

# FRIENDS OF WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE Inc.



## COMING EVENTS

### Film Show

#### “A United Kingdom”

**When**

Sunday January 22nd

3pm for refreshments  
and raffle

4.00pm for Film

**Where**

Capri Theatre  
141 Goodwood Rd  
Goodwood

**Cost**

\$20 per ticket which  
includes a glass of wine  
or beer or a soft drink.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE

## President's message

Have you noticed the extra spring in my step lately? It might have something to do with the fact that I recently retired. “Retirement” may not be the right word for what I envisage as the next stage of my life ...which is to spend more time in active environmental volunteering. In a recent blog, Moira McGarvey calls for a new word to describe what we do when we finish paid work. Synonyms for “retire” such as ‘retreat’, ‘surrender’ and ‘rusticate’ somehow don’t fit with her ... or me.

As I look around at working bees I notice I am not the only one in this category. Our group, and other Friends of Parks groups, seem to be dominated by so-called retirees or at least those of retiring age. And rather than killing time, these people are more often than not spending a significant part of their time killing weeds and doing other environmental good deeds. And a happy, healthy lot they are.

Many of you will know the *Bush for Life* program run by *Trees for Life* where volunteer bush-carers are matched up with and rehabilitate small areas of public bushland. A few years ago I suggested the Friends adopt something similar for the reserve.

It was a way I thought of catering for those who wanted to participate outside structured working bees and to gain the personal satisfaction of nurturing their own patch of bush. I coined it *Adopt-a-Patch*.

Over the couple of months since retiring I have spent a lot of time on the eastern slopes of Urrbrae Ridge. In that time my feelings have grown for this 3 hectare patch and its 80-odd resident native plants and I now formally declare my intention to adopt. And so as you are my witness I solemnly pledge to clear all remaining olives, to keep it clear of all olives and woody weeds, to suppress other weeds, and to promote and regenerate the health of this wonderful remnant so long as I can struggle up Wild Dogs Glen. Perhaps “regeneration” might be a better term for what I call the next stage of my life.

I take this opportunity to wish you a happy regenerative Christmas.

*Peter Bird*

# Working Bees

## WORKING BEE REPORT

Another one bites the dust. The last official working bee of the year on 3 December is past. During this season, there were 16 working bees (none missed due to weather), 28 people contributed 430 hours of environmental labours. Thank you all for your wonderful efforts.

Most time was spent controlling many thousands of olive seedlings and some larger olives. Although we didn't quite re-visit the entire reserve, we were able to concentrate on the worst bits including some problem areas missed in previous years. These included Netherby Gully, the lower slopes of Pultenaea Hill and eastern Urrbrae Ridge.



**Noel Nicholls doing battle with South African Daisy in Wild Dogs Glen**

While the focus was squarely on olives, we also treated other woody weeds such as Hawthorn and Buckbush as encountered. We also removed known populations of Perennial Veldt Grass, False Caper and African Weed Orchid from some of the best parts of the reserve. Next year we will continue to hammer olives in the above areas but also in parts of Caves Gully and Stone Reserve where EBS contractors have recently cleared mature olives. This year's prolonged growing season ensures there will be plenty of seedlings next year.



**Erinne Stirling teaching Chloe Yu how to use a tree popper on olives.**

Working bees will reconvene in April but there are plenty of weeds and other jobs in the reserve to keep you amused if you wish to continue on any cooler days over summer.

*Peter Bird*



**Jennifer Gardner surveys some of the results of the 5th November Working Bee**



# Beetle Bee

The cold windy day and the annual Xmas Pageant, meant that only 6 hardy souls arrived for the Beetle Bee on November 12th. The event was intended to be a follow up Peter Lang's excellent AGM talk about Jewel Beetles. In theory we should have had a nice warm November day to bring the beetles out, but such was not to be.

Peter started the by showing us some of his Jewel Beetle collection and giving us some hints on where to look for them. Some sweeps of the outer foliage of various wattles yielded very little, as did the hunt for beetles beneath the bark of Eucalypts. However we did find this very placid gecko.



Our walk continued down through Netherby Knoll and yielded very little until Clinton netted what turned out to be the only Jewel Beetle of the day.



*Agrilus hypoleucus*

*Agrilus* is a herbivore, with the larvae feeding on the outer wood (cambium) of Golden Wattles.



Ground Shield Bug (*Choerocoris paganus*).

This is not a Jewel Beetle, even though it is brightly coloured. This is a Ground Shield Bug (*Choerocoris paganus*). It is a sap sucker that lives on the seeds of Native Hop Bushes.



Jennifer Gardner examines one of the specimens caught during the walk, while Peter Lang explains what it is we have found.

Our thanks to Peter Lang for the preparation work that he put into the walk and for his very considerable entomological and botanical knowledge.

*Clinton Garrett*



## In the Reserve

The White Goodenia (*Goodenia albiflora*) is known from only a few locations in the reserve. It is a species whose distribution is restricted to the Adelaide region and whose status is listed as uncommon. On a positive note, it is an easy species to reproduce from cuttings.



**White Goodenia *Goodenia albiflora***

Late Spring and summer is also flowering time for the Blue Devils (*Eryngium ovinum*) in the Reserve.



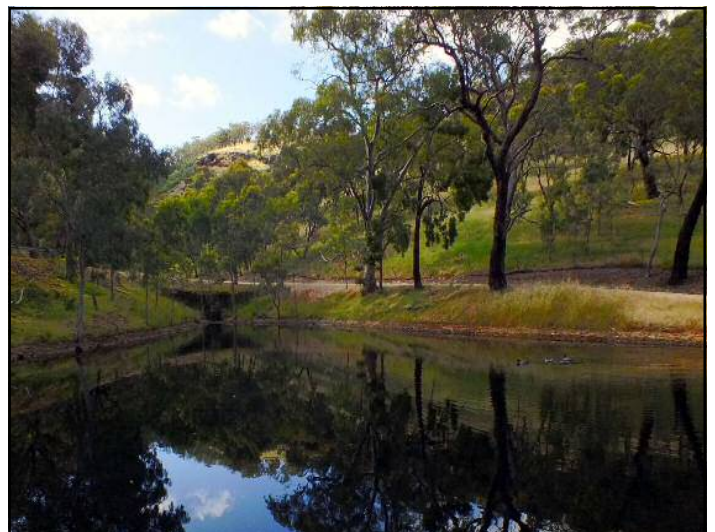
**Blue Devil *Eryngium ovinum***



**King Spider Orchid, *Caladenia tentaculata***

This spring was a good one for some species of orchid, King Spider orchids did particularly well both in the number of flowering plants and the length of flowering season. It pleasing to see on a recent visit that many had been successfully pollinated thus insuring a continuing population.

Technically the Dam in Wild Dogs Glen is not in the reserve, however it gets its runoff from the reserve. The local Black Ducks and Maned Geese have taken to it in a big way.



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