



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

NEWS LETTER

Number 64, October 2019

We're 30!

Come and celebrate with us at the Annual General Meeting.

When: Friday 22nd November 2019

Where: Woorabinda Environment Centre, Woorabinda Drive, Stirling

Time: Join us at 5:30 pm for a walk around the Woorabinda Lake and /or drinks and nibbles at the building.

And at 6:30 pm for a short meeting, with special guest Anita Aspinall, who was mayor at the time the official "Friends" were formed. David Ragless will present a short series of history photos. There will be a Celebratory Toast.

Then at 7.30 pm we are putting on a BBQ with salads and sweets. Gourmet sausages provided for all. **Just bring a bottle** (and suitable food if you have special dietary needs.)

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Concordia's koala class

Following the success of their visit last year, Concordia College again brought their two reception classes up to Woorabinda on August 14, for a lesson on living things.

Fauna rescuers Anne and Don Bigham obligingly travelled up from the city once again with an informative koala power point presentation specifically designed for younger children.

The star of their show last year had been Goldie, the gentle koala, who had allowed all the kids to give her a little pat last year.

Unfortunately, the Department of Environment and Water had changed the wildlife rules with effect from July 1. The Bighams now had to fill in a detailed form to apply for permission to take any of their koalas to a public place. Under the new regulations they also had to promise not to let anyone come within 1.5 metres of the koala, except its handler.

The process involved a number of phone calls and took about two weeks, and it looked at one stage as though permission would not be granted in time.

Then sadly, a few days before the event, Goldie suddenly died for no apparent reason. She had been reared by the Bighams since she had been rescued from her mother's pouch, after her mother had been killed on the road. They brought instead a much grumpier koala, who clearly would not have wanted to have been patted by anyone anyway.

Nevertheless, Sharon Cosh, Reception Teacher at Concordia, was very happy with the visit.

Anne Bigham fielded questions from the 50 young students and held their attention throughout with her descriptions of the lives and antics of koalas, from jelly bean to adult.



Anne Bigham and some of the Concordia students

What a ripper!

The Woorabinda reserves have been known as a biodiversity hot spot for years, now. But a sighting in mid August has excited national interest, because it seems there is a beastie in Woorabinda which has not been recorded in the Adelaide Hills since the 19th century.

Adrian Iwanicki was going for a walk in the reserve when he noticed what looked like a large black eel in the overflow channel from the Woorabinda Lake.

“It was quite large, about as thick as my upper arm, and maybe a metre in length,” he said. “It was definitely alive – when I touched it, it moved.”

Adrian took a couple of photos and later sent them to the Friends of Woorabinda and to the South Australian Museum.

Ralph Foster, Collection Manager, Ichthyology Section at the SA Museum, said it was a “very

interesting sighting” and identified it as either a Shorthead Lamprey (*Mordacia mordax*) or a Pouch Lamprey (*Geotria australis*).

“Both used to be commonly found in the Mt Lofty Ranges but only the Pouch Lamprey has been recorded very nearby, in Cox Creek, Bridgewater,” he said.

“That record is from way back in 1879 and most of the records of both species are from the late 19th/early 20th centuries.

“I can’t really tell from the photo which it is but I’m starting to favour the Pouch Lamprey because of the nearby record and because it is the larger of the two species (to 60 cm) and this looks fairly large.”

At his suggestion, the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves uploaded Adrian’s photograph and comments to the social networking wildlife website iNaturalist.

Mark McGrouther, who manages iNaturalist’s Australasian fishes project, described Adrian’s photograph as “a ripper of an observation”.

He did not challenge the identification of the creature as a Pouch Lamprey, and provided links to other lamprey experts.

Adrian’s record has since been included in the Atlas of Living Australia, Australia’s official national biodiversity database.



*The Pouch Lamprey in the overflow channel
Image: Adrian Iwanicki*

Bushcare and weed control Monthly Sunday working bee report

Over the last year an average of 10 volunteers attended our 10 Sunday working bees, excluding the washed-out August working bee. As usual, our working bees were in Woorabinda and Madurta Reserves and Stirling Park. Overall, we made good progress.

In summary, we generally try to follow the recognised Bradley method of bushcare, in which the three basic principles are:

- Work outwards from the good bush areas towards areas of weed;
- Minimal disturbance to the environment;
- Do not overclear.

The rationale for this approach was set out in detail in the October 2018 Newsletter.

Overall, we try to work on a range of weed species in an area of good bush but at some times of the year we concentrate on a particular species as it only emerges for part of the year before dying off. The emphasis over the last few months has been on reducing the amount of *Watsonia* regrowth in the good bush areas while we have the opportunity to do so during its late Winter and Spring growing season. In many good bush areas we are making good progress in reducing *Watsonia* to isolated patches of small numbers of plants.

Over the remainder of the year we concentrated on a wider range of weeds found in and around the margins of areas of

good quality bush including mainly Gorse, Broom and Blackberry. Earlier this year we attempted to reduce the amount of Arum Lily along the creek line in Madurta with limited success despite persistent follow-up since then.

In two working bees we were not able to cut and swab due to the risk of using poison in wet or potentially wet weather. Instead, we concentrated on pulling small weeds. This, together with the washed out August working bee, has meant that we have not been able to work in some areas included in our plans such as around the edges of the Woorabinda Lake.

Thanks to all of our working bee volunteers and to Marilyn and David, Lorri and David and Jane for providing the much appreciated morning tea after the working bees.

Council funded weed control work

Bush for Life teams funded by Adelaide Hills Council have continued their bushcare work in Hender Reserve. Bob James reports that they have concentrated on removing Three-cornered Garlic which is also becoming more of a problem weed on the margins of the good bush in other sections of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves.

Council staff have advised that funding is available for specialist weed control contractors to undertake further work on larger scale weed infestations in WBR coming months.

Working Bees for the rest of 2019		
<i>Sunday Working Bees 9 am - 11 am</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Meet at</i>
October 20	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
November 17	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
December 15	Stirling Park	Branch Road
<i>Thursday Working Bees 9 am - 11 am. Meet at Woorabinda Drive</i>		
October 31, November 28		

Annual General Meeting, 22nd November 2019

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurers Report'
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Election of FOWBR Committee
7. Any Other Business

We invite interested members of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves to join the Committee. The Committee works closely with staff from the Adelaide Hills Council and provides important input into the running and maintenance of the Reserves. Talk to an existing Committee member if you would like more information.

Committee Nomination Form

Candidate's Name	Signature	email	phone
.....

Proposer's Name	Signature	email	phone
.....

Candidates and proposers must be members of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves.

Contributors to this issue include Brian Donaghy, Lorri Ragless, Kath Bowman, Philip Hicks and Marilyn Browne.

Affiliations: The Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc. is a member of Friends of Parks Inc. It is a registered Landcare Group and a member of Greening Australia, Trees for Life and the Central Hills Green Web.

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 Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc.



Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Membership application/renewal

I/we would like to join/renew membership of the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves 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.)

*Payment included / Bank transfer made (*please circle your payment method)

Name.....

Address.....

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

Email address for sending Newsletter.....

Please return this form to: Brian Donaghy, Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves Inc., 3 Branch Road, Aldgate 5154

Bank transfer details:

BSB: 105-079

Account: 043885940

Ensure you include your name and "Subs" or "Subs/Don)" for identification of your payment.