



Friends of Willunga Basin

Image above: Torresol Gemasolar Concentrating solar thermal power station in Spain

Newsletter, Spring 2013

Once again it's Annual General Meeting time, and time to join or renew your membership

**Wednesday 2 October, 7:30pm
at Waverley House, Willunga.**

(Waverley House is the historic homestead behind the Bowling Club on St Peters Terrace, just by the Golf Club.)

This year at our AGM we are delighted to have as our guest speaker Daniel Lynch, a member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and he will speak about the on-going campaign to:

Re-Power Port Augusta.

This is the proposal to replace the ageing and very dirty coal fired Playford B Power Station with a state of the art concentrating solar thermal plant which could supply base-load power through storage of the heat generated by the sun. This heat would then generate steam to drive turbines through the night. This is an exciting and important project.

A light supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Membership Renewal/New Members

The Treasurer, Rob Bickford will be in attendance to receive your membership renewal and to receive new members – our membership rates are kept very low to encourage membership so please do renew or pay up if not a member. A membership form is on page 5

NB

All members are asked to re-advise their current email details so that we can ensure our records are correct and complete – we suspect we may be using some old email addresses which are not regularly monitored.



What we've been up to . . .

The FOWB committee has been busy as usual.

The following are some of the highlights and activities undertaken on your behalf since the May newsletter:

• Willunga Basin Walking Trail:

A new stage in the progress of the proposed Willunga Basin Hiking Trail has commenced, with about 15 people regularly walking each week on sections of the proposed trail that are on public land. These walks are helping to clarify possible routes, identify possible issues that may need some work to resolve and contribute to walkers enjoying a great time with friends in a beautiful place. (see Events below).



• **Regional Biodiversity**

Interaction with the McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association (MVGWTA) to improve the ecological footprint in the Willunga Basin has been growing. Our local wine industry is taking active steps to enhance the sustainability of the industry. Possibly the most urgent issue to address is the scant biodiversity in our region. An initial meeting has been held between Geoff Hayter, the Chairman of FOWB, and Jock Harvey, a prominent member of the McLaren Vale grape and wine industry and strong advocate for sustainability. As a result of this meeting, it was suggested that a 10 year biodiversity plan should be implemented. At a subsequent meeting with Mr Jamie Briggs MP, the Federal member for Mayo, it was agreed that applications for funding should be made through currently available sources.

• **Conservation Council of SA:**

FOWB is a member of the Conservation Council of SA and is represented at their meetings by Rob Bickford. The Conservation Council is a vital peak body representing the interests of a diverse range of environmental and conservation organisations.

At a recent Con. Council meeting, we were pleased to learn that the recently built desalination plant, about which we and many other organisations had grave misgivings, is not causing the damage to the environment that was anticipated.

Current information suggests that there are no signs of degradation of the marine environment, and that the resultant salinity is well below the maximum recommended level of 70 grams per litre which was anticipated (normal salinity is 34 grams per litre)



• **FOWB Website:**

FOWB has recognised that our website is a very useful asset, but that it needs to be improved and updated. As a consequence of this we are looking to the membership for assistance.

We are looking for people with skills in website design, monitoring and managing.

If you are interested in helping with this, please contact the committee:

email: info@FOWB.net

or phone David Gill on 8556 2289

Discussions with City of Onkaparinga Council

Meetings of FOWB are now being attended by Cr Gail Kilby who has replaced Cr Don Chapman as Council's representative at FOWB meetings.

• **Willunga Township High Street Project:**

Following community consultation initiated by Council, there appears to be disappointment with the two proposals previously presented, but a level of agreement with the community that there is not a significant flooding issue in High Street. Thus a focus on a large expenditure to underground the storm water seems unlikely to be required. Preferences were therefore falling to the retention of the current footpath widths. There was general agreement that the whole town must be included in any future planning, and not just the main street. Cr Kilby encouraged further discussion between FOWB and the Willunga Trade and Tourism Association, and encouraged feedback to Council, noting that the Council's reference group will consider this issue in the next few weeks.



Discussions with Council (continued)

• Aldinga Airfield:

There has been movement at the airfield, with the EPA recently advising the airfield that it was required to secure an EPA licence. This has come about because, at over 40,000 movements per annum, the airfield has exceeded the trigger point of 20,000 movements set under the Environment Protection Act. It is now apparently the third busiest airfield in South Australia. At issue are the environmental consequences of this level of activity, including noise and emissions.

A license application has subsequently been received and has been advertised for public comment. A large number of submissions have been received – more than for any other application ever advertised – including one from FOWB proposing, in particular, some limitation to hours of operation for the flying school, which is responsible for the large bulk of movements.

We are now facilitating a discussion between the EPA and local residents as the EPA considers how to proceed. Further news on its position is expected before Christmas.

• Proposed Bulky Goods Zone

For some time, Council has been investigating the rezoning of land to provide for new bulky goods retailing in the southern area of the City of Onkaparinga. A Development Plan Amendment (DPA) proposing a change of zoning of land to both the north and south sides of Seaford Road/Main South Road intersection is now out for public consultation. This area includes the old Wood'n'Logs landscaping business site and a quite large area surrounding it to the west and north. FOWB see this area adjacent to the turnoff to McLaren Vale as an important gateway to Willunga Basin. We have reviewed the DPA and are preparing a submission, aiming to limit the visual impact of 'big box' development in the style of Bunnings outlets.



