

**REPORT OF THE 22ND FORUM OF FRIENDS OF PARKS GROUPS, HELD
AT THE ECHUNGA MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, FROM 20-22 OCTOBER, 2006.**

Compiled by the Community Liaison Unit

THEME - 'The Hills – Past, Present, and Future'

Hosted by the Friends of Southern Hills Groups - Friends of Belair National Park; Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park; Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park; Friends of Old Government House; Friends of Onkaparinga National Park; Friends of Brownhill Creek Recreation Park; Friends of National Trust Reserves.

PRESENT: over 220 delegates (see rear of minutes)

APOLOGIES: see rear of minutes

FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER, 2006 - ECHUNGA MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

1. **REGISTRATIONS AND DISPLAYS**

During the afternoon, delegates organised interpretative displays at the Echunga Memorial Institute. They registered, and were greeted by members of Friends Groups from the Southern Hills Parks.

2. **BARBECUE DINNER**

A delicious barbeque dinner was enjoyed by delegates, provided by members of the Echunga Memorial Institute Inc.

3. **WELCOME**

Chair, Charles Connelly, (Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park), welcomed all delegates, and thanked all for supporting the forum by attending. Charles said that this land is of the traditional Peramangk people, and that we respect the spiritual relationship that the Peramangk and Kaurna people have with their lands. He acknowledged them as custodians of the land.

4. **APOLOGIES**

See rear of minutes.

5. **WELCOME BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, TONY WALES, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MOUNT BARKER**

Mayor Wales warmly welcomed all to the District Council of Mount Barker, and the town of Echunga. Totness Conservation Park, and bushland areas of public and private land are in the district. Birdlife is in peril. Revegetation may see the reversal of long-term local extinctions. The volunteer work force protects areas in the district. The Council cannot provide services without the help of volunteers.

He thanked the delegates for their concern for the environment, and for protecting it.

6. **GUEST SPEAKER - GEOFF DURHAM, VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENT FRIENDS NETWORK**

Geoff spoke of his road trip over to S.A., saying how impressed he is with the parks that he had visited. He commented on the clean roadsides and the respect for trees. Weeds were noted as a huge problem - they are widespread, and there are many different weeds in the Adelaide Hills and elsewhere in the State.

Geoff gave a background of the V.E.F.N. in which the Friends look after natural and historic reserves. The Friends can do the work if the management authorities meet the responsibilities. There are 800 Friends Groups with some only having 1-2 members. Most members are aged 50 years or more. There is a perpetual cry to get young people involved - this is desirable, but more retirees want things to do. The Friends of Wyperfeld meet once per year, on the Queen's Birthday long weekend. This has been happening for 31 years - and is very successful.

The secret is **mutual respect and communication**:

- support the management authority
- the management authority to respect that the Friends are volunteers and they work because they want to - grasp this with open hands.

Three long-established Friends Groups have recently folded after twenty years of operation. At the local level there was a lack of enthusiasm and acceptance by park rangers. Without this, groups will fail. The partnership is very important, and all benefit.

Annette McLean (Friends of Old Government House), presented a gift to Geoff.

7. **GUEST SPEAKER - TERRY REARDON, BIOLOGIST, S.A. MUSEUM - 'BATS'**

Terry gave a most interesting talk and powerpoint presentation about bats. Bats make up one quarter of the mammals in the world. There are 24 species in South Australia. Friends Groups have been assisting with information days, research (i.e. radio tracking), and cave clean ups.

Terry suggested that Friends Groups could be involved in the following activities:

- bat-detector based surveys (machine costs \$25,000)
- capture surveys (after training)
- research (roosts, diet, movement)
- cave bat population counts
- roost survey hollows
- interpretation programmes
- bat boxes

Terry then answered questions.

Annette McLean (Friends of Old Government House), presented a gift to Terry.

8. **PRESENTATION OF SPONSORED AND GROUP AWARDS**

Citations were alternately read by Richard De Groot (Acting Regional Conservator, Adelaide), and James Crocker (District Ranger, Southern Lofly). Greg Leaman, Director, Natural and Cultural Heritage, presented the awards.

State Heritage Branch Award for Best Heritage Project - Friends of the Gawler Ranges National Park, for restoration of Pondanna Outstation. Sue Averay, Manager, Heritage Branch, read the citation and presented a framed certificate and cheque to Leida Hoffman.

S.A. Landcare Committee Award for Best Landcare Project - Friends of Althorpe Islands Conservation Park - African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) Eradication Project – total

eradication of cats. Hume Macdonald, Chair, S.A. Landcare Committee, read the citation and presented a framed certificate and cheque to Erika Lawley.

GOLDEN WALLABY AWARDS

Best Project - Friends of Naracoorte Caves

Best Newsletter - Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park

PROJECT AWARDS

Friends of Kyeema Conservation Park - for the 'Trees for Tumby Project' on Eyre Peninsula, and for metal coloured signs procured for Kyeema.

Friends of Troubridge Island and Yorke District Conservation Parks – For expanding its role to volunteering at Clinton, Davenport Creek, and other reserves.

Friends of Riverland Parks – For completion and opening of the Pines Auto Trail at Katarapko.

Friends of Great Victoria Desert – Completion of Field Guide, and a recent Desert clean-up.

Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park – 'Film Night Under the Stars', as an educational tool for the park.

Friends of Brookfield Conservation Park - 'Three Habitat Walk' opened on 28/5/2006.

Linley Elliott, Friends of Brookfield Conservation Park - outstanding service to the Friends Network.

Friends of Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park – For sustained land management over the past decade.

Friends of Simpson Desert Parks – 2005 Working Bee – 12 projects achieved at the desert.

9. **CLOSE**

Charles invited all to stay for supper. He encouraged delegates to look at the displays, and fill in the voting sheet for the most commendable display.

SATURDAY, 21 OCTOBER, 2006 - ECHUNGA MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
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10. **REGISTRATIONS AND DISPLAYS**

Delegates registered and set up Friends displays.

11. **WELCOME**

Anne McLean (Friends of Old Government House), welcomed all and acknowledged that the land on which we were meeting is the traditional land of the Peramangk people.

12. **OFFICIAL OPENING - DR. BARBARA HARDY, A.O., NATURE FOUNDATION SA, PATRON AND LIFE MEMBER, FRIENDS OF PARKS INC**

Dr. Hardy acknowledged the seven Host Groups, and said that she was inspired by all the Friends. She thanked the sponsors for their kind contributions. She said that the Foundation started about the same time as Friends of Parks, with the silver anniversary having been celebrated on 14 October. The first Friends Group (Friends of Ferguson) will celebrate its 25th birthday on 10/8/2007.

Barbara thanked the Community Liaison Unit for its involvement in the Friends Forums. She also spoke about the geoparks concept, and climate change.

Dr. Hardy officially opened the 22nd Friends Forum.

13. **INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL PARTY**

Charles Connelly introduced the official guests to the Forum delegates:

Director, Natural and Cultural Heritage, Greg Leaman; Deputy Director, Regional Conservation, Trevor Naismith; Patron - Friends of Parks Inc. - Dr. Barbara Hardy A.O.; Manager, Land Management Branch, Natural and Cultural Heritage, Dr. Bob Inns; Acting Regional Conservator, Adelaide - Richard De Groot; District Ranger, Southern Lofly District - James Crocker; Forum Steering Committee Chair - Charles Connelly.

