



# Friends of Port Willunga

*Caring for the natural environment  
and historic heritage*

## Friends of Port Willunga Summer Newsletter 2025

Ahead of our 2025 AGM I am pleased to confirm guest speaker **Stewart Roper**, published photographer, birdwatcher, retired outback nurse will present an illustrated introduction to the birdlife of Port Willunga. There will be a number of other presentations on local issues at the AGM to be held at the Aldinga Institute Hall, at 11am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### 1. PORT WILLUNGA COAST PARK FUNDRAISER

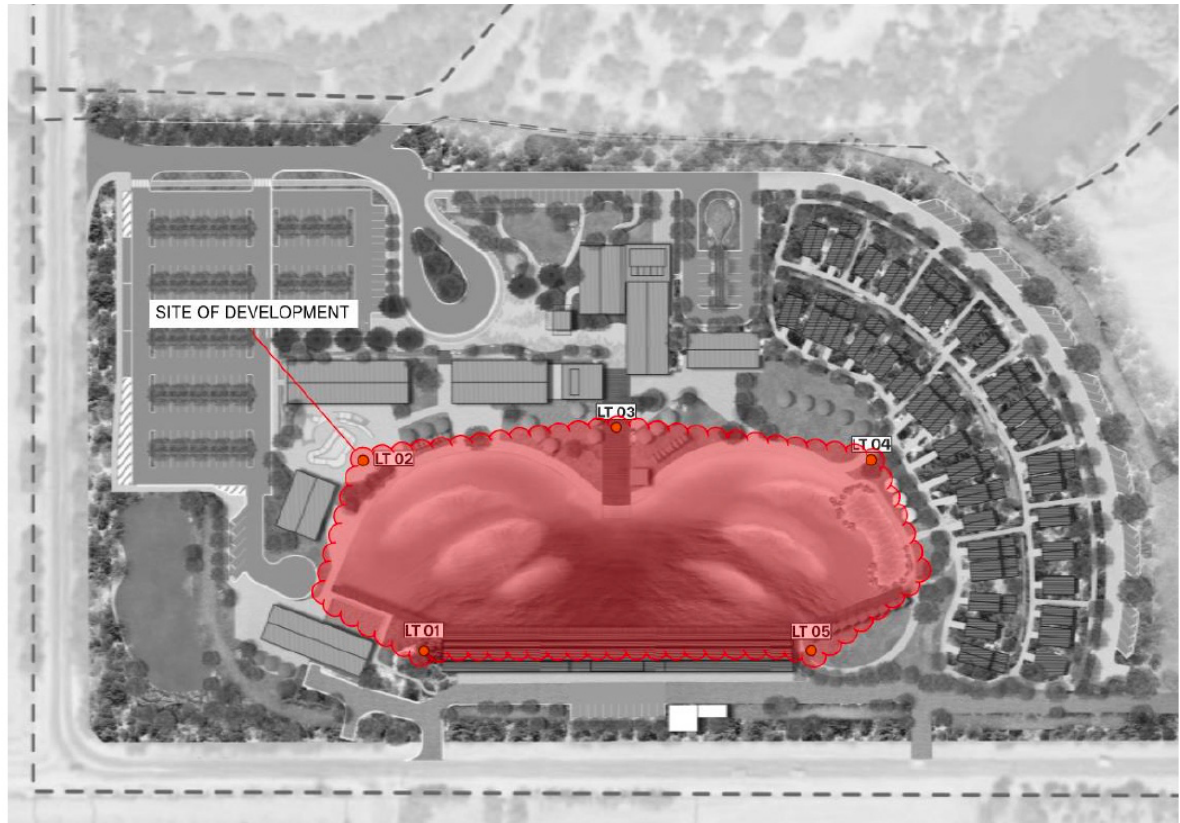
We are excited to inform you that the City of Onkaparinga received additional funding through the Department for Planning (Minister Champion) to proceed with Port Willunga North Coast Park, as well as the funding required for removal of the stobie poles and undergrounding power. Detailed design is currently under way and Council have been working with Green Adelaide to identify revegetation opportunities. Council have also sought direction from the State Government on the land acquisition process required to circumnavigate Chinaman's Gully, as they cannot proceed until this issue is resolved. FOPW have confirmed our commitment to raising \$50k to support the stobie pole removal and revegetation, and encourage all members to contribute through our DONATE button at [this link](#).



