



The Friends of Belair Park

Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985
BEST NEWSLETTER 1996.

MARCH 1998

PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1997.

My Dear Friends,

I should like to commence this report by acknowledging those members who have held office during the last two years, as well as thanking everyone for their support, friendship and cooperation during my time as President. My gratitude to our very efficient secretary is difficult to express, but Beth does an excellent job!

I think the most significant event which occurred during my two years as president, was the transition to this Volunteer Centre. It has become a very comfortable, convenient centre, and we are extremely grateful for the tremendous amount of help which has been given us, both by the Department and by individual members. It would take too long to enumerate the many generous gifts of practical help, time and labour, but I reiterate - we are truly grateful.

Our membership increased by thirty-two new members in 1997, but twelve people did not renew their membership. The attendance at monthly meetings, on the first Saturday of each month, has averaged 24 members. We try to arrange interesting meetings, with a variety of speakers, and hope that members can suggest topics of interest, to help with a variation of guest speakers. Please continue to encourage visitors to come along with you, to any of our activities!

We have been very glad that Stuart, our Liaison Ranger, has been able to attend most meetings, and in doing so, has been able to keep us up to date with the vegetative work being carried out in the Park. I think I speak for everyone, when I say how much we have appreciated Stuart's encouragement and co-operation in all that we do. It certainly has made a great difference to the overall enthusiasm to work for, and our enjoyment of, the Park!

Half of the Directors Grant of \$650, earmarked for re-vegetation, has been used to join eight members in the "Trees for Life" programme, under the guidance of Brian DuBois. They are a very enthusiastic group, and we hope their propagation efforts will benefit many projects. We were glad to use some of Brian's young trees during the winter, when we had two planting's up in the very barren patches near Belair Railway Station. Stuart also arranged a day for Girl Guides to plant trees on Melville Hill, and quite a few of our members assisted the girls, along with their parents and Guiders.

The Annual Professor Cleland Walk in our Park was ably conducted by Dr. Ralph Foster, one of our members, who deputised for Enid Robertson, who had lost the use of her voice. Ralph's wit and knowledge was greatly appreciated by about seventy walkers, and we hope to enjoy more of his company.

The Tuesday Walks, on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, (excepting in the very hot weather) have been well attended in 1997, with an average attendance of 16 - 18 people. We will resume again in April. We have many interesting people in our group, with a variety of personalities and attributes, and we look forward to another enjoyable year in 1998.

One important exercise which I would like to acknowledge, was Beth's perseverance in getting new blue pullover's with our logo of the Adelaide Rosella on them. It was a mammoth task, and we thank Beth very, very sincerely for all her hard work.

In October nine Friends of Belair attended the Annual Friends of Parks Forum at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island. We went over there a day or two prior to the conference, and enjoyed some sight - seeing. On the official Forum Day, Sunday 12th October, our group received an award for weed management, and Ruth and Doug Riley were given an Achievement Award.

RUTH AND DOUG RILEY RECEIVING THEIR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.



I think at this point I will encourage as many members who possibly can, to attend this year's Forum in October, at Meningie, hosted by the Friends of the Coroong. It will be a very special occasion for us, because we were told at the end of last year, that our group has been awarded the National Parks Foundation Friends' Group of the Year for 1998. So we must try to make up a good attendance.

In October some energetic members joined in the Weedbusters Week in Belair Park, and in thanking all those who gave of their time and energy, I must compliment Doug Riley on his dedication to the cause, because he attended every session that week. We met new people that week, and gained at least one new member who still comes out on Friday mornings, weeding.

During 1997 we had many people giving of their time and energy trying to eradicate boneseed and other invasive weeds from the Park. I was disappointed that the weed eradication programme in which I have been involved even before this group was formed, did not include any attempt to attack the South African Daisy in December, whilst it was flowering. This plant has a head of multiple flowers, which in turn have multiple seeds, which disperse very easily!

