



# Newsletter

Number 56, Autumn 2014



## Art of Nature

Works at Woorabinda

Artists at work: 16th and 17th of August

Exhibition: Environment Centre, Woorabinda

10am - 4pm, August 23rd & 24th

## Art of Nature

Are you, or any of your friends, visual artists?

Continuing the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the saving of the park, the Friends are inviting artists to share their particular vision and interpretation of nature there over two weekends in August.

As part of this year's SALA festival, and with the support of the Adelaide Hills Council, artists will (weather permitting) work in the open air in the park one weekend and exhibit the results the following weekend.

The general public will be welcome to watch the artists at work on the weekend of August 16 and 17, and to view the results in the Environment Centre on the 23rd and 24th.

Artists may work in any medium or format, but their creations must be based on observation in the park. They will be allowed to take photos and sketches and complete their work elsewhere – particularly if the weather is bad.

It will be more a workshop than a formal event, an opportunity for artists to work *en plein air*\* in a natural environment. Unfinished work may be included in the exhibition. The Environment Centre will be open, with hot soup supplied for a gold coin donation. Artists will be welcome to mingle and exchange ideas there with each other.

Our new Patron, Professor Chris Daniels, will open the exhibition at an official launch at 6 pm on Friday August 22.

Anyone who wants to volunteer to help run the event will be more than welcome, staffing the building, assisting artists, hanging the art. . . .

For more information, email [foslp@internode.on.net](mailto:foslp@internode.on.net) or contact Brian Donaghy on 8339 2033.

\* *en plein air*: a French expression which may be roughly translated as "rug up and bring a brolly"

## Photos worth a thousand words

If you missed the Stirling Rotary Photographic Competition, or the exhibition in the Aldgate Café, or even the ever-changing display in the Stirling Library, fear not, you have not missed your chance. The photos from the Aldgate Café were last seen heading towards the library at Gumeracha, and may well continue their wanderings for a while yet.

The notion of joining the Rotary Competition in March and then becoming part of the Adelaide Fringe came from a desire to do something a bit different to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the campaign to save what is now a major part of the park from sub-division.

Both events turned out to be an enormous amount of work but very successful. The special categories for photos from the park in the Rotary competition attracted a wide range of quality shots.

*The café exhibition*



The café exhibition, part of the Adelaide Fringe, was mounted with the aid of the Adelaide Hills Council and the Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM. More than thirty photographs of the park, including a selection of the best from the Rotary

event were displayed, with customers voting for the People's Choice awards. It was due to run for a month but was extended for a week at the café's request.

Meanwhile, the core business of the Friends has continued in the background: regular working bees fighting the long war against invasive weeds, revegetating cleared areas with locally grown native plants, and liaising with Council over a long-term vegetation management plan.

Continuing the 25th anniversary theme, it is hoped to highlight this work later this year with the planting of a revegetation area in Hender. (See next item)

*Toasting the People's Choice winner*



On April 27, since the Autumn Garden Festival is no more, the Friends set up their usual stall during the inaugural Stirling Lanes festival. Once again it proved a useful exercise.

It enables some people to experience a park they may not have known even existed, it alerts others to invasive weeds to watch out for, and this time it was particularly successful in signing up two or three new volunteers for the working bees.

But more are still needed!

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plantings

To bring attention to our work over our first twenty five years in the parks, we are planning a planting day in Hender Reserve in the old rubbish dump area adjacent to Longwood Road. This has been badly degraded and slowly most of the exotic vegetation has been

eradicated. Some isolated plantings have been successful in recent years, and these plantings will boost the revegetation effort. Anne Hicks has prepared the plants and we hope to have some appropriate publicity for the day, probably in August or September.

## Monthly Sunday Working Bee Report

The February and March working bees were held at Woorabinda in the messy vegetation area half way along the railway track. We have had two previous efforts in the last two years to clean this up, and these two working bees were aimed at pushing the blackberry weed front back beyond the good bush so it can be sprayed in the future. A lot of lovely native grass was revealed in this process. Of interest was the revelation of suspected drug planting equipment hidden under a tree, which was reported to the authorities. Seven and eight people attended respectively.

