



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

NEWS LETTER

Number 58, February 2016

Chair's Annual Report, AGM 2015

Presented by Brian Donaghy on 13 Nov 2015

Welcome, everyone.

It is particularly pleasing to see Councillor John Kemp and two council staff here again tonight. The fact that you have taken the time to come out this evening shows that the work of the Friends is valued by people outside our group, and that's a big morale boost. So thanks for coming.

Our Patron, Professor Chris Daniels, has had to be an apology this evening but he has assured us that he is more than happy to continue as patron for another year.

It's been a good year, and a relatively quiet one, but looking ahead we do face a couple of challenges.

Like all voluntary organisations we need to spread the load so that we do not wear out our most committed volunteers, and we need to bring in new people who can replace retiring members.

As Laurence Ng has pointed out, if everyone living adjacent to the park gave just two hours a year of their time - two hours a year - it would make a big difference.

So talk about it to your friends and neighbours.

Maybe we need to organise a couple of monster working bees a year to accommodate that. Should we combine those working bees with a picnic, or maybe a guided tour or introduction to some of the flora and fauna we have? What else might we do?

Have a think about it. We are always open to suggestions.

The monthly Sunday working bees organised by Bob James have contributed some 180 hours this year. Bob himself has done more travelling than usual this year but he has still put at least 60 hours of his own time into bushcare over and above the working bees.

He is not the only one, of course, who does extra work in the park. Some people have been doing it now for a quarter of a century.

It would be invidious to name individuals, if only because everyone's contribution varies. But I think I should note that Phil and Anne Hicks have done at least 25 hours of particularly delicate weeding of the rejuvenating bush in Woorabinda that was burnt in February last year.

That fire was almost certainly started by careless druggies who not only drag old furniture and other rubbish into the bush, but they put the whole community at risk. There are signs that they are doing it again, which highlights the need not only for vigilance by the Friends, but also more frequent monitoring and visits by the council ranger.

What's inside:

• Around the Reserves	2
• Collaborative Bandicoot Habitat Project	3
• Friends work with CVA	3
• Proposed toilet, Woorabinda: Council consultation	4
• Site plan	5
• Floor plan	6
• Working Bee program	7

Annual Report continued

There is also the ongoing issue of large dogs being allowed to run free, particularly in areas away from the lake.

Jane Schoettgen and her Thursday working bees have done 152 hours' of work in the park. We have also benefitted from CVA teams, arranged in conjunction with the Adelaide Hills Council and the Friends, with several members of the Friends devoting hours of their time, sometimes at very short notice, to help in the supervision of those working parties.

Like most volunteer groups, we occasionally have our issues with the local council, but I have to say that this year in particular our local council has been particularly supportive.

To give just two quick examples, the Ethel Street fire track has finally been finished, and a new sign has been erected at the exit from the freeway, putting Woorabinda Bushland Reserves officially on the map as a place of particular interest.

We have had meetings with the CEO, Andrew Aitken. Both Mark Buckerfield, the AHC's manager of built and natural assets, and Steven Brooks, the Natural Resources Manager/Engineering, have taken the time and trouble to come to several of our committee meetings.

Around the Reserves

There have been some interesting sightings in the reserves over the last few months.

A bandicoot was seen in Madurta Reserve on October and another was seen near the boardwalk in Woorabinda in November.

Sacred Kingfishers were seen at a nest hole near the lake in November.

It was pleasing to hear an Australian Reed Warbler and later see it in the reeds by the lake in October. Reed Warblers have been absent from the reserve for some years.

Many orchids flowered well during Spring and Jane Schoettgen put some identification labels along the path to encourage people to take notice of them.

Disclaimer: Contributors' views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor, the committee or the general membership of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc.

And this in a year when the councils' workload and expenses were dramatically increased by the Sampson Flat bushfire.

Mainly as a result of the special community involvement events we organised last year, to mark our 25th anniversary, we were selected as finalists in the partnerships category of the Premier's Natural Resources Management Awards - and we have a certificate to prove it.

Special thanks to one of our committee members, Janet Pedler, for all the work she did on putting together our nomination. If it hadn't been for her, we probably wouldn't even have entered.

And, by the way, congratulations to Janet who has been given an SA Pride of Australia award in her own right for 40 years of outstanding contribution to the environment.

