



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

NEWS LETTER

Number 71, March 2023

Storm Damage

The storm that hit Adelaide on Saturday 12th November was fierce and widespread. It pulled down big old trees and power lines, with considerable damage to houses and other infrastructure. Woorabinda didn't escape. Trees came down in many parts of the Reserves, although the buildings were spared. The boardwalk at the end of the lake was heavily impacted by fallen trees.

Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) determined that the Reserves should be closed for safety reasons. They soon removed the large Stringybark which fell near the new sign, shearing all the branches off one side of the Sequoia.

Fixing the boardwalk took rather longer, but this has now been temporarily repaired. AHC intends to replace and upgrade the boardwalk some time in the future.



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Chair's report, Annual General Meeting 2022

Introduction

Welcome to the storm-delayed AGM of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves. Postponing it at such short notice was a tricky decision, because at the time SA Power Networks were saying that the power in Branch Road, just on the other side of the Reserves, would be restored on the Tuesday, three days before the AGM.

That didn't happen. By the time the AGM should have been held, not only was the power still out, but the council had assessed the damage at Woorabinda and had closed the reserves on safety grounds, taping off not just the entrance to the Reserves but access to these buildings as well.

The sudden change of date for this AGM means that our Treasurer, Phil Hicks, is an apology. It is the first time for many years that he has not been at our AGM.

He has submitted his report, however, and I am happy to say that we are still solvent. We have two sets of accounts – one for the day-to-day income and expenditure of the Friends as an incorporated body, and a separate Fund for tax deductible donations.

I have the audited copies of both accounts here if anyone wants to see the details.

On behalf of the FoWBR committee, Phil would like to thank Ian Perrin for filling the role of auditor for many years until recent ill health, for his role as Treasurer for many years before that and as a committee member early in the life of the then Friends of Stirling Park.

I heartily second that.

We are fortunate that Kevin Osborne, Treasurer, Friends of Parks, agreed to audit the financial statements at short notice. Thanks, Kevin.

Report

It's been another good year, despite the weather.

However, the storm seems to have squashed our hopes of having the trail from Woorabinda to Hender properly repaired. The Stirling Market had offered us \$3,000 to get this underway, but alas the council no longer has the cash for its share of the cost.

Despite storms, lingering pestilence and one of the wettest springs on record, our work on restoring and maintaining the biodiversity by removing invasive

weeds has continued. We 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, while Adelaide Hills Council employ contractors for larger scale work.

During 2021-22, our monthly Sunday and Thursday working bees were attended by an average of twelve and five volunteers respectively and were supplemented by individual bush care work by at least six volunteers. Estimated total volunteer bush care resources for 2021-22 are 660 hours.

Our Thursday group concentrated on Madurta Reserve, reducing *Watsonia* and other weeds, mainly along the creek line. Our Sunday group continued work in Woorabinda with an emphasis on reducing the level of *Watsonia* and *Blackberry* in and on the margins of areas of good quality bush. They also worked in the regeneration area on the western side of Stirling Park - mainly on *Gorse*, *Watsonia* and *Erica*; and in Madurta - mainly on *Watsonia* and *Gorse*.

Bush for Life is contracted by AHC to undertake ongoing bush care work in Hender and Bob James has continued his long term bush care work there.

AHC obtained a grant of \$10,000 from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board to fund 2021-22 weed control work in Madurta and Hender which was undertaken by Trees for Life. Follow-up work is being funded by a further Landscape Board grant of \$10,000. Thanks to Renae Eden of AHC for obtaining the grants.

During 2021-22 contractors poisoned ('drilled and filled') 40 willows along the main creek line in Woorabinda and Stirling Park, funded by a \$5,000 Landscape Board grant obtained by the Friends and \$5,000 from AHC.

Around 650 plants were planted by six volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia and seven FoWBR volunteers to replace some of the willows. Thanks to the CVA's Jacqui Wilson for organising this.

We also had great work done on December 7 last year by Heathfield High School students, who worked with council staff and the Friends to remove massive amounts of ivy from trees in the Reserves. Thanks to Nathan Daniell, who is organising a similar event next week.

Council biodiversity officer Steven Brooks has again been a great help throughout the year, organising contractors, assisting with grant applications, providing monthly council reports and occasionally

attending our committee meetings in person. Thanks, Steve.

In August, the council organised an inaugural Winter Walk in the Reserves. The Friends provided tour guides, tea and coffee and biscuits. The Hut provided hot soup. The weather was not the best, the number of walkers was less than hoped, but the Hut soups were delicious and the event was generally considered a success and worth repeating next year.

Congratulations to David Ragless, who was one of seven finalists in the running for the revamped \$5,000 Pelzer environmentalist award, and has the certificate to prove it.