14. **INTRODUCTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE**

Charles introduced the Southern Hills Forum Steering Committee to the Forum delegates:

Jill Salvi - Secretary; Annette McLean - catering; Arline Thompson - displays and accommodation; Tom Hands - sponsors and logistics; Don Reid - banners and artwork; Dene Cordes - administrative; Anne McLean - sponsorship; Colin and Anne Malcolm - tour coordination and registration desk; and Brian DuBois (State President).

15. **INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD. FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. - BRIAN DuBOIS, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.**

Brian welcomed all delegates to the Forum. He said that it was important for Friends to know the Board members who work on behalf of Friends of Parks Inc. He encouraged members to contact the Board with any important issues. He introduced members of the Board, as follows:

VICE PRESIDENT

Graham Henley, Hunting and Conservation Branch (S.A.),
Sporting Shooters Association

SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Lesley Hunkin, Friends of Simpson Desert Parks

PUBLIC OFFICER

Don Webster, Friends of O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mandy Carter, Friends of Cleland - Grants Facilitator

Annette McLean, Friends of Old Government House

David Mitchell, Friends of Cobbler Creek Recreation Park

Secretariat

Dene Cordes, Friends of Old Government House

Pam Smith, Friends of Community Liaison Unit

APOLOGIES

Dr. Geoffrey Bishop, Friends of Ferguson Conservation Park
(Historian)

John Fuller, Friends of Para Wirra Recreation Park (Gift Fund)

Cathy Potts, Friends of Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park (C.C.S.A.
Rep)

Brian mentioned that all recommendations from the 2005 Victor Harbor Forum were followed through, and that a schedule was in the forum folders. He suggested that any questions could be directed to members of the Board.

16. **ROLL CALL**

Brian then read the roll call of those present, one region at a time, asking all Friends from that region to stand and receive a warm welcome. Groups present were:

ADELAIDE REGION - The Host Groups - Friends of Belair, Scott Creek, Shepherds Hill, Old Government House, Onkaparinga, Brownhill Creek, National Trust Reserves.

Other Adelaide Region Groups - Aldinga Scrub, Barossa Goldfields, Blackwood Forest, Black Hill and Morialta, Cleland, Cleland Wildlife Park Volunteers, Cobbler Creek, Deep Creek, Kenneth Stirling, Kyeema, Marble Hill, Marino, Moana Sands, Newland Head, O'Halloran Hill, Para Wirra, Sturt Gorge.

NORTHERN AND YORKE REGION - Althorpe Islands, Burra Parks, Innes National Park, BEST (Biodiversity and Endangered Species Team), Troubridge Island and Other Yorke Conservation Parks, Whyalla.

SOUTH EAST REGION - Butcher Gap, Coorong , Little Dip

THE OUTBACK REGION - Flinders Ranges, Gammon Ranges, Innamincka Reserves, Simpson Desert Parks.

WEST REGION - Gawler Ranges, Great Victoria Desert Parks. Kimba District Parks. Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks.

KANGAROO ISLAND REGION - Dudley Peninsula Parks, K.I. Western Districts.

MURRAYLANDS REGION - Brookfield, Gluepot Reserve, Long Island, Riverland Parks.

STATEWIDE FRIENDS GROUPS, INTERSTATE, AND OVERSEAS GUESTS - Victorian Environment Friends Network, Campground Hosts, Community Liaison Friends, Conservation of Native Wildlife, Field Naturalists Society, Friends of Parks Inc. Board, Members of Consultative Committees, National Parks Heritage Committee, Natural History Society of SA Inc, Nature Conservation Society, Nature Foundation S.A. Inc., NPWSA Walking Trails Support Group, S.A. Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Sporting Shooters Association - Hunting and Conservation Branch SA, Staff of the Department for Environment and Heritage, Threatened Plant Action Group, Walking Federation of South Australia Inc, Wildlife and Habitat Support Group, Lake District National Park (U.K.), District Council of Mount Barker, Adelaide Hills Council, Landcare, ElectraNet.

17. **GUEST SPEAKER** - TIM JURY, PRESIDENT, THREATENED PLANT ACTION GROUP - NATIVE FLORA OF ADELAIDE'S HILLS

Tim gave an interesting talk about threatened flora. He also agreed that cemetery sites should not be cleared of remnant native vegetation.

Annette McLean (Friends of Old Government House), presented a gift to Tim.

18. **FORUM TOPICS**

Anne McLean chaired the Forum Topics session.

TOPIC NO. 1 - A BIGGER BANG THEORY - CHARLES CONNELLY, FRIENDS OF SHEPHERDS HILL RECREATION PARK

Are the results that we are achieving the best that can be obtained from the efforts in funds, material resources, knowledge and above all, professional and volunteer labour that are directed to them? People want a return for their investment, but money does not come into this when there is no cost. People want a 'bigger bang' for their backs ! Charles referred to the NPW Act, 1972, but this does not give a clear direction for what is to be done. In attempting to make improvements, it is a national situation and needs to be treated as a whole. Volunteers, community organisations, schools, etc., are all busily working away, but are unaware of what others are doing, and if it is working effectively. There is an impact on volunteers in every aspect of the community - the range is extreme. Country Fire Service, Lavender Ladies, Meals on Wheels, are peripheral to management objectives of an organisation. Friends of Parks Inc. is closely involved in the objectives of the Department. The professionals can be left to get on with their work.

People volunteer because of concern, and knowledge. They are prepared to act and voice their opinions. Some people grope in mud, work in impossible positions, work with harmful chemicals, and dangerous tools. It is a legacy for our grand children. People work in their local park, and it becomes part of the person. They want to make their park better.

Corporate Governance - to be chaired by Brian DuBois

- Act effectively and efficiently in accord with Associations Inc. Act
- Maintain sound financial management processes and systems
- Develop and maintain effective partnerships with all stakeholders
- Provide advice and guidelines to all member groups, metro and rural
- Review the Constitution to ensure its relevance
- Maintain a healthy organisation, into the future

Advocacy and Communication - to be chaired by Dr. Geoffrey Bishop

- Provide regular communication to member groups
- Improve communications with D.E.H. and other major stakeholders
- Ensure proper involvement of rural groups
- Ensure that cultural heritage receives its fair share
- Promote the fair deal concept for the Environment portfolio
- Develop a shared vision with D.E.H. which values volunteers
- Represent the whole organisation and not factional interests

Resources and Training - to chaired by Annette McLean

- Optimise the use of grants funding and alternative resources
- Ensure that the best value use of Friends is obtained
- Ensure training is related to operational skills and requirements
- Conduct training needs analysis and obtain relevant providers
- Improve and develop co-operation with local councils
- Negotiate appropriate sponsorship arrangements
- Support D.E.H. and the Minister in improving resources availability

It is hoped to finish the first stage by the end of November, for consideration at the Board's December meeting.

