



Newsletter

Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.

Spring 2007

AHC Natural Resources Officer

Steven Brooks commenced as the Natural Resources Officer for Adelaide Hills Council a few months ago. He replaced Glen Williams who resigned some months before to take up a position in Western Australia after many years with the Stirling District Council and the AHC. Steve has considerable experience in the natural resources field, including periods working in Kent and South Eastern Queensland.

In July Steve joined Bob James, David Ragless and Philip Hicks for a comprehensive familiarisation walk around of each of the parks within SLP. During the walk we discussed projects for which we would be seeking AHC

involvement.

Along the way, one of us commented about the number of people using the park on that day. This prompted a comment from Steve about how quiet the park was in comparison with his experiences in Kent. He mentioned that in his role in Kent one of the main challenges was managing high numbers of people.

Steve agreed that it would be a good idea to have regular site visits to the park. We look forward to working closely with Steve.

Alan Wickham, who resigned from the AHC early in the year, has not yet been replaced. Alan spent quite a lot of time working in the park,

Stirling Park Management Advisory Committee

The Management Strategy Plan for Stirling Linear Park, adopted by Adelaide Hills Council in mid 2006, provides for a new Management Advisory Committee to make recommendations to Council. The Committee met for the first time on 19 September.

Membership of the Committee is not on the basis of representatives of interest groups, but on the basis of individuals with appropriate skills. The members of the Committee are Simon Bradley, Claire Butler, Harry Gill, Amelia Hurren, Kirsty Long, Gerald Thompson, Councillor John Kemp, and Councillor Ron Nelson.

What's Inside

◇ Stirling Park Revegetation	2
◇ Working Bees	2
◇ Recent Fauna Sightings in Stirling Park	2
◇ Displays	3
◇ WaterWatch	3
◇ Annual General Meeting	3
◇ Emailed Newsletters?	3
◇ No Species Loss	3
◇ FoSLP Committee contacts	4
◇ Membership Application/Renewal	4

Stirling Park Revegetation

The Winter Newsletter included a report on the first stage of the Madurta revegetation project involving the planting of about 1250 plants during autumn and winter by volunteers from Community Volunteers Australia and school students working under the guidance of CVA leaders. Although a quite a few of the plants were lost in the very frosty weather in June, most of the remainder are progressing well.

More recently a further two plantings were undertaken as a continuation of the long term Stirling Park revegetation program.

In July a group of *Foster's Wines* staff, working

with a CVA leader, Philip Hicks and David Ragless, planted about 800 understory plants in various locations in Stirling Park. These plants were grown by the AHC and Anne Hicks.

In August, the 15 people who responded to our request for volunteers for our annual Planet Ark National Tree Day planting made short work of planting our remaining 350 plants in the area under the large Eucalypts to the east of the main track through Stirling Park. The planting was supervised by Bob James and David Ragless and the plants were part of a batch grown by Mark Fagan of the Central Hills Green Web with the

Working bees

Our recent working bees have concentrated on clearing *Watsonia* as this is one of the main weeds growing into the good bush in the park, particularly in Woorabinda and Madurta. As the growing period for *Watsonia* is from about July to around October, when it starts to die off, we have been making the most of the opportunity to concentrate on *Watsonia* over this period. Our strategy has been to swab smaller patches of *Watsonia* in good bush and the edges of larger patches to stop it spreading into new areas of good bush. We are leaving the very large areas of *Watsonia* to be cut and swabbed, or sprayed if it there will be no impact on good bush, under the organization of Mark Fagan of the Green Web.

In the July working bee we cleared smaller patches of *Watsonia* from areas of good bush in Madurta as a follow-up to spraying of very large

patches. We also cleared isolated patches of *Watsonia* from around the recent plantings in Madurta.

In August we worked on *Watsonia* and woody weeds in areas near the lake at Woorabinda and in September we continued clearing scattered patches of *Watsonia* from around the lake.

Recent working bees have continued to be reasonably well attended, given the time of the year and number of regulars who have apologised as they have been away on holidays. Numbers have ranged from 8 to 12 people.

A reminder that the Working Bee notices are now being sent out by email to the "regulars". If you are considering joining us on the third Sunday in the month at 10:00am, send your email to bobjames@chariot.net.au and Bob will include you on the list of working bee reminder notices.

