



# Friends of Port Willunga

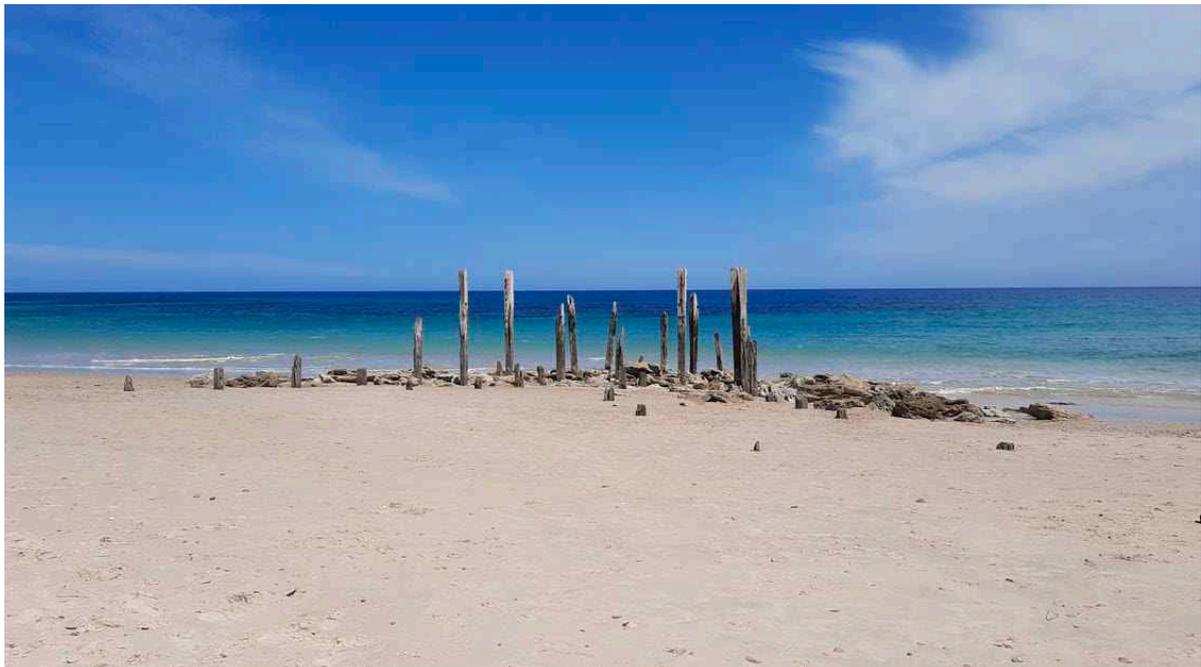
*Caring for the natural environment  
and historic heritage*

## **Friends of Port Willunga Summer Newsletter 2026**

Ahead of our 2026 AGM I am pleased to confirm our guest speaker will be Laszlo Baranyay, registered architect and Port Willunga resident who will share his ideas about designing for multigenerational living and long-term family wealth. Laszlo worked with the Friends of Port Willunga in 2025 to lobby Council to save Skoda Reserve from a proposed new housing development. The AGM will be held at the Aldinga Institute Hall, at 11am on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026, and will include updates on a number of local issues, including community responses to the Harmful Algal Bloom.

### **1. JETTY, CAVES AND COTTAGE ENTER CITY OF ONKAPARINGA LOCAL HERITAGE LIST**

Following the Minister for Planning's approval, the City of Onkaparinga Local Heritage Code Amendment was brought into effect on 20 November 2025. The Code Amendment includes three new Local Heritage Place listings based on Friends of Port Willunga nominations of the Port Willunga Jetty Pylons, the Fishermen's Caves and the Old Harbormaster's Cottage ruins.



