



# Friends of Mound Springs

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JULY 2006

## DATES OF INTEREST:

- **Next FOMS Meeting** 5 October 2006 5.30pm venue to be advised
- **Combined Australian Rangelands Society Conference** 4-6 September and **Lake Eyre Basin Conference** 7-8 September 2006, Renmark, SA. More information available at [www.austrangesoc.com.au](http://www.austrangesoc.com.au)
- **"Ground water surface water interaction in the Arid Zone" IAH Seminar**, Alice Springs 7-8 September 2006 more information available from [jon.sumner@nt.gov.au](mailto:jon.sumner@nt.gov.au)
- **Cooper Pedy Race Meeting** 12-13 August 2006
- **Birdsville Races** 1-2 September 2006
- **Australian Water Association 'Arid Area Forum'** Canberra ACT 1 September 2006

## Presidents Message

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Friends of Mound Springs. This is the first of several occasional newsletters for Friends and potential Friends of the Mound Springs of South Australia's Far North.

The notion of a Friends of Mound Springs was first mooted early in 2006 and received encouraging support when discussed with a broad range of people interested in the springs. The concept was for a Friends of Mound Springs group to become a formal entity under the Friends of Parks network coordinated through the Community Liaison Unit, Department for Environment and Heritage.

Following initial discussions, Dene Cordes and Pam Smith of the Community Liaison Unit convened a meeting of interested people on Thursday 29 June 2006. This was attended by 13 people, including representatives of the Friends of the Simpson Desert Parks. At the meeting Dene advised that the Community Liaison Unit had consulted the Outback Regional staff and received strong support from the Regional Conservator, John Watkins, for the Friends of Mound Springs. The Friends of the Simpson Desert Parks were also consulted and expressed delight at having a neighbouring Friends Group. Dene also advised that the "parent body", Friends of Parks Inc., had agreed to accept this group as a full member into the network.

Dene noted that there are 138 Friends of Parks groups in South Australia, with the first group having formed in 1982. The groups operate semi-autonomously in liaison with district DEH staff. They operate with reference to relevant management plans and policies of the Department. Friends groups can suggest projects, or seek suggestions from the Department. Friends groups can seek grants from outside the Department that the Department cannot access. In past years, up to \$250 000 has been brought in by Friends groups for on-ground work and training. Importantly, Friends groups can extend their interests to issues beyond Park boundaries. The meeting on 29 June formally endorsed the formation of the Friends of Mound Springs group. Details of office bearers elected at the meeting and the main areas of interest for the group are provided below.

Formation of the Friends of Mound Springs seems to be a logical next step in helping to build upon the efforts of many people over the last 30 years or so to look after these vitally important features of outback Australia. I see the Friends group as evolving perhaps slowly in the early stages as we identify a role that will make a significant contribution to Mound Springs conservation, and I look forward to your company along the way.

Best wishes

**Colin Harris**

President, Friends of Mound Springs

July 2006

## Main areas of interest

The main area of interest will be those springs south of Oodnadatta (noting that the Friends of the Simpson Desert have a significant interest in Dalhousie Springs). The interests and activities of the group will be an evolving process. Initially, the main role may be as an information network, to keep members informed of issues, developments, etc. and to help keep members in touch with each other.

More generally, the interests of the Friends of Mound Springs may include:

promoting and supporting actions to safeguard the features of the Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park;

supporting the Friends of the Simpson Desert re the conservation and management of Dalhousie Springs;

promoting and supporting research to increase our understanding of mound springs and their needs in terms of conservation and management;

promoting and supporting actions to protect and manage mound springs outside of the legislated parks network, in collaboration with pastoral lessees and others;

undertaking on-ground actions where practical and appropriate to support the conservation of mound springs;

providing comment regarding proposed developments and other actions that could impact upon the mound springs;

regarding all of the above, liaising with other interest groups in order to promote a coordinated approach to mound springs conservation.



Source: [www.simpsondesert.fl.net.au/east/](http://www.simpsondesert.fl.net.au/east/)

## Subscriptions

At the meeting on 29 June 2006, it was agreed that there would be an annual membership subscription of \$10 per individual or household. Membership

runs with the financial year.

Many of you have already indicated your interest in becoming a member of Friends of Mound Springs. For those who wish to become a member, would you please forward your \$10 subscription together with your typed name, phone number, postal and email addresses,

to:

Mr. Tony Latz

Treasurer, Friends of Mound Springs

10 Waratah Way,

STONYFELL SA 5066.



Source:www.outdoorssa.com.au/

## Links

FOMS is likely to develop a number of links with other interest groups. "Core" linkages will be with:

- the SA Department for Environment and Heritage, Far North Region: key contacts being the District Ranger, Desert Parks (currently Mike Hinsliff) and the Manager, Conservation Programs (currently Geoff Ax-ford);
- the Friends of the Simpson Desert ;
- relevant pastoral lessees;
- individuals and groups concerned with the cultural heritage of mound springs.

## Meetings

It is expected that meetings of FOMS will normally be held in Adelaide and there may only be one or two meetings per year. Special attention will be given to keeping "in the loop" those members of FOMS who have difficulty in attending meetings (e.g., members in regional areas or interstate).

The next meeting of FOMS is planned for Thursday 5 October 2006, commencing 5.30pm, venue to be advised.

## Contributions

We are hoping that the newsletter will benefit from your contributions. In particular we are looking for short pieces (up to 200 words) about any research you or your associates are conducting in relation to the mound springs, short descriptive & informative pieces on wildlife including birds present at the springs, and short notes on any interstate activities which relate to the Great Artesian Basin Springs in general. Any contributions you have to make will be gratefully received by the Publicity Officer by email.



Source:www.abc.net.au/science/scribblygum/June2001.gallery.htm

## Possibilities

The University of New England is offering a \$25,000 PhD Scholarship together with the NSW Western Catchment Management Authority to undertake research on the effects of grazing on the native vegetation of GAB Springs in NSW & SA. Applications close 31/8. Further information is available from [crgross@une.edu.au](mailto:crgross@une.edu.au) or [jduggin@une.edu.au](mailto:jduggin@une.edu.au)

# Friends of Mound Springs

An affiliate of Friends of Parks Inc, South Australia

At the meeting on 29 June 2006 the selection of Patron was left for further discussion. The quorum for meetings was set at five. No Committee other than the office bearers was formed.

If you would like further information or have any general comments please use the contact details below.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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