

FRIENDS OF WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE

NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER 2003
NUMBER 5**



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From the President

A Blueprint for the Future

A belated 'Happy New Year' to all and a warm welcome to 2003!

We all share a passion for conserving and restoring the rare grassy woodland that graces the Waite CR. But how should we go about it? With dozens of problems constantly screaming for our attention, how do we decide which to give the highest priority? How can we target our efforts to ensure the best use of our scarce resources?

What is needed is a clear vision of just exactly what the goal of restoration efforts should be, and an agreed set of methods and principles to apply in pursuing that goal. With over ten years' experience in management of the reserve, and growing interest in the area from many stakeholders, it seems an opportune time to distil our collective wisdom into a plan of action that will both consolidate our many achievements to date, and act as a road map for the future.

To this end, the Waite CR Management Committee¹ is currently preparing a management plan for the reserve that will formalize the framework within which restoration activities by the FWCR and other volunteers can proceed.

Management plans can often turn out to be cumbersome documents full of vague motherhood statements that make great bookends but don't lead to much in the way of action. The committee has deliberately striven to avoid this trap and to make the plan concise, flexible and above all explicit in its recommendations for what works should be undertaken as a priority.

The plan will set out the objectives of reserve management, explicitly state the ecological principles to be adopted, list a prioritised set of management actions and maintain an archive of best-practice techniques. It will be updated at regular intervals to incorporate relevant suggestions, new developments in the theory and techniques of ecological restoration, and new management issues that arise. Expert advice will be solicited from affiliate advisors chosen for the relevance of their ecological expertise and history of association with the reserve. By posting the plan on the forthcoming reserve website, we aim to obtain constructive comments from a wide cross-section of interested parties and thus continue to refine and improve the plan.

Our hope is that by operating under an agreed set of principles that are constantly open to improvement, the management of the reserve will become more focused and efficient...and the precious environment we value so much will become more enjoyable than ever.

¹ The Waite CR committee was convened in October 2002 by the reserve manager, Jennifer Gardner, to advise the University on management issues. Current members are: Bryan Both, Scott Field, Waldo Bushman and Stephen Wait.

Scott Field

Working Bee Report

Dear friends. Many of you are no doubt wondering what's become of working bees. Late last year the committee decided to suspend working bees over summer. Recent attendees will have been aware of this. To the rest of you I apologise for the late notice; beyond a special mailout, this newsletter is the first chance to inform you.

The decision was influenced by a couple of considerations: Firstly, it was looking like a hot, dry and snake-infested Summer ahead (true so far). Secondly, there's not a lot to do in Summer except kill olives, and many people seem to quickly tire of that (can't think why!). Then there's the school holiday factor, with many people going away. All in all it seemed a good idea to give everyone a break and come back refreshed in Autumn. Expect a bulletin in March, probably about an April startup, depending on the season.

Otherwise, things in the reserve are bubbling along nicely. A Greencorps project has commenced, primarily working on olive control in Stone Reserve, and Work For the Dole is also cranking up, under Stephen Wait's supervision. A new batch of Urrbrae High students have begun their Activ-8 program under Chris Kaczan. The Mitcham signs have been installed and look fantastic. A mountain of data has been gathered by Waldo Bushman for the GIS mapping project, and awaits final processing. The Management Committee made a great start on the new management plan last year, and is expected to reconvene shortly. All things considered, we have cause to be optimistic about the year ahead. I never cease to be amazed at and grateful for the diversity of talent in our ranks, and the cheerful dedication that people show for the cause.

Regards,

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Friends of Waite Arboretum

INVITE YOU TO

“Natural Environment”

an audiovisual presentation by

Waldo Bushman

Waldo has worked on regenerating damaged bushland and pioneered bringing back the original natural environment to places devoid of it. He has published, broadcast and taught.

8 pm Monday, 24 February 2003

**Urrbrae House Ballroom
University of Adelaide – Waite Campus
(enter from Fullarton Rd, Urrbrae)**

ADMISSION FREE

All Welcome

Enquiries: 8303 7405

A gold coin donation towards refreshments would be appreciated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve will be held on:

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2003; FROM 8-10pm
IN THE DRAWING ROOM, URRBRAE HOUSE**

Nominations for the Committee of The Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve are now being accepted. See below for the form to complete if you wish to nominate. There will be an address of local natural history interest. The name of the speaker will be announced later.

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to continue your membership of Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve we would like you to complete the forms below and return them with any subscription/ donation enclosed. Cheques should be made out to The Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve.

Return to: The Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve, The University of Adelaide – Waite Campus, Glen Osmond, SA 5064

Membership Application Form
(please print clearly)

Name/s.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

E-mail.....

Membership is free. However **voluntary subscription rates** are as follows:

- \$10 Individual
- \$5 Individual concession
- \$15 Family
- \$40 Corporation/ Institutional

I enclose a voluntary subscription of \$.....

I enclose a donation of \$.....

Total \$.....Date.....

Membership Questionnaire

Please complete questions that apply to you. Where not applicable leave blank.

- I would like to participate in **working bees**, please keep me informed.
If you are interested in participating **working bees** which day suits you best: No preference Saturdays Sundays
- I am interested in **fundraising**.
- I am interested in **organisation and administration**.

Do you have any specialised skills/ relevant experience to contribute? Any suggestions or comments?.....

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I wish to nominate for the Committee of The Friends of Waite Conservation

Reserve : YES NO

Name.....

Signed.....Date.....