



Be R. PITMAN



The Friends of Belair Park

Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985
BEST NEWSLETTER 1996.

JUNE 1998

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I dislike writing. Last news letter I had a legitimate excuse for not writing a report. I had to leave room for Lynda's annual report.

Talking of Lynda I must congratulate her for a job well done. During her term of office the Group has gone from a shaky existence to one of strength both in terms of member numbers and work carried out. I hope when I step down that the Group is as healthy. I believe Lynda stepped down to slow down. Has anyone seen any evidence of this. She is still on the committee, organises the Tuesday walks, cleans the Volunteer Centre for us and others, organises catering in the Volunteer Centre and attends working bees.

Those of you who cannot attend our meetings and don't know me, let me assure you that I have been trying to get to the Tuesday Walks to make myself known. There is a profile of me in this newsletter.

To me the most significant event of this quarter has been the publication of Stuart Paul's Vegetation Management Plan. If there were any doubts about our place in the Park this publication places us firmly in the overall management of the park.

The Park has been split into 52 Vegetation Management Units. Each unit is described in detail regarding work, time schedules and importance of each unit botanically. The lion's share of the work is ours. I would ask all of you to encourage as many people as you know to join us at working bees and even adopt a Vegetation management unit.

Unfortunately the author of this publication, Stuart Paul, has left us as a Ranger and has taken a position at Morialta. However Stuart has become a member of our Friends Group and has attended working bees on his days off.

There will be a big tree planting programme over the next couple of months. We have approximately 1500 trees to plant and it would be a pity if through lack of planting the efforts of members who propagated the plants are wasted. This is aside from the loss to the Park.

Welcome back Janine. Janine was our Liaison Ranger when I joined the Friends three years ago. Maternity leave intervened and Stuart stood in for her. With the sudden drop in the number of Rangers Janine has a full work load and wears many hats.

Brian DuBois

TO THE FRIENDS OF BELAIR.

As most of you know, I am moving on to a permanent position based at Morialta / Black Hill within the Lofty District. While there are always regrets, I believe a permanent position is a step in the right direction for me. I feel comfortable knowing I am leaving the Friends in a position where morale and enthusiasm are high and the group knows where they are heading over the next year or so. It is also pleasing to see Janine Kraehenbuehl returning to her previous position to support the Friends. She is up to date with current Friends Projects and will bring new knowledge and a fresh approach to the work the group is involved in.

The commitment and enthusiasm you have shown is reflected in the on ground results we can see in the park and the development of the Friends Group and Volunteer Centre to its current state. I have, on many occasions enjoyed showing off the work you have done around the park to various audiences.

The work I have been involved with and the people that I have worked with have contributed more than anything else to the great job satisfaction I have gained over the last 2 years. For this, I thank you most sincerely.

Thanks for a great couple of years!

Stuart.

MEMBERSHIP.

We welcome new members Franka and Greg Williams, Michael Heyne and Ranger Stuart Paul.

Michael is doing a course in Eco-tourism at TAFE. Franka is the daughter of member Jill Salvi. It is great to have Stuart join us as a member, even though he has left Belair National Park. He came on a Friday working bee recently.

There are 30 single memberships and 17 family memberships, making a total of 65 financial members this year so far.

Overdue subscriptions should be paid by the end of June so that members continue to receive their quarterly newsletters for the rest of the year.

If you require a receipt please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope. Send to,

Treasurer, Friends of Belair National Park P.O Box 2, BELAIR. 5052.

Single \$5. Families \$7.50.

JUMPERS AND POLO SHIRTS.

We will send in another order for these blue, monogrammed, Friends of Belair National Park, jumpers and polo shirts if we have enough people interested. We must buy 10 articles or more for the price to be reasonable. If you are interested in purchasing either a jumper or polo shirt please contact Beth Pitman as soon as possible on 8276 9260

TUESDAY WALKS

The twice monthly walks in the park commenced on 14th April, when approximately eighteen people walked around the Workanda Creek area, in the vicinity of Pines Oval, noting some of the weeding which some of the Friends are involved in. Later we drove up the Upper Sturt gate area, to view some "Parsons Bands" orchids, this was followed by afternoon tea.

