



President's Message

What interesting times we have ahead – with a new Premier about to step forward, and further changes expected. There is no doubt that the “change-over arrangements” have destabilised the Government so let us hope that we see some shift in policy to provide greater environmental protection.

The Marine Parks have been on our agenda, as you will see from our submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee, which is reproduced on pages 8-9.

Science Week is an important event on our calendar and I sincerely hope that many of you were able to enjoy the wonderful exhibits and open science learning that was provided. The Friends co-hosted the Environment Protection Water Quality stall where we flew our flag and gave away hundreds of our “Gulf St Vincent a Precious Asset” booklets.

New interpretive signs have been erected along the northern metropolitan beaches [see inside] and they play such an important role in reminding visitors of the importance and richness of the coastal dune system. We are probably lucky to have any left at all, and the signage aims to alert us all to the need to protect and preserve these unique habitats. Our sincere thanks to the Marine Discovery Centre Director Tim Hoile artist Alison Harvey and their sponsors on their work of informing the community of what we very often fail to appreciate.

We are now facing a huge challenge of population growth and how it will affect the way we live and where we live in the future. New large-scale developments are being approved, with more on the drawing board. Higher density living on transport corridors seems to be the flavour of Government and whilst the State 30 Year Plan is visionary in many aspects, it

seems to fail on the issues of infrastructure and sustainability. Communities are rightly concerned and are raising their voices wanting to have a say in how our future will be developed and structured. Built form is important – and so is the provision of essential services, the process to provide power and the necessary controls on pollution. Food sources, sustainability and growing consumer demand that are part of driving the economy need to be given high priority in the larger debate.

Increased population also means increased waste and how it is going to be managed. We have realised that we can't keep dumping in land fill because we are running out of space and our marine environment is already choking and dying so we need the ideas and skills of all the community to be involved in this ever growing crisis facing us right now.

We have big challenges ahead and we all have an opportunity to help find solutions for the future.

Jim Douglas
President





Friends of Gulf St Vincent AGM Henley Community Centre 3rd April 2011

Around 40 people attended the 2010-11 AGM in April. In addition to the people who attended from the Metro region, we were particularly pleased to welcome a contingent from Thompsons Beach.

Kaurna Elder and Friends' member Lynette Crocker gave a welcome to country to those attending the meeting.

President and Secretary's Report to Members

Our principal objective is to foster a unified community approach to the protection and wise use of the Gulf of St Vincent.

It is our pleasure to present this report on highlights of the Friends' activities over the past year.

- The Friends were delighted to receive notification in May 2010 that the Minister for Urban Development and Planning had revoked the major development status of the Stansbury Marina proposal. The Oyster Bay Preservation Committee was commended for its sustained campaign against the marina (which was the subject of the Friends Forum in Nov 2009).
- On 15th July 2010 a delegation from the Friends met with Paul Caica, Minister for the Environment and Conservation, Minister for the River Murray and Minister for Water following his appointment to those portfolios. The four primary issues raised were:
 - the government's commitment to the findings of the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study
 - Torrens Task Force recommendations
 - The review of dredging regulations
 - Impact on the marine environment of the Port Stanvac desalination plant
- On Sunday September the 26th 2010 we held a Forum at the Semaphore Surf Lifesaving Club entitled **Water Quality and Why it Matters**. Around 40 people attended to hear from a range of South Australian marine experts. The Forum was opened by Minister Paul Caica.
- During the year the Friends gave support in response to a number of relevant requests from other Coastal/Environmental groups, including:
 - A submission by the Tennyson Dunes Group for heritage listing of the Tennyson Dunes – the only remaining dune reserve in the metropolitan area
 - Support of the Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group in opposing development plans for Torrens Island
 - Support, along with the Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association, for commencement of stage three of the Torrens Wetlands. We are pleased to note that the City of Charles Sturt wrote to the AMLR NRM Board on 28th February supporting the plan for the third stage of the wetlands in the Torrens River Break Out Creek.
- During the last year the Friends received funding for a major community monitoring project - the **Secchi Project**. It has been slow to get off the ground but now, in partnership with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, we expect to begin this exciting new citizen science project. We are aiming to recruit volunteers at sites around the Gulf, where there are safe access points to deep water, to take regular measurements of water clarity. These will be entered into a database which will enable us to see pollution or runoff 'hotspots'.
- You may have noticed the new promotional banner that is an addition to our promotional materials. We have also continued to distribute our booklet "Gulf St Vincent – A Precious Asset" and encourage you to help us spread the word by suggesting that people look at it on the Friends' website.
- Rob Bosley, who joined the Friends Committee following the 2010 AGM was nominated to attend the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board Coastal Ambassador Training Course, on behalf of the Friends. Rob completed the course and

is now a fully fledged Coastal Ambassador.

