planned response to the recommendations of the 2021 City of Onkaparinga Coastal Adaptation Study. [The study](#) (by this year's AGM Guest Speaker Mark Western) shows that there are sections (including most of Port Willunga) that are generally stable but require ongoing monitoring to identify and respond to future risks. Other sections have a higher level of risk which will require a more immediate management response. Details of the status of each section can be found in the study and associated reports.

3. **FORMATION OF LOCAL HISTORY GROUP & LOCAL HERITAGE NOMINATIONS**

As a result of a nomination by the Friends of Port Willunga, the Harbour Master's cottage, jetty and caves are now being put forward as new local heritage items in a proposed Planning and Design Code Amendment to be undertaken in 2024. The Code Amendment will likely go out for public consultation in 2024, and we will alert members when this occurs. Additionally, an informal history group has been formed by Richard Forbes to progress historical research and to prepare for 2025 celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of establishment of the township of Port Willunga by Thomas Martin. The history group operates independently of the FOPW and will present on their activities and work plan at the forthcoming AGM.

4. **FOPW BUSH GARDENERS**

Friends of Port Willunga Bush Gardeners celebrated their third year of working bees on the second Sunday of each month, guided by Leanne Lawrence, City of Onkaparinga's Community Conservation Officer and led by Deborah Bogle and David Milner. This has involved weeding, planting tube stock, mulching planting beds and marking out and protecting reed beds in key areas of the reserve. The results of these endeavours are there for all to see, helped of course by the significant rainfalls of the past few years. Valuable community friendships have consolidated over the group's legendary post-working bee coffee and cake gatherings. Anyone with an interest in nature or gardening, or simply a desire to meet neighbours in a relaxed setting, is encouraged to join in

5. **NEW ALDINGA AIRPORT**

Public consultation on a proposed new airport adjacent the current facility at Colville Road comprising two aircraft hangars, a tourist flight facility, new airstrip, cellar door with viewing deck, restaurant function centre, offices, storage, toilets, rainwater tanks, associated on-site car parking, landscaping, vineyard and a new water feature closed on January 8th 2024.



Rendered image of proposed new Aldinga airport supplied to The Advertiser by MPG Architects

6. **WAVE POOL AT BOWERING HILL**

FOPW Chair Stephanie Johnston recently viewed plans for a large wave pool resort proposed for the corner of Tuit Road and Bowering Hill Road (next to the BIG4 Port Willunga Tourist Park). The pool itself will be approx 200m x 50m and requires a mechanical plant building around 120m long and 4.5m high (located along the Bowering Hill Road boundary). Several buildings will surround the pool, namely a ticket office with tower signage, an admin building, rental and retail buildings, tap room bar and restaurant, wellness centre, Surfing SA centre, skate park, outdoor dining, a central plaza, board walk, change rooms, cabanas and 35 accommodation units, two large public carparks

and further parking around the accommodation units and at the service entrance off Bowering Hill Road. The development will be assessed by the Council Assessment Panel, however it has not required public notification due to the fact it is proposed for land already zoned for such a tourism development. The main concern of FOPW and Friends of Willunga Basin is how the development and its landscaping will respond to the Character Preservation legislation overlay, and to the sustainable management of energy and water consumption and disposal of waste water.



Urbnsurf is the only surf park in Australia currently open to the public.(Photo: URBNSURF)

7. RENEWAL SA SUBURB AT ALDINGA

The City of Onkaparinga collaborated with community and business leaders to develop a prospectus for a sustainable development at Aldinga and Renewal SA are currently selecting a developer to undertake the project which will likely provide more than 800 dwellings. A timeline and update on this process can be found at the [Renewal SA website](#) and you can find council's prospectus on their [website](#).



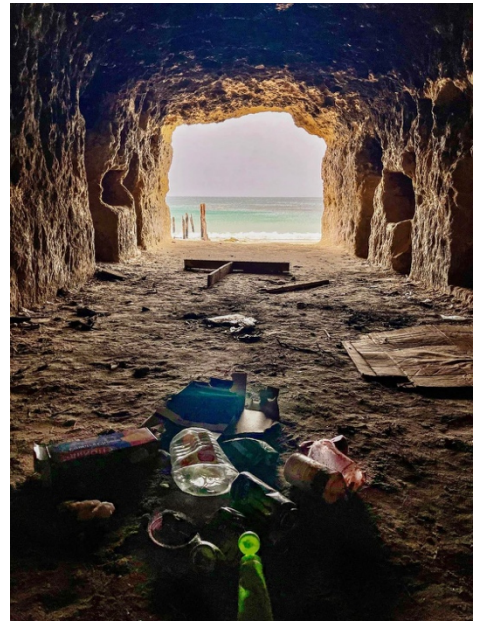
Tender document for the new masterplanned suburb at Aldinga (Photo: Renewal SA)

8. MAIN SOUTH ROAD DUPLICATION AND GRADE SEPARATION AT ALDINGA

South- and north-bound traffic is now flowing beneath the newly established overpass at Aldinga, however work is yet to be started on the bike/pedestrian path linking Aldinga to Flour Mill Road and 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.

9. PORT WILLUNGA COAST PARK AND HERITAGE CAVE RUBBISH ISSUES

FOPW continue to monitor rubbish issues in the public area around the Star of Greece restaurant and kiosk despite the construction of new rubbish enclosures. It seems Council may need to take responsibility with its own solution to the ongoing problem in this area, as they are doing with the rubbish frequently left in the Port Willunga Caves.



Rubbish on the Coast Park public footpath and inside the Port Willunga caves

10. HOODED PLOVERS

FOPW thanks members for cooperating with the establishment of dog-on-lead and dog-prohibited areas and we sadly report that this year's breeding attempts have not been successful to date.

11. 2024 AGM AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2023, and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM at 11am on Sunday January 21st. 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