

Friends of Willunga Basin

Newsletter December 2010



David Nurton
1953 - 2010

Dave will be remembered with great appreciation by members of the 'Friends of the Willunga Basin' of which he was a long time member, and as an active member of the 'Aldinga Anti-Marina Association from which FOWB evolved.

He was a passionate environmental activist, a founding member of Willunga Friends of the Earth. In 1996 he was the first candidate to stand for the Greens in the Federal seat of Kingston, and he served as a councillor on the former Willunga District Council.

As a councillor he worked conscientiously to protect the environment. He was instrumental in helping in the establishment of the Aldinga Arts Eco Village, and he also campaigned for the re-instatement of 'The Washpool' at Silver Sands, one of the few remaining coastal lagoons in SA, seeing it as an important part of the wider picture, in relation to the whole Willunga Basin catchment.

He will be sadly missed.

AGM report

The highlight of this year's AGM was our guest speaker, Iris Iwanicki. Iris's connection with FOWB began when she was the Senior Planner with the Willunga District Council. Her commitment to sustainable planning and her breadth of knowledge made her a great asset to the Council and to FOWB. She has continued to be interested in the Willunga Basin and its sustainable future. Her interesting and informative talk addressed the unsustainable nature (both environmental and economic) of current housing trends, and offered alternatives. (for more about alternatives see page 5: TOD for Noarlunga) The election of officers saw two new members join the committee. We welcome Thia Elliot and Margie Keath.

Your new committee is:

Chairperson:	Richard Bennett
Secretary:	David Gill
Treasurer:	Rob Bickford
	Thia Elliot
	Jim Fletcher
	Margie Keath
	Rosie Knott
	Chas Martin
	Pierre Rosenberg

The committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Willunga Environment Centre at 7:30pm.

Members are welcome to attend committee meetings. If you would like to attend, please advise the secretary, David Gill on 85562289. The next meeting will be on 9 February.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg

Congratulations to three members of FOWB on their election success. The recent local government elections saw the return of Lorraine Rosenberg as mayor of the City of Onkaparinga, allowing for the continuation and further development of sustainable initiatives adopted by Council in the previous term.

FOWB committee were also pleased to see the re-election, in Wine Coast Ward, of Yvonne Wenham who has been a valuable representative of Council on the FOWB committee.



Yvonne Wenham

We are also looking forward to working with newly elected councillor, Don Chapman, who is also a member of Friends of Willunga Basin.



ALUMINIUM RECYCLING UPDATE

Metals I took to the recycler recently, included what I have collected myself over the past 6 months, some donated by Gina Kellet plus 4 kilograms of foil and other lightweight aluminium items from FOWB members and supporters (bad timing, a week later another 2 or 3 kg came in, but it will go in next time).

This raised a total of \$105.00. Of that total, only \$4.00 was raised from the lightweight aluminium scrap; however that 4 kg of aluminium represents a saving of about 200 kg of carbon dioxide emissions, so very worthwhile. Its money value will increase markedly when there is an effective price on carbon emissions (it was \$8.00 / kg before the global economic crisis).

Unfortunately we can't take the packaging for pills and tablets, which are of a composite material with a high plastic content and therefore not accepted. Also those very shiny bags which puff up have too much plastic and too little aluminium to be accepted.

I have included a photo of some of the above mentioned non recyclable items and have made up some sample packets of them to attach to our collection bins.

Congratulations to everyone on the clean condition of everything received. You can leave your collections of lightweight aluminium bits with David Gill or with me.

Thanks
Chas Martin

Items shown (left) are not recyclable as they contain a high percentage of plastic

Legislation to protect Willunga Basin

Work has continued to gain legislative protection of our beautiful rural area. While Rob Brokenshire's bill has again failed to make it through the Parliament, we have been working with Leon Bignell, our hard working local MP, on a private members bill that he plans to introduce into Parliament next year. With the support of Labour Caucus, Leon has met several times with FOWB, the Southern Community Coalition and the McLaren Vale Wine Grape and Tourism body. We appear to have solid support from Council for some form of legislative protection.

It is probable that the area to be defined will be larger than just Willunga Basin and we are still fighting to have Seaford Heights included in the protected area. (See next page)

There will be more information early next year ... keep watching.



*Committee meeting November with Leon Bignell
L to R: Margie Keath, Leon Bignell, Thia Elliot, Richard Bennett*



Part of the procession of tractors and other farm vehicles (and FOWB members) which drove through McLaren Vale on Sunday, 31 October in support of preserving agricultural land at Seaford Heights, earmarked for housing



TAX DEDUCTIBLE STATUS

The Committee of FOWB have decided to investigate the possibility of our organisation being able to accept tax deductible donations. We will of course badger you for piles of money if we are successful!



