



# Newsletter

**Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.**

**Winter 2008**

## **Stirling Linear Park Management Advisory Committee**

The Management Strategy Plan for Stirling Linear Park, adopted by Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) in mid 2006, provides for a Management Advisory Committee to make recommendations to Council.

The Advisory Committee began meeting in the latter part of 2007 and members of FSLP gave a presentation to the Committee in November 2007, as reported in the Summer 2007-08 Newsletter. Since then, the Committee has been meeting monthly. In addition, individual members or groups of members have been working on specific issues.

Members of the Committee, working with AHC staff, are preparing a draft fire management plan. In April, two FSLP members attended a discussion with relevant Committee members on this subject and subsequently provided comments for inclusion in the draft. We understand that the draft will be available for comment shortly.

## **Opening Of The Walking Season**

The annual Opening of the Walking Season, organised by ARPA Walking Group in conjunction with Walking SA, was held on the lawns in front of the Stirling Library on Sunday, 6 April. The Stirling Business Association played a major role in staging the event, which was opened by Mayor Bill Cooksley. During the day members of walking groups led introductory walks to Stirling Linear Park.

The Friends of Stirling Linear Park's display was in the area outside the front of the Library and members were on hand to publicise the Park and highlight our activities.

The idea of holding the opening in Stirling was that of FSLP member Lorri Ragless who played an important part in arranging this very successful event and coordinating with local businesses. Lorri estimates that about a thousand people visited the display area during the day and about 70 newcomers joined in the introductory walks.

## **Stirling Market Stall**

On Sunday, 23 May the Friends of Stirling Linear Park had a stall at the Stirling Market. The stall was organised by Marilyn Forward who also put together a very impressive display, attracting a lot of interest from passers-by.

Throughout the day Friends members were on hand to publicise the Park and highlight our activities with the aim of raising awareness of the park within the local community and increasing their involvement in Friends activities.

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## Green Corps

A Green Corps team has been working in the southern AHC area for a six month period commencing in January and finishing in July 2008. The team is sponsored by AHC and the Central Hills Green Web, of which FSLP is a member.

The Green Corps team members are Dana (team leader) April, Brett, Gina, Josh, Ryan, Nick, Rachel, Stephen and Tyla.

The team has spent an average of about a day a week working in SLP. Their activities in SLP have included:

- Weeding *Acacia longifolia*, gorse, broom and other weeds mainly in Woorabinda.
- Planting tubestock in Stirling Park and Madurta Reserve. By the time they finish their work, the team will have planted about 2,000 plants grown by Mark Fagan

of the Green Web and 500 plants grown by Trees for Life member Anne Hicks. About 1,000 plants have already been planted in three separate areas in Stirling Park and 1,100 in Madurta, mainly along the creek line with a further 900 to be planted in Madurta during July.

- Weeding and new plantings in the garden below the Woorabinda buildings under the able supervision of Rod McBeath of AHC who has also been involved in many of their other activities.

At various times FSLP supporters and members Harry Gill, Merilyn Browne and Philip Hicks have worked with the team and have appreciated their enthusiasm and willingness to learn. FSLP would like to thank the team for their efforts and wish them well for the future.

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## Is it That Long Ago...?

*(Extracts from the Stirling Linear Park History compiled by David Ragless)*

### Fifteen years ago

In 1993, the District Council of Stirling leased, then bought, the Woorabinda property from the SA Department of Family and Community Services. Council Building Inspector Turloff reported that the main building and bunkhouse were not of a standard that should continue to be used for residential use, unless upgraded.

Later that year, a Council community environmental forum was held at Bridgewater. At the forum, the support group for Madurta Reserve and the Stirling Park Landcare Action Group (forerunner of FSLP) developed the idea that Madurta, Hender, Woorabinda and Stirling Park should be managed as a single park.

### Ten years ago

In 1998, in collaboration with *Bushcheck*, FSLP produced a detailed map of the lake complete with accurate depth contours and the site of springs which maintain summer water levels. A monitoring program was introduced to discover the underwater feeding habits of waterbirds on the lake.