Some risks and inhibitors are:

- Inadequate commitment and skills to embrace change
- Lack of focus and inclination to ride hobby horses
- Inadequate resources (\$\$\$ and people) in the Environment Portfolio
- Engagement process with D.E.H. is incomplete and fragile
- Attitudes to the value and competence of volunteers
- Ownership issues
- Time

David acknowledged staff and volunteers of the Community Liaison Unit in the preparation of the presentation, and to Hugh Lambert, in particular, for steering him through the technology. David said that this is an opportunity to develop a sound basis for the future.

Charles suggested a 'clearing house' in the Department to which enquiries could be referred for answers. Clinton Garrett added that at a N.R.M. level, biodiversity is regional, rather than state.

Greg Leaman applauded the thinking about this topic. The objectives of the Act are at a high level. The Strategic Plan mentioned has been superseded by others, i.e. further down such as the Native Species Conservation Biodiversity, NatureLinks, N.R.M. plans, and then management plans and operational plans per park. This topic has emphasised the need to be working with plans and D.E.H. priorities. Often this does not contribute to the bigger picture with people having hobby horses.

David Mitchell related to ownership, enabling others to share in their parks. Friends own their parks which is a perceived ownership of particular assets. Friends invest time and passion in particular areas. Friends need to caution themselves not to be too parochial.

Own group's suggested recommendation (proposed on Sunday):

'FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. BELIEVES THAT WE ALL NEED TO IMPROVE THE WAY WE DO THINGS, AND THAT THE PARTNERSHIP WITH D.E.H. IS A MAJOR PRIORITY IF WE ARE ALL TO ACHIEVE OUR STATED AIMS OF MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING THE STATE'S CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS'.

Moved: Jill Salvi Seconded: Brian DuBois Carried.

19. **LAUNCH OF FIELD GUIDE - 'SHRUBS AND TREES OF THE GREAT VICTORIA DESERT' - BY GREG LEAMAN, DIRECTOR, NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Greg asked the authors, Marlene Friebe and Bill Matheson, O.A.M., to join him on stage. He gave a background on the production of the Field Guide, and with great pleasure, launched the book.

20. **MORNING TEA** - SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF Old Government House

21. **GUEST SPEAKER - DR. PAM SMITH, SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY, FLINDERS UNIVERSITY - ADELAIDE'S HILLS FACE: THE FUTURE OF A SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE**

Dr. Smith presented an interesting illustrated address about the Hills Face Zone. Her powerpoint presentation highlighted the wealth of cultural and built heritage sites, many within national parks reserves in the Hills Face Zone. Preservation is urgently needed. Some ruins are disappearing as each year passes. These should be marked and made stable as a matter of priority.

Annette McLean (Friends of Old Government House), presented a gift to Pam.

22. **FORUM TOPICS**

TOPIC 3 - ISSUES FACING THE FRIENDS GROUPS - A) BUILT HERITAGE; b) Infrastructure Policy; C) Occupational Health, Safety, and Welfare

Annette posed the following questions:

How can heritage sites in parks seek grants and private sponsorship

- Heritage sites are also infrastructure
- Can Friends help to obtain private sponsorship
- Does D.E.H. have a policy on this
- More funding and grants are needed in all areas after several budget cuts

Infrastructure

- Is there a D.E.H. policy change on infrastructure?
- Can Friends help obtain funding?
- Is there a lack of communication between the Friends and D.E.H. staff to implement better outcomes?

Occupational Health, Safety, and Welfare

- Friends are being restricted and rendered inactive in some areas!
- What is the D.E.H. policy on this?
- Is more training needed for both Friends and D.E.H. staff to?

Charles added that, with private sponsorship, opportunities are available. The Althorpe Island Friends missed an opportunity with the family of the late Princess Diana (Althorpe

being the family name) wanting to name a feature there shortly after her death. Significant structures are worth preserving, but are expensive, and opportunities should not be missed.

Annette related to an incident where a volunteer slipped from a ladder. The project was stopped from going ahead. Friends need to be able to undertake these activities. More O.H.S.&W. training may be a solution.

Trevor Naismith (Regional Conservation) said that the Department takes O.H.S.&W. very seriously. There is a duty of care to all. The Department needs all the resources it can get, but wants to avoid volunteers being injured. It is an ongoing issue. There is a change in the way work is undertaken. The Community Liaison Unit may provide additional information to Friends Groups.

Diana Clark (Friends of Marble Hill) referred to the Marble Hill ruins where there will be an expression of interest for lease or sale of the site. The Government is looking at selling built heritage. There has been little consultation on this. The Friends were in agreement to have a lease as the Friends cannot raise enough money to restore and maintain the building.

Richard de Groot (Adelaide Region) said that it was a difficult process to look at long-term management and a good level of investment. There is significant infrastructure that needs maintenance. He said that he was unaware of Marble Hill possibly being sold, but a long-term lease has been discussed. Diana added that the call for expressions of interest was delayed because of native title issues. Ernie McKenna added that the letter from the Minister for Environment and Conservation states all options, including the sale of Marble Hill.

David Mitchell added that there have been some recent discussions by the Board about O.H.S.&W. issues, i.e. people doing bushcare activities alone. Not all members attend working bees, and on occasions help out when they can, alone. It is Government preference that this not be done.

23. **ADDRESS BY GREG LEAMAN, DIRECTOR, Natural and Cultural Heritage**

Greg congratulated the Host Steering Committee for organising the 22nd forum. He acknowledged all Friends present, some of whom had travelled long distances. He thanked all the Friends Groups for their work which is greatly appreciated by the Department. The staff are very committed to having a productive working relationship with the Friends. He especially thanked the Southern Lofty District and Community Liaison Unit for their input to this forum weekend.

During his address, Greg mentioned:

- The theme, '**Past, Present, and Future**' reflects on volunteering and the Department.
- Statistics on Volunteering.
- Demographics and trends in volunteering.
- Risk management, and staff development.
- '**Success Through Partnership**' – strategic directions – was launched last December.
- Twenty new Ranger positions over the next four years, some to be Volunteer Co-ordinator positions.
- Friends Groups will be linked to specific projects and regional work programmes.
- The Community Liaison Unit will still deal with broad responsibilities, policy procedures, and statewide support.
- Suggested that Friends Forums be opened up to other Volunteers in the Department.

24. **TOPIC 4 - UPDATE ON Nature Foundation SA WORK FOR HELPING NATURE GENERALLY - DR. BARBARA HARDY, A.O., Nature Foundation SA**

Barbara spoke of the Bushbank system where land is sold to or bought by the Foundation. The Foundation raises funds to add significant bushland to parks. This first happened at Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park, and later at Sandy Creek Conservation Park. Part of helping nature is helping the Foundation, which also enables the sponsorship of forum awards and the Saturday lunch. Information Boards were purchased via a donation. There

is a permanent scholarship programme in place, with research being done on the Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard. Three appeals are held per year, and the current appeal is for Adelaide's declining native birds population, which has raised \$17,000 in three weeks. At the Coorong, there is an action plan for native fish.

Own group's suggested recommendation (proposed on Sunday):

'THAT FRIENDS GROUPS NOTE AND ENDORSE THE WORK OF THE NATURE FOUNDATION SA INC.'