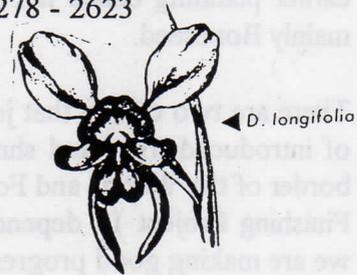
Other walks have been alongside Minnow Creek, and recently we followed the Park boundary, by the golf course. We are hoping that much needed rain will bring on some more native flora.

We have some new walkers join us, and they are very welcome, as are usual good Friends.

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.



Profile - Brian DuBois

I was born in 1936 and grew up in sight of the score board at the Unley Oval - come on the Blues. Holidays were spent on a farm at Saddleworth where my interest in nature began. Main schooling was at C.B.C. Wakefield St. Adelaide for years 5 to 12.

A year was spent at the Adelaide Uni. studying Electronic Engineering. A pass in the exams did not deter me from changing to the Agriculture Diploma at Roseworthy College. Nature was now more than an interest.

Following graduation from Roseworthy I took what I describe as a working holiday with the following jobs and localities

Sharefarmer - Sandalwood & Huddleston

Clerk - Salisbury & Woomera

Stump picking - Ki Ki

Grease monkey, truck driver - Whyalla

Storeman, truck & crane driver - Alice Springs

Chainman - Utopia & Balbirini Stations N.T. and Adelaide S.A.

Clerk - Adelaide.

By this time I was ready to settle having met and married Noeline. I took a job with the Dept. of Agriculture and was stationed at the Minnipa Research Centre, Minnipa. My life even after this still sounded a bit like a travelogue. From Minnipa to Kybybolite to Murray Bridge to Adelaide to Northfield. It did take me 26 years to complete this. During this time I was involved with the technical, research and management aspects of sheep for meat and wool, beef cattle, pastures, irrigation design and operation, trees, equipment design and manufacture, soil and water interaction, electronics and sustainable farming systems. As the old saying goes "a jack of all trades and a master of none".

Noeline and I have four adult children - two boys and two girls, one married and one still living at home. As yet there no grand children, but we are patient.

Over the years we have been involved in many committees including church committees, the Lion's Club, school parent bodies and social clubs. We both enjoy the full involvement.

WORKING BEES.



FRIDAY WORKING BEES.

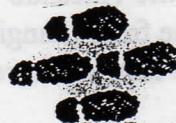
We are still working on the original "WEED BUSTER" area, Project 13. (Stuart in his earlier planning called it Project 12). This was one of the most heavily infested areas, mainly Boneseed.

There are two creeks that join to form Workanda Creek, in these two creeks are all types of introduced trees and shrubs, Olive dominating. Olive trees that were planted on the border of the Woods and Forest nursery, the birds distributing the seeds into the creeks. Finishing Project 13 depends on our volunteer numbers, however with regular stalwarts we are making good progress.

TUESDAY WORKING BEES.

The area bounded by Carawatha, Lodge and Moorowie tracks is presently being worked on and should be completed in few weeks. This part of the Park is some of our best native bushland.

WEDNESDAY WORKING BEES.



This area is bounded by Upper Stuart Road, Sir Edwin Avenue, Railway line and the Western Gate entrance road. We have been working on this area for a number of years. While it is not high on the priority list, if we do not do follow up work it would very quickly revert back to what it was 5 years ago, covered in Boneseed, African Daisy and Blackberry. There are some very dense stands of Red Gum saplings scattered throughout, interspersed with Hardenbergia, which are all doing very well.