- Two issues of Blue Swimmer (#17 and #18) have been produced in the past year and we have some printed copies here. They can also be accessed on the Friends website.
- A number of members of the Friends have expressed interest in buying flags that can be used at home or on boats. The Committee has obtained quotes and if anyone is interested in ordering a flag, see one of the committee members after the meeting.

President Jim Douglas gave a short update on **Torrens Task Force** news and activities in recent weeks. Don Bursill spoke on radio about the continuing algal outbreaks in the Torrens. The Adelaide Oval upgrade project is diverting money from the Torrens cleanup. What the Friends HAVE achieved is to get the City of Charles Sturt to support planning of the third stage of the wetlands on the lower reaches of the Torrens.

The business of the Friends is managed by a group of dedicated volunteers, who meet as required to organise events such as Forums, decide upon future activities and progress projects such as the Secchi Project.

In the past year the Committee has comprised Jim Douglas as President, John Cugley as Treasurer, Angela Gackle as Secretary, and John Caldecott, Rob Bosley, Val Wales and Andrew Winkler as general members. Meetings were held in June 2010, October 2010 and January 2011. Other business is conducted between meetings via email or telephone.



AGM General Business

Cultural Mapping project

Lynette Crocker made an appeal for public assistance with a **cultural mapping** project.

The Kurna People of the Adelaide Plains (Mikka Wamma) and City of Holdfast Bay have a New Template project via Glen Millar (Community Development Manager at Holdfast Bay) who has had ongoing contact with Kurna Nation regarding the Tjilbruke Track at Kingston Park, where he has organised Kurna Interpretive Arts installation projects.

Holdfast Bay has provided a small grant to begin the cultural mapping exercise, and the History Council will be involved. The project will be through the eyes of an Aboriginal warrior (Murrwirra Burka) and the project is interested in locating any records or items or people who can add to the knowledge of Kurna presence, history, culture and activities in the area that are worth recording in a multi-media project called Cultural Mapping.

Examples include the Arrowsmith Map (see picture below left) which contains Kurna information about original place names (eg Cowiandilla was the former name of Glenelg).

It is hoped that approaching the community directly will flush out new information that has not been recorded before – from personal collections and items of everyday people that have a story to tell about space and place and belongingness in both cultures.

The first area under focus is Holdfast Bay, Old Tapleys Hill Road, but it is hoped that other councils will also add to the funding and that the whole of Adelaide will eventually be involved and the project will be owned by the whole of the community – Our Legacy for the Future.

Anyone with information can contact:

[Paul Burger on 0405 739 305](tel:0405739305) or
[Glenn Millar on 0407 391 579](tel:0407391579)

[After the meeting, Members present from Charles Sturt and Walkerville Councils expressed their eagerness to participate.]



Marine Parks in South Australia

Following the AGM this year we had invited speakers to give presentations on the topic of Marine Parks. This initiative is one that the Friends support strongly, and we were interested to hear about the progress of the process for determining the location and extent of the proposed parks and some of the issues that have arisen in the past year or so.

Jon Emmett, Project Coordinator Marine Parks

Marine parks are a relatively new thing for South Australia, but are not new globally. There are around 5,000 worldwide, and are a way of managing the marine environment as a conservation initiative.

A common objection that is raised is why are marine parks necessary if fisheries are sustainable?

Fisheries focus on SOME species, but reserves preserve ecosystems intact. We need to ensure conservation as well as management.

The objectives of the Marine Parks network is to preserve variability and diversity of species and habitats within SA's eight marine bioregions.

In the South Australian marine environment temperature is a major determinant of what can survive where (along with depth, exposure to waves etc). This has resulted in our unique range of biotypes.

Marine parks should represent and protect ecosystems in each bioregion.

What are we trying to protect?

The proposed zones within Marine Parks may contain restricted access zones, which are generally very small areas

within a Park.

There are likely to be special purpose areas - such as wharves, other pre-existing infrastructure or specific areas which will have .

Sanctuary Zones should consist of good, functioning examples of marine habitats that have been captured before they are threatened.

