



# The Friends of Belair Park

Volunteers working for Conservation  
Established 1985

## NEWSLETTER



JUNE 1996

### PRESIDENTS REPORT.

Some news to keep you up to date. Lareen and Peter Newman have a baby boy, named Christopher, born in April. Doug Riley recently had a fall from a ladder, and is suffering from a broken arm. Weekday working bees are now taking place on each Thursday, from 1 pm to 3 pm (approx). Weed eradication between Edwin Smith Ave and Upper Sturt Road, is the current venue. Dan Jaegar and friends are concentrating on the Upper Sturt section, pulling Erica. Sunday working bees, from 10 am on allocated days, please check with Toni at the Information Centre, if in doubt.

Our guest speaker for today, 1st June, is John Hanel who will be telling us about 'National Parks in W. A.'. On Saturday 6th July, member Paul Franche will be our guest speaker at 1 pm.

Stuart Paul is now the Liaison Ranger. Stuart comes to Belair from Mambray Creek.

Many thanks to all, for your interest in, and care for, our Park.

Lynda Knight.

### TUESDAY WALKS.

Tuesday walks are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month, at 2 pm. If the weather is doubtful ring Lynda, at 1 pm, for final decision! Ph 278 2623.

We commenced our walks in April, and firstly, walked alongside Minno Creek to the newly - painted Volunteer Centre, previously the Kiosk. Subsequent walks have been to view the autumn flowering 'Parson's Bands' orchids, and the lovely heath in shades of white, pale pink and deep pink. Now the banded or striped Greenheads (*Pterostylis Vittata*) are beginning to flower. After some much needed rain, there will be other flowers to delight us.



Lynda Knight.

## 12th ANNUAL FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. FORUM



Please consider attending all or part of what should be a very interesting Forum. The Forum will begin on Friday 20th September with registration from 5 pm onwards. At 8 pm there will be a presentation including slides, video and talks about the Onkaparinga Park. At the conclusion a light supper will be served.

Saturday 21st will be a very busy day with registration from 7 am onwards. Following the Official Opening at 8.40 am, the programme includes, the 1995 Forum Report, Soapbox, the Keynote Speaker, (" Human Impact On National Parks"), Resolutions, and concludes with lunch.

In the afternoon there will be a choice of walks, from strenuous to easy, covering such areas as the Gorge, wetlands and the Centenary Bridge and to see magnificent views of the surrounding countryside, wildflowers and revegetation sites. At 7 pm there will be the Forum Dinner, including entertainment and a 10th Birthday Cake.

Sunday 22nd at 8.30 am is the Annual General Meeting with election of Office Bearers. Resolutions, Insights, this includes volunteering in National Parks. Awards and Presentations.

The Closing Ceremony will be at approximately 2.30.

Cost for the Forum is \$37 with \$18 extra for the Forum Dinner. Registration forms are now available.



### CLELAND WALK 31st AUGUST.

The Cleland Walk this year, to commemorate Professor John Cleland's long connection with the Belair National Park, will be led by Dene Cordes, and will be an historical perspective of the Park. This will take place on Saturday 31st August, commencing at 10 am, at the Main Oval Pavilion. Walk for the whole day or either the morning or afternoon. It will be a BYO lunch and drinks but refreshments will be served at the Information Centre at the conclusion of the walk.

Some of the interesting places to be visited during the morning:-

- Old Wells Goal site, Western Lodge.
- Playford Lake, Memorial Seat, Gooch Monument.
- The Maze, Belair Lodge.
- Scout Glen and Old Government House,  
And after lunch,
- Historic Precinct of the Gold Escort Ground.
- Railway Dam, Joseph Fisher Pavilion etc,



### WEED ERADICATION.

Weed eradication in the area bounded by Upper Sturt Road, Gooch Road, Sir Edwin Ave and the railway line (refer to map), good progress has been made in this area,