• Aldinga Service Station:

As some of you may have noticed, the Mobil service station at Aldinga Township has already placed signs advertising its apparent intention, namely to apply for development approval for a greatly expanded 'On the Run' outlet, despite not yet having lodged a Development Application. FOWB have been very active in the past working with the Southern Community Coalition to limit inappropriate development in the historic township, and we have strong reservations about what is likely to be proposed this time at its gateway. Once a development application is lodged we will certainly be giving it careful scrutiny. Should you wish to voice your concern about this development to FOWB, please e.mail your comments to us at info@fowb.net.



• Main Road Cellar Door

FOWB recently lodged an objection to what we saw as an inappropriate development application for a new cellar door facility on Main Rd just north of Willunga. We do not object to the proposed use, but regard the form and siting of the development as being inconsistent with the objectives of the McLaren Vale Character Preservation Act. We are still awaiting news on how the application has been treated by Council.

Infrastructure at Aldinga Airfield has also expanded substantially in the past decade



Good Times, Events and Gigs

• Geoff Olliver's Tour of McLaren Vale:

On Wednesday, 7 August, local resident geologist and vintner, Geoff Olliver conducted a fascinating bus tour of the McLaren Vale Region. 40 interested locals were introduced to some of the more unusual geological features of the region, while Geoff explained the relationship between the geology and the grape types grown, and the impacts of different soils on the resulting wines.

In conjunction with McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association, geologist Bill Fairburn, wine writer Philip White and PIRSA, Geoff has been instrumental in the compilation of the excellently detailed map 'Geology of the McLaren Vale Wine Region', which is available for \$5 from the McLaren Vale Visitor Centre.

Geoff is extremely knowledgeable about the district and is happy to conduct tours for any interested groups. Contact the Visitor Centre for more information.

• World Wetland Day:

In marking of World Environment Day next June FOWB, in collaboration with others, aims to organise a walk to the Aldinga Washpool with an explanatory tour at the site. Over the years we have struggled to get useful action to preserve this important remnant of the coastal wetlands that extended up and down the Adelaide coastline. We hope to introduce more people to the site and help them understand its significance and what may be done to improve it. Bird enthusiasts come prepared!

• Willunga Basin Walking Trail:

About 15 people are regularly participating in the Wednesday walks currently being led by Zara Lupton and Chris Davies around the local region, exploring possible routes for the proposed Walking Trail.


The walks are usually about 4 hours in length, including a break to eat lunch which walkers each take with them.

Zara and Chris would love to share the walks with any interested people.

Should you wish to participate please contact Chris Davies at dunmudden@internode.on.net.

Late News

The State Government has just announced a review of the State Development Strategy to bring it into line with the Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act. Again FOWB will be examining the document and making a submission to try to ensure that as far as possible its aims are included in the State Strategic Plan



the Aldinga Washpool



Hart Road Wetland

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):

Address:

p.code phone

email

(This will not be disclosed to any third party)

Payment enc. \$

Tick if you wish us to post you a receipt
(please enclose self addressed envelope)

If you would like to add a few dollars to your payment by way of a donation it would be really appreciated.



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 the secretary,

David Gill: 85562289

THEY DONT SEE COMMUNITIES
THEY ONLY SEE PROFITS

Two new short films

commissioned by Lock The Gate

see trailers at www.lockthegate.org.au/films

Fractured Country: An Unconventional Invasion

Directed by Brendan Shoebridge
and

Undermining Australia: Coal Vs Communities

Directed by David Lowe

The personal stories about what these industries are doing to our land, air and water

Q & A to follow with:

Tim Kelly, Chief Executive Conservation Council of SA

Prof. David Shearman, Secretary Doctors for the Environment

MAKE NO MISTAKE
AUSTRALIANS ARE BEING FRACTURED AND UNDERMINED

Wednesday 25 September 6pm

at SA Writers Centre, 2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide
Refreshments & snacks available Admission \$8, (low income \$5)
RSVP to clawsouthaustralia@gmail.com to confirm your place

LOCK
THE GATE
LOCK THE
COMMUNITY
PROTECT
THE REGION

FOWB is now a member of LOCK THE GATE

CLAWSA

Organised by: Clean Land Air & Water SA



Climate Science Conference: Education & Action for Climate

**Thursday 3 October, 2013
9:00am - 4:30pm**

A one day conference for community members, activists and educators, featuring eminent climate scientists speaking about the impacts of climate change, panels and discussions about effective campaigning, and a range of practical workshops about how to take action!

Featuring special guests:

David Spratt, author of 'Climate Code Red'

Jess Moore, Stop CSG Illawarra

Darren Ray, Senior meteorologist, BOM



**Australian
Curriculum
Focus**

Public Forum: What does Climate Change mean for SA? Wednesday 2 October, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Free entry. Refreshments from 6pm

AEU, First Floor Conference Room, Maghey House, 163-4 Greenhill Road, Parkside

A panel of experts discuss how climate change will impact South Australia's agriculture, water, health, economy and workforce.

Register at: www.aeusa.asn.au > events & courses
AEU members free (teacher non-members \$110)
general admission \$22 BBQ lunch available - \$10
See the full conference program at www.cleansa.org
For more information contact Gemma on 0437 714 786
or email: training@aeusa.asn.au



Co-hosted by Climate Emergency Action Network (CLEAN) and the Australian Education Union (AEU) SA Branch