Fourteen local advisory groups across the State have been involved in the Marine Park planning process.

The groups were given a starting point, based on the advice of a scientific advisory group, rather than a blank map. Some groups have been very active in networking and providing advice.

The Marine Park program should be wound up by the end of 2012.

For more information about the Parks and the process visit the website at:

www.marineparks.sa.gov.au/

Note: In May the department released revised plans for the Marine Park network. In addition a parliamentary committee has been established to "investigate the science underpinning the draft marine park plan and potential effects on professional and recreational fishing".





Rob Palmer – Marine Parks spokesperson, Wilderness Society of SA

Media coverage about Marine Parks ramped up after November 2010, when the maps of proposed parks went live. The issues are based on misinformation and scare mongering.

Science supporting marine parks

There have been extensive studies over 40 years. In 1937 the first marine park was declared off Green Island, Queensland.

150 scientists signed an open letter to the Prime Minister in support of Marine Parks.

Marine parks make a valid contribution to marine science through habitat protection of marine communities.

Access to Sanctuary Zones

What can't you do in a Sanctuary Zone? You can't take anything out of them, for example, fishing or oil drilling. Even so, fishing will be allowed from all jetties in SA (including those on KI, Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula) and breakwalls.

Some recent myths about Marine Parks

1. They are a threat to regional economies

There is no evidence to suggest property values will decline. In 2000, 2% of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was in Sanctuary Zones, and was valued at \$1bn. In 2004 Queensland put 33% of the reef into no take reserves, and the value is now \$5bn. It provides an opportunity to diversify the economic base and appeals to divers and snorkellers.

2. Marine Sanctuaries will affect house prices

It has been reported that Sanctuary Zones will cause a drop in house prices. At Durian Bay north of Perth house prices have increased by 170% and homes are being marketed by developers using the Marine Park proximity as a selling feature.

3. Marine Sanctuary zones do nothing to stop land-based impacts

Development will be more tightly regulated in areas adjacent to sanctuaries, particularly with regard to stormwater runoff and sewage discharge.

Main points to keep in mind are:

- SA fish stocks are under serious pressure, with all but one target species either fully fished or depleted, including the southern garfish
- Marine parks will help protect SA's unique marine life, 85-90% of which is found nowhere else on Earth.
- Just 1% of SA's unique marine life is presently protected, and all of us would agree that isn't good enough
- The spill over effect from marine sanctuaries is well documented - where fish move out of a no-take zone and into a fishing area. This is backed up by credible scientific research. This will result in more fish - not less fishing!
- There will be benefits to the fishing industry – refer to Jan 2011 literature review "More than fishy business" by Melissa Nursey-Bray of Uni of Adelaide.

Questions from the audience followed Rob's presentation.



Q. How will Parks be policed?

A. It is hoped that the vast majority of the population will comply, but a resident adjacent to a proposed park claims that there is no policing.

Peter Emmet responded that DENR is speaking to Fisheries re combining monitoring resources. The community could also be involved in vigilance

Q. What signage and promotion is planned?

A. Signs will be prominent at jetties and boat ramps. Updates of GPS software and navigation charts will show the zones. Interstate signage is generally quite good.

Thompsons Beach resident suggested that multilingual signs be erected in a range of locations.

People in favour of marine parks need to be more visible and vocal to show that not all of the community is opposed to them. At the moment a well coordinated misinformation anti-campaign is making much more noise and impact than those who support the marine parks.

TENNYSON DUNES OPEN DAY

Sunday 18th September 2011 11 am - 2 pm

Come and see Adelaide's most significant pre-European coastal dunes with a guided walk by the dedicated Tennyson Dunes Group volunteers.

Learn about the unique plants and animals that live there and what we are doing to conserve them.

Walks leave every half hour from the Tennyson Dunes car park, Military Road, Tennyson, bus stop 32A.

WATCH OUT FOR THE SIGNS

Native plant experts will be there to answer your questions on growing native plants in your own garden. Some native plants will be given away free. Charles Sturt Environmental Officer Rata Luckens and Emma Stephens, NRM Coast, Estuary and Marine Officer will also be there to answer your queries.



SPECIAL GUEST: Victor Gostin

Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Adelaide University.





Flying the Flag at Science Alive 2011!

Over August 5 to 7, 2011 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Water Quality Branch partnered with the Friends of Gulf St Vincent and Year 7 students from Sunrise Christian School Morphett Vale to have a display booth at the National Science Week Science Alive event held at the Adelaide showgrounds.