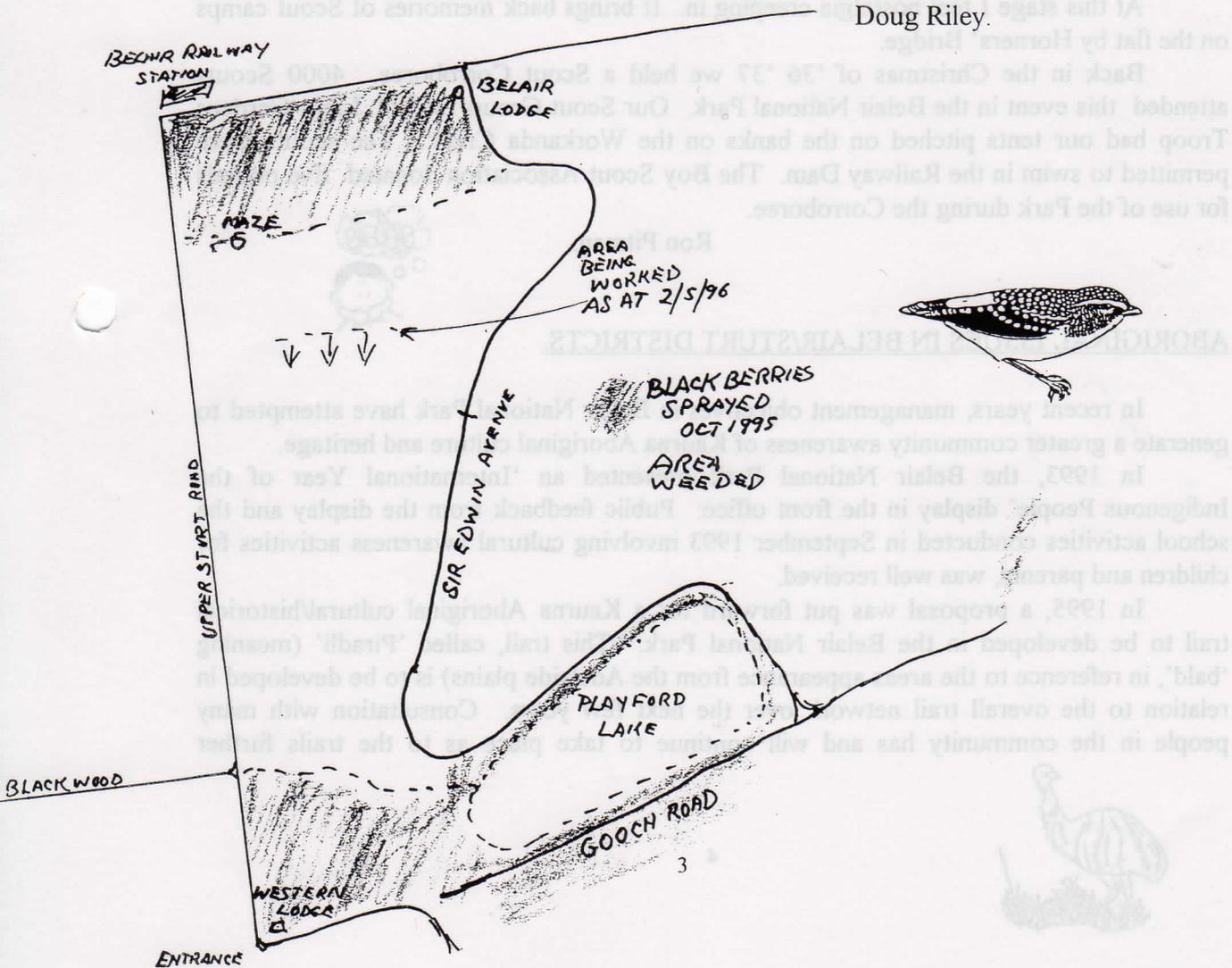
beginning in early 1994. I began pulling weeds around the visitor centre before starting on the area indicated. John Hemer had already weeded the area near the Western Lodge once, however there was considerable reinfestation. In June John joined me, going through this area again two hours every week.

Towards the end of 1994 we started weeding near the Belair railway station. This area had previously been planted by the "friends" and was horribly infested with all types of "nasties". However we had quite a team of people working there, John Hemer, Daphne Johncock, Brian DuBois, Jill Salvi, Peter Sutton, and Kevin Whisson to name a few.

We are now working near the Maze as you can see on the mud map. Recently we've had Rhodes Barlow, Ron Pitman, Lynda Knight and one afternoon two year 12 girls from Walford School helped us. I would like to encourage Lynda, afternoon tea is something we would like to get used to.

Blackberries are a big problem in the whole of this area and last October, 49 hours were spent spot spraying them with Trounce Brush Pack and knapsack, I hope we can follow up the attack on them again this year, although last years' effort was successful there will be some regrowth, we could expand the area sprayed last year as well, the area sprayed last year is indicated on the map. It is amazing how much area you can cover only doing two hours a week. Every time we pull weeds in the Park we always seem to attract all kinds of birds, wouldn't you like to share this pleasure with us. We work every Thursday, starting at 1 pm, for two hours. In the summer we start at 7.30 am on Fridays, I can promise we won't run out of weeds.