I would also like to congratulate those who have been elected or re-elected as councillors for the Ranges Ward. Especially the Mayor, Jan-Claire Wisdom, elected unopposed, and Nathan Daniell, who has again been chosen as deputy Mayor. I'm delighted to see some of you here this evening. You are all welcome to attend any of our monthly committee meetings and to share a glass of alcoholic fruit juice or a herbal infusion afterwards.

As you will know, former councillor John Kemp was narrowly defeated. However, he has been a consistent supporter of the Friends and a defender of the reserves

during a total of 19 years on the council, particularly in the early years and through the dog wars.

Most recently he not only drew up a professional map of the fire tracks in the reserves for the local CFS brigades, at our request, but went several steps further, lobbying SA Water personally and through the Adelaide Hills Council, to add details of the fire hydrants available to the publicly available plans of the water mains on SA Map Viewer. That has now happened, thanks to John's efforts.

So I would like to conclude by inviting Lorri Ragless to make a small presentation.

Thanks John.

John Kemp and Lorri Ragless



Creative Writing Workshop

A creative writing workshop held at Woorabinda last year invited attendees to walk around the lake for inspiration. Two poems resulting from that workshop are presented here, with permission from the authors.

Woorabinda – trees and water

by Tony Rogers

Woorabinda – trees and water
Artificial lake.
All the wildlife loves to swim there
Even though it's fake.

Let's embrace the manufactured
That been made by us.
This is beauty that we've captured
Manmade without a fuss.

I go there when I seek some peace
Look out over the lake
But if I need mental release
It's the side paths I take.

Orchestral Fun

by Bethany Neck

The clatter of earrings,
Rustling of bushes,
Arhythmic feet on cold cobbled steps,
Conversations from writers with
Warm local chatter
Breaks nature's concert
Of motions in sun.

Hums, staccato calls
Abstract harmonies
Add to the symphony
Playing as one
From hen chicks to duck feet skimming lake waters
Discord to open wings
Orchestral fun.

Around the Reserves

A Pygmy Copperhead (snake) was seen hunting in late December.

The turtle population in the lake is now about six to eight individuals – they can sometimes be seen sunning themselves on logs or swimming in the lake.

Water birds living around the lake have again had a successful breeding season, with Dusky Moorhens and Eurasian Coots both raising chicks.

The eel-like creature seen in the old outlet channel and reported in the October 2019 Newsletter (No. 64) as a Pouch Lamprey has now been re-identified as a Short-finned Eel. These are rather more common than Lampreys but still notable. A second report of a Short-finned Eel appeared in the November 2020 Newsletter (No. 66).

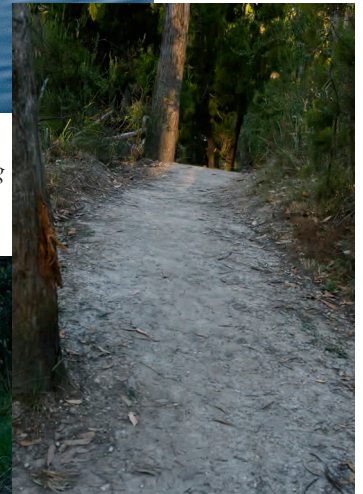
The heavily eroded path between the lake and the railway crossing has now been repaired, with mounding to encourage rapid runoff, avoiding further erosion.

The boardwalk around the lake has been re-opened following temporary repairs by AHC.



A basking turtle

The path to the rail crossing



The repaired boardwalk

Bushcare working bee report

Our four monthly Sunday working bees since the previous Newsletter were attended by an average of 12 volunteers with numbers per working bee ranging from 9 to 16 volunteers. Two working bees were in Stirling Park and two in Woorabinda.

Both of the Stirling Park working bees were in the regeneration area to the west of the Ethel Track where local provenance native species were planted over many years. We concentrated on reducing the level of Gorse regrowth together a range of other weeds including *Erica arborea* and *Acacia longifolia*. A pleasing aspect of working in this area is being able to observe the level of natural regeneration of local native species.

We worked in two areas of Woorabinda. Our November working bee, soon after the destructive storm, was at the southern end of the reserve where we concentrated on removing Ivy from under native Cherries as well as *Sollya* (also known as Bluebell Creeper), Broom and *A. longifolia*. Our February working bee, in the area to the north west of the Branch Track in the eastern area of the reserve, concentrated

on reducing the level of Gorse and Blackberry. As users of the park would be well aware, there has been a high level of Blackberry regrowth following several favourable seasons.



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves



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2023 Bushcare Working Bee Calendar

SUNDAY Working Bees 2023 – 9 am to 11 am

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

THURSDAY Working bees 2023 – 9 am to 11 am – last Thursday each month

February 23	March 30	April 27	May 25	June 29
July 27	August 31	September 28	October 26	November 30

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

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 lpamhicks@gmail.com. If you are interested in the Thursday working bees, call Jane Schoettgen on 8339 7245.

Committee, 2023

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 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.