Moved: Dr. Barbara Hardy Seconded: Jan Jackson Carried.

25. **NATURE FOUNDATION SA INC - LUNCH**

Dr. Barbara Hardy presented the award for the Best Biodiversity Project. This was won by the Friends of Riverland Parks. The award, which included a framed certificate and cheque, was accepted by Kevin Smith, Secretary.

The Foundation kindly contributed to the packed lunch which delegates enjoyed before departing on the field excursions.

26. **FIELD EXCURSIONS**

Delegates participated in one of the following field excursions:

- Scott Creek Conservation Park – Botanical
- Scott Creek Conservation Park – Historic and Botanical
- Jupiter Creek Goldfields and surrounds
- Belair National Park and Old Government House
- Watiparinga Reserve and Warriparinga Centre

27. **FORUM DINNER**

Phil Hollow, District Ranger, Coorong and Lakes District, as Compere for the Dinner, welcomed all delegates to the Old Mill Hotel.

PRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Charles Connelly (Forum Steering Committee Chair) read the citations; Greg Leaman (Director, Natural and Cultural Heritage) presented a framed certificate; and Warren Bonython (Patron and Life Member of Friends of Parks Inc.) presented a gift to the following people:-

INDIVIDUAL AWARDEES

Melinda and Norm (in absentia) Broadhurst - Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park
Denise Sharp - Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park
Rowena Atkinson - Friends of Little Dip Conservation Park
Arline and John Thompson - Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park
Max and Joan Davis - Friends of Newland Head Conservation Park
Don Webster - Friends of O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park
June Plush - Friends of Riverland Parks
Grant and Trudy Good - Friends of Kyeema Conservation Park
Heidi Nicholson - Friends of Burra Parks

The Hon. Gail Gago, M.L.C., Minister for Environment and Conservation, addressed the delegates. She then joined with Dr. Barbara Hardy, A.O., in presenting the following awards:

MOST SUPPORTIVE STAFF MEMBER - Nature Foundation SA Inc. Award - Alby Zepf, Ranger, Kangaroo Island East District

FRIENDS GROUP OF THE YEAR, 2006 - sponsored by the Nature Foundation SA - Friends of Riverland Parks

BEST FRIENDS MEDAL - (Based on twenty (20) years of outstanding work) - Margaret and Clinton Garrett, Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park

FRIENDS GROUP OF THE DECADE, 1996 - 2006 - sponsored by Verne and Jean McLaren - Friends of the Coorong National Park. Jean McLaren presented the McLaren Shield.

CLOSURE

The evening concluded with the drawing of the forum raffle, lucky draw for the table centrepieces (made by Donna Reid), and lots of good friendship.

SUNDAY, 22 OCTOBER, 2006 - MYLOR

28. **BIRDWATCHING**

Early risers enjoyed bird watching.

29. **BREAKFAST**

Delegates enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the Mylor Hall, provided by members of the Mylor Citizens Friendship Club Inc.

SUNDAY, 22 OCTOBER, 2006 - ECHUNGA MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

30. **WELCOME**

Jill Salvi (Friends of Belair) presided, and welcomed all. A welcome was made to Peter Croft, Deputy Director, Programs, Natural and Cultural Heritage; representatives from ElectraNet (which sponsored the breakfast); and Mayor Bill Cooksley, Adelaide Hills Council.

31. **WELCOME BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, BILL COOKSLEY, ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL**

Mayor Cooksley advised that the District Council of Mount Barker and the Adelaide Hills Council share this area. Small communities provide support for smaller parks, and talk to local members. Environmentally sensitive areas need community support.

The polo shirts worn by the Host Committee were donated by the local Fire and Rescue unit.

32. **ADDRESS BY RONTHEO VAN ZYL, ElectraNet**

Working together, ElectraNet hopes to assist the Friends Groups, i.e. impacts, discussion on environmental issues, and the power to create a better tomorrow. It has the high voltage transmission network across the State, investing \$100m per year. Ronthoe invited forum delegates to speak with representatives about conservation activities, which include:

- Nesting platform for Peregrine Falcons at Murray Bridge
- Cathedral Rocks Windfarm - removed Aleppo Pines, donated 400 litre spore water unit
- New transmission line in the South East - diverted away from the Forest Reserve - avi fauna survey with the help from local birdwatchers over three months
- Nesting boxes - rehabilitation from fire on Eyre Peninsula
- Drilling bores, water tanks, and pumps in the South East for aerial fire fighting
- Revegetation plan at Tungkillo

- Work with the Friends of Scott Creek and other groups for a project at Cherry Gardens
- Support local goals and objectives of environmental groups

ElectraNet is committed to actively engaging the community. It is strengthening links and relationships with Friends Groups to identify opportunities across S.A. and into the future.

33. **FORUM TOPICS**

TOPIC 5 - STRINGYBARK FOREST - DR. PETER HORNSBY, FRIENDS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATIVE WILDLIFE

At the time of European settlement, much of the Adelaide Hills was covered with stringybark forest - very large trees of up to six metres in circumference and with open understorey. Today, few remain and instead we have fire prone stringybark woodland with a dense understorey. Thinning out this woodland would accelerate the growth of the remaining trees, with a spectrum of advantages, a main one of which would be a much-reduced propensity for serious fires. As a source of local timber, local settlers took out the big trees. Forests and native parks have to be managed, and some need to be cut down. In order to facilitate growth with open understorey, we need to thin out stringybark saplings first. The area will be less fire-prone. David Paton would be delighted as a lot of bird species are being lost.

Peter suggested a trial in Cleland to see what happens. Stringybarks take 250 years to mature. Charles Connelly added that this needs middle level strategic planning.

Barbara added that she visited the Jupiter Creek trail on the tours yesterday, and lots of small saplings could be pulled out. Joslyn van der Moolen (Mylor Parklands Bushcare Group) added that the bush has been burnt twice. Fire occurs in a National Park and both public and private land. The bush grows back thickly.

Richard de Groot (Adelaide Region) said that he had concerns about the recommendation. There are pockets of stringybark which contain open grassy woodland. The area has been logged. Other areas have dense understorey which is quite natural. It is not to do with the density of the stringybark. There is very little canopy but there is dense undergrowth. Aspect, slope, and soil type has to be considered, also fire frequency. Prescribed burning is carried out to reduce fuel loads.

Peter said that there are a lot of other considerations to be taken into account. Mature stringybarks have a dense canopy and this leads to open understorey.

Bob Inns (Land Management Branch) added that any clearance is subject to the Native Vegetation Act. Brian Gepp of Woods and Forests proposed this many years ago, but it was not approved. Peter added that a trial was approved on the Knill property, but decisions on which one to take out are difficult.

Own group's suggested recommendation:

THAT D.E.H. SERIOUSLY CONSIDERS THINNING OUT THE STRINGYBARKS IN ADELAIDE HILLS PARKS.

Seconded: Barbara Hardy

Carried.

