



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

NEWS LETTER

Number 67, February 2021

AGM: Chairman's report

2020 is a year that none of us are likely to forget, but I am glad to say that for the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves it has largely been business as usual.

We did have to cancel one working bee because of COVID restrictions, two committee meetings had to be held via Zoom, and this AGM, of course is quite different. No guest speaker, no anniversary celebrations, no bubbles and no toast from our patron, Professor Chris Daniels.

Despite the fact that one Sunday bushcare session was cancelled because of COVID and another because of bad weather, an estimated 250 hours were worked in Sunday working bees in last financial year, including an allowance for visits to potential working sites ahead of working bees and collection of the trailer.

Philip Hicks, who organises the Sunday sessions, says the estimate would be similar if using a timeframe closer to the present, with the same number of cancellations.

To his numbers you have to add at least 120 hours for the Thursday group and many hours of uncounted work over and above the regular sessions by Bob James, Philip and Ann Hicks and Jane Schoettgen and Bush for Life who have been working with Bob in Hender.

Then there is the time spent working with Council to select areas for work to be carried out by professional contractors.

Plus more uncounted hours on such backroom activities as applying for grants, liaising with school groups and attending committee meetings.

One highlight in a quiet year was the installation and the official unveiling of an interpretive sign by the Aboriginal shield tree in Hender. Peramangk/Kaurna elder Ivan Tiwi Copley, who carved the shield, gave a very interesting talk on the significance of the shield design and of the local area in Aboriginal times. The event was given considerable local media coverage and the Council seems keen to have Ivan do further carvings there in the future.

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AGM: Chairman's report continued

In May, the Save Our Wildlife Foundation, with assistance from the Council and volunteers from the Friends, planted a variety of trees at two sites in

Part of one of the SOWFI plantings



Stirling Park, designed to eventually provide a constant supply of food for rescued native animals.

One result of the COVID restrictions has been a dramatic increase in the number of people of all ages visiting the park. Seeing how important the reserves became to people in a time of crisis shows how important the work we have all been doing for years really is.

Perhaps as a result of the influx of new visitors, we have had a number of inquiries recently from people wishing to help. Let's hope there will be many more.

The joys of Zoom

The 2020 AGM was very nearly a flop.

It should have been as easy as saying 'Do come in'. After all, the Friends had already successfully held a couple of committee meetings via Zoom, when COVID restrictions meant the usual meeting room at the Environment Centre was not available.

In the past our annual meetings have been attended by around 30 to 40 people, a definite no-no in the coronavirus era. Nor could we have the usual barbecue, salads and drinks afterwards. No 'shared plates', with everyone helping themselves. Should we have a couple of people serving everyone individually, while maintaining social distancing? With a suitably gloved and perhaps masked barperson pouring wine from bottles that no one else would be allowed to touch? We would need a COVID management plan for the event and at least one person trained as a COVID Marshall.

So the decision to hold the AGM online via Zoom was a no brainer.

The invitation to zoom in to the meeting on December 1 was emailed in the usual way to all the members about half an hour before the start.

A few did pop in to the Zoom 'waiting room' and were duly admitted. But only a few. We have scores of members but didn't even have

the minimum 15 required as a quorum. Some people are not familiar with video conferencing, we accept that, but we were even missing some members of the committee.

The chairman, Brian Donaghy, who was hosting the Zoom session, began receiving phone calls from people wondering why they had not been invited. He sent them the invitation again. One or two joined but some were still missing – including the former chair and the secretary, David and Lorri Ragless.

In the end a quorum was scraped together only because the Raglesses had the good sense to walk across the road and join Brian on his computer.

It turned out later that some of the emailed invitations were not delivered until hours after the meeting finished – in some cases they were not received until the next day. Why remains a mystery. Was gmail just very slow? Did some ISPs block the group email as suspected junk mail? Was the NBN having a bad day? Why did some people get the invitation straight away and others did not?

Hopefully this year's AGM will be business as usual, complete with shared plates. If it has to be held via Zoom, the invitations will be emailed at least 12 hours before the meeting. Just don't try to log on straight away, please wait until closer to the scheduled meeting time.

Helping injured animals

Fauna Rescue was established in the 1980s in South Australia and cares for wildlife in trouble from all over SA. Its overall aim is to care for, rehabilitate and, where possible, return animals to the wild. Fauna Rescue's Hotline Number is 08 8289 0896. This is a really good number to have in your telephone contacts list and it is available 24/7. If you don't get through on your first call, try again – from August to December the line is extremely busy. Fauna Rescue has specialised people who deal with possums, koalas, wombats, kangaroos, bats, all the smaller marsupials, lizards, turtles and all manner of birds, plus hundreds of others who transport and release wildlife and staff the hotline.

