



Newsletter

Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.

Spring 2005

STIRLING LINEAR PARK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Draft Report on the Stirling Linear Park Management Strategy by the consultants, Urban & Regional Planning Solutions, was presented to the October 4 meeting of Adelaide Hills Council. The Draft Report will be on display for six weeks to allow public comment. It will be posted on Council's website.

Recommendations

The Draft Report, which includes a very good environmental assessment of the Park, recognises the Park as an area of high conservation significance. The consultants recommend that there be no cycling in the Park, no kayaking on the lake, that all dogs be on lead at all times and that model yachting be continued, providing frequency and numbers are controlled.

The future management structure recommended in the Draft Report comprises a committee with a Ward Councillor (Chair) a Council officer (executive officer) and representatives from Parks for Paws, Heathfield High School, the Model Yacht Club and Friends of SLP. Significant omissions from this recommendation are two of the groups housed in the buildings, Onkaparinga Waterwatch Network and Conservation Volunteers Australia, and the Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board. All three of these organisations are important stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the Park and have a keen interest in its future management.

Working Party

Friends of SLP have had two representatives on Council's SLP Management Strategy Working Party since its inception. As well as attending Working Party meetings, these representatives have met weekly with Friends Committee members for discussion, not to mention an

almost continual stream of emails. This is a huge input of volunteer time and is much appreciated.

The Friends' representatives repeatedly expressed concern regarding process. For example, the consultants did not follow Council's Terms of Reference on consultation with the Working Party regarding the conduct of the public meeting. Consequently, the Friends' representatives do not accept the consultants' Draft Report and are currently preparing a Minority Report for consideration by Council. Council was asked to consider the Draft and Minority Reports together and to make them both public, but this request was refused at the October 4 meeting.

Minority Report

The Minority Report will address some of the imbalances present in the Draft Report, which skims over around 100 written public submissions in only two pages while giving the single public meeting extensive coverage. The Minority Report will detail the public submissions, including those from organisations such as the Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board, and provide analysis of the comments made at the public meeting. This Report will be structured in the same way as the Draft Report to facilitate comparison.

The Minority Report should be completed in about two weeks time, when it will be presented to Council for consideration. We hope that Council will call for public comment on this Report also. It will be posted on the Friends of SLP website, with a covering statement outlining the consequences of the recommendations of the consultants' Draft Report, if accepted.

What Next

Your Committee encourages you to view the two

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Sunday November 13 in the Waterwatch building at Woorabinda, beginning at 1.00 pm. The speaker will be a member of Onkaparinga Waterwatch Network and the topic (with photos) will be 'Wildflowers of Stirling Linear Park'.

Conservation Volunteers Australia will then lead a short walk in the Park to view the wildflowers. Afternoon tea will be served in the CVA building, enabling attendees to look over the extensive renovations.

WORKING BEES

In addition to our regular working bees, we have had help from two big companies. On 27 May, 126 people from Ernst Young worked in the Park, rotating through six different work sites. Teams from the National Australia Bank held weeding days in the Park on 10 May and 21 September.

| Date | No | Area | Work Done |
|---------|----|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 15 May | 12 | Woorabinda | Weeding along boardwalk |
| 14 June | 9 | Stirling Park | Cut/swab gorse (Bandicoot seen!) |
| 17 July | 10 | Madurta | Cut/swab gorse, broom, watsonia |
| 21 Aug | | Hender | |

Tree Planting In Stirling Park

In temperatures hovering around 8 degrees and intermittent showers (including hail) eleven friends, in boots and raincoats, planted hundreds of trees, shrubs and grasses in Stirling Park on Sunday 11 September.

Plants included the following:

- Acacia melanoxylon (blackwood)
- “ myrtifolia (myrtle)
- “ pycnantha (golden)
- “ retinodes (swamp)
- Leptospermum lanigerum (silky)
- “ (species) prickly (tea trees)

- Olearia ramulosa (twiggy daisy bush)
- Pultenaea daphnoides (large-leaved bush pea)
- Xanthorrhoea semiplana (grass tree)

Special thanks to Anne Hicks who cultivated ten boxes of healthy seedlings that were used and to Alan Wickham for his organisation and input.

We hope that these seedlings will flourish, and together with the other plantings over the last fifteen years, help return the area to its former natural beauty.

CENTRAL HILLS GREEN WEB

The Central Hills Green Web will be officially launched at the Woorabinda Environment Centre on 21 October by Adelaide Hills Council Mayor, Bill Cooksley.

This innovative partnership between the main Adelaide Hills community environmental groups and relevant government agencies supports and funds larger-scale environmental restoration. After identifying high-value environmental sites, Green Web negotiates agreements and funds

work to link, protect and rehabilitate those sites.

The first year of the project has been funded by the Urban Forest Biodiversity Program and the Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board (now part of the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board) working in conjunction with the Adelaide Hills Council.