This year our focus has been on the core business of looking after the park. The real heroes are the people who turn up month after month to the working bees.

We also sponsored a Youth Environment category in the Stirling Rotary Photographic Competition, and promoted the park as usual with a stall in the Stirling Laneways.

As far as I know, we are still solvent, but I will now hand over to our treasurer, Phil Hicks, to prove it.



Australian Reed Warbler

Collaborative Bandicoot Habitat Project Successful in Gaining Green Army support

In December 2015 partner groups in the Southern Brown Bandicoot Habitat Restoration and Linkage project (SBBHR&L) Green Army application were delighted to hear that our application had been approved. We were even more delighted to find that our host Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) with whom we had developed the project was also going to be our Service Provider for the 2016-17 project (two six-month projects).

Many hours of negotiation and project development had been put in by the major partners, National Trust of South Australia, Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group, Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves/Adelaide Hills Council, Friends of Mark Oliphant Conservation Park/DEWNR and Deanery Community Landcare Group/Arbury Park Outdoor School. We have all contributed plans for suitable works such as bushcare, trail building, seed collection, plant propagation, tubestock planting, feral animal and plant and native species surveying.

The project area stretches from Watiparinga Reserve in Mitcham foothills through the Upper Sturt area and out to Mark Oliphant CP, to Woorabinda Bushland Reserves in Stirling, to Deanery Landcare sites along Cox Creek and over to Engelbrook Reserve in Bridgewater.

Project benefits centre around improvement, protection, extension and linkage of habitat areas to allow increased movements and interchange between Bandicoot sub-populations thus breaking localised genetic isolation, and buffer them from further isolation and local extinction over time.

Friends work with Conservation Volunteers Australia

During 2015 teams of volunteer bushcarers from Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) worked in Woorabinda bushlands on six separate days.

CVA provided a trained team leader each day and members of the Friends group worked with the teams on all occasions.

The teams concentrated on control of gorse but also tackled broom and blackberries.

Large amounts of these environmental weeds were

removed, improving the habitat biodiversity for native wildlife but also removing a lot of highly flammable fuel load so reducing bushfire risk.

Each team averaged six workers a day: three days were spent working in Stirling Park and three days working in Madurta reserve.

Adelaide Hills Council supported the teams by covering the CVA costs and providing tools and herbicide.

As community volunteers we feel very grateful to have been able to cooperate together to build this project and can't wait to get underway in July this year. Thanks to all who helped us get there and stay tuned: the project will be coming to somewhere near you!

Contributors to this issue include Brian Donaghy, Philip Hicks, Janet Pedler, David Ragless, Kath Bowman, Bob James, Merilyn Browne and Adelaide Hills Council.

Affiliations: the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc. is a member of Friends of Parks Inc. and is also a registered Landcare Group and a member of both Greening Australia and Trees for Life.

What is Council proposing:

To provide a unisex / public toilet for users of the Bushland Reserve

Background and features of the toilet design:

Following community interest for toilets to be located within the reserve, Council has made provision in the 2015/16 budget to build or renovate (where available to do so) a suitable toilet facility/s.

The work includes landscaping, construction, connection to power, sewer and water. The toilets will be constructed using sustainable environmental elements as well as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and following Australian standards and accessibility for all.

Lighting will be provided and installed within the eaves to minimise light intrusion.

The toilet proposed is a unisex mobility impaired room with hand washing basin, grab rails, possibly a wall mounted urinal and a baby change table as an option.

It is proposed that the toilet will be accessible on a time lock control at hours to be determined. (A time lock system assists in managing undesirable activity especially late at night) once the toilet is available to the community and visitors to the reserve.

Consultation process:

Consultation will be undertaken in February to early March 2016 and includes initial discussions with representatives from the Friends of Woorabinda Reserve followed by general community consultation.

Once the design and location of the toilet/s has been finalised and Development Approval granted then construction or renovation will commence early to mid-2016.

