



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

NEWS LETTER

Number 62, October 2018

Annual General Meeting

When: Friday 9th November, 6:30 pm

Where: Environment Centre, Woorabinda

Speaker: Professor Chris Daniels, Patron, FoWBR

Bring: Meat and drinks for the BBQ after the meeting
(salads, breads, tea and coffee will be provided)



Professor Chris Daniels

This year's AGM speaker will be the Patron of the Friends, Professor Chris Daniels, speaking on Biodiversity of the Mt Lofty Ranges.

Professor Daniels, former chair of the Natural Resources Management Board for the Mt Lofty Ranges, is now Director of Cleland Wildlife Park.

He has had a long and distinguished career in the environmental field, and among his other publications he was joint editor of *Adelaide, Nature of a City, the ecology of a dynamic city from 1836 to 2016*.

He will be speaking on the history and importance of biodiversity in the Adelaide Region.

The AGM of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves will be held on Friday, November 9, at the Environment Centre overlooking Woorabinda Lake.

The formal business of the meeting will begin at 6.30 pm. Professor Daniel's presentation will be followed by the usual BYO meat and drinks BBQ.

ALL WELCOME !

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Koala and kids

Forty-nine reception year students from Concordia College and their teachers had a surprise treat when they spent a morning at Woorabinda Bushland Reserves on August 1.

Instead of merely meeting a couple of the Friends during their morning tea break, to discuss the living things they had seen in the Reserves, they found Fauna Rescue volunteers waiting for them in the Environment Centre with Goldie the koala and an informative slide show about the animals.

"We absolutely loved exploring the bushland and then to go into the classroom and be able to pat a koala was a wonderful experience," Sharon Cosh, Concordia's Reception coordinator, said later.

Prime thanks to Jane Schoettgen who arranged the surprise, and to Fauna Rescue's Anne, Don and Bev, who came up from the city with Goldie and the slide show, specifically aimed at primary school children.

Jane Schoettgen with Goldie



Some of the students watching the presentation in the Environment Centre

Walking Woorabinda

In an exciting new development The Hut is working up a program of public walks in Woorabinda led by FOWBR volunteers. We have four volunteers from the Friends group ready to lead walks in the near future. Please add your name to the list at the Hut if you are interested. We will give you more information as this project takes shape. Watch this space!

Friends Committee members honoured by other organisations

Members of the Friends Committee are busy people and most are also involved with other community organisations.

Recently two members were honoured with awards from other community groups.

Janet Pedler was awarded the Medallion of the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia to honour her outstanding contributions to natural history and nature conservation in South Australia and her raising awareness of the Society.

Janet's well deserved medallion is cast in solid sterling silver.

Brian Donaghy, after 20 years of service as a very active CFS volunteer, has been made a Life Member of the Aldgate CFS. As well as firefighting and training work Brian co - wrote the Aldgate CFS song : "What the hell do we do it all for". (Can be downloaded from Aldgate CFS website.)

Brian is Chair of our Friends group, a position he has held for five years.

Congratulations to Janet and Brian!

Bushcare and weed control

Monthly Sunday working bee report

Over the last year an average of 12 volunteers have attended 10 Sunday working bees, excluding the washed out April working bee. Overall, we have made good progress in working in and around the margins of the good bush in Woorabinda and Madurta Reserves and in the regeneration areas of Stirling Park.

Having referred to 'the good bush', a question which sometimes arises is: why are most of our working bees in and around the good bush where there are relatively few weeds when we could be getting stuck into large scale weeds in other areas?

We try to follow the recognised Bradley method of bushcare, in which the three basic principles are:

- 'Work outwards from the good bush areas towards areas of weed;
- Minimal disturbance to the environment;
- Do not overclear'.

In summary, the rationale for our approach is that the good bush is a valuable asset and that we can make the most impact with the expertise of our limited number of volunteers by concentrating on it. (The historical background to our approach was well outlined in a talk by David Ragless which was included in our September 2017 Newsletter, No. 60.) As we remove most of the weeds from the best areas we can work out towards the margins of the good bush and concentrate on these areas, facilitating regeneration of native species from existing seeds already in the ground and seed banks in the nearby good bush.

Over the years we have already put in considerable effort into working on weed infestations from what started out as being the areas with the best remnant native vegetation. Some of these areas now have relatively small amounts of regenerating weeds so that in these areas we are mainly continuing follow-up work to prevent weed regeneration.

It follows that we are gradually putting more effort into pushing back weeds on the margins of the good bush. While we are doing this, smaller weeds such as Sparaxis and Three-cornered Garlic are continuing to encroach in some areas. To date, we have not put a lot of effort into working on these smaller weeds which may need a more concentrated approach than we have mainly been using to date.