Early in December, Brian DuBois made his vehicle available to take some Friends of Belair in the local Christmas Pageant - showing the NPWS flag and our Adelaide Rosella placard. After the parade, most of the participants joined us at the Main Oval Pavilion at Belair, as guests of the Central Southern Region, for their "Appreciation Barbecue"

Some members attended mandatory courses in the Park, in chain-saw instruction, and others gained certificates in poison management. None of the ladies needed to learn how to serve afternoon tea, but we are always grateful for this interlude at our meetings. It does give people an opportunity to socialise and get to know each other. And to chat to newcomers. I do sincerely thank the hostesses for supplying afternoon tea, and serving it so graciously.

Our twelfth birthday party, on 19th December, was well attended by about sixty people, including Dianne and Dene Cordes, Friends of Old Government House, Onkaparinga, Campground Hosts and Bush Carers. I am sad to say that that evening was the last time we would have dear Mercia Purdie's company, because she died of a known heart complaint 36 hours, later. We will miss her greatly.

Lastly, I should like to thank Ann and Gill Ross from all of us, for producing our quarterly newsletter. We really are tremendously grateful for their efforts in producing such an entertaining epistle every three months - well illustrated and informative! Members, keep up the contributions, for that is very necessary.

I shall close, thanking you for your patience listening, and with great hopes for the future of our Group.

Lynda Knight.



MEMBERSHIP.

Annual Subscriptions are now due.

- Single \$ 5.00
- Family \$ 7.50
- Corporate \$10.00

Payment can be accepted by the Treasurer at meetings or forwarded to:

Hon Treasurer.
 Friends of Belair National Park.
 PO Box 2.
 BELAIR. SA 5052.

Receipts will be issued in person together with a Park Pass (this is only for entry to the Park to attend meetings or working bees.)

Receipts and passes can be forwarded by mail if a stamped addressed envelope is included with your subscription.

We welcome new members Jim Alford, Joan Mitchell and Catherine Wells.

CONSTITUTION.

Copies of our constitution are available from the Membership Secretary, Barbara Warburton. 5/173 Main Road. Blackwood or at the Volunteer Centre. Barbara's phone number is 8278-5590.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1998.

PRESIDENT. Mr Brian DuBois. 82784275
 21, Nicolle Ave.
 Hawthorndene. 5051

VICE PRESIDENT. Mr Doug Riley 82783685
 38, Jackson Ave.
 Coromandel Valley. 5051

SECRETARY. Mrs Beth Pitman. 82769260
 Unit 1/4, Price Ave.
 Lower Mitcham. 5062

TREASURER. Mr Eric Cole.
 C/O Box 2.
 Belair. 5052

COMMITTEE.

Mrs Lynda Knight.
Unit 37, "Barryne"
25, Sheoak Road.
Belair. 5052

Mr Melville Liddle.
31, Ashenden Road.
Aldgate. 5154

Mrs Kay Harries.
3, Furness Court.
Blackwood. 5051

Mrs Jill Savli.
4, Colton Street.
Blackwood. 5051

LIAISON RANGER.

Mr Stuart Paul.

MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY.

Miss Barbara Warburton. 82785590
5/173 Main Road.
Blackwood. 5051

EDITOR OF
NEWSLETTER.

Mrs Ann Ross. 82788051
29, Ashby Ave.
Blackwood. 5051

AUDITOR.

Mr Paul Franche.
32, Vincent Street.
Christies Beach. 5165

TUESDAY WALKS

These walks, open to all, will commence again on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, as from April.

Let us hope for some Autumn rains to coax some orchids into bloom.

* The garland lilies are in flower NOW, on and near the road to Pines oval.

If the weather is doubtful (either to hot or wet) phone Lynda on 8278 - 2623 about 1pm for confirmation.

Please meet at the Information Centre by 2 PM.

Lynda Knight.

OBITUARY

MERCIA PURDIE.

Mercia joined the Friends of Belair National Park in 1987. She died on the 21st December 1997 two days after our 12th Birthday Party, which she had attended.

Mercia had a great love of the Park, particularly the orchids. She knew them all and when and where to find them. I shall remember her always bending down to the little Helmet orchids.

We shall miss Mercia, her lovely smile, her quiet efficient help and for just being Mercia.

Farewell Friend.

Joyce Underdown.

HELMET ORCHID.

Oh such a tiny colony
Set amongst all eternity
Where the great bloodwoods stand!
It is the helmet orchid
That will not lift itself
Higher than a fallen leaf
But waits intent and secret,
Leaning its ear to the ground.