Recent fauna sightings in Stirling Park

- ◇ In August a large kangaroo looked at home towards the southern end of Woorabinda. It did not appear to be disturbed by people passing close by on an adjacent path but at one stage was chased by a dog.
- ◇ Also in August a Darter was seen perching in a branch overhanging the Woorabinda Lake. Those who saw it do not remember seeing a Darter at Woorabinda before.
- ◇ A Sacred Kingfisher was recently seen near the lake. This is the time of the year when they arrive from the north.

Other fauna related news

- ◇ A post-mortem showed that the dead bandicoot found in the Park in March was run over by a bicycle.

Displays

Walking is a most pleasant form of exercise, especially in our beautiful hills with native flora and fauna.

During August we featured working and walking in Stirling Linear Park in a display in the Mount Lofty Summit complex.

Since May a display on the notice board in the Organic Market Cafe has featured walking in Stirling Linear Park and other walks around the local hills. Judging by the hundreds of pamphlets which have been taken and constantly need replacing, walking is a very popular interest.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WaterWatch

Our recent results of testing the water in the Woorabinda Dam and the Aldgate Creek in Stirling Park show reasonable consistency with past results. Nitrate and phosphate levels and electrical conductivity continue to be higher in the Aldgate Creek than in the Woorabinda Dam. This could be explained by dissolved chemicals from domestic and gardening sources that enter the Creek .

Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Stirling Linear Park Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 November at 6.30 pm in the Woorabinda Environment Centre. The meeting will be followed by a barbeque. All are welcome to attend. See the separate flyer for details.

Would you like to receive your Newsletter by email?

If you would rather receive your newsletter by email, please let us know by emailing us at:
slp@esc.net.au.

Note: We will only use your email address for sending you Newsletters and information relating to Stirling Linear Park. It will not be disclosed to third parties.

No Species Loss

No Species Loss – A Nature Conservation Strategy for South Australia 2007 – 2017 is the title of a new report released by the State Department for Environment and Heritage. It is the first statewide nature conservation strategy to be published and is a direct, whole-of-government partnership response to South Australia's Strategic Plan target of 'lose no species'.

The Strategy sets out objectives and targets for the conservation and management of the State's biodiversity and provides guidelines for how these can be met. Its aim is to halt and, where possible, reverse the decline in the State's biodiversity on land and in water and marine environments.

The one hundred year vision for *No Species Loss* is: *The people of South Australia actively supporting*

their native plants, animals and ecosystems to survive, evolve and adapt to environmental change. The Strategy recognises that indigenous, rural and urban communities, industry, government and NRM boards will need to work together if this vision is to be realised.

This Strategy is linked with other State Government strategies and policies on climate change, biosecurity, wetlands and coastal management. It embodies the Government's NatureLinks target of having 'five well-established biodiversity corridors aimed at maximising ecological outcomes particularly in the face of climate change, by 2010'.

Copies of the Strategy are available from the Department for Environment and Heritage for the nominal fee of \$7.50.

Friends of Stirling Linear Park Committee 2005-2006

John Allison	8339 1577
Kathy Bowman	8370 9177
Merilyn Browne	8339 6839
Brian Donaghy	8339 2033
Marilyn Forward	8339 3162
Phillip Hicks	8339 3156
Bob James	8339 1903
David Ragless	8339 1038
Lorri Ragless	8339 1038
Neil Strong	8339 4085
Alistair McHenry (Advisor)	8339 5114
Russell Seaman (Advisor)	8398 0626

Web address: <http://esc.net.au/~slp/>

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 Stirling Linear Park Inc.

Contributors to this issue include Philip Hicks, Marilyn Forward, Merilyn Browne and Bob James.

Affiliations

The Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc. is a member of Friends of Parks Inc. We are also a registered Landcare Group and a member of both Greening Australia and Trees for Life.



Friends of Stirling Linear Park Membership application/renewal

I/we would like to join/renew membership of the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc. (strike out words not applicable)

\$.....membership fee is enclosed.

\$.....donation is included. (Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible. A separate receipt will be issued.)

Membership fee for both individuals and family:
1 year.....\$10.00
5 years.....\$40.00

Name.....

Address.....

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

Email address for sending Newsletter.....

Please return to: David Ragless, Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc., 6 Branch Road, Stirling SA 5152