There are other organisations that deal with regional wildlife (for example, Minton Farm cares for wildlife from the Adelaide region), especially possums and kangaroos, and they are sometimes called upon for help. Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc (SOWFI) was only recently set up in SA (2018). It is a smaller group than Fauna Rescue and has similar aims. Many of its members also belong to Fauna Rescue. If you ring them and they say they can care for an animal, you can be confident that they will do so. The RSPCA refers all native wildlife directly to Fauna Rescue, so only ring them if you are dealing with a non-native species, such as a fox or a blackbird.

Instagram site

The Instagram account 'friendsofwoorabinda' was created to increase awareness about what is going on at the Reserves and to hopefully gather some more volunteers. By creating the page it also allows us to have a nice way of seeing progress in the Reserves and sharing it with others who are interested and follow the page.

Prior to working bees, Alisa (who manages the site) posts a couple of reminders to let people know who to contact if they are interested in helping us by volunteering.

You can access the Instagram account online at <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwoorabinda/>

If you have the Instagram app on your phone, you can also access it that way.

Vets will not charge for caring for wildlife. Fauna Rescue has a list of preferred vets who understand the needs of wild creatures and who will treat them. All the vets in Stirling and Aldgate are on this preferred list, so you can be confident they will give good care to our native animals and birds, at no cost to you, and then pass them on to Fauna Rescue for rehabilitation and return to the wild.

Some of the waterbirds found at Woorabinda Lake require a special permit for care. If this is the case, and you ring Fauna Rescue, they will give you AMWRRO's number – Australian Marine Wildlife Research and Rescue Organisation – and ask you to ring them. This is a complicated area but easily sorted by the people that you speak to on Fauna Rescue's hotline.

For a koala in trouble, you can ring either Fauna Rescue or, if you have their number, any of the several Koala Rescue groups.

If you find an injured bat or flying fox, ring Fauna Rescue but DO NOT touch it. If you are scratched or bitten, this is an automatic death sentence for the animal. By law, it has to be euthanized and checked for the presence of lyssavirus (similar to rabies), even though less than 1% of all these animals carry the virus in Australia.

FoWBR Committee for 2021

Kath Bowman: Public Officer, Membership, Website; 0459 291 777

Merilyn Browne: Newsletter; 8339 6839

Brian Donaghy: Chairman; 8339 2033

Marilyn Forward: Displays; 8339 3162

Philip Hicks: Treasurer, Working Bee Coordinator, Past Chair; 0437 812 870

Bob James: Deputy Chair; 8339 1903

Janet Pedler: Volunteer Support

David Ragless: Past Chair, History; 8339 1038

Jan Walker: Committee

Bushcare working bee report

Our three Sunday bushcare working bees held since the report in the last Newsletter were attended by an average of 13 volunteers.

In one of these working bees we continued work started a few months beforehand in an area of Watsonia in otherwise good bush in Woorabinda Reserve that we had not previously worked on. Over many years we have removed most of the emerging Watsonia from adjoining good bush areas.

In the other two working bees we concentrated on following-up weed regrowth in good bush areas previously worked on in Madurta Reserve and Stirling Park.

Over the last few months, we have welcomed the following new working bee members: Sally Owen (returning after many years), Maisie, Alisa and Darcy.

Sunday Working Bees 2021 – 9 am to 11 am

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

To receive reminder notices for the Sunday working bees or to find out more about them call Philip Hicks (0437 812 870) or email him at lhicks@chariot.net.au .

Thursday Working Bees 2021 - 9 am to 11 am

Last Thursday each month

February 25	March 25	April 29	May 27	June 24
July 29	August 26	September 30	October 28	November 25

The locations of the Thursday working bees vary, so call Jane (8339 7245) for the location of the next working bee to join in.

Our bushcare working bees help to restore native bush by removing invasive weeds. Everyone's welcome: people new to bushcare will be helped by FoWBR members to recognise plant species and to carry out minimum disturbance weeding. Working bees finish with some morning tea. It's lots of fun!



Watsonia leaves



Watsonia bulbils



Acacia longifolia

A few of Woorabinda's weeds

Note: a weed is a good plant in the wrong place



Periwinkle
(*Vinca major*)

Gorse



Gorse flowers



Sweet Pittosporum



Contributors to this issue include Brian Donaghy, Kath Bowman, Chris James, 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.