



Special Newsletter June 2011

MANY THANKS to some determined people

You will have been aware from previous newsletters of the hard work done by MPs Rob Brokenshire and Leon Bignell over a number of years for the legislated protection of our beautiful and valuable rural area.

The community at large has also been extremely important in its support, signing petitions, lobbying politicians and generally being very supportive of the idea.

It is also most important to acknowledge the enthusiasm from our council, the City of Onkaparinga, which has been critical to demonstrating the broad support for preservation.

Your FOWB Committee have been involved for years in a working group of representatives of this region and the Barossa organised by Leon, as well as requesting legislated protection at every opportunity for very many years. Our many members have helped us to be heard as a relevant community voice, and to have gained a 'seat at the table' in negotiations.



Hope at last for Willunga Basin protection legislation?

Over the last few weeks it seems a dream is beginning to come true for Friends of Willunga Basin.

Back in February 1994 when FOWB emerged from the Anti Marina Association we wrote this as one of our key objectives:

To promote legislation that ensures long term certainty, for maintaining the integrity of agriculture and open space areas in the Willunga Basin.

It seems that aim, chosen by us as a priority all those years ago, seems to be getting much closer to fruition with the June 3rd release by Planning Minister John Rau of the Protecting the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale discussion paper. This outlines the Government's proposal for specific legislation to lock in place a rural future for not only Willunga Basin, but a more extensive area as well, extending north from Sellicks to include agricultural land to Clarendon and beyond. A similar bill is proposed for the Barossa Valley area. John Rau indicated that he is very keen to get the bill before parliament before the year is out!

FOWB has been pleasantly surprised to see the land proposed for protection in the draft map of the protected area (which the Minister insists is still open to change in accord with community views). It contains the Bowering Hill area between Port Willunga and Maslin Beach, and a fair area around the Aldinga Scrub and the Washpool. This is an important inclusion, as the last thing we want to see is a continuous row of housing stretching from Sellicks to Moana.

What has happened since the release of the discussion paper?

Following the June 3rd briefing, committee members have been busy working on the issue. We participated in a meeting organised by the key industry body for McLaren Vale, the McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association and a meeting in the Barossa Valley bringing together involved people from both regions. The emails are flying with ideas about how to respond to the discussion paper. We also dedicated almost all our time at the last FOWB meeting to discuss our position and start to develop our response to the discussion paper.

One issue that is already causing differing views is the exclusion of Glenthorne Farm from the initial map. The Grape Wine and Tourism Association are very keen to have the whole of their wine appellation area (known as the McLaren Vale GI) included in the protected area. The GI covers a different area from that in the draft map, but most importantly it extends through the southern Adelaide suburbs north of the Willunga Basin right up to Hallett Cove. This boundary was created to include Glenthorne Farm and the historic remnants of vineyards around Reynella. FOWB have considerable reservations about inclusion of suburbia, as we believe that including a large area of the southern suburbs muddies the waters concerning the real purpose of the legislation: to protect agriculture and rural activity. We must not forget that the bill needs to protect all agriculture and rural activity, not just the wine industry.

FOWB strongly support the preservation of Glenthorne Farm and other residual vineyards. We believe that either they could be included as separate 'islands' within suburbia or be protected through an alternative mechanism. We will remain in consultation with McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association and other local bodies, and will listen carefully to their points of view.



Seaford Heights

As a post script to the above good news story, it is of course now old news that the Government has announced that the Seaford Heights residential development (at the gateway to McLaren Vale) is to go ahead.

FOWB are disappointed that the voice of the Willunga Basin community, and in particular the wine industry, was not fully responded to by abandoning the project.

However considerable improvements to the buffer between the development and Victor Harbor Road, the removal of bulky goods retail on Main South Road and the re-zoning of land from future residential to rural which would have been part of a future Seaford Heights development is welcomed.

FOWB were active in lobbying for a better outcome at Seaford Heights.

A job for all FOWB members

Right now is a short but very important opportunity for the community to have an input into this preservation proposal. Community views obtained through consultation are vitally important, this is our main chance to get legislation right which will hopefully be in place for very many years to come.

The Government's discussion paper can be accessed online by clicking: http://www.sa.gov.au/search/search.aspx?q=mcclaren_vale_protection&addconfig=true

then clicking the link to 'protecting the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale'. This web site will provide information for people to put in a personal submission. We urge as many of you as possible to send off a message of support for the proposal, it can be very short and does not have to be technical or complex.

The City of Onkaparinga Council has scheduled two forums for **community information and input** on the protection proposal:

June 29th in Clarendon

at Clarendon & Districts Over 50's Club, Harper Rd, Clarendon

June 30th in McLaren Vale

at Serafino McLaren Vale, Kangarilla Rd, McLaren Vale

Both meetings from 7 to 9pm. Please try to get to one of them.

It is also extremely important to the Committee of FOWB to have your input to help us shape our response.

Please contact us by email: info@fowb.net
phone: 8556 2289 or mail: PO Box 710, Willunga 5172.

We do need your help for this important job.

This newsletter is written, compiled and published by the committee of Friends of Willunga Basin Inc.

www.fowb.net Letters to the editor are welcomed!
Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of Friends of Willunga Basin Inc.

Contact us by writing to:

PO Box 710, Willunga SA 5172

Or emailing to: info@fowb.net

Or by phoning:

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Friends of Willunga Basin MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

There is an annual fee of \$8 (concession \$6, family \$10).
Members have voting rights at general meetings, and are eligible to stand for office.

Please post to: PO Box 710 Willunga SA 5172

Main Objectives

Friends of Willunga Basin actively endeavour to:

- Retain natural and heritage assets
- Restore damaged ecosystems
- Keep housing within present urban growth boundaries
- Ensure planning precedes development
- Retain agriculture as the primary land use east of South Rd
- Promote sustainable lifestyles
- Achieve legislative backing for the above objectives.

I hereby join as a FRIEND OF WILLUNGA BASIN and declare my support for retaining the natural and rural character of the Willunga Basin as stated in the objectives listed in the brochure.

Title Name: (Surname)

(First Name):

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email

(This will not be disclosed to any third party)

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