



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

NEWS LETTER

Number 70, October 2022

Interested in native orchids?

Then come to the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Annual General Meeting on Friday 18th November and enjoy the presentation by Rob and Jenny Pauley. They are members of the Native Orchid Society of SA, and do regular surveys of ground orchids throughout SA. Their talk about ground orchids will be beautifully illustrated with photographs of orchids both large and tiny. Rob uses a photographic and processing technique called 'stacking' to show all parts of an orchid flower in focus.

The AGM of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves will begin at 6:30pm, and Rob and Jenny's talk will follow the formal business of the meeting. Their presentation will be followed by the usual BYO meat and drinks BBQ.

Annual General Meeting

When: Friday 18 Nov 2022, 6:30pm

Where: Environment Centre, Woorabinda

Speakers: Rob and Jenny Pauley

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



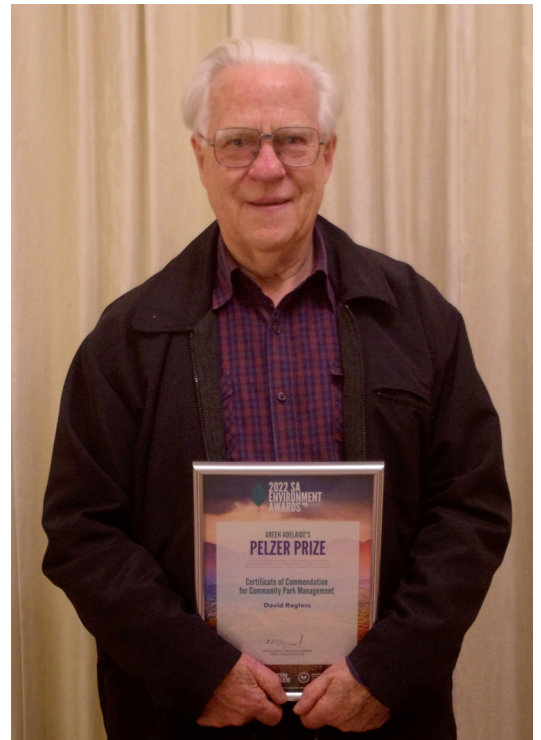
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Pelzer Prizewinner

Founder member, former president and a continuing driving force in the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves, David Ragless, has scored yet another environmental gong, being one of seven winners of Certificates of Commendation in the competition for this year's \$5,000 Pelzer Prize.

Among his fellow winners was Danny Rohrlach of the Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group. Overall winner was Sophie Thomson, ABC Gardening Australia presenter, KI fire recovery supporter with her Regrowth Garden Recovery program and long well known locally for developing a lush and varied garden developed from a former cow paddock.

Many thanks to our local MP Josh Teague, who enthusiastically agreed to be a referee for David as part of the nomination for the Pelzer award. In the event, Josh was not contacted by the organisers, but his name on the nomination was probably enough.



Above: David Ragless with his Certificate of Commendation for Community Park Management



Left: David with other winners at the Conservation Council Annual Awards, September 27th 2022

Adelaide Hills Council weed control work

Each year, Adelaide Hills Council funds for weed control work in WBR. This larger scale work is undertaken by contractors while FoWBR concentrate on smaller scale weed infestations in and around the edges of good quality bush and isolated small weed patches to prevent them becoming more serious problems.

Additionally, in the last year AHC obtained a grant of \$10,000 from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board for weed control work in WBR. The grant was used to fund recently completed weed control work undertaken by Trees for Life, as the contractor, in Hender and Madurta. A FoWBR representative accompanied Renae

Eden of AHC on a tour of the work sites and also discussed with her:

- follow-up work in these reserves to be funded by a further Landscape Board grant of \$10,000
- locations for weed control work totalling \$10,000 in Woorabinda Reserve and Stirling Park to be funded from AHC's 2021-22 WBR weed control budget.

Rugging up for a Winter Walk in Woorabinda

A trial Winter Walk in Woorabinda, organised by the Adelaide Hills Council in August, proved to be a success and is likely to be repeated again next year.

The activities organised for children were particularly successful. Among other things, the kids (including some not-so-young members of the Friends' committee) had a great time learning how to make surprisingly strong string from *watsonia* leaves.

Although organised and paid for by the council, the event was a joint effort between the council, Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves and The Hut Community Centre.

The walks were intended to highlight the biodiversity of the area, and the Friends supplied three guides – Marilyn Browne, Janet Pedler and David Ragless. Half a dozen others served tea, coffee and biscuits in the Environment Centre.

The Hut's Community Development Manager, Bernadette Reading, organised copious quantities of hot soup and cheerfully served it to those who braved the weather to take a guided tour.

David and Lorri Ragless set up a comprehensive display of photographs and information about the park and its history.

Two of the walkers – Margo and John de Campo – liked what they saw and promptly joined the Friends. They hope to turn up to their first Sunday bushcare in October. At least one other walker expressed an interest in joining.

The number of people who came was around 50, which was slightly disappointing. However, it was a free event, so it cost people nothing to decide at the last minute to stay warm and dry at home.

By the standards of this winter, the weather on the day – Sunday, August 18 – was not too bad. Hopefully, next year will be a tad less damp.

Problem willows now controlled along creek

Over 40 willows growing in and along the creek have now been drilled and filled with herbicide by a specialist contractor employed by Council.

