



President's Report 2015/16

My report this year is going to be short as I intend only listing the issues that we are involved in since our 2015 Annual General Meeting.

My reasons for this abbreviated report are that we have changed our communication system and as you will all note we are now issuing to you via e mail an extensive quarterly newsletter and also regular updates on current issues.

This has mostly been the great work of Anne Wheaton working with Richard Smith and Theo Ellenbroek to streamline our membership and supporter database.

We can now proudly report that we have close to 300 members and supporters. We would love to have more and we are working on it.

We have also updated our website so that it is much easier to navigate and we can proudly say that we are currently up-to-date on all of our information due to the great work of Andrea Rankin and friends.

Below is the list of issues and campaigns we have taken up since our 2015 AGM and many are still current; the wheels of change are very often very slow.

At times we can become frustrated when dealing with all levels of Government and it is not unusual that we send a number of reminder messages to jolt the memory. Our relationship with council is 'strained' and 'restrictive'; however, we will continue to try and find more effective ways of working with them. We have met with senior staff and the Mayor expressing concern and wanting to find a more open, productive and trusting process of engagement.

Issues list

- Torrens River 3rd and final Wetland
- West Beach Sand Management
- Ground Water [illegal] Extraction from the Antunes Development
- Climate Change [Includes AdaptWest]
- Sustainable Planning [Government Planning Bill]
- Jet Ski Zone
- Coast Park [Coastal Pathway Reference Group]
- Tennyson Dunes [Continuous pathway]
- Henley Square Redevelopment [Reference group]
- Community Art project [Poles Apart]
- Car Parking Henley Precinct
- Transforming Health
- Pensioner Rates Rebates

Affiliations and representations

Conservation Council of SA
Community Alliance SA
Environmental Defenders Office
Marine Discovery Centre

Presentations, submissions, applications

- State Coastal Conference 'Challenging Coastal Science'
- Presentation to Gulf St Vincent Community at Pine Point on how to get organised to oppose the Rex Minerals Copper mine
- Discretionary Ward Allowance Applications were submitted to council seeking funding for three interpretive Signs on the Mosaic Sea Creature Trail and the Biodiversity Pathway on the banks of the Torrens River at a total cost of \$3,000 [Council in their wisdom refused the application]
- A Discretionary Ward Allowance to fund an Earth Hour Event for a total of \$1,200 was also refused by Council
- WACRA has made an application for Federal Government Grant funding to purchase a new computer for the association [still pending and should know if we are successful by end of May]
- Anne Wheaton made two wonderful PowerPoint presentations and inserted them onto our Facebook page. She also previewed them at our WACRA meetings on the Mosaic Sea Creature Trail along the Esplanade at Henley Beach and also the Torrens River Biodiversity Pathway incorporating the importance of Wetlands to the environment
- We presently have a Place Making application for a total of \$3,500 named 'South Poles' that will be similar to the Main Street Public Art, where we propose to invite residents in South Street Henley Beach, users of the Johns Reserve nearby, the Anglican Church and local traders to come together to make a community place. We hope to hear if we have been successful sometime in April

Events

We ran two very successful fund raising events during the year: the biennial WACRA Quiz Night and the Film Night at the Semaphore Odeon.

Finally I would like to thank sincerely the Executive Committee who work tirelessly to represent our membership and supporters, and all of you who retain your interests and provide WACRA with a voice to reach our objective of 'Building Healthy Community'.

Jim Douglas