

Newsletter Autumn 2019

Friends of Willunga Basin inc.



PO Box 710, Willunga. Chair: Geoff Hayter Secretary: David Gill, Tel. 08 85562289 info@fowb.net

WELCOME, FRIENDS !

WILLUNGA BASIN WALKING TRAIL

Chris Davies, Chair of the Willunga Basin Walking Trail is a committee member of the Friends and provides updates on the Trail.

The good news is that the Trail received a \$78,000 grant from the Office of Recreation & Sport to implement on-ground works.

THE WASHPOOL

WANGKONDILLA-KAUWI NGALTINGGA

Chas Martin and David Gill represented the Friends at an on-site tour of the Washpool with the new Minister for the Environment, David Spiers. It was an opportunity for the Minister to be fully informed of the ecological and cultural values of the Washpool and the contemporary issues faced. The Minister has indicated he supports the consolidation of land ownership under one authority and that the administrative requirements to achieve this are in progress, albeit slowly.

It is to be noted that Wangkondilla and Kauwi Ngaltingga are Kurna place names in the locality of the Washpool but are not what we know as the Washpool. Wangkondilla is known as a workshop site but its meaning is unclear. Kauwi ngaltingga is 'water at ngalti' but the meaning of Ngalti is unknown.

WILLUNGA

PLANNING POLICY REVIEW

Council is about to commence a public consultation with the people of Willunga to see what is possible within the State Government's new planning regime to keep the planning of our beautiful township appropriate to the community's desires and needs. Watch out for this in the next couple of months, your input will be most important.

Annual General Meeting and Committee

Our AGM was held on 24th October, 2018, at the Willunga Environment Centre, our usual meeting venue. Reports were given by the Chair on our range of activities and the Treasurer; we have a modest income and expenditure but still managed to give two community grants. One to support cultural presentation signage at Lot 50-Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale and the other to assist the Willunga Basin Walking Trail Committee purchase an item of equipment.

The Committee was elected comprising;

Geoff Hayter, Chair

David Gill, Secretary

Rob Bickford, Treasurer

Don Chapman, Chris Davies, Gavin Malone, Chas Martin, Robin Schliebs

Official positions were formally filled at the next General meeting. Committee members not holding formal positions take up an informal role of their choosing, i.e. monitoring development applications, environmental issues etc. We are delighted to have Margie Keath take up the role of Minute Secretary.

Two Committee members, Cate Goodfellow and Stephanie Hemming, stepped down after many years of service. Both extremely active in Committee affairs, their contributions and their personalities will be missed at the meetings. We thank them sincerely for their efforts.

The Committee welcomes attendance by any member of the Friends at its monthly meetings, usually held the second Wednesday of the month at the Environment Centre, Willunga. If you would like to attend please check with David Gill (info@fowb.net); sometimes we have to change the date. We like to make sure visiting members get a chance to contribute to the meetings.

Ben Moulton, Senior Natural Areas Conservation Officer, City of Onkaparinga was our guest speaker. He outlined Council's policy and program on woody weed mapping and control on road reserves. In summary, Council is seeking to remove woody weeds but it is a massive and long term task with over a 1,000kms of road reserves. FOWB fully supports Council in this impressive endeavour.

MCLAREN VALE CHARACTER PRESERVATION ACT

A 5 year review of the Act was recently undertaken as stipulated by the enabling legislation. FOWB made a submission calling for the Act to be left as is and there be no boundary changes. FOWB also assisted with raising signatures on a petition, organised by Local MP Leon Bignell, which sought the same.

There were many submissions to the review, including those calling for an extension to the McLaren Vale township boundary to enable further housing development. A very well attended public meeting was held on October 10th 2018 and the general mood was that there be no change to the Preservation Act.

Whilst the Minister for Planning, Stephan Knoll, has publicly indicated he is not inclined to change the Act, the matter is not finalised. As a result of the review and consultation process, four main recommendations are made. These are:

1. Retain the legislation for the protection for the character preservation districts.
2. The State Planning Commission investigate the merit of the proposed amendments to the character preservation districts in the context of Greater Adelaide's growth.
3. Introduce a statutory review process that provides for amendments to the boundaries of the character preservation districts.
4. Provide for greater consistency and clarity of policy within the character preservation districts in preparing the Planning and Design Code.
(See https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/have_your_say/character_preservation)

The review concluded that no immediate changes to the Acts will be pursued until the Commission has led a proper review and investigation into boundary adjustments, policy refinements and improved process to make such amendments.

