

Newsletter  
Spring 2019

# Friends of Willunga Basin inc.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND COMMITTEE

Our AGM was held on 18th September 2019, at the new look Willunga Environment Centre. Reports were given by the Chair on our range of activities and by the Treasurer on our finances. We have a modest income and expenditure but have still managed to give two community grants.

Michael Lennon, Chair of the State Planning Commission, was our guest speaker and we thank him for his attendance. He outlined the whats and whys of the new planning legislation and how they may affect local issues. He encouraged community participation in the development of the planning system as, once it is in force, we will all have to work within it for the foreseeable future. For detailed information see:

[www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning\\_reforms](http://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning_reforms)

A new committee has been chosen. All members of the previous Committee have been re-elected and are joined by two new members, Christine James and Annette Haridan. We welcome them both on board.

The Committee members are Geoff Hayter, David Gill, Rob Bickford, Don Chapman, Chris Davies, Gavin Malone, Chas Martin, Robin Schliebs, Christine James and Annette Haridan.

Official positions were formally filled at the last committee meeting, with Geoff Hayter continuing as Chair, David Gill as Secretary and Rob Bickford as Treasurer. Committee members not holding formal positions tend to take up an informal role of their choosing, such as monitoring development applications, environmental issues and so on. We are delighted to have Margie Keath continue the role of Minute Secretary.

The Committee welcomes attendance by any member of the Friends at its monthly meetings, now to be held the second Tuesday of the month at the Environment Centre, Willunga. If you would like to attend please check with David Gill (info@fowb.net) as sometimes we have to change the date.



## *The Aldinga Washpool Wangkondilla-Kauwi ngaltingga*

*A proposal to consolidate the parcels of land comprising the washpool precinct has recently come under threat due to an out-of-the-blue proposal by SA Water to sell some of the land.*

*SA Water has proposed to divest an area of land on the corner of Button and Justs Roads, to the east of the main lagoon. It appears SA Water believes this land is not integral to the vitality and viability of the lagoon system. Many, including FOWB, disagree and we have been most active in lobbying for the land retention and inclusion in the land package.*

*Senior custodians, Karl Telfer and Georgina Williams, convened a community gathering under a recent full moon at Lot 50-Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale, to consider what further actions can be taken. The gathering resolved to seek the intervention of the Premier, who is also Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and this is being pursued.*

*At the time of writing we do not yet have any response to our earlier letter to Minister Speirs, who is both Minister for Water and for the Environment. Thank you to everyone who made a submission to him. We understand that he got quite a bit of mail.*

## FOWB Civic Awards

Given FOWB's ongoing and critical involvement in public planning and building outcomes, as well as natural systems regeneration and protection, we've decided to introduce an annual awards program for the Built Environment and the Natural Environment, to

recognise those projects that are a step above the ordinary.

The Awards will be presented at the AGM from 2020 onwards. Nominations will be from the membership and we will circulate criteria and a call for nominations a few months before the 2020 AGM.

## The Victory Road

The Victory Road or Old Sellicks Hill Road, which heads up the hill from the Victory Hotel, was the main road south to Yankalilla and beyond from its opening on 15th March 1859 until it was replaced by the Sellicks Hill Deviation, now Main South Road, in January 1930. There was much community and political debate in the 1850s as to the new route over the Sellicks Range, with the chosen route considered to be a victory for all, hence the name. The road followed the already existing Aboriginal track over the range and thus has bi-cultural significance.

The road, now closed to traffic, provides a wonderful walk with extensive views of the coast and the Willunga Basin. It also provides a ready walking connection to areas further south. It has remnants of its original construction with slate culverts and post & rail fences demonstrating 19th century road building techniques.

FOWB has made representations to Council for the road to be heritage listed, and Council is sympathetic to considering aspects for listing once new criteria are established as part of the new planning legislation.



Volunteers on the trail

## Willunga Basin Walking Trail

*The Trail was officially launched on Friday 13 September by Corey Wingard, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, in the unmade road reserve adjacent Sew & Sew Wines. The gathering was also a celebration of the work and dedication of the group who have made the trail a reality. Marking of the Trail is well underway and a map of the walkable sections is available from Zara Lupton, [zaralupton@hotmail.com](mailto:zaralupton@hotmail.com)*

# STATE LANDCARE AWARDS

We are delighted to report wins for two local groups at the recent State Landcare Awards, with YACCA taking out the Youth Leadership Award and the McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project taking out the Government Partnership Award. Congratulations to both groups! The awards speak volumes for the nature of our community.



Members of McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project and representatives of YACCA at the Landcare Awards ceremony

## Planning Matters

### Willunga Planning Policy Review

Hopefully many of you will have attended one of the sessions held in August when Council organised sessions to take on community input about Willunga township planning, prior to the new state-wide planning system coming into force next July.

Items raised and noted by Council include the importance of built heritage and historic character: preserving existing trees and vegetation, maintaining country town feel of the township, importance of allotment sizes with adequate room for buildings and trees, the importance of unique main street with local food and shopping and respecting connections with nature and topography. We hope that these sound ideas actually lead to some positive outcomes in the new Design Code as it will apply in this area.

Importantly, the new Design Code is now out on public exhibition and, as per Michael Lennon's exhortation, now is the time for the community to pay attention to the detail and to make its voice heard as necessary.

FOWB is presently considering how it can best represent its membership in this process, and will keep you informed as news comes to hand.

Comments can be made by visiting planning portal at [www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning\\_reforms](http://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning_reforms)

### Latitude Development, Aldinga Central

This matter remains on appeal in the ERD Court. Council and the proponent have been unable to come to agreement over revised plans, which leaves the project in abeyance for the moment. The Court has scheduled a further 'directions hearing' in the new year.

### Aldinga Preliminary Structure Plan

After a flurry of public activity this matter is now within government to finalise the development structure. A rezoning process is expected to follow, giving opportunity for further community consultation, although it is quite unclear when this might occur. It is fair to say that the Green Triangle is under threat unless an argument for its preservation – possibly as playing fields – can be sustained.

## MEMBERSHIP

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

New members are welcome so please spread the word. Membership is only \$15 for individuals and \$10 concession