Council funded weed control work

Adelaide Hills Council funded contractors worked on spraying large scale Blackberry patches in Madurta, Woorabinda and Stirling Park last Autumn.

Plans have been made for Council funded work on Three-cornered Garlic in coming months and for Council funded CVA teams to work in WBR on three days in November. Bob James, our Hender Reserve bushcare stalwart, reported that the second six-monthly, Council funded, Bush for Life working bee in Hender Reserve was held recently and that work concentrated on digging up Three-cornered Garlic.

That dam(n) wall

About five years ago Friends volunteer Jane Schoettgen decided to make a start at clearing the environmental weed Watsonia from the retaining wall of Woorabinda lake.

This is a steep and difficult worksite. Jane started on her own but over the years also got help from the Friends Thursday working bee group, of which she is coordinator. Over the last five years Jane and the Thursday group have also worked in a number of other areas controlling Blackberry and Gorse.

Jane has had a number of adventures working on the site. On several occasions when working on her own she has met one of the native wildlife residents of the wall: a red-bellied black snake! At the first meeting Jane was spooked and fled till she got a good distance from the snake. On subsequent meetings Jane remained calm and admired this beautiful local reptile, which just went about its business and was no threat unless challenged.

A few weeks ago Jane reported that the Watsonia weeding on the dam wall was completed. (However, follow up weeding work will still be needed in future years.) Jane has since moved on to work on other weedy areas and at this time of year Watsonia is high in her priorities.

This is a wonderful example of what can be achieved with dedication and perseverance. Jane received an Adelaide Hills Treasure Award in 2017 for her bushcare work.

Congratulations to Jane for the many hundreds of hours she has given to weed control in Woorabinda Bushlands.

Jane welcomes volunteers to join her- are you able? 'phone 8339 7245.



Jane C, Sue, Jane S, Julia and Lawrence at work on the dam wall

photo David Ragless

THURSDAY Working Bees 2018 - 9 am to 11 am (last Thursday each month)		
MEET AT WOORABINDA DRIVE. Next two meetings: October 25; November 29.		

SUNDAY Working Bees 2018 - 9 am to 11 am

October 21	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
November 18	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
December 16	Stirling Park	Branch Road

You are invited to join our working bees at any time. Wear sensible protective clothing, boots and gloves. The Park has a variety of terrain, and can be wet underfoot. Gloves are provided for people using herbicide.



Wallflower Donkey Orchid,
Diuris orientis



Spotted Donkey Orchid,
Diuris pardina



King Spider Orchid,
Arachnorchis tentacula



Salmon Sun Orchid,
Thelymitra rubra (buds)



Purple Cockatoo,
Glossodia major

It's Orchid Time!

If you're walking around any native bushland at this time of the year, look out for native orchids. At the moment, there are Donkey Orchids in flower along the path on the railway side of Woorabinda Lake. King Spider Orchids are flowering uphill from the area burnt in 2014. If you continue to the edge of the park near Keroma Drive, you might find some Purple Cockatoos and two species of Donkey Orchids. Salmon Sun Orchids are also beginning to open out.

Other plants flowering well are some of the peas: the golden Narrow-leaf Bitter Pea and Large-leaved Bush Pea, and the small but bright Red Parrot Pea.



Blue Grass Lily,
Caesia calliantha



Red Parrot Pea,
Dillwynia hispida

Pink-eyed Susan gives big splashes of purple, while the tiny and delicate Twining Fringe Lily is much less obvious. The Blue Grass-Lily is another gem that is flowering at the moment.

Many other plants are in flower at the moment, so if you haven't been to the Reserves recently, take advantage of our sunny Spring weather and enjoy a walk among the wildflowers.



Twining Fringe Lily,
Thysanotus patersonii



Narrow-leaf Bitter Pea,
Daviesia leptophylla



Pink-eyed Susan,
Tetratheca pilosa

Contributors to this issue include Brian Donaghy, Kath Bowman, Philip Hicks, Jane Schoettgen, David Ragless and Merilyn Browne.

Affiliations: The Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc. is a member of Friends of Parks Inc. It is a registered Landcare Group and a member of Greening Australia, Trees for Life and the Central Hills Green Web.

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.



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.)

*Payment included / Bank transfer made (*please circle your payment method)

Name.....

Address.....

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

Email address for sending Newsletter.....

Please return this form to: Brian Donaghy, Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc., 3 Branch Road, Aldgate 5154

Bank transfer details:

BSB: 105-079

Account: 040748240

Ensure you include your name and "Subs" or "Subs/Don)" for identification of your payment.