Significant grants were obtained from various sources that year:

- \$5480 from *Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board* to remove willows from

the park creek and revegetate the areas with appropriate local indigenous plants;

- \$2500 from *Natural Heritage Trust* for weed control and revegetation of Stirling Park to improve water quality, native wildlife habitat and visual amenity, and to control peak flood events;
- in conjunction with Council, \$43,500 from the *Regional Open Space Enhancement Scheme* to develop the connecting walkways between Madurta Reserve and Stirling Park. This funding also built the boardwalk on the south-western side of the lake.

### Five years ago

In 2003, FSLP obtained grant funding of \$3350 from *Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board* to establish a waterwise local indigenous native garden around the buildings at Woorabinda Environment Centre. Weed control and some other preparation was done for this project before Council withdrew support for it. FSLP was asked not to proceed until after the establishment of, and advice from, Council's Park Advisory Committee. Subsequently CVA did some planting of stock grown by Council for the project. Further plantings were done recently by the Green Corps team. (*see item above*)

## Recent Working Bees

Recent working bees have continued to be well attended, apart from that in May when just about all of the regulars were away on holidays at the same time. During the time since the last Newsletter we have spent two working bees making progress on the long-term task of cutting and swabbing Gorse in areas on the western slope of Stirling Park. In the most recent working bee in June we concentrated on gorse regrowth in the area adjacent to recent plantings at the southern end of this area. This work should enable us to continue to replant this area in the next year or two.

We have also spent two working bees cutting and swabbing emerging blackberries in the area of Woorabinda to the west of the lake but have left the large patches of older growth blackberries to be worked on by Council staff. We have spent a further working bee cutting and swabbing scattered broom, blackberries and other weeds in the good bush at the north-western end of Madurta Reserve.

As outlined in earlier Newsletters, we have not been scheduling working bees in Hender as Bob James has made such good progress over a long period in clearing much of the good bush of major weed threats. While there are still significant areas of weeds to be cleared from Hender, these are mainly large infestation of weeds such as periwinkle that need to be worked on under Council supervision.

Our next four working bees will focus on clearing Watsonia. This is one of the main weeds growing into the good bush in the park, particularly in Woorabinda and Madurta, and its growing period is from about July to around October. Once again, our strategy will be to swab smaller patches of Watsonia in good bush and the edges of larger patches to stop it spreading into new areas. We are leaving the very large areas of Watsonia to be cut and swabbed, or sprayed if there will be minimal impact on good bush, under the organisation of Mark Fagan of the Green Web.

### Working Bees, Remainder of 2008

Date	Location	Meeting Place
July 20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
August 17	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
September 21	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
October 19	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
November 16	Stirling Park	Branch Road
December 21	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive

**Time: 10.00 am – 12 noon**

A reminder that the Working Bee notices are now being sent out by email to the 'regulars'. If you would like to join us on the third Sunday in the month at 10:00 am, send your email to Bob James at [bojames@chariot.net.au](mailto:bojames@chariot.net.au) and he will include you on the list for working bee reminder notices.

## Recent Fauna Sightings

Three Purple Swamphens have been in residence around the Woorabinda Lake for several months and have been spending their time between the reeds on the western side of the lake and their main feeding area below the Woorabinda buildings.

Two White-throated Gerygones were recorded calling in Hender Reserve by Chris James. These were reported in the Birds SA Newsletter of February 2008, in the Bird Records section covering species listed as rare, uncommon or not recorded in SA or a region of SA.

The large male Kangaroo reported in Woorabinda in the previous two Newsletters is still in the area and is sometimes seen feeding along the path below Keroma Drive.

Hardheads have returned to the lake in recent times after a few months' absence.

Scarlet Robins have been seen at a number of different locations in SLP including the area immediately to the east of the Woorabinda buildings.

Any other observations would be welcome for inclusion in future editions.

**Friends of Stirling Linear Park Committee  
2007-08**

Kathy Bowman	8370 9177
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Marilyn Forward	8339 3162
Phillip Hicks	8339 3156
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**Disclaimer:** Contributors' 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 Inc.

**Contributors to this issue** include Philip Hicks, David Ragless and Merilyn Browne.

**Affiliations**

The Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc. is a member of Friends of Parks Inc. We are also a registered Landcare Group and a member of both Greening Australia and Trees for Life.



**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 is enclosed.

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

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

**Name**.....

**Address**.....

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

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

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