In April, again in Woorabinda, work was done by eight people in the area below the burnt

section where woody weeds have become established over the years. More attention is required to this and adjacent areas in the immediate future.

Madurta was the venue for the recent May working bee, where we worked in the good bush area adjacent to Madurta Avenue. Attention was given to remove the sparse woody weeds from among the best bush to keep it free, while most of the work was done to remove mainly gorse from the section alongside the creek. We had three new volunteers start with us which is very encouraging and this made nine workers for the day, with four regulars away.

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## Monthly Thursday Working Bees

Jane Shoettgen organises these on the last Thursday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00am in Woorabinda. Last month six people attended,

clearing broom from the dam wall and doing some weeding among the blackwoods adjacent to the boardwalk.

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## Conservation Volunteers Working Days

In April and May, Conservation Volunteers Australia provided two days of woody weed removal from the top of the hillside slope at Madurta. This is the first time this area has been worked in and gorse and blackberry are the

main weeds. There were six volunteers each day with an experienced leader, and one of our members attended on a roster basis during the day.

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## Revegetation of the Burnt Area in Woorabinda

As expected the burnt area is revegetating nicely, assisted no doubt by the timely rain in the weeks after the fire which occurred on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Many patches of the low grass *Microlaena* are sprouting from their roots, providing a lovely carpet of green amidst the black ground, while seedlings of the rare plant *Olearia grandiflora* have been spotted.

The root stumps of the beaked hakeas have many new shoots up to 300 mm long and shoots from the tufted native grasses are

appearing. There are thousands of tiny seedlings of *Acacia myrtifolia* which is noted for its rapid emergence after fire as displayed in Hender after a recent fire. Some weeds have been noted and will receive the appropriate attention as the revegetation proceeds. One of the twenty or so small burnt native cherries has shoots coming out of its main stem.

We will continue to monitor this with great interest and will have weed removal working bees as required.

**Disclaimer:** views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor, the committee or the general membership of the Friends of Stirling Linear Park. Contributors to this issue: Brian Donaghy, Bob James.

<b>Sunday Working bee calendar for 2014 – 9 am to 11 am</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>
June 15	Stirling Park	Branch Road
July 20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
August 17	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
September 21	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
October 19	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
November 16	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
December 21	Stirling Park	Branch Road
<b>Thursday Working bees 2014 – 9 am to 11 am</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>
Second Thursday in each month	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive

You are invited to join our working bees at any time. Wear sensible protective clothing, boots and gloves. The Park has a variety of terrain, and can be wet underfoot. Gloves are provided for people using herbicide (swabbing the stumps of woody weeds).

To receive reminder notices for the working bees, or to find out more about them, send an email to bobjames@chariot.net.au. If you are interested in the Thursday working bees, call Jane Schoettgen on 8339 7245.

**Web site:** <http://users.esc.net.au/~slp/>

### **COMMITTEE 2014**

**Kath Bowman** Public Officer, Membership, Website  
8370 9177

**Bob James** Deputy Chair, Working Bee Coordination  
8339 1903

**Meryl Browne** Newsletter 8339 6839

**Janet Pedler** Volunteer Support

**Brian Donaghy** Chairman 8339 2033

**David Ragless** Past Chair, History 8339 1038

**Marilyn Forward** Displays 8339 3162

**Lorri Ragless** Minute Secretary, Publicity 8339 1038

**Philip Hicks** Treasurer, Past Chair 8339 3156

### **Friends of Stirling Linear Park Membership application/renewal**

I/we would like to join/renew membership of the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.  
(Strike out words not applicable)

Membership fee for both individuals and family: 1 year, \$10.00, 5 years, \$40.00

\$.....membership fee is enclosed.

\$.....donation is included. (Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible. A separate receipt will be issued.)

**Name**.....

**Address**.....

.....**Phone**.....

**Email address for sending Newsletter**.....

**Please return to:** Kathy Bowman, Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc., 2 Bogaduck Road, Aldgate 5154