Doug Riley.



## CREEK SYSTEM IN BELAIR NATIONAL PARK.



It is interesting to study the map of our Park and get an overall picture of its creek system (refer to map page 8) Start with the Minno Creek. It begins up in Sparkes Gully and runs down through the Cherry Plantation. It is fed by Karka Oval, which starts in Melville Gully and joins Minno Creek just below Karka Oval, flowing down Long Gully. Minno Creek is joined then by Pittosporum Gully Creek and a little further down by Tarpurra Creek and the Tarnma Creek. (Pittosporum and Tarpurra Creeks are not shown on all maps). Minno Creek flows into the Reservoir or Railway Dam and on down through the Gold Escort Ground and then past the Main Oval Pavilion.

On the Northern side of the Park, in the North Eastern corner, the Workanda Creek has its beginning. The Upper Waterfall is reached by the Yulti Wirra Track, further down is the Lower Waterfall, on under the railway line through Echo Tunnel, Workanda Creek makes its way down past Playford Lake and eventually feeds into Minno Creek.

Kurra Creek starts up beyond the Wilyawa Track, this becomes the Wokanda Track. Another small creeklet begins in the Flora Area and runs down to join Kurra Creek just north of Pines Oval, it then flows into Playford Lake.

Finally there is Peroomba Creek, which flows down through Brady Gully alongside the Brady Gully Track. It flows into Playford Lake on the northern end. The overflow from the lake flows into Minno Creek. Minno Creek flows on down through Hawthorndene and under Horners' Bridge on the edge of Craighburn. Finally it joins the Sturt Creek.

At this stage I feel nostalgia creeping in. It brings back memories of Scout camps on the flat by Horners' Bridge.

Back in the Christmas of '36 '37 we held a Scout Corroborree. 4000 Scouts attended this event in the Belair National Park. Our Scout Group 1st Col. Light Gardens Troop had our tents pitched on the banks on the Workanda Creek. The scouts were permitted to swim in the Railway Dam. The Boy Scout Association donated five pounds for use of the Park during the Corroborree.

Ron Pitman.



## ABORIGINAL ISSUES IN BELAIR/STURT DISTRICTS.

In recent years, management objectives in Belair National Park have attempted to generate a greater community awareness of Kaurna Aboriginal culture and heritage.

In 1993, the Belair National Park presented an 'International Year of the Indigenous People' display in the front office. Public feedback from the display and the school activities conducted in September 1993 involving cultural awareness activities for children and parents, was well received.

In 1995, a proposal was put forward for a Kaurna Aboriginal cultural/historical trail to be developed in the Belair National Park. This trail, called 'Piradli' (meaning 'bald', in reference to the areas appearance from the Adelaide plains) is to be developed in relation to the overall trail network over the next few years. Consultation with many people in the community has and will continue to take place as to the trails further



development. The proposed 'Piradli' trail comprises interpretive information designed to expose people to indigenous lifestyles and experiences.

Recently proposals for the painting of unsightly landmarks in Belair National Park have been discussed with members of the Kurna Aboriginal community. Aboriginal artists have been asked to put their ideas forward towards the aesthetic transformation of such structures. The creative designs may be done by Aboriginal artists in collaboration with park management objectives.

The park service has made attempts to advance relationships with the Kurna Heritage Committee in recent times, particularly in regards to Moana Sands Conservation Park, but also in relation to the management of other parks in the Belair/Sturt Districts. Applications were received during December '95/ January '96 to appoint a Kurna Aboriginal person to the Sturt Consultative management of the National Parks Reserves within the Belair/Sturt District.

Aboriginal issues are integral in the management of National Park Reserves. Belair National Park is in a position where it can be a major contributor to the promotion of the local indigenous culture and affairs.

Any thoughts or comments can be directed to Ranger Malcolm Lane at Belair National Park.

Malcolm Lane.



### SOUTH AMERICAN TRAVEL.

Betty and I have now returned from a holiday which kept us away from home for just over four months

Our first stop was to enjoy four marvellous days on Easter Island. Moving north we spent four fabulous days and nights cruising and visiting the Galapagos Islands where we saw unique and fascinating fauna.

We then joined four other persons with a leader and his assistant for a 100 days trek down the west coast of South America. Our journey started in Quito, Ecuador, through Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentine to the southernmost town on land (at the end of the world) USHUAIA. During those 100 days we travelled by land, air and water covering in excess of 16,000 kilometres.

