



TENNYSON DUNES COASTAL CONSERVATION RESERVE OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2016 11am - 2pm

One year on from the dedication of the Tennyson Dunes Coastal Conservation Reserve, the Tennyson Dunes Group is gearing up for another huge celebration on their 21st anniversary open day on Sunday 11 September.

The highlight of this year's open day will be the launch of a new guidebook about the native plants of the Dunes at 12 midday.

"We are really excited about launching a new guidebook about the plants of the Tennyson Dunes" said Nick Crouch, an environmental management specialist and leader of the volunteer Tennyson Dunes Group.

Mr Crouch continued "We want to help people recognise and learn about endangered plants, like bitterbush, sea box, woolly mat rush and fan flower, that provide food or protection for endangered animals like painted dragons and bitter bush blue butterflies."

Mrs Val Wales, coordinator of the volunteer Tennyson Dunes Group, has worked hard for 20 years harvesting seeds and growing rare and endangered plants to revegetate the Dunes.

Mrs Wales said "With this new pocket sized guidebook in hand, people can become confident at identifying friends from foes in the Dunes." Mrs Wales added "The more people learn, the more they will appreciate the treasures on our doorstep and help to protect the Dunes for future generations."

During the open day, free walking tours in the Dunes will be led by experts in Kaurna heritage, reptiles, native plants, coastal geology, sea level rise and biodiversity.

Activities for children will include dragon spotting, Kaurna ceremony and nature play.

For information and bookings go to www.tennyson.org.au

Media contacts

Nick Crouch M 0427 000 109

Val Wales M 0416 754 554

More information www.tennyson.org.au **Facebook**TennysonDunesGroup

Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve facts: 22 hectares of the last 3-tier dunes on Adelaide's coast, 12 km from the Adelaide CBD and home to threatened lizards, birds, butterflies and plants. The Tennyson Dunes Group has over 50 members and has been active since 1995. Finalists 2016 National Landcare Awards - Coastcare Award.



Ten fast facts about the Tennyson Dunes

1. Kurna heritage

Kurna Meyunna country between Yerta Bulti (the sleeping place - the fish that died naturally in the mangroves (Port River and estuary area)) and Wonggayerlo (the coast and Gulf St Vincent). An abundant place for fish, shellfish, crustaceans, birds, bush tucker, native sedges and grasses used for making mats, baskets and clothing.

2. Before 1836

The Tennyson Dunes were formed when sea level rose to the current height 8-10,000 years ago, part of an extensive coastal barrier dune system 200-300m deep, 10-15m high. Three dunes (fore, mid and hind) and 2 swales, with a natural cycle of sand replenishment and extensive tidal mangrove and samphire wetlands east of the hind dune. Rich biodiversity and a resilient ecosystem.

3. Since 1836

Disrespect and degradation e.g. cattle and pig grazing, tree felling for building and fuel, sandmining for building and glass making, WW2 25lb guns test fired into the dunes, housing development, rubbish dumping, feral humans and animals, illegal encroachment. Channeling the River Torrens to a coastal outlet (West Beach) as flood mitigation destroyed reed beds and damaged sea grass beds (1/4 lost since 1949) - 'blue line' now 1 km offshore.

Tennyson Dunes named after Hallam Lord Tennyson, Governor of SA 1899-1902, Governor General 1902-1904.

4. Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve 2015

The Tennyson Dunes were dedicated as a coastal conservation reserve by Minister Hunter in September 2015. The dedication will ensure the care and protection of the Tennyson Dunes, an area of 22 hectares with 1.5 kms of coastline, the most significant remnant of pre European Adelaide coastal dune and a fragile ecology.

5. Buffer zone

The Dunes provide a buffer zone between marine and terrestrial environments, absorbing and dissipating wave energy, and stopping the inland flow of seawater.

6. Flora

The Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve has 5 vegetation zones: open grass land (fore dune), low open shrub land (inter dune swale), low shrub land (seaward face of hind dune), open shrub land (hind dune ridge) and tall shrub land (east of hind dune, all but destroyed).

52+ indigenous plant species have been recorded in Tennyson Dunes, including:
16+ threatened species e.g. Coastal Bitterbush (*Adriana quadripartita*), Sea Box (*Alyxia buxifolia*), Cup Wattle (*Acacia cupularis*), Woolly Mat-rush (*Lomandra leucocephala*), Cushion Fanflower (*Scaevola crassifolia*)

Difficult to propagate: Bearded Heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*) 200-500 years old (not reproducing naturally)

Bush tucker: Muntries (*Kunzea pomifera*), Native Pigface (*Carpobrotus rossii*) and Bower Spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*).

Competition from 68 non indigenous plant species e.g. perennial veldt grass (introduced as sand stabilizer after sand mining), African boxthorn, dune onion weed and domestic garden escapees: e.g. succulents, gazania, daisies

7. Fauna

reptiles e.g. Painted Dragon (*Ctenophorus pictus*), Blue-tongue lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*), Eastern Bearded Dragon (*Pogona barbata*)

birds e.g. Hooded Plover (*Thinomis callatus*), Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*), Singing Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus virescens*), Silver Eye (*Zosterops lateralis*), Black Shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*)

butterflies e.g. Caper white (*Anaphaesis ssp. tuetonia*), Saltbush Blue (*Theclinesthes serpentata*)

insects e.g. Blue banded bee (*Amegilla cingulata*)

8. Coast park - path

The Tennyson Dunes Group supports a low environmental impact discovery trail - a walking pace path that enables children and adults to learn about the unique and fragile ecosystem of the Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve. We look forward to the government's release of a detailed plan for the path soon.

9. Tennyson Dunes Group Volunteers

Finalists 2016 National Landcare Awards - Coastcare Award. Winners SA Coastal Landcare Award (2015) and Premier's Natural Resources Management Award (2013). Caring for, protecting and promoting the Tennyson Dunes since 1995. Many activities: seed harvesting, plant propagation and planting, weed control, signage and education. Supported by the Kwanis e.g. built the viewing platform. Check out our work and join us: www.tennyson.org.au Facebook TennysonDunesGroup Twitter @TennysonDunes

10. Me - you - us

A local opportunity to join with us to care for the Dunes, to ensure they are a safe home for many species and to promote learning about their cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

THANK YOU for visiting the Dunes, we look forward to your help caring for them.