



Friends of Willunga Basin

Newsletter May 2013

WELCOME to our Autumn edition
We are pleased to report a full programme

McLAREN VALE CHARACTER PRESERVATION BILL

In January, the Character Preservation Bill passed into law.
A great moment!

As reported in our Summer Newsletter, FoWB was following up on two matters arising, namely:-

- the right to build new residences on rural allotments: With the passage of the Bill, permission to build new residences/ new structures on allotments within the area defined by the Bill will be based on merit. In other words the situation has reverted to what it was prior to the introduction of the interim DPA; and
- five yearly review of Bill: John Hill advised that this provision within the Bill is required by Parliament and could include a review of the boundaries. However, any such recommendations would also require the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The Minister points out however that given the wide consultation that took place before the boundaries were finalised, he did not envisage any changes to the boundaries in the near future.

The State Planning Strategy is now to be amended to recognise both the McLaren Vale and Barossa Valley Character Preservation Bills. This amendment will go out to public consultation shortly, and we will certainly be making our own submission to it.

FoWB will also be actively reviewing the pending Development Plan Amendment, which will follow.
The Bill may have passed, but the job is to be yet done!

WHAT NEXT ??

FoWB is keen to capture the momentum gained from its win on the Character Protection Bill and the high level of recognition afforded by the Onkaparinga Council. One significant opportunity which presents itself is on the biodiversity front.

The McLaren Vale Grape and Wine and Tourism Association (MVGWTA), having undertaken a wide ranging survey (under the auspices of McLaren Vale Sustainable Winegrowing programme) of its environmental footprint, has found that it particularly needs to address shortfalls in regional biodiversity, including creek line revegetation and regrowth opportunities along abandoned roadways etc.

At the same time, the local branch of the NRM Board is seeking more opportunities to interact with the community on such areas as those receiving attention from the MVGWTA.

FoWB is fostering alliances with these and other organisations within its sphere of interest. We see this as a particular area in which FoWB can utilise its expertise and contacts within local and state government to lobby for, and promote, biodiversity programmes & projects across the region. In a recent meeting, the Mayor indicated support for a cooperative effort and undertook to attend any initial meetings.



Willunga High Street

High Street in Willunga has been the subject of much discussion following the recent display of plans by Council. The level of feedback to Council has been extraordinary, indicating very high community interest.

FoWB is not convinced that the plans seen so far get it right, and is working with Council and other interested stakeholders to improve them.

Recognition for outstanding contribution to the environment

Secretary of FoWB, David Gill, has been recognised by the Conservation Council of SA for his outstanding contribution to the environment.

David, seen here receiving his award, is a founding member of FoWB, and has worked tirelessly for 20 years to realise its goals.

The McLaren Vale Character Preservation Bill is the culmination of 20 years of perseverance and hard work by David, who has occupied the position of Secretary for most of those 20 years.



Recently members of FoWB attended presentations by the Lock The Gate Alliance about the risks of mining unconventional gas: coal seam gas, shale gas and tight gas.

As a consequence of data revealed at these presentations, FoWB committee members acknowledge that the risks posed by this enterprise are such that the rush by CSG companies to extract as much as possible as quickly as possible needs to be curbed.

The SA Government's 'Roadmap for Unconventional Gas Projects in SA' opens up huge areas of the state for the exploration and extraction of shale gas, coal seam gas and tight gas through the process of hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking'.

Considerable media coverage has been given to CSG mining in the eastern states, but few South Australians realise that already almost one third of our state is covered by leases to mine CSG, with at least one lease right on the doorstep of Adelaide's northern suburbs.

The Lock the Gate Alliance has been formed as a result of these risks, and of damage already sustained in areas where CSG has been mined, and it has already become the fastest growing organisation of its kind in Australia.

The mission of the Lock the Gate Alliance is to protect Australia's natural, environmental, cultural and agricultural resources from inappropriate mining and to educate and empower all Australians to demand sustainable solutions to food and energy production.

FoWB committee has agreed to apply for membership in the Lock the Gate Alliance.

read more at: www.lockthegate.org.au

NOTICE

**A PERSON'S COMMON LAW RIGHT TO ENTER
IS EXPRESSLY WITHDRAWN**

**ADMITTANCE BY INVITATION ONLY
TO ALL PERSONS & ENTITIES**

OTHERWISE TRESPASS APPLIES

HCA 1991 171 CLR 635 F.C. 91/004



lockthegate.org.au

Discussions with Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg



The Mayor attended the FOWB meeting held on 13th March 2013. Her comment and input on the following were appreciated:-

