

# Friends of Willunga Basin

Newsletter, January 2010

## IMPORTANT MEETING



**From Plains to Plate:  
The Future of Food in South Australia**  
**Wed 10 February 2010 at 5:45pm**

Venue: Allan Scott Auditorium, UniSA City West campus,  
Hawke Building, 50 North Terrace, Adelaide South Australia

This is a **FREE** Hawke Centre event, jointly presented with  
the Friends of the Earth. For more information, go to:

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events>

To book a seat, please contact The Hawke Centre on  
08 8302 0371 or email [louise.carnell@unisa.edu.au](mailto:louise.carnell@unisa.edu.au)  
and to share a ride, contact David Gill or Chris Davies

Members of FOWB took part in the annual Walk  
Against Warming on 12 December.  
It was really well attended and  
received good media coverage.  
Unfortunately it did not achieve  
the desired outcome at the Climate  
Change Conference in Copenhagen.  
So keep those letters going to your  
Federal member. This is urgent!



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 phoning:  
David Gill: 85562289 or  
Chris Davies: 85562353

The McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association  
and the Southern Community Coalition  
invite you to attend our

## SUMMER FORUM

**Thursday 4 February 2010 6pm – 8pm**  
**in the SUPPER ROOM, McLaren Vale Institute Hall**  
**Main Road, McLaren Vale**  
(opposite Koffee&Snax, adj. McLaren Vale Boutique Cellars)

*Please come along and welcome the state election  
candidates for Kaurana and Mawson who will explain  
and answer questions about their policies for our  
region. Topics to be covered will include:*

1. Long term protection of the Willunga Basin and McLaren Vale Geographical Indication (GI) through legislation
2. Development of a consultation process for long term economic and land use planning, densities and zoning within the McLaren Vale GI including Bowering Hill and historic townships
3. Allocation of state government resources for consultation and planning to be conducted with local groups
4. Auditing and evaluation of current land uses and zoning of all land in the McLaren Vale GI
5. Allocation of state government resources to update detailed land capability evaluation throughout the GI in the light of increased reclaimed water supply
6. Promotion of sustainable urban form, housing design and open space
7. Provision of services and transport



## The Willunga Basin Walking Trail



At recent Committee meetings discussions about the exact boundaries of Willunga Basin led to a proposal to hold a walk around the boundary as an event for members and the public. As we talked over this concept the idea evolved to seek the development of a walking trail to circle Willunga Basin. With increasing enthusiasm we realised that this could be a magnificent project for FOWB, as it would publicise the Willunga Basin, it would help define and highlight its fabulous scenic and environmental qualities.

Taking several days to walk, it would be a remarkable trail as it includes the coast, the vineyards and the hills with their stunning vistas creating its eastern boundary.

The concept is still in its earliest stages, but we have met with Council staff responsible for trails and open space, they were highly supportive and we are keen to continue working on the idea. Any input from readers will be greatly welcomed.



## ALUMINIUM RECYCLING UPDATE

Chas Martin

About a dozen people have been saving their aluminium foil and food containers & leaving them with me. Proceeds of sale of the last lot was \$14.60. This aluminium is not otherwise normally recycled and ends up in landfill. By salvaging this amount of Aluminium (10.5 Kg) we have cut down our carbon footprint by something of the order of 470 Kg.

Any contributions of this material (CLEAN WASHED ONLY) can be left with David Gill at his place by arrangement with him. I will continue to arrange to take the material in for recycling. You can give it to me directly if you see me about.

### RECYCLING ALUMINIUM FOIL AND FOOD CONTAINERS

I have been collecting these materials for fundraising for F.O.W.B. for 3 years now for the following reasons:

Although aluminium is a very energy intensive material to produce, it is not covered by kerbside recycling unless it is a container deposit item, so if it goes to landfill there is a lot of energy wasted. The embodied energy in a 5 gram meat pie dish is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a kilowatt hour. **The electricity taken to produce 1 kilogram of aluminium from ore is of the order of 50 kilowatt hours, but it takes less than 10% of that to recycle aluminium.** The price of salvaged aluminium is low because of the outrageous subsidies via super low electricity prices to aluminium refiners.

I feel that by recycling our aluminium we can highlight the issues involved, minimize our own carbon footprint from using this material and make a bit of income for our group.



The photo shows some of the items which are suitable. As a general guide if you scrunch it up and it holds the crumpled state it is suitable. If it mostly bounces back it is probably a plastic and unsuitable. Whilst recycling aluminium is good, reducing its use where possible is even better.

Remember it takes approximately one whole unit of electricity (1Kg carbon emission) to produce the aluminium for the takeaway dinner containers for one person for one meal if it is produced from alumina. Put another way, if you have a 1 Killowatt solar array feeding into the grid, those containers take equivalent to about  $\frac{1}{6}$  of your daily electricity output.

**Aluminium is extremely undervalued if we consider the very high energy cost (ie fossil carbon release) per Kg to produce it. A carbon tax would give it its proper value and dramatically increase recycling rates.**

## Legislative Protection for the Willunga Basin

We have reported in the past about a bill introduced by Robert Brokenshire, who as a member of the Legislative Assembly, introduced a bill to specifically protect Willunga Basin. As you will know there was very strong community support, with huge numbers of people signing a petition in its support. The bill successfully passed the Upper House, but was defeated by the Government in the Lower House.

Since this occurred there has been an initiative from local ALP Member Leon Bignell to look at the feasibility of an alternative legislative approach for Willunga Basin protection. Leon organised a meeting with four members of our community (Jim Hulleck, Dudley Brown, Judith McBain and David Gill), four from the Barossa Valley, himself and Planning Minister Paul Holloway. At that meeting our reps were pleased to be assured that the Government is serious in looking at the issues, the wine industry is supportive and that we hope to be granted some resources by Government to come up with some proposals that might lead to legislation. It will be a long process and success is far from assured, but very worth pursuing.