We have been asked "What is the most memorable thing you experienced?" To select a particular day or episode is very difficult because at the end of each day we went to bed with the feeling that we had enjoyed a new experience.

One of the segments involved 4 days following the Inca Trail to reach the ruins of Machu Picchu. These were days 32 to 35.

Day 32 started with a 40 minute bus ride to the start of the Inca Trail. There we met our guide (Wilbur), porters and cook. The 6.5 hours walk to our first camp site was hard but made enjoyable by the lovely scenery. We found our tent on the edge of a precipice. We enjoyed a lovely dinner. The daytime temperature had been warm to hot but the night air at the altitude we had reached was quite cold. I wore my thermals in bed!

Day 33 we had been warned would be the hardest day of the trek. Wilbur played the reveille on his flute at 4.30 for a 5 am breakfast. We were on the trail before 6 and



immediately started to ascend quite steeply. Unlike our usual bushwalking there was no stop for morning or afternoon tea. We walked, ascended, descended, ascended until we reached the 4300 metre level at 11.30. We then descended about 300 metres to a sheltered spot where we found our cook and helpers had prepared a very welcome lunch. We then continued in a very tortuous rocky descent to our camp to again enjoy a very welcome dinner, washed down with a special tea laced with Pisco (Peruvian whisky), cinnamon, cloves and sugar. We slept well.

Day 34 breakfast was again at 5 am. It was cold! Wilbur had prepared a whole saucepan full of special sweet hot drinking chocolate to warm us up. We were advised we had to ascend and descend 3 passes. The first - and easiest - ascent took 1.5 hours. Altogether we walked 8.5 hours during the day so we were very glad to reach our camp site and enjoy a refreshing wash in a very cold mountain stream.

Day 35. A little luxury this morning. Breakfast was at 6 am so a little longer in the sleeping bag. Bread in South America is mainly small bun size and fairly solid. Very nice when fresh but after 4 days on the trail the bread was fairly "rocky" by now so our cook made some thick pancakes and served these with jam. By 6.20 Betty and I were on the trail so that by 8 am, having manoeuvred the rocky and steep track, climbed hundreds of steps, we reached the Sun Gate from where one can overlook the most famous ruins of Machu Picchu in the distance. Quite an awesome sight!!



We still had more than 3 hours walk - mainly descent - to actually reach the ruins where we spent the rest of the day walking with our guide Wilbur who gave detailed information about the various sections.

In the late afternoon and evening we had an unforgettable experience of a 5 hour train and bus journey from AGUAS CALIENTES to CUSCO but that will have to be another episode.

Paul Frauche.



### WATTLES IN THE PARK.

Australia has an estimated 800 species of Acacia, but only 8 are native to Belair National Park. The most common is *acacia pycnantha*, the Golden Wattle - the floral emblem of Australia.

It is an understory species in the woodlands of S.A., Vic and N.S.W. where it flowers from August to October with masses of bright yellow balls. This shrub to small tree has naturalised in many places, including Tasmania, California and South Africa, but it is not regarded as a weed.

Although short lived (10 to 15 years) the Golden Wattle is a quick grower and is useful as a shade, shelter and garden specimen. The flowers were used for perfume making and the gum, which exudes from injuries to the bark, was collected and used medicinally for diarrhoea and inflamed membranes. Indeed, in 1827 it was suggested that gum collecting would be a useful occupation for "the very idle children and the hordes of lazy fellows who hate hard work".

The bark of the Golden Wattle has one of the richest tanning barks in the world, and wattle stripping was carried out in the Park until the late 1930s. The Park was divided

into 6 blocks and at the end of the 6th year the first block was ready for stripping again. The annual report of 1909 advised that 42 tons had been carted to a tannery at Hindmarsh and brought record prices. Such exploitation (plus firewood sales, agistment, cattle and sheep dealing etc) was necessary as the Park had to "draw on its own resources for its development" - Government grants were meagre, or none at all in many years.

Whilst never income earners, the other seven species of Acacias have stories to tell - perhaps in a future newsletter

Vern Whittenbury.

References: The Park at Belair. Dene D. Cordes.  
Useful Wild Plant. A. B. & J. W. Cribb.