Following initial discussions with key groups the preferred option is to upgrade and renovate the existing toilet block on the middle level adjacent the Environmental Centre. (Please refer to the attached plan, provided for information)

The upgraded toilet will include the following:

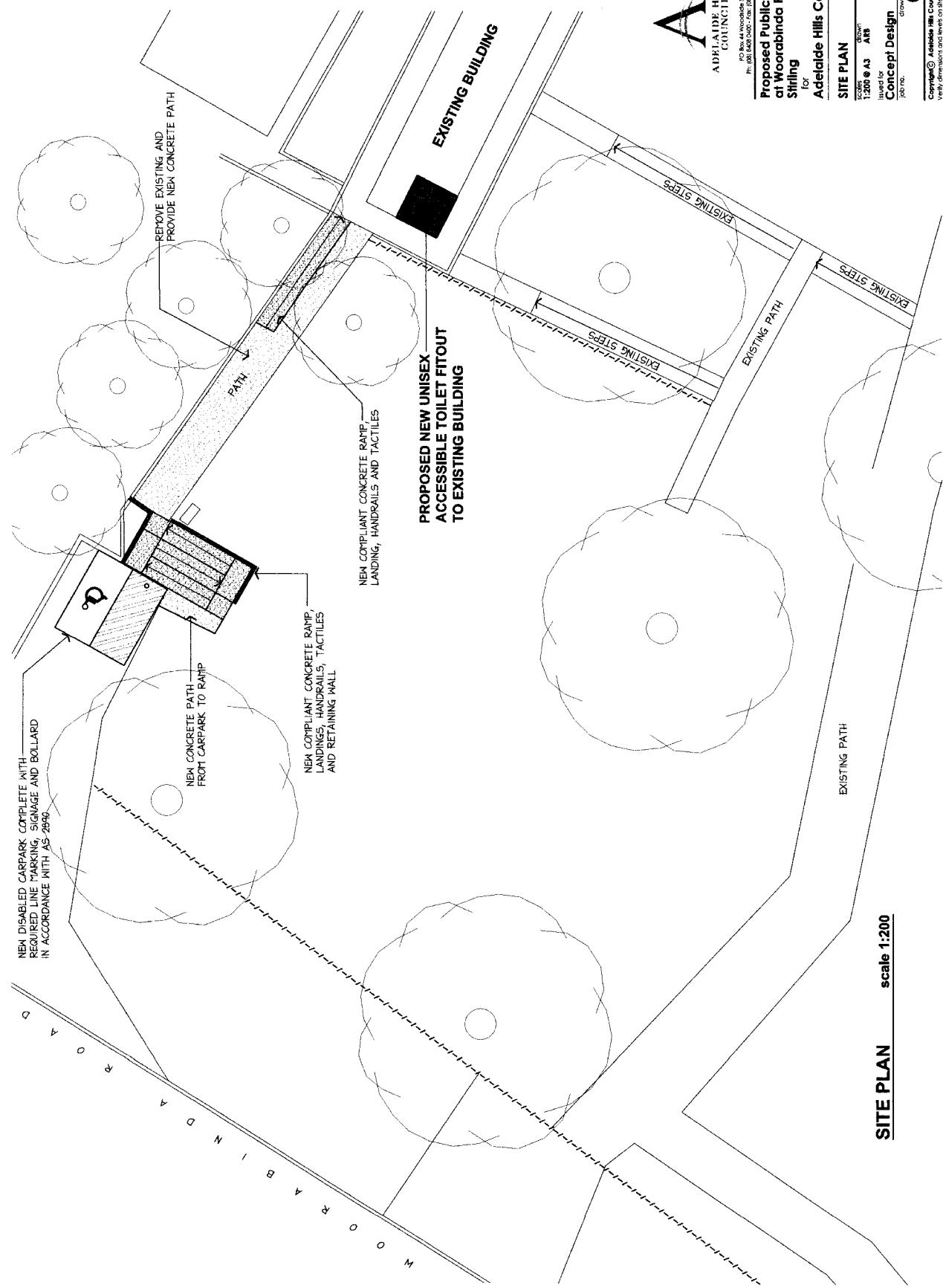
- Access for mobility impaired and other users will be provided from the new access car park, ramps, handrails and footpaths leading to the Unisex toilet facility in the north western corner of the existing ablution building.
- Removal of asbestos from the building with new painting and maintenance repairs and renovations are being proposed.
- The Unisex toilet will be compliant with today's mobility impaired standards including auto close and controlled time lock door, baby changing and hand washing facilities. A separate urinal is being considered as well.