## WILLUNGA PROTECTION BILL: PUBLIC FORUM

Convened by the Liberal candidate for Mawson, Matt Donovan, the Forum on 20 January was attended by a cross-section of members of the public, politicians and political candidates.

The Forum began with a presentation by MLC Robert Brokenshire on the Willunga Basin Protection Bill. Whilst the Bill was recently defeated in the Lower House by party consensus, it was supported by all non-government members. This, and the extensive public petitioning in support of the bill, show the need for the Government to take action. Robert expressed disappointment at lack of commitment to legislative protection shown by the Governing Party's failure to suggest amendments to the Bill and by the poor calibre of the arguments mustered against it. Throughout the forum, the urgency of legislative protection was reiterated by examples where memoranda of agreement and council recommendations have been overturned and community consultation disregarded. Robert Brokenshire made it clear that he is willing to show support for any serious alternative proposal for legislative protection for the Willunga Basin.

MP Leon Bignell reported on an initiative to combine consultation and future action with the Barossa Region. He believes this could strengthen the case for some form of legislative protection. He acknowledged that there is a degree of urgency and capacity to work together.

Several people raised the issue of population projections: e.g. that regional centres should be supported with better services and infrastructure to take the pressure off development of Adelaide and its surrounds. Robert Brokenshire and Matt Donovan suggested that the Premier's stated population projection should be a subject for debate.

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## Remarkable committee members

*The work of three outstanding members of the Friends of Willunga Basin Committee needs to be celebrated. Two have retired from the Committee due to other pressing commitments but their hugely significant work won't be forgotten.*

*The first, John Houlahan, has displayed amazing tenacity in his work high-lighting issues at Maslin Beach associated with the old rubbish dump site under the Frank Hilton reserve, and also problems with the attempted remediation of the bank of overfill between the sea and the old sand pit. Despite endless knockbacks and much official indifference he persevered with his protests to EPA, Council and State Government. We wish him well in his new endeavours: launching a council-wide residents group.*

*Elizabeth Hiej left our Committee to put her energies into the building of a super low embodied energy house in the Aldinga Eco Village. Elizabeth has been a committed member of the Committee for many years, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience associated with her past role in CSIRO including being the publisher of their Sustainability internet site. Elizabeth is a wonderful communicator, she was always the one who could in a succinct sentence express what the rest of us were struggling to communicate in a letter or article.*

*Finally this year we lose Chris Davies as Chair of FOWB, but not as a Committee member. Chris declined nomination due to his plans to experience life in Scotland with for more than a quick visit later this year. As chair of FOWB, Chris has shown great leadership in a quiet but highly effective manner and made meetings productive and enjoyable. He has great knowledge of Willunga Basin issues and his dedication to issues of protection of our bit of turf and to sustainable living continue to be wonderful assets.*





## **FOWB members meet with Jay Weatherill Minister for Environment**

Chris Davies and Richard Bennett met with Minister for the Environment Conservation Jay Weatherill and departmental officers at 3.30pm on 23rd November last year at the Green Room, Willunga.

During the 40 minute meeting a number of issues were discussed including climate change, proposed Willunga Basin legislation, the desalination plant, Aldinga Scrub and bio-corridors from range to sea.

FOWB members expressed concern over the slow progress of action on climate change at federal and state levels. The Minister pointed out that much hinged of the then forthcoming Copenhagen climate conference and in particular the two main players, China and the United States. Richard Bennett suggested that members of the Cabinet should be more open about their concerns about global warming.

In a discussion about the Willunga Basin and the proposed legislation to protect the Basin (put forward by Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire), the Minister stated that he thought development would continue to be proscribed through the Planning Act. He also thought that there would be a slowing of expansion in the Basin with the Government's new emphasis on infill in the metropolitan area through the new 30 Year Strategic Plan.

Concerns over the new desalination plant were talked about briefly, with FOWB members raising the issue of brine discharge and the source of renewable electricity for the plant. Minister Wetherill said that data from government scientists showed that brine discharge would not be a problem for the Gulf. On the topic of electricity to power the plant, Minister Wetherill said that it would use renewable energy. When asked about whether extra dedicated renewable generation would be created for the desalination plant, he said he didn't think so, that it would rely on sourcing its needs from existing power suppliers.

Concerns were then raised about the disrepair (and failure to repair) boardwalk infrastructure in the Aldinga Scrub. The Minister was concerned to hear this and asked his officers to look into it.

The final matter raised was that of the possibility of bio-corridors connecting the range to the reef. This was a topic of personal interest to the Minister and he said that his department had been working on a response to developing bio-corridors which would be released at some time in the near future. He encouraged Friends of Willunga Basin to develop plans and pursue funding sources currently available through government.

## **Chookarloo: Kuitpo Forest**

*In July last year, in response to the clear felling of tree compartments at the Chookarloo recreation area in Kuitpo Forest, FOWB added its support to a petition to the Minister for Forests, Paul Caica, seeking to prevent further felling of a number of historically important hardwood and softwood tree compartments set for destruction in the area.*



*ForestrySA, in response to concerns raised listened to the community, immediately ceased operations in the area, and has since opened up a positive process of consultation with petitioners.*

*In a meeting in early December, ForestrySA indicated that it was intending to develop (in the near future) a management plan for Kuitpo Forest that incorporated community concerns about historically important tree compartments, while still enabling it to efficiently conduct its forest operations. FOWB committee members believe that this is a constructive step forward and welcome further progress in the development of the management plan for Kuitpo, a plan that should allow for effective protection of heritage forest compartments in the area.*