The Port Willunga Jetty Pylons are now on the City of Onkaparinga's local heritage list. (Image: Grieve Gillet)

### **2. PORT WILLUNGA COAST PARK FUNDRAISER UPDATE**

The City of Onkaparinga have finalised the detailed drawings for the Port Willunga North Coast Park trail, allowing procurement of a contractor to construct the trail. The timing of procurement and construction remains dependent on successful completion of negotiations with private landowners for public access around the Chinaman Gully section of the approved trail. These negotiations are well progressed and it is anticipated that construction works will start in the first half of 2026. FOPW have confirmed our commitment to raising \$5k to support a community target of \$50k for

the stobie pole removal and revegetation, and encourage all members to contribute through our DONATE button at [this link](#) . (At last count we had raised \$3550 towards our \$5k target.)



Image of Coast Park Trail: City of Onkaparinga

### **3. WAVE POOL AT BOWERING HILL – A THIRD APPLICATION**

A third Development Application (25024223) was lodged by The Break (the Bowering Hill Wave Pool Developer) in September 2025 for a large-scale artificial surf park at Tuit Road, Aldinga—a proposal that is substantially similar to two previous applications that were withdrawn or cancelled following legal proceedings by nearby residents. The revised proposal no longer proposes any lighting towers, and replaces the previously proposed ‘Tap House’ with a ‘Beach Club’ bar that will operate from 7:00am – 11:00pm, 7 days per week. The proposed Wave Park operating hours are now 7 days a week: 7:00 am – 8:00 pm (off-peak); 7:00 am – 9:00 pm (shoulder season) and 7:00 am – 10:00 pm (peak season).

Friends of Port Willunga have supported the campaign organisers by providing an opportunity for the impacted residents to speak at our 2025 AGM, where many signatories were collected for an initial petition against the proposal to install 5 x 27m high lighting towers that would operate from dusk until midnight every day. Friends of Port Willunga also made a presentation against the towers at a Council Assessment Panel meeting held at South Adelaide Football Club and attended by several hundred community members on March 27 2025.

A community ‘Letter of Concern’ dated 17 November, with 719 signatories attached has now been sent to the City of Onkaparinga in response to the latest proposal expressing ongoing concerns about process integrity, environmental impact, and the preservation of the district’s unique rural and coastal character. The third application is currently under assessment by the City of Onkaparinga, and does not require public notification as it is located in the Tourism Development Zone. While Friends of Port Willunga have not led this campaign, we have continued to distribute material about it to our member data base throughout 2025.

### **4. DEPUTATION TO COUNCIL ON HOUSING PROPOSAL FOR SKODA RESERVE**

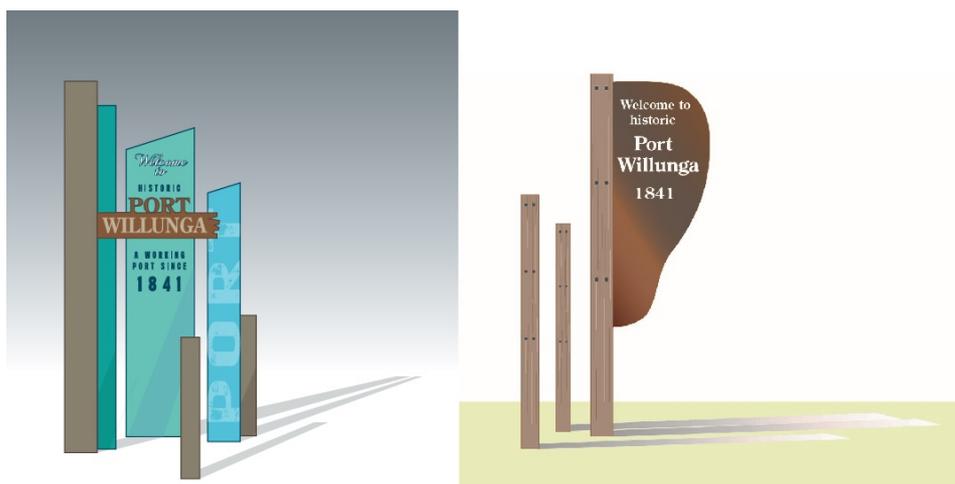
In July 2025 the FOPW made a deputation in opposition to a proposal to grant a long-term lease over a large portion of Skoda Street Reserve for the development of community, social and affordable rental housing, on the basis that it was in the wrong location, with inadequate infrastructure and that it would remove valuable green open space. According to a council report, the majority of submissions from the community, while supportive of social housing, were against the proposal occurring on a public reserve, and after considerable debate, the motion was lost, and the recreational use of the reserve retained.