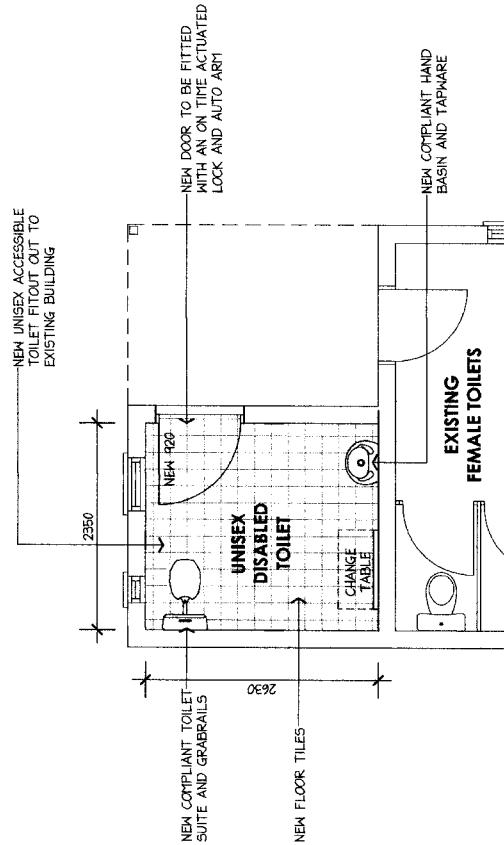
Aspects considered in the location of the toilet include:

1. Operational
 - Locating the toilets close to existing power, water and sewer will be a cost saving
 - The removal of asbestos
 - Utilisation of an existing building
2. Accessibility
 - Paths and a series of ramps will be constructed to enable access from the street frontage level and the carpark to the toilet block
 - Suitably located for mobility impaired access and car parking
3. Safety
 - A safe and secure spot for the cleaner to access
 - Ease of access for maintenance or repairs
 - A safe spot for parents and children to access
 - An appropriate distance from adjoining owners to the proposed toilet site
 - **For further information please contact Council**

Consultation closes March 4th, 2016

**Adelaide Hills Council
PO Box 44, Woodside SA 5244
(08) 8408 0400
ahc.sa.gov.au | @ahc.sa.gov.au**





TOILET FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:50

A

ADLAIDE HILLS

COUNCIL

P.O. Box 44 Brookside SA 5244

Ph: (08) 8269 0400 Fax: (08) 8269 1460

**Proposed Public Toilets
at Woorabinda Park
Stirling
for
Adelaide Hills Council**

FLOOR PLANS

1:50 A3 A4 03/02/14

Issued for
Concept Design Drawing No.
Job No. Revision
02

Copyright © Adelaide Hills Council
Very detailed site plan for the proposed site location



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves



C/- 3 Branch Road, Aldgate, SA 5154
Web site: www.woorabinda.org

ABN 82 579 085 755

2016 Work Bee Timetable

SUNDAY Working Bees 2016 – 9 am to 11 am

Date	Location	Meeting Place
February 21	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
March 20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
April 17	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
May 15	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
June 19	Stirling Park	Branch Road
July 17	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
August 21	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
September 18	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
October 16	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
November 20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
December 18	Stirling Park	Branch Road

THURSDAY Working bees 2016 – 9 am to 11 am – last Thursday each month

Dates		Location	Meeting Place
February 25	July 28	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
March 31	August 25	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
April 28	September 29	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
May 26	October 27	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
June 30	November 24	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive

Come and join in!

Everyone is invited to join our working bees at any time. All are welcome, including experienced volunteers and those who are not but will receive help on-site from FOWBR members to recognize plant species and carry out basic minimal disturbance weeding. It's lots of fun!

To receive reminder notices for the working bees, or to find out more about them, send an email to bobjames@chariot.net.au. Or, if you are interested in the Thursday working bees, call Jane Schoettgen on 8339 7245.

Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Membership application/renewal

I/we would like to join/renew membership of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc.
(Strike out words not applicable)

Membership fee for both individuals and family: 1 year, \$10.00, 5 years, \$40.00

\$.....membership fee is enclosed.

\$.....donation is included. (Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible. A separate receipt will be issued.)

Name.....

Address.....

.....**Phone**.....

Email address for sending Newsletter.....

Please return to: Kathy Bowman, Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc., 2 Bogaduck Road, Aldgate 5154