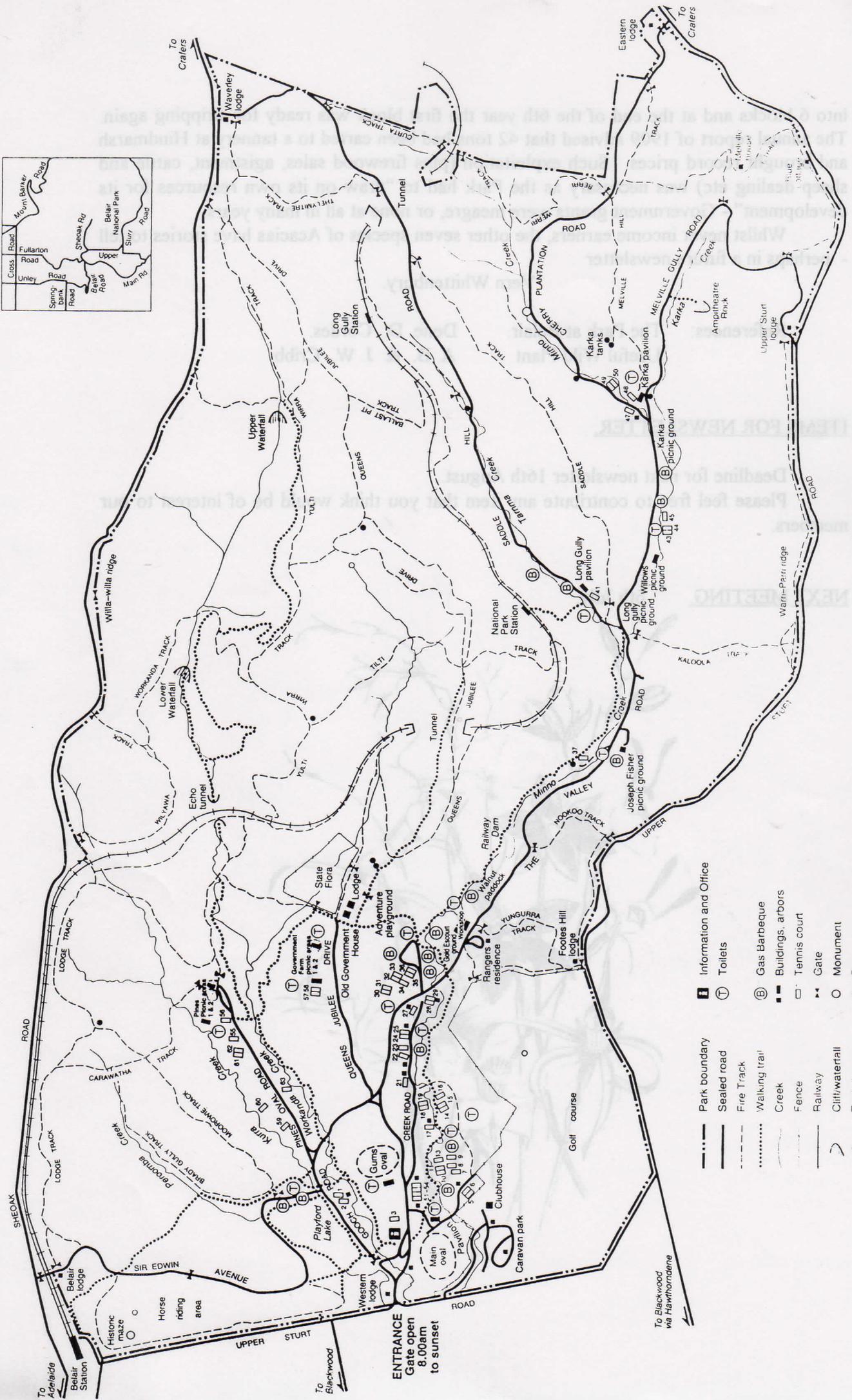
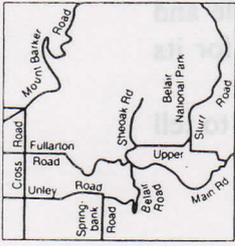
#### ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER.

Deadline for next newsletter 16th August.

Please feel free to contribute any item that you think would be of interest to our members.

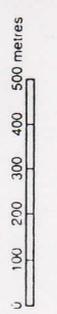
NEXT MEETING. 6th July.





- Park boundary
- Sealed road
- Fire Track
- Walking trail
- Creek
- Fence
- Railway
- Cliff/waterfall
- Tank, bore
- Information and Office
- Toilets
- Gas Barbecue
- Buildings, arbors
- Tennis court
- Gate
- Monument
- Dam

# ELAIR NATIONAL PARK



**ENTRANCE**  
Gate open  
8.00am  
to sunset

To Blackwood  
via Hawthornside

To Adelaide

To Blackwood

To Craters