This matter needs to be closely monitored.

Latitude Development, Aldinga Central

As reported in the last newsletter, FOWB was one of several individuals and organisations that opposed the development on the grounds that it was a non-complying in regards to height restrictions.

Two meetings have been held before the Environment Court but the matter is still unresolved.

As a matter of interest, it cost the FOWB \$230 to lodge an appeal so it is not undertaken lightly. The Chair represents FOWB at these hearings which necessitate a good understanding of the rules and the development application.

SEAFORD RISE RECYCLED WATER STORAGE LAGOON

Following the collapse of the proposal for the water storage lagoon at Bowering Hill, a new proposal has been put forward to construct a lagoon adjacent the Southern Regional Waste Resource Authority operations on land owned by the Authority but to be leased by Willunga Basin Water.

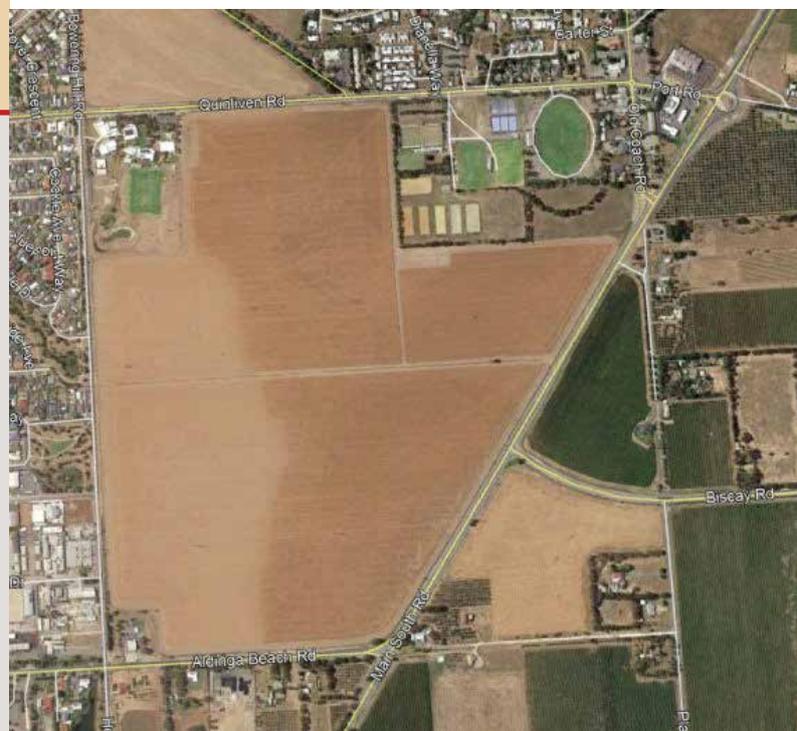
FOWB reviewed the 500 page planning application but made no submission on the proposal. The principle concerns FOWB had with Bowering Hill proposal have not been repeated at this site.

ALDINGA PRELIMINARY STRUCTURE PLAN

Renewal SA is to release a 94ha parcel of land currently zoned as Deferred Urban for development in the near future. The land is bordered by Port, How, Aldinga Beach and Main South Roads. The first stage is the preparation of a Structure Plan, now underway. The land accommodates a 100m wide rail corridor and the 14 ha site for the new super school. Representatives of FOWB have attended Council and Renewal SA briefings and preliminary submissions have been made to both authorities. Our introductory statement is that:

FOWB seeks a premium urban design outcome, closely aligned to community aspirations and future needs, for the Aldinga Deferred Urban Zone. The predominantly residential development of the land in question provides an opportunity to demonstrate key contemporary issues in more sustainable and energy efficient housing, and socio-economic serviceability.

This is a key regional development and FOWB will be making further submissions as more details become known.



The Victory Road

(Old Sellicks Hill Road)

160th Anniversary Commemorations

Friday 15th March was the 160th anniversary of the opening of the Victory Road as it was then called. For 70 years this was the Main South Road and the route over the range to the Myponga, Yankalilla and Rapid Bay districts. FOWB organised a commemorative event and walk, attended by about 60 people.

FOWB has approached Council about heritage listing and protection of this wonderful walking and cultural heritage asset. An outline of its value will be given in the next newsletter.



Part of the gathering, 15 March 2019

MEMBERSHIP

Your support is appreciated and is of real value in strengthening our 'voice'.

New members welcome so please spread the word.

Membership is only \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families