What could it hear but silence?
Yet where the orchid listens
Low in its purple hood
Among the trees immensity,
Out of the depth of the world
Dark and rainy and wild
Sounding through all eternity
Silence like music flowed.

Douglas Stewart.

WORKING BEES.

FRIDAY WORKING BEES.

Since our last Newsletter we spent four Fridays on Project 8. This area is very rough and because of this, Stuart suggested we change to Project 12 (the weed busters area,) which we did. On Project 12 we have completed seven Fridays averaging 6 people per session. A lot of Boneseed has been removed with Olives and Hawthorn dealt with in the creek.

TUESDAY WORKING BEES.

The area known as the University Paddock is now completed, one of our best native bush areas. Eric Cole has been the Co-ordinator of this project and full credit goes to him, for the initial planning and the systematic approach to the whole project.

WEDNESDAY WORKING BEES.

We have now started this Wednesday activity to do follow up work on an area that had countless hours spent on it previously, we don't want it to revert back to what it was before. Dozens of dead pine trees were blown over in the late October storm last year, making it very difficult to get at the young Boneseed, African Daisy, Buckthorn and blackberries germinating in amongst the fallen pine boughs. Fortunately Stuart has been able to organise the removal of these trees by next spring, when we will be able to spray these offending weeds. The area referred to is south of the Maze.

SUNDAY WORKING BEES.

We have had only two sessions, one in November and one in February. The Sunday working Bees are to accommodate the non retirees but the numbers have been disappointing. We only had four in November and five in February. The area being worked on is due South of the Pines Oval. It is quite interesting to see the effect of the Herbicide on the Olive and Hawthorn in this area.

Please try and support this monthly Sunday work. It is on the 3rd Sunday every month from 10am to 12, meet at the Visitors Centre, we would welcome some new workers.

Some of our members have their own areas to work in. Ron Tamblyn is working near Sir Edwin Ave, removing numerous Pine trees and Pittosporum and the usual Boneseed etc. Barbara Warburton has done a great job near Sheoak Road. She has put in an enormous amount of time and has nearly completed her patch.

Dan Jaeger and Melville Liddle do a lot of work up in the Melville Gully area. We would like to hear more about their projects.

BLACKBERRY SPRAYING.

Only one area near the Belair Station has been sprayed this season. We hope to do more after Spring this year.

Stuart has been very helpful in supplying us with Herbicide when we need it and providing us with his planned approach using the project system.

We can always use more help so that we can complete these projects sooner.

THE WORKING BEE TIMES ARE Fridays 8am to 10am (9am to 11am after daylight saving ends)

Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am.

Wednesday 8am to 10am (9am to 11am after daylight saving ends)

Sundays. 3rd Sunday every month 10am to 12.

Meet at the Visitor Centre.

For more details ring the Working Bee coordinator Doug Riley on 8278-3685.
Many thanks to all those regular workers, it is good to see such pleasing results.

Doug Riley.



PROFILE. RON PITMAN.

I was born in Adelaide in 1920 and grew up in Colonel Light Gardens. I attended to Colonel Light Gardens Primary School followed by one year at Goodwood Central School. Spent a number of years in the Scouts, becoming a Kings Scout and later a Rover Scout. The highlight of this period was attending the "Corroboree" in Belair National Park during Christmas of 1936/37 (South Australia's Centenary).

Work began when I was 15 years of age. At 17 I was apprenticed as a jobbing moulder and worked in iron and brass moulding. I received 18/6d a week in the first year. This was an essential industry so I was obliged to remain in this work during the 2nd World War.

Two months after the war ceased I left this work and set about gaining agricultural experience. In 1948 I was invited to join Kwato Mission and with a veterinary surgeon and me as his offsider, we ran a course of elementary agriculture for 80 Papuans. Our friends in Amau village nearby had until 15 years previously been head hunters. During this period I managed a rubber plantation etc.

Back in Australia I did herd testing (dairying) in SE Gippsland, followed by running a dairy. I went over to Bindoon in WA and looked after a friends orange orchard while he had an extended period overseas.