TOPIC 6 - WEEDS IN THE ADELAIDE HILLS - DR. JOHN BUTLER, FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK Conservation Park

John said that he has been an active member of the Friends for over twelve years. He leads walks in parks throughout the Adelaide Hills. The weed situation in the Adelaide Hills is worsening, in parks, on roadsides, and reserves, and is now including new weeds, because

of decades of neglect (funding cuts), inadequate or no follow-up of work started, and insufficient resources available over the period required to achieve eradication.

Broom and Gorse require decades of no seeding to achieve eradication. A different method of funding is needed as one year's funding is hopeless. Government bodies in general are not setting a good example, e.g. control of noxious weeds along roadsides. Contractors paid on longer terms will achieve results. Vegetation Management Plans that are not supported by funding to carry out the work are a waste of money. Once the native vegetation has been totally swamped by weeds, true restoration may be impossible and may never be achieved. Private landowners need help and incentives to preserve native vegetation on their properties - action not words.

John referred to the walk in Scott Creek Conservation Park on Saturday. Forum delegates saw a little of what can be achieved with determination and some funding. Native species were still present to provide a seed source. This allowed natural regeneration. Planting cannot achieve anything like the same result. John encouraged all not to let weeds wipe out most of the natives, thus losing most of the local seed sources. The advice preached by the Bradley sisters is still valid today:

'Don't start the unachievable - make sure you have the resources to complete the task'.

Own group's suggested recommendation:

'THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR PRECIOUS NATIVE BUSH. THIS MONEY SHOULD BE BACKED BY EXPERIENCED BUSHCARERS TO ENSURE THAT THE RESTORATION WORK IS EFFECTIVE AND ONGOING'.

Seconded: Robyn Guy

Carried.

TOPIC NO. 7 - STAFFING - BARRY PALMER, FRIENDS OF BELAIR

The valuable work done by the Friends of Parks within our National Parks, working with the Department, needs to be recognised by the Department in a tangible way that will enhance the value of the work done, but not detract from the other duties for which the Rangers are responsible. Some Friends groups receive support from liaison rangers. Some do not.

The lack of financial support by the Government to the Department may be one reason. Another may be the lack of support from some park managers. It is recognised that park managers have many claims on the funds available for their many responsibilities. Volunteers do not seek or expect anything for their volunteer labour.

What a boom it would be to the parks if, in the department budget each year, 10% of the value of the volunteer work performed by the Friends Groups could be used to employ casual rangers in the field. The reason to suggest that 'casual rangers' be appointed is so that the number of rangers can be adjusted each year to reflect the efforts of the Friends Groups. More hours = more rangers. Less hours = less rangers.

The casual terms of employment would enable the current rangers' duties to fit in with volunteers, e.g. when there are weekend and evening meetings. The work performed should all be in park, or on-ground activities.

During the period 2003 to 2005, the average increase in the number of rangers resulting from this suggestion would have been 12. The amount of increase in wages would have been \$544,763. The wages expenditure of the department for the year ending 30 June 2005 was \$67,465, 840. An increase of \$544, 763 is 0.81%.

For this additional expenditure, consider the benefits that could be provided in so many ways. Project planning, implementation, training, induction, meeting and recognising the volunteers and looking for other volunteer talents that can be used for the betterment of the park.

Own group's suggested recommendation:

'THAT THIS FORUM REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE TO BUDGET, EACH YEAR, 10% OF THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEER WORK PERFORMED BY FRIENDS GROUPS, TO BE USED TO EMPLOY CASUAL RANGERS IN THE PARKS'.

Seconded: Robyn Guy

Carried.

Peter Croft, (Deputy Director, N.C.H.) said that there needs to be more support for voluntary groups. The \$67m salary line is spread thinly over many areas. There are 50-60 bids for the twenty new Ranger positions to commence over the next four years. There will be seven Volunteer Support Rangers - one for each region. Some progress has been made.

Charles Connelly said that the Police Department had auxiliary staff. Rangers are taken away to do other activities. There are huge demands on their time. There is a place for auxiliary rangers – Friends Group members could fulfil many of the straightforward duties and this could save some of their time. There are opportunities to address within our own resources, both in the Department and in the Friends network.

Alex McLeod (Friends of Moana Sands) said that if it is a priority in funding, would the Friends get any more support, or ranger time, than they get now - which groups would benefit more?

TOPIC NO. 8 - EARLY INTERVENTION for effective pest species management - TOM Hands, Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

There is an increasing need for early intervention where exotic species, plants, and animals, are concerned. With pest species now costing Australia around \$4-5 billion annually, the degrading impact on our natural ecosystems and subsequent native species decline is much harder to estimate. The Friends of Scott Creek have been calling for an increase in D.E.H. budget spending on biodiversity management works and on-ground action, for many years. Over this time Parks like Belair, Cleland, Horsnell Gully, Sturt Gorge, Morialta, and Scott Creek continue to lose biodiversity through inadequate resources and/or a lack of coordinated long- term strategic response.

Given the dramatic increase in 'asset protection' burns, our parks are going to be under an even greater threat from the newly germinated pest plant seed bank and the subsequent creation of open, disturbed edges just ripe for weed invasion. It will be beyond the resources of Friends Groups to cope with this new threat.

D.E.H. is the key agency vested with the responsibility of biodiversity protection. There must be an adequate response from them to ensure that the irreplaceable biodiversity assets of our Parks are given sufficient levels of resources on an on-going basis. It is essential that proper bushcare methods be employed, as coarse, 'spray it out' methods are totally inappropriate where native species are also trying to re-establish. Agency staff must also be trained in plant recognition and proper bushcare techniques.

Early intervention is also needed right now where deer are establishing themselves in some parks of the Mount Lofty Ranges - Scott Creek being one of them, where we estimate a population of 50-100, with many more in adjacent S.A. Water land. There is clearly a need here for an inter-agency response at a regional level.

Early intervention, as Tim Jury pointed out in his address on Saturday, will save D.E.H. money and resources in the long term. Unless the current situation reverses and responses improve, the greater our management and control costs will be. Another likely outcome will be an increase in so called 'basket case' scenarios.

Although the Friends have been working in Scott Creek for nearly sixteen years, there are still areas of remnant vegetation in which, through a lack of resources, they have been unable to work, having had to watch as areas are gradually overtaken by pest plant invasion.

In one of the most botanically diverse Conservation Parks of the M.L.R. with over 600 native plants, over 200 of which are of conservation significance, this is lamentable. It is also demoralising for those of us who have worked in this park for so many years.

Our impression is that the key threats to biodiversity by invasive species are being relegated to small funding leftovers at the end of a financial year rather than being a priority budgeted for at the beginning of every financial year.

The weed problems in most parks in the Adelaide Hills are as bad, if not worse than Scott Creek. Feral deer, foxes, and other pest species do damage to the indigenous species. Richard de Groot added that under its fire programme, the Department has a partnership with N.R.M. to engage Bush Management Advisors. Need to apply more science and sensitive techniques for pest plant control. These three positions will be employed at Christmas as part of the seasonal fire programme.

Own group's suggested recommendation:

'THAT SOME OF THE NEW RANGERS BE TRAINED IN BUSHCARE AND THREAT MANAGEMENT, AND BE USED TO ADDRESS THE EVER-INCREASING THREATS TO THE BIODIVERSITY OF OUR PARKS'.

