



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

NEWS LETTER

Number 66, November 2020

Celebrating a symbol of unity

Last year the Waterlines Project in the Woorabinda Bushland Reserves shone a spotlight on areas of Peramangk history and the importance of water, particularly to Peramangk travellers. (This was reported in FoWBR Newsletter Spring 2019)

Following this event Peramangk elder Ivan-Tiwu Copley carved a shield into a large dead gumtree in Hender Reserve as a symbol of indigenous history and presence in the area.

The Friends group, in conjunction with The Hut staff who coordinated the Waterlines Project, decided that an interpretive sign would be a good idea to explain to visitors the reason and importance of the shield carving.

Ivan-Tiwu Copley provided words for a sign and Friends of Woorabinda funded its production and installed it in August 2019. A ceremonial unveiling of this sign was held in September and attended by over 30 people, including Friends of Woorabinda Bushlands Reserves members, Adelaide Hills Councillors and staff, media representatives and The Hut staff.

The Chair of Woorabinda Friends, Brian Donaghy, introduced the speakers: Ivan-Tiwu Copley and Adelaide Hills deputy mayor Nathan Daniell. Ivan explained that the shield design includes semi-circles which symbolised unity and were representative of Kaurna, Peramangk, and Ngarrindjeri peoples.

He said, "These semi-circles have a deep meaning behind them – they represent inclusiveness. And for me there's more- it's about reconciliation."

"And that's around knowing that we are all Australians – Aboriginal or non-aboriginal Australians are welcome in this place.

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Ivan-Tiwu Copley and Nathan Daniell at the shield tree

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"In our culture circles are really important. When Aboriginal and non Aboriginal come together they can form a circle – one people, one nation – for me that is what it is also about."

Nathan, in unveiling the sign, said, "It is one small step toward celebrating and educating the community about Aboriginal culture and history in the region.

"It is really important that as a community and as a Council, we educate about Aboriginal history and cultural sites in our region."

Following the unveiling Ivan conducted a traditional smoking ceremony at the site.

In conclusion Ivan asked the Friends group to assist with the care of the shield carving in future and presented the Chair of the Friends group, Brian, with special red ochre for use in its future marking and preservation.



Ivan-Tiwi Copley addressing the attendees at the unveiling ceremony in Hender Reserve

Field Naturalists Society of South Australia 136th AGM

The 'Field Nats' as we affectionately call ourselves, were delighted to be able to hold our AGM at Woorabinda Environment Centre this year, a place surrounded by a brilliant patch of conserved natural vegetation vital to the conservation of our flora and fauna. With just the right number of members inside the building to ensure COVID safe procedures, we were thankful that our Society had survived and even thrived during the past year and we could celebrate this with FOWBR members, who as volunteers like us, continue to put so much effort into conservation of our natural world under difficult conditions.

We congratulated four extraordinary members of our Society who had been recognised for their contributions to natural science: Graham Medlin, who won the SA Unsung Hero of Science Award, Robert and Rosalie Lawrence who won the SA Unsung Heroes of Science Communication Award, and Pam Catcheside, nominated for Senior Australian of the Year Award for her work in fungi research.

As President, I also noted that this has been a year of building partnerships that included surveying Kangaroo Island properties affected by fires, renewing old partnerships with other advocacy



organisations, and working together in new ways with the combined knowledge and enthusiasm of our members in our Mammal Club, Adelaide Fungal Studies Club, Botany Club and the Junior Field Naturalists Society to bring the love and value of natural systems to the attention of all.

Just one of those new ways of working involves holding combined activities with other conservation groups like FOWBR to raise awareness and knowledge and to have a good time while volunteering. So, as planned, straight after the meeting we headed out into Woorabinda Bushland Reserves and looked for all the small stars of the plant world, thriving and flowering on the hill adjacent to the buildings. FNSSA and FOWBR members delighted in finding and identifying many small species and a list of 52 species resulted, including multiple orchid, herb, groundcover, twiner, shrub, sedge and tussock species. Later, those new to Woorabinda enjoyed a walk around the lake environs. Many thanks particularly to David Ragless and Jan Walker who helped to make this all happen!

Janet Pedler,
President of the Field Naturalist Society of SA
Member of FOWBR

Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

Annual General Meeting

November 20th 2020

Woorabinda Environment Centre

The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm and will be followed by a barbecue and picnic tea outside the buildings from 7 pm. Please bring your own food (meat for barbecuing, salads etc) and utensils, including a mug if you would like a hot drink. The Committee will provide tea and coffee.

Under the current restrictions the maximum number of people we can have inside the building is 22. Access to the meeting will be on a first-come first served basis and we will have to keep contact details of those attending. More people can be accommodated at the picnic tea outside.

If you or someone you know would like to join the Committee, a nomination form is included in this newsletter (page 5). You can nominate and be elected to the Committee whether or not you are able to attend the AGM.

We hope to see you there.