• **Character (McLaren Vale) Protection Bill:** See page 1

- **Aldinga Airfield:** The Mayor reported that the status of the Land Management Agreement with the (former) District Council of Willunga has been legally clarified to the extent that there are no enforceable conditions for the operations of the airfield. However, the operators have requested that the Council re-zone the land from 'Rural' to 'Airfield' which may offer Council some control. It was noted that the operators of the associated maintenance business are voluntarily limiting their work to 5 aircraft a month.
- **Willunga Basin Walking Trail:** The draft plan for a Willunga Basin Walking Trail, much of the work for which has been undertaken by Chris Davies and Zara Lupton of FoWB, has been submitted to the Council for consideration. The Plan includes the use of a number of road reserves currently not trafficable; but concern was expressed when the meeting heard that some of these have been/are in the process of being sold by Council. The Mayor offered to arrange a meeting between members of FOWB and key staff within Council to discuss detail.
- **Bike Routes:** The Chairman, described a proposed route for a bike path from Willunga to Aldinga township, which would complete a 'Port to Port' link (Pt Noarlunga to Pt Willunga, via McLaren Vale) and become an important part of the region's tourism offering. The Mayor was alerted to

the opportunity and to the need for safe access across South Road, safe travel along Little Road and the crossing of a culvert adjacent to Victor Harbour Road. FoWB is seeking to have this route incorporated into Council's bike trails planning.

- **Landscaping of Aldinga Township:** All parties are waiting on the decision of SA Water on the installation of mains sewerage and the ensuing clean-up before addressing the details of the Aldinga Township landscaping.
- **Seaford to Aldinga Rail Route:** The Council has been presented with two options for a route. The current options have the line terminating in the area of the CFS adjacent to How Road, not at the Aldinga Shopping Centre, which is less than ideal. It should be noted however that FOWB does not anticipate actual development on the line under 30 years unless there is some drastic increase in population of the Aldinga district.
- **World Heritage Bid:** The four Southern Councils have agreed to consider the case for the World Heritage listing of Willunga Basin and environs on account of its settlement patterns and its social history. The Mayor confirmed that Council had agreed to commit \$10,000 a year for three years, but she raised personal concern that the money may have been spent better elsewhere. She also pointed out that the decision to fund the effort does not imply the support of Council.
- **Coles Development at McLaren Vale:** FOWB has been concerned by the impact of this new development on local business, particularly the possible removal of 20 car parking spaces in the main street and the lack of substantial planting of shade trees in the car park. The car parking issue has since been resolved. The original plans will be reviewed by FOWB to ensure what has been built aligns with what has been approved, particularly as regards landscaping.

Help Establish the Willunga Basin Hiking Trail

Starting Wednesday 22nd May, and each Wednesday thereafter, a group of us will walk the above proposed trail seeking improvements to alignment and conditions. Accurately identifying problem spots, or "pinch points" will be part of the exercise.

We will meet at given starting points at 10:00 am and finish about 2:30 pm with a lunch break somewhere on the trail.

If you love hiking, join us – occasionally, if you can't make it more often!

Contact: Chris Davies

Ph.0439 077038 email: dunmudden@internode.on.net



400 ppm

Last week, unnoticed by most of the world, atmospheric CO2 levels reached 400 ppm, already 50ppm above the 350 level beyond which it is considered that irreversible climate change is inevitable.

Data collected from over 100 sites worldwide concur with those at Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii which has been measuring the level of greenhouse gases in the northern hemisphere since 1958. Data prior to 1958 has been collected from ice core samples which indicate that the last time atmospheric CO2 was this high was 3 million years ago, when sea levels rose to more than 40 metres higher than they are today and it was 3 to 4 degrees hotter.

Humans have never previously experience conditions like these.

Research indicates that since the industrial revolution there has been a 40% increase in greenhouse gas concentrations. 97% of climate scientists agree that this increase puts the planet on a path towards dangerous climate change, with greater risk of even more dangerous weather extremes than those recently witnessed. The tornado in Oklahoma this week, far more powerful than any ever previously seen, and the horrific bushfires that we have seen in Victoria, NSW and California (and that with only about 1 degree of warming of average levels) can be seen as a foretaste of what is to come if action is not taken to avert further increase in atmospheric CO2.

And this is without considering the effect on the oceans into which CO2 is also flooding, causing acidification which, unless curbed, will lead to conditions not experienced by marine life for millions of years.

If we continue to do 'business as usual', i.e. increasing CO2 by approximately 2ppm per year, within 25 years we will have reached 450ppm, at which point, most glaciologist agree, there will be irreversible melting of the Greenland ice sheets, with the consequential rise in sea level wiping out coastal communities and cities.

This is the greatest threat ever to have challenged the human race, and yet we remain inactive.

We have such a small window in which to transform to a world with zero carbon emissions.

Perhaps now is the time to write to our politicians and newspapers. Tell them that this danger cannot be ignored, and as Australia is top of the class for per capita emissions we have a moral imperative to lead, not follow. Moreover the CSIRO anticipates climate change to have more drastic impacts on Australia than most other parts of the world.



Image above: this week's unprecedented tornado which caused havoc in Oklahoma. and below: the resulting devastation



MEMBERSHIP

In our last Newsletter, members were advised that membership for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June, 2013 were now due; and that fees had been retained as \$8.00 for singles, \$10.00 family and \$6.00 concession.

If you haven't already done so, you are encouraged to return your application and membership fee to the address shown on the membership form. Please stay with us – in fact, why not join the whole family!

This newsletter is written, compiled and published by the committee of Friends of Willunga Basin Inc. Visit our website at www.fowb.net

Letters to the editor are welcomed!

The 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 by email at: info@fowb.net

or by phone: David Gill: 8556 2289



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.