This was followed by a visit to New Zealand, where a friend invited me to spend 12 months working with him on his property - intense agriculture. I stayed four and half years.

Back home again with my parents in Colonel Light Gardens, we attend the Colonel Light Gardens Methodist Church as I had done in my younger days. At this time the Minister at the Church was Rev'd Laurie Menadue and he had a daughter, Beth. I was 43 years old and thought it about time to settle down.....Beth and I were married on December 27th 1963.

We have two daughters, one married, no grandchildren.

The period after I got married until I retired in 1984 I worked at Westminster College looking after the Lawn Courts - turf wickets, ovals etc. From there I went to doing the same thing at Flinders University.

During the 30 years Beth and I lived at Glenalta we were involved in Community affairs quite a bit. I've been Secretary of the Residents and Ratepayers Association and then Secretary of the Blackwood Tree Preservation and Gardening Society for many years and since being in Friends of Belair National Park (approx 12 years) I've been Secretary and President twice and on the committee most of that time.

We go to Blackwood Uniting Church and are members of A.R.P.A (Australian Retired Persons Association). I enjoy sailing, walking, cycling and reading.



FROM LIAISON RANGER STUART PAUL.

Well, It's been a busy and interesting start to 1998.

A warm welcome to our new President Brian Dubois, along with all other 1998 office bearers and a huge thankyou for a job well done to those who have decided to vacate the chairs ! A special vote of thanks to Lynda Knight who's support and dedication to the group has been wonderful and will be certainly missed. She is never very far from my ear however and somehow I don't think I've heard the last of her !

This year things will keep rolling along. I am now in the fortunate position where everyone knows where they are heading with their projects. Doug is aware of current weed control projects as well as where we're heading in the future and Brian is up to speed with the revegetation work planned for the plant propagation group. We are now operating as a very efficient team and I am enjoying watching everything run smoothly.

This year I would like to spend some more time assisting with promotion and publicity with the group. Developing a "professional" F.O.B. brochure and increasing community awareness of the work the F.O.B. does may help us get a few new members. The more the merrier !

A copy of the 1997 Weed Control Report for the park is now available. Please give Brian or myself a call if you are interested in having a read. See you all soon !

Stuart.

FAUNA MANAGEMENT IN THE BELAIR NATIONAL PARK.

Fox baiting measures have been conducted in Belair National Park for the last three years. During this period, the number of foxes visible in the environment has fluctuated based on anecdotal information, while the known population and distribution of Southern Brown Bandicoots in the park has risen to over sixty individuals during the same period. Fox baiting has also indirectly contributed to the recruitment of emu chicks into adulthood. Some may consider the emus a menace to the environment because they can be major weed dispersers. Other benefits of fox baiting include the spreading interest in the use of fox baiting as a legitimate land management practice.

The Belair District has put forward proposals to undertake public cat control, integrated pest and hare control measures, and European wasp and introduced bee control measures. It is hoped these proposals will lead to the development of standard operating procedures for vermin control practices in Belair National Park, as well as a high degree of independence to co-ordinate pest control operations.

In relation to native fauna management, the Belair District has supervised a number of Flinders University student undertaking a variety of research projects in Belair National Park. These projects have included :

- assessing the feasibility of re-introducing the Pygmy Copperhead Snake into Belair National Park,
- habitat partitioning and distribution of Brushtail and Ringtail Possums in Belair National Park,
- survey of Western Grey Kangaroo population in Belair National Park,
- comparison of trapping methods in the area around Eastern Lodge,
- assessing the impacts of emus as weed dispersers, plus other.

It is the intention of the Belair District to continue to engage with the Flinders University (Ken Sanderson) in the development of strategic resource projects with priority management outcomes. The Belair District will also be involved with the following 1998 fauna projects :

- continuation of Autumn and Spring fox baiting programs,
- cat control measures,
- rabbit and hare control measures,
- European wasp and introduced bee nest/s identification and eradication,
- Flinders University student projects for BNP priority fauna species,
- update of the fauna list for the new Belair National Park Management Plan,
- establishing a program for the Friends of Belair National Park to record and monitor fauna communities in Belair National Park,
- establishing a comprehensive data base of information on computer.