FOWB PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The chair of FOWB, Richard Bennett, submitted a wonderful photo to the ABC, and it was used recently as the background photo for the evening weather report.

What about a challenge to our members – who can get some wonderful images of Willunga Basin accepted for the ABC weather slot?

We would also love to accept any great images you may have to help us better promote the cause of Willunga Basin protection.

Images can be emailed to info@fowb.net



Barley in the Willunga Basin, November 2010

CONSERVATION COUNCIL NEWS

The Conservation Council represents many of the smaller environmental groups, including FOWB, at a state level. At the Conservation Council's recent AGM Friends of Willunga Basin nominated a very special friend of FOWB, Iris Iwanicki, and we are delighted to report that she was subsequently elected to the Executive Committee.

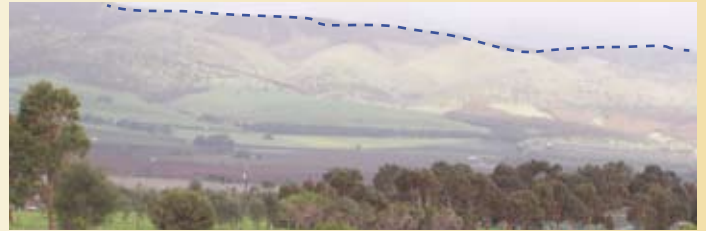
Iris was planner of Willunga Council for some vital years at which time Friends of Willunga Basin was formed (largely due to her encouragement) and the preservation of Willunga Basin was examined very intensely.

We also have a local, Geoff Heyter, as another Executive Committee member.

This newsletter is written, compiled and published by the committee of Friends of Willunga Basin Inc.
Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of Friends of Willunga Basin Inc.
Letters to the editor are welcomed!

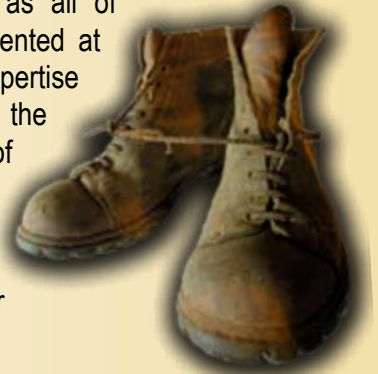
The group can be contacted by writing to:
PO Box 710, Willunga SA 5172
Or by emailing: info@fowb.net
Or by phoning: David Gill: 85562289

The Willunga Basin Walking Trail

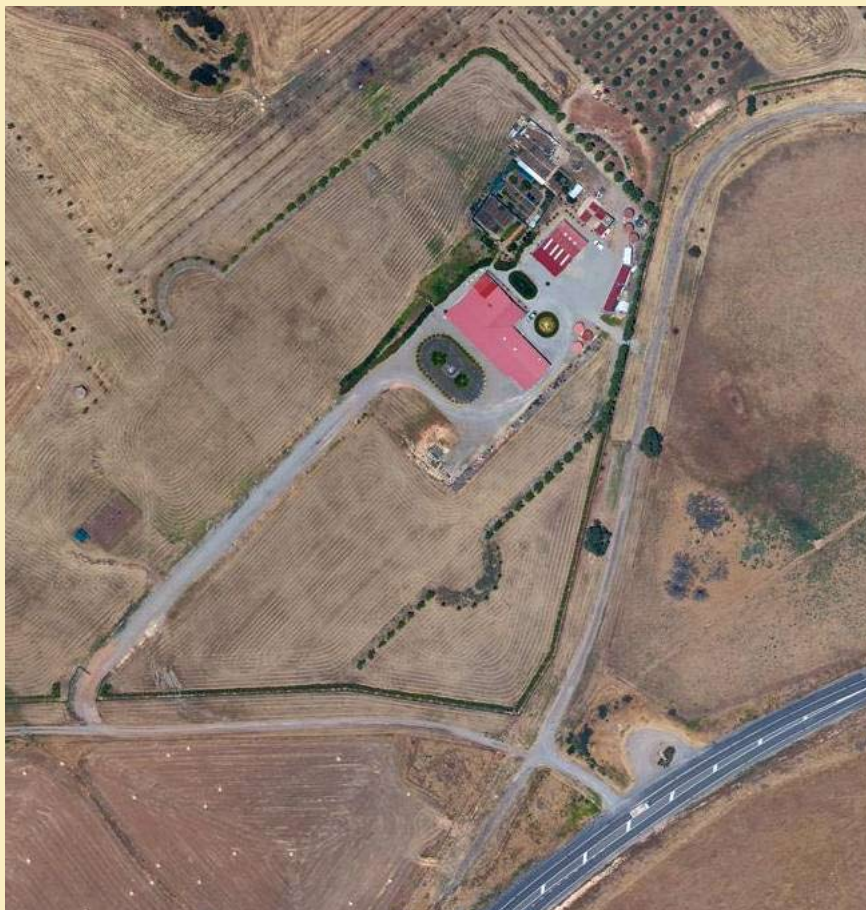


Members of the FOWB committee have continued to work with Council Staff, and have met with several representatives from the various departments of Council, as well as representatives from Planning SA, The Office of Recreation and Sport, Tourism SA, and the Walking Federation of SA. Enthusiasm is high for this project. FOWB committee have been encouraged by the support for the trail, especially as all of the organisations represented at the meetings have expertise which will help facilitate the positioning and building of the trail.