Seconded: Bill Gemmell

Carried.

34. **QUESTIONS**

QUESTION ONE - WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF POPULATIONS OF SOUTHERN PYGMY PERCH IN AREAS WHERE "IT IS CLINGING TO REMAINING AREAS OF HABITAT" (QUOTE FROM REVIEW INTO TROUT STOCKING). TROUT STOCKING CONTINUES IN THE FINNISS RIVER DESPITE IT BEING THE HOME OF THIS ENDANGERED SPECIES. - TOM HANDS, FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

The Review into Trout Stocking in 2004 led to stocking being stopped in some rivers in the M.L.R. but it was allowed to continue in the Finnis and Hindmarsh Rivers, and Currency Creek. The Finnis contains populations of the Endangered Pygmy Perch, which the Review acknowledged as 'clinging to remaining areas of critical habitat' and despite there being a 'strong self sustaining population of trout,' recommended a continuation of trout stocking.

The Review and subsequent decision to continue stocking has clearly chosen to ignore the precautionary principle. It also directly contradicts the State Government's 'No Species Loss Strategy' which states that 'threats that have the potential to become significant are eradicated or contained' - the current practice adds to and exacerbates an already perilous situation. The Strategy also notes that 'Biodiversity decline continues despite many legislative measures', yet the continuing release of a top order predator into our waterways continues to be legally sanctioned by the State Government. Currently, anyone can walk into a trout hatchery, and buy and release fingerlings. There are no checks made on where they may be released. Very recently there was a confirmed report of just such an 'illegal' release into Baldina Creek near Burra.

The Ecological Impacts of trout are far-reaching, from native fish species, crustaceans, aquatic invertebrates, larvae, and amphibians. Trout have also been directly implicated in the decline of the Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher where it competes for small native fish with this critically endangered bird. The Azure Kingfisher disappeared from the Mount Lofty Ranges over thirty years ago, despite suitable habitat still remaining.

Bob Inns (Land Management) agreed that this was a serious problem. There is no D.E.H. legislation. The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, and the Environment Protection Authority are opposed to any further releases. The Department is looking at developing an action plan for the conservation of native fish - to be released later this year for comment. Educate other agencies to value native fish stocks. Tom suggested that the Department should lobby the State Government to point out the

anomalies in the strategy. Dr. Barbara Hardy added that the Nature Foundation S.A. Inc. has appealed for funds from its supporters to produce an action plan for native fish.

35. **QUESTIONS**

QUESTION TWO - WILL D.E.H. INITIATE AND FUND PRACTICAL RESEARCH INTO RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE VITAL UNDERSTOREY - DR. JOHN BUTLER, FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK Conservation Park

Understorey is the cover, home, and food source for small birds, animals, and insects. It competes against many weed species. It is a major component of the biodiversity. It is vulnerable as there is careless spraying, especially on roadsides. There are bad slashing techniques, weed invasion, grazing by rabbits and stock, and may be disadvantaged by cool burns. Present direct seeding techniques are damaging understorey. At Kyeema, little understorey has come back under those trees. It is vital that it is restored. It is difficult to restore once lost, as it generally will not out-compete weeds, it is labour-intensive to plant out and protect from rabbits and weed invasion, and trees and large shrubs seem to inhibit natural re-establishment of the understorey.

Bob Inns said that the Department is interested in these projects. It is developing a partnership with research projects, and will look at funding, i.e. Para Woodlands - restoration of native bushland. Universities and others are looking at restoration where mining might occur. There are other opportunities where we can get increased funding for these activities.

QUESTION THREE - WHEN WILL NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLUNTEER GROUPS WHICH WILL BE AFFECTED BY THEIR DECISIONS, TO BE PRESENT AT ALL MEETINGS BEFORE, OR AT WHICH A DECISION IS MADE - BARRY PALMER, FRIENDS OF BELAIR

Peter Croft (Deputy Director) spoke of many Acts, Plans, and Bills, that are before the Government at the moment. In addition, contact through the Rangers, plus recognition and discussion with the Friends Board, will improve the link at Executive level through regular contact.

James Crocker (Southern Lofty District) added that there are seventeen Friends Groups in his district. They are very active, with good knowledge and skills. Friends cannot be involved in every decision. Management needs to make some on its own. The Districts can involve the Friends in setting broader agendas, i.e. Management Plans, when reps can be involved from the start. Consultation about the tree removal at Belair National Park began back in 2002 when a Community Reference Group was formed. The Friends of Belair were included in the Master Plan which also had an open invitation to the public. Representatives from the Friends of Belair and Old Government House were invited to discuss projects. These were modified slightly in the current plan. The District does consult and may not necessarily always agree.

After the fire at Hardy's Scrub (Onkaparinga), the staff met with the Friends and took on board views and moved on. Charles Connelly added that at Shepherds Hill, Correctional Services volunteers liked to cut but not poison the olives. They could have been destroyed, but shoots are now sprouting. The Rangers cannot supervise these activities all the time. The Friends can help and get a better result. Friends can effectively help with some issues if they know what is happening.

James Crocker said that the Department is getting better at handling these issues. Very disjointed liaison has occurred in previous years, due to staff movement. There are alternative ways to engage the Friends. There is no consistency with meetings - during the day, out of hours, not at all.

36. **GUEST SPEAKER - BERNIE FOX, VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENT FRIENDS NETWORK**

Bernie gave a background of his involvement in the Friends Network, and spoke of his property in Victoria which is under Trust for Nature, a scheme similar to Bushbank in S.A. There has been good regrowth. Rare fauna has now been sighted.

Annette McLean (Friends of Old Government House), presented a gift to Bernie.

37. **MORNING TEA - SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN LOFTY DISTRICT**

38. **15th AUSTRALIAN WEEDS CONFERENCE**

Anne McLean (Friends of Old Government House) spoke of the recent conference which Friends of Parks Inc. had partly sponsored her to attend. She also presented a powerpoint presentation. The conference was held over four days, and attended by over 450 people.

39. **Guest Speaker - Jerry Smith - Why Volunteers Can't Do It All**

Jerry gave an inspiring address. He pointed out that volunteers have enormous knowledge, and much to offer. Young Volunteers have time limitations due to two parents working, children to raise, and other time demands. Volunteer Managers need to learn to think about these circumstances. Be flexible, recognise effort, be a partnership with each other.

Annette McLean presented a gift to Jerry.

40. **NATURE FOUNDATION SA INC. RAFFLE**

Dr. Barbara Hardy thanked delegates for purchasing tickets in the raffle. Joshua Smith (Friends of Community Liaison Unit) was asked by Barbara to draw the raffle - and he drew out his own ticket. Other winners were Garth Jackson (Friends of K.I. Parks, Western Districts), John Carter (Friends of Cleland), and Tom Hands (Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park). \$268.00 was raised.

41. **FRIENDS OF WHYALLA AWARD FOR THE MOST COMMENDABLE DISPLAY - PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

Clinton and Margaret Garrett presented the award to the Friends of Onkaparinga. President, Colin Malcolm, accepted the award – the first by his group. The forum delegates had voted on all the displays.