This work was funded by a \$5,000 Grass Roots Grant from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board obtained by Friends and \$5,000 from Council.

Revegetation of the willow areas by local indigenous native plants is part of this project and has commenced, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

What is the problem with willows?

While willows are a decorative tree they are also one of the worst weeds in Australia and are one of 30 weeds to have W.O.N.S. status (Weeds of National Significance). Consequently sale of most willow plants is prohibited in South Australia and land managers have a responsibility to at least control willows and preferably to eradicate them.

Willows reduce water quality and in-stream health all year. Autumn willow leaf drop occurs when our streams usually have the lowest flow and this results in anaerobic water which severely impacts native macro-invertebrates, fish and frogs.

Willows provide reduced habitat for birds and native animals compared to native vegetation. They produce dense shade resulting in limited or no understory plants, which limits habitat for wildlife.

Willows use more water than native vegetation and reduce summer stream flow in South Australia. They spread rapidly and often clog stream channels and divert water flow, causing accelerated bank erosion.

In conclusion willows, while decorative, are a major weed which threaten our waterways and wildlife and must be controlled.

Bushcare working bee report

Our monthly Sunday working bees in the six month period since the previous Newsletter were attended by an average of 11 volunteers with numbers per working bee ranging from 6 to 16 volunteers. In that period, we have been fortunate not to have cancelled any working bees because of forecast bad weather, although on one occasion we continued working on what turned out to be a fairly wet morning.

As usual, our Sunday working bees have been spread between Woorabinda Reserve, Stirling Park and Madurta Reserve. We have not undertaken Sunday working bees in Hender Reserve as Bob James has continued his long term work in Hender and Bush for Life have continued the Adelaide Hills Council funded work they started some years ago.

Over the last six months we have put even more effort than usual into pushing back Blackberry infestations in an effort to reduce their spread into good quality bush following favourable growth seasons. In addition, during the wet working bee already referred to, we were able carry out

worthwhile work pulling out Blackberry runners as well as Ivy along the valley in Stirling Park.

We have continued to be fortunate to have had a number of additional volunteers who have provided morning tea for the workers after the completion each Sunday working bee.

Our monthly Thursday working bees since the previous Newsletter have all been held in Madurta Reserve and our volunteers have worked on reducing the level of weeds including Blackberry, Watsonia, Ivy, Gorse and Wandering Jew. Council kindly provided a large trailer for two working bees so that Wandering Jew could be removed from the site.

In addition to our monthly working bees, a number of our members have continued to undertake their own weed control work in various areas of WBR, including some who have concentrated on particular areas over long periods of time. Jane Schoettgen has removed Gorse and other weeds from the dam wall in recent months.



Before and after shots of the dam wall

Come and join in!

Our bushcare working bees help to restore native bush by removing invasive weeds. Everyone is invited to join in at any time. All are welcome, including experienced volunteers and those who are not. People new to bushcare will receive help on-site from FoWBR members to recognize plant species and to carry out basic minimal disturbance weeding. The working bees finish with some morning tea. It's lots of fun!

To receive reminder notices for the Sunday working bees, or to find out more about them, call Phillip Hicks (0437 812 870) or email lhicks@chariot.net.au . If you are interested in the Thursday working bees, call Jane Schoettgen on 8339 7245.

Conservation Volunteers Australia planting days

Two plantings were recently undertaken with the purpose of replacing some of the willows along the main Woorabinda creek line with local species of native plants following the completion of the willow removal project (see separate article). The planting project was a collaboration between Adelaide Hills Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia CVA and FoWBR.

The plantings were undertaken on Saturday, 23 July and Thursday, 1 September in separate areas. Council arranged for a contractor to prepare the planting areas in advance of the plantings by poisoning blackberries and grass to give the plants an increased chance of competing with regrowth.

Jacqui Wilson of CVA supplied the plants, planting equipment and refreshments and FoWBR provided advice on suitable locations for the various plant species and allocated plants to suitable areas around each location.

The first planting of around 400 plants was in an area of Stirling Park to the north of the creek and just to the south of the Ethel Trail. The

participants were Jacqui and another CVA staff member, two volunteers recruited by CVA and three FoWBR volunteers (with late apologies from two FoWBR members because of Covid). For the first time in a WBR planting, tree guards were added to help protect the plants from rabbits and kangaroos.

The second planting of around 250 plants was along the creek line towards the eastern end of Woorabinda and the participants were Jacqui, four volunteers recruited by CVA (including two young children) and seven FoWBR volunteers. Tree guards were again used where the plants were far enough away from the water course not to be at risk of having their guards washed away. Most volunteers managed to avoid getting too wet or muddy.

FoWBR would like to thank Jacqui for her effort in obtaining the plants and organising the two plantings which by common consensus were considered to have been successful events. The challenge now will be to keep the planting areas free of weeds.

Sunday Working Bee dates for 2022

October 16

November 20

December 18

Working Bee times: 9 am - 11 am for all days

Thursday Working Bee dates for 2022

October 27

November 24

Committee, 2022

Kath Bowman	Public Officer, membership, website	0459 291 777
Merilyn Browne	Newsletter	8339 6839
Brian Donaghy	Chairman	8339 2033
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
Lorri Ragless	Minute Secretary, publicity	8339 1038
Jan Walker	Committee	

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

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.



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.



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.