We hope to be able to more accurately define a group by early next year to make the trail a reality.



PROPOSED BUDDHIST TEMPLE AT SELICKS HILL



Aerial view of proposed temple site: trees delineate area to be covered in buildings

A large temple complex was proposed to be built at Sellicks Hill, south of Cactus Canyon over 10 years ago, but at that time the proposal was disallowed. This was due primarily to the very tall pagoda proposed (the height of a 10 story building) and a huge metal Buddha statue in the open.

The proponents have again applied for planning permission to build the temple, with no changes other than slight alterations to parking.

While Friends of Willunga Basin have been at pains to confirm that we are not opposed to the idea of a Buddhist presence in our area, we did lodge an official objection to the proposal which was granted Major Project status and is now in the hands of the State Government. The main reasons we object are:

- The proposal to build a large complex beyond the Urban Boundary, setting a precedent for ever more sprawl further down the coast
- The inappropriateness of such a visually dominant structure in the open country of the Sellicks Range
- Many inconsistencies in the planning application giving us little faith that there would not be further changes down the track.

We hope that a Buddhist temple will be built somewhere in the Southern area of Adelaide, but not at this site and not at the proposed scale.

TOD FOR NOARLUNGA

Recently screened on ABC TV, Kevin McCloud's two-part series, 'Slumming It' recorded an epic two-week journey to experience the beauty and horror of one of the most extreme urban environments on earth: the slums of Mumbai, where one million people live in one square mile. What he discovered there surprised him:

Although there is extreme poverty, only the most basic shelter, disease is rife and sanitation almost non-existent, there is almost no crime nor mental illness, and nobody dies alone. This close-knit community survives and thrives because it is a community.

John Norquist, the president of the United States Congress for New Urbanism, was recently in Brisbane for the City of the Future Conference at which he stated that population growth means high-density living will be the way of the future in Australian cities, and that planners could do well to look at slums as good models of functional communities.

It will become even more important to build medium to high density village style developments that are walkable and that have efficient public transport as fossil fuel supplies diminish.

The state government's 30 Year Draft Plan for Greater Adelaide advocates the building of TODs (Transit Orientated Developments) at major transport hubs, and the City of Onkaparinga is proposing to amend its Development Plan to encourage the redevelopment of the Noarlunga Regional Centre based on transit oriented development principles:

To support a transition of the Noarlunga Centre to a TOD and guide new development, the DPA proposes changes including:

- o new concept plan and design provisions
- o new development guidelines and principles within the Noarlunga Regional Centre zone
- o a change of zoning on the north-east perimeter of the centre to residential medium density.
- o a pedestrian oriented network of connected streets, plazas, malls and recreation spaces: a high intensity core featuring streets, malls and plazas surrounded by multi-storey buildings supporting mixed uses such as restaurants, retail and offices with apartments above a plaza over the station that acts as the gateway and heart of the centre
- o a vibrant main street running parallel to Beach Road that connects to the plaza and regional centre a diversity of housing styles including townhouses, row houses, flats and apartments.

FOWB will be making a submission in support of the plan, as we see this type of development as essential to ensuring the long-term preservation of the Willunga Basin: concentrating development along transit corridors, building sustainably and leaving the arable land for agriculture and horticulture,

The Plan is available for public consultation for 12 weeks, and we urge members to have a look.

Download it from the web at: onkaparingacity.com.au or pick up a CD or hard copy from one of the Council's libraries. Submissions close at 5pm on Friday, 4 February 2011.



Aerial view of proposed TOD site at Noarlunga Centre



Example of medium density housing at Christie Walk, Sturt St, Adelaide where 47 people currently live on a half acre block in buildings which meet high standards of sustainable design.

If undeliverable return to
Friends of Willunga Basin Inc
PO Box 710
Willunga 5172
The Willunga Basin

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If you appreciate the work that Friends of Willunga Basin please pass the membership application to a friend who may be interested in joining us.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

There is an annual fee of \$8.00 (\$10.00 family, \$5.00 concession). Members have voting rights at general meetings and are eligible to stand for office.

Please post to: P.O. Box 710, Willunga 5172

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

Title Name: (Surname) (First Name):

Address:.....p.code

phone..... Payment enc. \$

☐

Tick if you wish us to post you a receipt

email (We give our assurance that this will not be disclosed)