The booth focused on water quality issues relating to Adelaide's coastal waters, the Adelaide region, the Mount Lofty Ranges and there was information on water issues in the River Murray Darling Basin. The breadth of water quality information was a draw card to senior students and the many teachers who attended the event on the Friday for a Science Careers Day.

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent Flag was on display at one end of the booth with the booklet 'Gulf St Vincent – A Precious Asset' and back issues of the Blue Swimmer newsletter available for interested people to pick up. A secchi disc was on display with other estuarine and freshwater monitoring equipment from Adelaide Region NRM Education – formerly KESAB Waterwatch.

The real draw card for the booth was the models depicting what practical action people could take at home, in their backyards and local communities for water quality improvement. These models were produced by Year 7 students from Sunrise Christian School Morphett Vale under supervision of staff of the EPA Water Quality Branch. These models provided some greenery to the booth and created considerable interest for people to come and discuss the models. Some of the models were wet models that people could pour water over and see where the water went e.g. from roads to wetlands or onto grassed areas and permeable paving to soak into groundwater. A checklist was given away with practical action people could take at home to improve water quality.

Overall Science Alive 2011 was a very well attended event with over 23,000 people estimated to have visited over the three days. Approximately 2,000 students and their teachers visited in the Friday, and over 8,000 parents, students, children and grandparents visited on the Saturday and 13,000 were estimated to have visited Science Alive on the Sunday.

A big thankyou to all those involved from the EPA Water Quality Branch, Friends of Gulf St Vincent, Sunrise Christian School Morphett Vale, and Adelaide Region NRM Education who contributed time and resources to make the display happen to fly the flag for Gulf St Vincent and improving water quality across the Adelaide region.





Contacts

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29/07/2011

Submission to Select Committee on Marine Parks in South Australia by the Friends of Gulf St Vincent

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent urge the SA Parliament, via this Select Committee, to shoulder its responsibility to protect and manage our current and future marine resources and heritage.

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent have addressed most of the Terms of Reference of the Select Committee below, but we summarise our position and major concerns for your consideration.

- It is coming up 30 years since the last comprehensive proclamation of various marine protected areas in SA waters. When those areas were proclaimed, it was in the expectation that there would be further extensions during the 1980s - the sites had been broadly identified, and studies were underway to verify need and boundaries. The state has lost all that time and opportunity - and restoration of several fish stocks - through lack of political will (?) in either major party. That is a real loss of amenity, and fish production, to the citizens of SA. Doing nothing has a cost.
- South Australia (and Australia more widely), even the non-green sector, prides itself on access to high quality marine coastal areas, bountiful seafood, pristine waters – this is how we see our country and how we sell ourselves in the world.
- We protect our territorial waters from invaders, but it is beginning to look as though we are not above tolerating a comparable threat from within.
- We would wish to see evidence of commitment, by all South Australian political parties, to the establishment of marine protection strategies of some kind.
- We strongly recommend more resources for marine surveillance

Terms of Reference

Scientific evidence available to guide the design and management of marine parks

It seems to us, from reading the marine parks proposal, and from representations from many of our Members who contributed to the proposal, that the locations and design of the marine parks network has been based on long-term and comprehensive studies by South Australian (and other) government agencies, universities and individuals. Many of these people are eminent individuals in their fields, and this State is fortunate to have benefited from their dedication over many decades.

Detrimental effects to recreational fishers and the commercial fishing industry

We have seen convincing evidence that current commercial fisheries are not adequately managing fish stocks in some species, which makes it likely that, at some point, some of these species will collapse.

If recreational fishers were being honest some, or perhaps cases many, would have to admit that they are already experiencing depletion of our favourite species, and are going further afield to find fish.

The Friends have been presenting information in meetings around Gulf St Vincent for nearly ten years. Recreational fishers, with meticulous records going back 50 or more years, have demonstrated that catch rates of preferred species have fallen to a fraction of what was once available. For a few

hundred dollars, fishers can equip small boats to locate 'marks' and identify fish in a way that would have cost commercial operators the equivalent of the price of a luxury car a few years ago. This has increased recreational fishing capacity many times. As one presenter at a country forum said 'The fish have no place left to hide'. That alone is probably the single best reason to extend absolute 'no take' zones in South Australia.