Please feel free to come and see me if you are interested in reading Flinders University student reports, for reports of animals in the park, native or introduced fauna management, or whatever. I'll keep you posted so watch this space.

Malcolm Lane, Ranger, Belair District, DEHAA

- * Please return completed "Fauna Records" to Malcolm as soon as possible.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

FRIDAY 22nd MAY 1998.



FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

1998 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1998

Sat 7th 1 pm Annual General Meeting
 Sat 14th 1 pm Special Meeting:
 Mountain Bikes.
 Sun 15th 10 am Working Bee
 * No Tuesday Walks this month

MARCH 1998

Sat 7th 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm Guest Speaker - John Hunwick:
 'Bilbies'
Afternoon Tea
 Sun 15th 10 am Working Bee
 * No Tuesday Walks this Month

APRIL 1998

Sat 4th 12.30 pm Barbecue.
 2 pm General Meeting.
 Sun 5th Walking Groups Day
 Pines Oval.
 Tues 14th 2 pm Tuesday Walk
 Sun 19th 10 am Working Bee
 Tues 28th 2 pm Tuesday Walk

MAY 1998

Sat 2nd 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm
 Tues 12th 2 pm Tuesday Walk
 Sun 17th 10 am Working Bee
 Tues 26th 2 pm Tuesday Walk

JUNE 1998

Sat 6th 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm
 Tues 9th 2 pm Tuesday Walk
 Sun 21st 10 am Working Bee
 Tues 23rd 2 pm Tuesday Walk

AUGUST 1998

Sat 1st 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm
 Tues 11th 2 pm Tuesday Walk
 Sun 16th 10 am Working Bee.
 Tues 25th 2 pm Walk

SEPTEMBER 1998

Sat 5th 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm Guest Speaker,
 Yvonne Steed.
 (Threatened Plant Species)
 Tues 8th 2 pm Tuesday Walk
 Sun 13th 10 am Working Bee
 (Note: Change of Date)
 Sat 19th 10 am to 3 pm -
 Professor Cleland Walk.
 Leader: Enid Robertson AM
 Tues 22nd 2 pm Walk.

OCTOBER 1998

Sat 3rd 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm
 Fri 9th (State Friends Forum ,
 Sun 11th Meningie.)
 Tues 13th 2 pm Tuesday Walk
 Sun 18th 10 am Working Bee
 Tues 27th 2 pm Tuesday Walk

NOVEMBER 1998

Sat 7th 12.30 pm Barbecue.
 2 pm General Meeting.
 Tues 10th 2 pm Tuesday Walk
 Sun 15th 10 am Working Bee
 Tues 24th 2 pm Tuesday Walk

JULY 1998

Sat 4th 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm Guest Speaker.
 Dr Ken Sanderson. "Bats"

Tues 14th 2 pm Tuesday Walk

Sun 19th 10 pm Working Bee

Tues 28nd 2 pm Tuesday Walk

DECEMBER 1998

Sat 5th 1 pm General Meeting
 2 pm

Tues 8th 2 pm Tuesday Walk

Sat 19th 6 pm Birthday Party.
 (13th Year)

Sun 20th 10 am Working Bee.

Tues 22nd 2 pm Tuesday Walk.

* Next Tuesday Walk April 1999.

JANUARY 1999
 No Meetings or Activities

FEBRUARY 1999
 Sat 6th 1 pm AGM

NOTES

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD IN Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park (Former Kiosk).

SUNDAY GROUP WORKING BEES meet at Information Centre to start at 10 am SHARP. Enquires Doug Riley, 8278 3685

TUESDAY WORKING BEE: 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

WEDNESDAY WORKING BEE: 8 am to 10 am Daylight Saving Time
 9 am to 11 am Winter

FRIDAY WORKING BEE: 8 am to 10 am Daylight Saving Time.
 9 am to 11am in Winter.

TUESDAY WALKS START FROM "Two Hour" Car Park near Information Centre and last approximately 2 hours. Enquires - Lynda Knight, 8 278 2623.

FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO JOIN Friends of Belair National Park -
 Call: Brian DuBois (President), 8278 4275 or Beth Pitman (Secretary), 8278 9260.