42. **EXTRA DISCUSSION**

TOPIC NO. 9 - LEGISLATION ON BUSHLAND IN CEMETERIES - TOM HANDS, FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK Conservation Park

Tom advised that Cathy Potts, Friends of Kaiserstuhl, had sent information through concerning the removal of protection of native vegetation in cemeteries. The Conservation Council of SA Inc. had sought urgent support to reverse this legislation. It is very important that remnant vegetation within cemeteries is given the utmost protection. Dene Cordes (Manager, Community Liaison Unit) advised that two Cemetery Trusts (Rosedale and Concordia) in which he is involved were set up to caretake two abandoned cemeteries, owned by the churches that could not look after them. The Trusts have removed weeds and left a variety of remnant vegetation. There is quite uncommon native flora present.

Brian DuBois said that a decision has been made to write a letter to the Premier. Groups and individuals may wish to write as well.

Annette McLean said that the Conservation Council of S.A. Inc. wants support from groups in regard to this legislation. Dene pointed out that this rather confusing discussion follows advice from the C.C.S.A. that the existing indemnity where vegetation could not be cleared is being removed.

Bob Inns advised that changes to the regulations under the Native Vegetation Act to provide the exemption are still a proposal.

The following recommendations were moved:

'That FRIENDS OF PARKS INC, WRITE TO THE PREMIER, REQUESTING THAT NO CLEARANCE IN CEMETERY RESERVES BE ALLOWED TO OCCUR THAT WOULD COMPROMISE THE INTEGRITY OF THE REMNANT VEGETATION'

Moved: Tom Hands Seconded: Brian DuBois Carried.

'THAT FRIENDS OF PARKS INC, ENCOURAGE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS TO WRITE TO THE PREMIER, REQUESTING THAT NO CLEARANCE BE ALLOWED TO OCCUR IN CEMETERIES, THAT WOULD COMPROMISE THE INTEGRITY OF THE REMNANT VEGETATION'

Moved: Brian DuBois Seconded: Dr. Barbara Hardy Carried.

QUESTION FOUR - WHAT POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DOES D.E.H. HAVE IN RELATION TO OPERATING WITH AND COERCING NEIGHBOURING PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS INTO HAVING A COMMON ENVIRONMENTAL FENCELINE, TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN MINIMISING WEED AND PEST IMPACTS ON THE PARKS? ALEX MCLEOD, FRIENDS OF MOANA SANDS

Bob Inns said that D.E.H. has no powers. Weeds and feral animals are the responsibility of every landowner. The Department tries to develop a partnership with the landowners for a joint approach on control of pest plants and pest animals.

Vegetation is remnant. Parks live in a sea of agricultural land. Try to engage with the landowner to solve problems and have a sustainable future.

QUESTION FIVE - FOLLOW-UP OF TOPICS - MARY BROWNLEE, FRIENDS OF THE CONSERVATION OF NATIVE WILDLIFE

Mary asked if delegates could receive a copy of the speech by guest speaker, Jerry Smith.

Some items were brought up at this forum, that were also brought up in 2005, i.e. Question 1 and Item 10. There appears to have been no progress in the last twelve months. A public forum does not seem to have the same effect as a meeting.

Richard de Groot said that Friends have input into planning, i.e. the management plan development process. Friends Groups are on reference groups, and public comments are put in via submissions.

Barry Palmer added that voluntary weeders will resign if procedure and lack of involvement is not present.

Richard de Groot said that volunteer groups have a level of maturity and communication to work through techniques and application. The Department needs to standardise protocols and develop action plans jointly. If something is not agreed, then the organisation needs to explain 'why'.

43. **VOTES OF THANKS**

Charles Connelly thanked the people and organisations involved in staging the 22nd Friends Forum. He particularly thanked:

- the members of the host groups for their excellent contributions
- D.E.H. staff and branches for participation and support
- Community Liaison Unit for untiring assistance
- Caterers - at the Echunga Institute, at Mylor, and the Old Mill - coordinated by Annette McLean
- Guest Speakers

- Phil Hollow - M.C. at the dinner
- Wonderful sponsors
- The tour leaders
- Special thanks were made to Host Committee members - Annette McLean, Anne McLean, Jill Salvi, Donna Reid, and Arline Thompson

Dene Cordes presented a Certificate of Appreciation to a representative of the Host Groups. He presented a gift to Charles Connelly, Jill Salvi, and the Host Committee.

Charles acknowledged the contributions of Dene Cordes, Pam Smith, and Dr. Barbara Hardy, and presented each with a gift.

44. **CLOSURE OF THE FORUM**

2007

Vicki and Brian Gould (Brian dressed appropriately as a Port Lincoln Parrott), members of the Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks, commented that this forum was an eye-opener to them, and said that they found it interesting to hear of the challenges that Friends face, and the achievements that are made.

They formally invited all to travel to Port Lincoln in August 2007, to attend the 23rd forum. The theme will be 'Catastrophe of Sustainability' and the programme will include excursions over four days, including a trip to Memory Cove (tag along), visit to Wanilla Conservation Park (bushfire burnt the park to the ground), heritage town tour, Lincoln National Park, and will conclude on Monday with a tag along tour to Coffin Bay National Park. Speakers will include Terry Krieg (nuclear power), Steve Pocock (history), Dr. Colin Winsor (geology), and a speaker on sustainability.

Brian and Vicki declared the 22nd Forum closed (1.35 pm.)

2008

Vince Monterolla invited all to attend the 24th forum, in the Flinders Ranges in 2008. A great programme has been put together, and Vince encouraged all to plan for a visit to Wilpena.

45. **LUNCH**

Delegates enjoyed a delicious lunch before they bade farewell.

Another hugely successful forum was acclaimed by people who attended.

ATTENDANCE

FRIENDS OF PARKS GROUPS

Aldinga - Neville Hudson

Althorpe Islands - Erika and John Lawley

Belair - Jill Salvi, Brian and Noeline DuBois, Michael and Peggy Cerchez, Betty Wise, Jenny Skinner, Shirley Alford, Pam and Ron Tamblyn, Barry and Ruth Palmer, Ann and Gill Ross, Judy Jeffery

BEST (Biodiversity and Endangered Species Team) - Annika Everaardt

Black Hill and Morialta - Ann Taylor, Judy and Trevor Homfray

Brookfield - Susan Linnell, Linley Elliott

Brownhill Creek - David Wagner, Rod Ellis

Burra Parks - Heidi Hodge, Tarsha McGregor

Butcher Gap - Nancy and Fernley Burgoyne, Daphne Johncock

Campground Hosts - Rosalie and Phil Brown, Colin Barrett, Rob and Di Letcher, Malcolm and Marie McDonald

Cleland - John and Mandy Carter

Cobbler Creek - David Mitchell

Community Liaison - Jim and Joshua Smith

Conservation of Native Wildlife - Dr Peter Hornsby, Mary Brownlee, Manfred and Helen Heide

Coorong National Park - Joanne and Gavin Flavel, Val Rowett, Bill Bates, Betty Redman