Recreational fishers would also have to acknowledge their community's part in this, whether by exceeding bag limits, taking or causing death of undersize fish or fish caught out of season. (Inevitably some fish intended for release die when caught – due to damage from hook retrieval or swim bladder damage from being hauled to the surface from depth).

Marine parks -, and particularly no take zones will provide some refuge for species, therefore it is also important that a representative range of habitats is included to protect the widest possible range of species.

Detrimental effects to property values

It is the Friends' opinion that this is a non-issue and presupposes that people will not buy coastal properties if they are adjacent to Marine Reserves. We would argue that people seeking to move to the coast have a range of options and move for a variety of reasons.

Evidence was presented at a recent Friends' forum that land values have been shown to increase in proximity to marine parks. This is certainly used as a selling point adjacent to terrestrial national parks.

Complaints by local communities and fishing groups regarding the consultation process

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent is aware of the consultation process that is being conducted across the State. Community consultations are, at best, a tool to gauge interest and knowledge within a region, and it is unlikely that a single scenario – that accommodates all perspectives and opinions – can be devised.

This should not, however, replace scientific knowledge, gained over many years and paid for by the citizens, or absolve the relevant authorities from making well thought out and defensible decisions – even if they are unpopular with some parts of the community.

Interstate and international moves to limit the extent of sanctuary zones

This group supports initiatives by the Federal Government to investigate the declaration of Marine Parks and No Catch sanctuaries for the very same reasons we outline in our submission. Protection from over-fishing and encroachment is essential for the sustainability of marine life, commercial fisheries and community prosperity.

Balance of general marine park areas to no-take sanctuary zone areas

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent would advocate for more and larger rather than fewer marine park areas – our interest is, of course, in maximising biodiversity, robustness and health of the marine environment.

Because the tools for managing a stock under open access are so limited, and have failed in practice, we must move to exclusion of fishing, year round, literally to establish 'reserve' areas. Already the evidence that such zones help to maintain stocks is much more convincing than supposed bag, size or seasonal 'controls' placed on a stock otherwise open to plunder by all.

Angela Gackle

Secretary, Friends of Gulf St Vincent

The Friends' principal objective is to foster a unified community approach to the protection and wise use of Gulf St Vincent



One of the three new signs recently erected along the coast. Others are at Semaphore and Henley Square

SALA Festival 2011

As part of this year's SALA (South Australian Living Artists) Festival, 3 interpretive signs were produced and unveiled at Henley Square, Semaphore and Largs Bay on August 1st.

The signs were a project of the Marine Discovery Centre at Henley Beach, and the local artist who brought them to life was Alison Harvey. The Friends of Gulf St Vincent were pleased to support the project.



Quiz Night

**Friday, 16th September,
7 for 7.30pm**

(finished by ~10.30pm)

An audio-visual extravaganza of fun, frivolity, fiction & fact for the diving community
There will be something for everyone – you do not need to be a marine biologist, diver or involved in Reef Watch. Loads of fantastic prizes!

Location: Goodwood Community Centre
(access off Florence St., behind the library)

Bookings essential - numbers are limited: include table name, captain and contact details.
Email: info@reefwatch.asn.au or phone 8223 5155.

Cost: \$15 (\$10 unwaged) pay on the night

Catering: BYO food and drinks

SNIPPETS



ADVANCE NOTICE - NEXT FRIENDS' EVENT

Port River Cruise

Details will be sent when
arrangements have been
finalised.

Want to fly your very own flag?

From time to time we receive enquiries from members wishing to obtain one of our wonderful blue swimmer GStV flags, so we have sought quotes for manufacture of two different sizes.

Pricing is as follows to produce customised "Friends of Gulf St. Vincent" flags printed onto 1 ply knitted polyester with rope & clips.

1. Approx: (1500w x 745h)mm flags printed single-sided
10 flags----- \$129.20 each
20 flags----- \$101.30 each
50 flags ----- \$56.34 each

This flag would require a flagpole for best effect.

2. Approx: (600w x 300h)mm flags printed both sides & consisting of 1 ply printed polyester on both sides with a white polyester insert to separate both prints.

- 10 flags----- \$118.80 each
20 flags----- \$91.20 each
50 flags----- \$51.00 each

While the smaller of the flags is not much different in price, please note that it is double sided - and was intended for use as a pennant suitable for cars or at home.

Please contact the Secretary if you wish to order a flag. angela.gackle@bigpond.com or by phone on 8345 5038