Woorabinda wildlife

With the increased use of the reserves over the last few months, it should come as no surprise that some interesting creatures have been spotted. The most unexpected sighting is that of an eel in the creek at Woorabinda. This is different from the Lamprey reported in the Newsletter a year ago (October 2019).

A fish biologist who saw the photo provided the following comments: 'It's an eel, most likely a short-finned (*Anguilla australis*), still a rare sighting in the rivers of the western Mt Lofty's, which are at the extreme western end of their distribution (the SE of SA is where they tend to drop out). If my geography is correct, that eel would have had to circum-vent the Mt Bold Reservoir wall (most likely as a juvenile) which would be no mean feat.

'A report of a lamprey in the creek is also fascinating. Like eels, lamprey migrate between salt and freshwater but it is the adult lamprey that migrate from the ocean to spawn in freshwater reaches (the opposite of eels). Again, I think this

would have involved getting past the reservoir wall. Amazing.'

A Pygmy Copperhead (snake) was spotted by one of the Field Naturalists on the day of their AGM at the Woorabinda Environment Centre. See page 2 for more of what the group found.

A Rufous Night Heron turned up at the lake at the end of October.

The eel



Bushcare working bee report

In the time since the previous Newsletter we have been fortunate to have been able to hold seven monthly Sunday bushcare working bees, comprising four in Woorabinda Reserve, two in Madurta and one in Stirling Park. Only one working bee, scheduled for Stirling Park in April, was cancelled due to COVID-19. None were seriously curtailed by bad weather, although on two days we decided to restrict our use of poison for swabbing because of forecast showers later in the day. Over that time, an average of 10 volunteers participated, compared with an average of 11 for the preceding year.

We continued our work in and on the margins of good bush (using the Bradley method described in earlier Newsletter articles), following-up regrowth of weeds previously worked on and then extending into adjoining areas that had not previously been worked on. As an example, in our September working bee we followed-up previous work by cutting and swabbing Watsonia in an area of good bush in Woorabinda Reserve to the north-east of the buildings. This area, which included many dense patches of Watsonia a few years ago has now been almost cleared of Watsonia. In our October working bee we extended our work into an adjacent area of denser Watsonia that we had not previously worked on.

A common thread in some of our recent working

bees is that as we have reduced concentrations of larger weeds, we have tried to do a bit more work on smaller weeds such as Sparaxis and Onion Weed than we have done in the past. These species and other smaller invasive weeds such as Soursobs, Violets and some daisy species continue to infiltrate into the edges of the good bush and are very difficult to effectively work on. Our approach has been to concentrate on smaller or isolated patches of some of these weeds rather than attempt to eliminate them altogether.

Once again, thanks to working bee members for their suggestions about areas warranting bushcare work. Thanks also to those who provide the morning tea we all appreciate after the working bees.

In addition to his long term bushcare work in Hender Reserve, Bob James has continued to work in Hender with Bush for Life teams lead by Bush Action Team Leader, Pria, funded by Adelaide Hills Council and using an approach similar to that outlined above.

Working bee schedule for 2020, 9 - 11am

November 15	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
December 20	Stirling Park	Branch Road

The value of our volunteers

Recently the Friends of Parks SA (the umbrella group representing Friends groups) advised that the official hourly rate for valuing volunteer work in South Australia was now \$45.10 per hour. This rate is computed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, revised twice per year and officially adopted by Volunteering SA/NT. It is also the official Government rate for valuing environmental volunteers' hours.

On the basis of Friends of Woorabinda Bushlands Reserves records for 2019 and at the current rate, our volunteers donated time and labour worth \$44,649 for the year 2019. The hours worked figure is regarded as quite conservative and is probably quite a bit higher.

Hours worked were made up as follows:

- Bushcare working bees: Sunday and Thursday each month 280 hours

• Bushcare by individual members and supervision of CVA, scouts and other volunteers	256 hours
• Monitoring: Bird surveys, photo monitoring, wildlife camera, weed surveys	100 hours
• Meetings: Committee, Greenweb, schools, Council, etc.	164 hours
• Secretarial: newsletters, minutes, letters, emails, publicity, membership records, financial records, phones, website, grant funding applications, etc.	190 hours
Total	990 hours

This investment is critical to the future of our environment.

Agenda for Annual General Meeting, November 20th, 2020

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurers Report'
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Election of FOWBR Committee
7. Any Other Business

We invite interested members of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves to join the Committee. The Committee works closely with staff from the Adelaide Hills Council and provides important input into the running and maintenance of the Reserves. Talk to a current Committee member if you would like more information.

Committee Nomination Form

Candidate's Name Signature email phone

Proposer's Name Signature email phone

Candidates and proposers must be members of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves.



*Members of the Thursday Bushcare group,
Ingrid, Jane, Mark and Merilyn with the
results of a morning's work*

Contributors to this issue include Brian Donaghy, David Ragless, Kath Bowman, Jan Walker, Ingrid Kellenbach, Philip Hicks 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

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