Image: City of Onkaparinga

### 2. WAVE POOL AT BOWERING HILL – NEW APPLICATION

Some of you may have seen the recent stories about a new development application to extend the opening hours of the proposed wave pool on the corner of Tuit and Bowering Hill Roads from DAYLIGHT HOURS ONLY to 7AM to MIDNIGHT DAILY. This would involve the installation of 5 x 27m high lighting towers that would operate from dusk until midnight every day. It also means the wave and noise generating mechanical plant would need to operate from 7am to midnight daily along with the cafes, restaurants and bars. With an anticipated 1000 customers per day this will have a significant impact on the Bowering Hill environment including on the night sky, the amenity of the adjacent caravan park, nearby residents, public open space areas, scenic rural views, and roads through to Port Willunga. The proposal is open for public comment **until January 20th 2024** at [this link](#), and all members of the public are welcome to make submissions. Please note that **the wave pool itself has already been approved**, so you can only comment on the impacts of the proposed lighting towers and extended opening hours.



T01 to T05 show the locations of the 5 proposed lighting towers which will be in operation until midnight daily, approximately the same height as the nearby mobile phone tower. (Image: Future Urban)

### 3. VILLAWOOD DEVELOPMENT AT ALDINGA

Partnering with Renewal SA for the 800-plus lot development, Villawood will deliver a net zero mainstream community via a range of energy-saving initiatives from gas-free, solar and lot orientation to heat pumps, batteries and microgrids. The new suburb will also host an exclusive, high-end residents' club, including a pool, gym and café which will be open to the public. Extensive open space, parks, reserves and attractive chain-of-ponds corridors will be complemented by extensive green canopy as well as biodiversity offsets that will see over 40ha of land allocated to conservation. More information at [this link](#).







Aldinga masterplan and residents' club and swimming pool (Images: Renewal SA)

#### 4. JET SKI FREE ZONE CONSIDERED FOR ALDINGA/SELICKS BUT NOT PORT WILLUNGA

The City of Onkaparinga are exploring options for a possible exclusion zone where motorised vessels, like jet skis and boats would be restricted. They are considering several options at Aldinga Beach and/or Sellicks Beach but not Port Willunga, despite a petition being circulated to promote the idea for our beach. Have Your Say [at this link](#) to share your opinion – or to suggest that Port Willunga Beach be considered too. **Engagement is open from 2 December 2024 to 28 February 2025.**

#### 5. PORT WILLUNGA COAST PARK AND HERITAGE CAVE RUBBISH ISSUES



FOPW continue to monitor ongoing rubbish issues in the public areas around the Star of Greece car park and restaurant and Port Willunga caves, where increasing numbers of beach weddings have been occupying increasingly large areas of public space and leaving more than their footprints behind. We have asked the City of Onkaparinga to provide us with a summary of Council's current beach wedding policies and protocols so that we can provide comment.

Image: Rubbish on the beach following a wedding

#### **6. HOODED PLOVERS UPDATE**

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 been unsuccessful. JT and KV near the creek hatched a chick on 31 Dec, lost it on 7 January, possibly to a kestrel. YL and partner nested again after losing both chicks, possibly to off leash dogs. They nested again but lost the nest to a high tide on 27 December. The real tragedy is HV and partner at Gull Rock. His nest was washed away twice on 16 and 17 December. Each time he found an egg and re-incubated. His chick hatched 22 December but it was killed by dogs off leash in a witnessed attack.

#### **7. FOPW BUSH GARDENERS**

Friends of Port Willunga Bush Gardeners celebrated their fourth year of working bees on the second Sunday of each month, guided by City of Onkaparinga's Community Conservation Officer Leanne Lawrence, and led by Deborah Bogle and David Milner. The results of these endeavours are there for all to see, helped of course by the significant rainfalls of the previous 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.

#### **8. 2025 AGM AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2024, in particular retiring treasurer David Milner, and retiring committee member Alex McCarthy. I also thank Rita Reitano for stepping in to manage our social media communications in 2024. Finally I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM at 11am on Sunday January 19th. In the meantime members are encouraged to renew their membership (and make donations!) ahead of the AGM at this [link](#), and I thank many of you for already doing so.



Stephanie Johnston

**Chair, Friends of Port Willunga committee**