## 5. JET SKI FREE ZONE UPDATE

Council's application for a personal watercraft exclusion zone between Aldinga and Sellicks Beach is still with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport – Marine Safety (DIT) for consideration. In December 2025 DIT advised that due to the current impacts of the algal bloom and the expected reduction in beach and boating activities this summer, they have put on hold any proposals or further community consultation on a motorised vessel exclusion zone. In the meantime, DIT continue to maintain a compliance and education presence in the area, and encourage reporting of incidents through [SA.GOV.AU - Report boat accidents, incidents and safety concerns](https://www.sa.gov.au/transport-marine-safety).

## 6. WILLUNGA NATIONAL TRUST SIGNAGE PROJECT

The Friends of Port Willunga provided feedback to Council during the public consultation stage of the Willunga branch of the National Trust's historical signage project. The general public were invited to comment on the content of five new interpretive signs around the Port Willunga area, and the content and look and feel of two new entry signs to Port Willunga historic township. While some of the FOPW comments regarding content were taken on board, we were disappointed by the lack of response to our group's feedback on the look, feel and location of the two town entry signs, and we thank FOPW member and renown graphic designer John Nowland for his input on that front. As a result we have reinforced with Council's elected members and engagement team the FOPW mantra: 'to always be engaged as a key local stakeholder *in the early stages* of any project impacting on Port Willunga'.



The original proposal (left) and final version of the new town entry sign (right). 1841 refers to the date of arrival the first vessel to load materials from the beach which later became known as Port Willunga.

## 7. FOPW BUSH GARDENERS OZFISH "SEEDS FOR SNAPPER" COLLABORATION

Friends of Port Willunga Bush Gardeners have been discussing with Council a possible plan to support the seagrass revegetation efforts of OzFish, Australia's peak fish habitat restoration charity. Coinciding with the Harmful Algal Bloom, OzFish launched a new SA Seeds for Snapper project on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Volunteers can get involved in activities supporting fruit collection, seagrass processing and replanting at OzFish restoration sites. OzFish SA Manager Dr Brad Martin recently commented, 'While we are still unsure of the long-term impacts of the Harmful Algal Bloom on seagrass, our OzFishers have observed local Posidonia meadows flowering already and immature fruit washing up across the St. Vincent Gulf.' FOPW Bush Gardeners celebrated their fifth year of working bees on the second Sunday of each month in 2025, guided by City of Onkaparinga's Community Conservation Officer Leanne Lawrence, and led by Deborah Bogle and David Milner.



OzFish volunteers collect the washed-up seagrass fruit and place it in eskies located at strategic sites along the Fleurieu Peninsula.

### 8. HOODIES UPDATE

According to our friends at Birdlife Australia, the algal bloom has disrupted Hooded Plover breeding patterns at Port Willunga and Aldinga. The birds visit their traditional sites but do not stay long and have not exhibited any breeding behaviour to date.

### 9. VALE HUGO SHAW

Born 10 June 1937, artist Hugo Patric Rodas Shaw died peacefully at home in Adelaide on 31 October 2025 surrounded by family and his artwork. Hugo's oeuvre includes numerous works depicting the cliffs and the old jetty at Port Willunga, subjects he has painted extensively over his lifetime. Hugo was also a great supporter of the work of the Friends of Port Willunga, and last year donated a painting towards our Coast Park fundraiser. A new exhibition titled "Hugo Shaw Retrospective: A celebration of his life and works" will open to the public on Friday 30 January at the Waverley Park Homestead.



Artworks by Hugo Shaw

### 10. 2026 AGM AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2025, in particular retiring committee member Zanny Twopeny whose passion for Port Willunga is always appreciated. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2026 AGM at 11am on Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup>, and 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