

# Friends of Willunga Basin inc.

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## ***Chairman's Report to Annual General Meeting, 23 September 2009***

Welcome to our equinoctial gathering. My apologies for not being able to attend.

During the last year we have seen the usual successes and failures expected by any group that advocates for sensible, well -informed development within a sustainable and resilient natural environment.

I believe the worst outcome in terms of planning was delivered by the ERD Court with the approval of a supermarket in the Aldinga/Port Willunga Historic Township .The traffic issues alone will eventually destroy the very fabric and militate against the ambience required for tourism at this once rural, now to become very urban, site. This has been a great disappointment to all groups concerned; the Southern Community Coalition is to be commended for its solidarity and fine efforts. We must fight for earlier community input into council structure plans, to be given as much consideration as developer input.

A big single issue outside the Basin has been the Desalination Plant; the requirement of large amounts of electricity, its placement in the low hydrological-energy environment and consequent deleterious effects upon the Gulf St. Vincent as well as the apparent dismissal of stormwater harvesting, its reuse, water conservation and recycling measures, has drawn comment from us. We have joined the Save Our Gulf Coalition.

Local issues with which we have been involved include the following:

- Vehicles on the Beach Advisory Group meetings in April, May and June. The City of Onkaparinga Council appears to have made a decision to defer a decision on this matter...and this may allow for better environmental outcomes.
- Maslin Beach stormwater issues. We met with Minister Weatherill and Department of Environment and Conservation CEO, Allan Holmes, at the Maslin Beach quarry site to discuss siltation of the gulf, a holistic approach to wetlands management and treatment of stormwater within the "rehabilitated" quarry. Had further discussions with Steve Sergi at EPA. Minister did not see need for wetland.
- Council Draft Residential Infill and Desired Character DPA – Submission sent.
- Display and membership drive at Willunga Almond Blossom Festival.
- Met with Leon Bignell following discussions at Willunga Almond Blossom Festival – Leon on side re maintaining the Basin for food and wine production/tourism.
- *Planning the Adelaide We All Want* Draft 30 year plan – Submission raised.
- Objection to Aldinga Scrub Burn.
- Support for residents at McLaren Flat near Turkey processing plant re increased working hours.

- Support for Robert Brokenshire's Willunga Basin Protection Bill, including letters to all state politicians.
- Support for Myponga Wind Farm.

As a member of the Southern Community Coalition we attended the SCC Spring Forum and were pleased to see the Government's commitment to maintaining open space at Bowering Hill with continuity from "the vines to the sea".

And successes!

- The knoll at Aldinga is now officially named Mukutilla/John Lawrie Reserve
- Chas Martin was awarded the Individual Environment Award by City of Onkaparinga for his over twenty year's commitment to the Washpool.
- Councillor Yvonne Wenham appointed as official Council contact for FOWB
- We have a Website!
- We have a new look Newsletter.

I wish, on behalf of all members of our organisation, to thank the Committee members for the unstinting efforts that each has made this year and personally thank them for the convivial way in which meetings have been conducted...it has been a very real pleasure to sit as the Chair.

Chris Davies