Deep Creek - Ian and Catherine Henry,

Dudley Peninsula Parks - Rosalin and Tony Trethewey

Field Naturalists Society - Robert Host

Flinders Ranges - Athol and Jan Jackson, Keith and Kaye Crossman, Vince and Helen Monterola

Gawler Ranges - Leala and Ian Hoffman, Helen and Ken Robinson, Ian and Mary Westlake, Leanne Mitchell, Chris Lymn

Great Victoria Desert - Arlene and Bill Dowling, Bill and Doreen Matheson, Terry and Marlene Friebe, Doug Smith, Heather Woods, Connie Sue Beadell, Mick Hutton

Heritage Committee - Ron and June Bert

Innes - Joyce and Peter Yeomans

Kangaroo Island, Western Districts - Garth and Ida Jackson

Kimba District Parks - John and Sue Grund, Frank and Judy Schaefer, Austin and Thelma Eatts

Kyeema - Grant and Trudy Good

Little Dip - Rowena Atkinson

Marble Hill - Ernie McKenna, Marcel and Diana Clark, Mark Hopkins

Moana Sands - Alex McLeod

Newland Head - Max and Joan Davis

O'Halloran Hill - Donald Webster

Old Government House - Malcolm and Marilyn Blaskett, Colin and Margaret Haese, Dianne Cordes, Kenneth and Jeannette Ingerson, Annette and Bob McLean, Anne McLean, Daniel Schiansky

Onkaparinga - Malcolm and Cynthia Kirkham, Andy and Lesley McKinnon, Tony and Judy Dowling, Jan and Graham Thomas, Colin and Anne Malcolm, Diana Dahms

Para Wirra - Ted and Molly Hughes, Anthea and John Fuller, Colin Winsor, Leonie Hobbs

Riverland Parks - Margaret Jennings, Ashley and Nancy Verner, June Plush, Kevin and Sandra Smith, Lizzy Lewis, Wendy and Michael Mackintosh

Scott Creek - Tom Hands, John and Rosemary Butler, Don and Donna Reid, Peter Charles, Marie Steiner, Barb Howes, Les and Donella Peters, Arline and John Thompson, Jenny Dawes, Jim Spiker

Shepherds Hill - Margo Carmichael, Charles Connelly, Robyn Guy, Melinda Broadhurst

Simpson Desert - Lesley Hunkin, Ron and Paddy Colcombe, Alan and Lorraine Hancox, Susan and Alistair Boyle, Harold and Glenda Ross, Neville and June Hudson

Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks - Vicki and Brian Gould

Sporting Shooters Association (Hunting and Conservation Branch SA) - Jim and Janet Ayliffe, Graham and Barbara Henley

Sturt Gorge - Amy Blaylock

Troubridge Island and Other Yorke District Conservation Parks - Jim and Margaret Cooper

Walking Trails Support Group - Dr Sue Barker, Rob Marshall

Whyalla - Margaret and Clinton Garrett, Denise Sharpe, David Poyner, Hayden Sharp

Wildlife and Habitat Support Group - Pam and Brian Knill,

Nature Foundation of S.A. Inc. - Dr. Barbara Hardy, A.O.

NPW Consultative Committee Members - Lorraine Irwin

S.A. Landcare Committee - Hume Macdonald

(NOTE: Several people are members of more than one group. Other Friends Groups represented included: Kenneth Stirling, Lake District National Parks - U.K., Blackwood Forest, Gluepot Reserve, Barossa Goldfields, Innamincka Reserves)

Staff of the Department for Environment and Heritage

Minister for Environment and Conservation, *The Hon. Gail Gago, M.L.C.*,

Minister's Office - *Dr. Susan Close*,

Natural and Cultural Heritage - *Greg Leaman, Peter Croft, Dr. Bob Inns, Kozette Lambert*

Regional Conservation - *Trevor Naismith*

Community Liaison Unit - *Dene Cordes, Pam Smith*

Visitor Services (Trails) - *Chris Halstead*

Adelaide Region - *Richard De Groot*

Southern Lofty - *James and Caroline Crocker, Neville and Andreina Houlahan, Leah and Michae Egan*

Cleland - *Franke Nicoll*

Northern and Yorke Region - *Stuart Beinke*

Coorong and Lakes District - *Karren Laudendach, Phil Hollow*

Heritage Branch - *Sue Averay, Pippa Morgan*

Outback Region - *John Watkins*

Murraylands Region - *Merridie and Glen Martin*

Kangaroo Island Region - *Alby Zepf*

West Region - *Craig and Robyn Nixon*

Guests/Visitors/Speakers

Victorian Environment Friends Network - *Geoff and Judith Durham, Bernie Fox and Sue Hayman-Fox*

Mrs Jean McLaren, and Heather Ings

Warren Bonython, A.O.

Mayor Bill Cooksley, Adelaide Hills Council

Mayor Tony Wales, District Council of Mount Barker

Greg Rossiter - Roxy's Music

Joslyn van der Moolen, Mylor Parklands Bushcare Group

- Guest speakers
- Terry Reardon
 - Tim Jury, Threatened Plant Action Group
 - Dr. Pamela Smith
 - ElectraNet - Rontheo van Zyl, Jason May, Myles Somers, plus other representatives at the dinner
 - Jerry Smith

Apologies

The Hon. David Wotton, Life Member and Patron, Friends of Parks Inc
Allan Holmes, Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Heritage
Verne McLaren, A.M., Life Member, and Patrons, Friends of Parks Inc
Heather and Rod Shearer, Friends of Riverland Parks
Phil McNamara, Friends of National Trust Reserves
Carlsa Carter, Friends of National Trust Reserves
Margaret Hollister, Campground Hosts
Graham and Raelene Churchett, Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Parks
Bev and Dean Overton, Friends of Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park
Dr. Laurie Haegi, Regional Conservator, Adelaide
Mayor Deane Michelmore, City of Victor Harbor
Tracey Bateman, Friends of Marble Hill
Tim Collins, Regional Conservator, Northern and Yorke Region
Ivan and Merilyn Probert, Friends of Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park/Heritage Committee
Marble Hill - Robert Baker, Malclom and Jeanette Dallwitz, Margaret Nicol
Friends of Naracoorte Caves
Friends of Clements Gap

IN MEMORIAM

Don Mattson, Friends of Marino Conservation Park
Geoff Cotton, Apiary Industry Consultative Committee
Isabel Bishop, Friends of Marble Hill
Wade McKinnon, Friends of Onkaparinga Park
Steve Hart, Campground Hosts
David Henderson, Friends of Old Government House
David Dougal, former employee, Para Wirra Recreation Park and Flinders Ranges National Park
Colin Jones, Lofty/Barossa Consultative Committee /former Ranger
Clarrie Wilson, Campground Hosts
Laurie Castanell, Friends of Old Government House
Pep Manthorpe, Friends of Coffin Bay National Park
Suzanne Gill, Friends of Coffin Bay National Park
Amber Kell, Friends of Little Dip Conservation Park
Alison Dolling, Friends of Ferguson Conservation Park
Val Cromack, Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks
Catherine Cordes, Friends of Old Government House
Ruth Bottroff, Campground Hosts
Bob McDonald, former Chair, Lower South East Consultative Committee