There are a number of Project areas on Stuart Paul's Eradication plan that are being managed by individual Friends, Barbara Warburton, Project 12 on Sheoak Road, Project 1

and 2 managed by Eric Cole, Project 10 by Joyce Underdown, Project 11 by Ron Tamblyn and Project 4 by Doug Riley. Ron Pitman also puts a lot of time in various areas. Eric Cole has his own area on Thursdays.

Each of these members take a pride in their particular areas and are rewarded by the results. Perhaps there are other members who would like to adopt an area and work on it in their own time. If you feel you would like to contribute in this way contact Doug Riley and something could be worked out, such as where to work, how to work and what is a weed and what is native.

SUNDAY WORKING BEES.

The May working Bee was suspended because of our commitment to the Park Festival. However due to a misunderstanding two Girl Scouts turned up and because Eric was on the sick list, Mary his wife, took the girls weeding, so now the girls have completed their badges and 6 hours of weeding was achieved.

The other two Sundays were employed on the Western side of Project 13.

TRAILER.

A trailer has been purchased to help us with our weeding, spraying and planting. It has been custom made, is completely enclosed and lockable. Containing a 200 litre water tank with a 1" Ball valve accessible from the outside of the trailer. We will be able to fill knapsacks for spraying and buckets for watering in our plants with much less effort than before.

There is an enclosed area on top of the canopy for transporting wire guards and stakes. Inside there is a rack for mattocks and plastic crates for our Herbicide bottles. It has been designed for the future, making it easier to cope when we are swamped with large numbers of volunteers.

The trailer will be housed in the Workshop grounds under cover. We are very grateful for the cooperation from the Park Management in getting the signage on each side of the canopy, this was done in time for the Festival of Parks on Sunday May 17th and was admired not only by Friends but the visitors to the Festival.

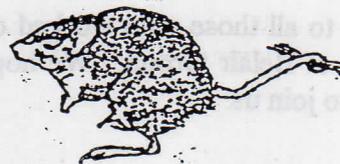
THE WORKING BEE TIMES ARE

Fridays 9am to 11am

Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am.

Wednesday 9am to 11am

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 our workers, the Park won't be free of weeds overnight, but it will happen, probably not in my lifetime.

Doug Riley.



THE 1998 PARKS AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL.

Beth and Ron Pitman arrived early to set up our display in the Main Pavilion with the other Friends Groups, but the day was so glorious that when Doug Riley parked our new trailer outside by the door with its sides emblazoned with "Friends of Belair National Park" we moved outside next to it. It was so pleasant there that Friends of Onkaparinga, also in the Main Pavilion, moved their tea, coffee and cake stall outside next to us.

Our display generated much interest, and we gave away lots of pamphlets both for Friends of Belair and for the Park.

The trailer was flanked by a display of labelled weeds - olive, broom, blackberry, rose, boneseed including one 8 ft high, and South African Daisy including one 10 ft high. One little lad asked us "How much for the plants?" but we didn't sell him any.

The Minister spoke from the centre of the Main Oval, making it a little hard for us to hear confined as we were to our display, but the general layout was much better than the previous year, with stalls around the edge of the oval and no crowding. Lots of stalls for food including kangaroo and emu and quandong produce.

The Department had provided us with a sign advertising our guided walks, and at our insistence the walks were advertised as promised (once only) over the loud speaker. We guided more than 50 people on four walks from the Main Pavilion around Playford Lake so can count this contribution to the Parks Festival as a success. Many thanks to Judith O'Hara who helped plan and guide the walk, and Ron Tamblyn, Doug Riley, Joyce Underdown, Kay Harries, Brian DuBois and Jill Salvi who were guides.



Di and Keith Vickery manned our post all day and answered questions and gave out pamphlets. Who was that helmeted lady on a bike who pursued one of our tours to fetch some parents to their sick child?



The weather was warm and sunny, even though a few big drops late in the day made us wonder if the birds were flying over, but it did not rain. Our position in the shade outside the Main Pavilion was perfect for catching the notice of all as they passed by and for us to watch the world.

Thanks to all those who worked or who made an appearance and helped to promote our Friends of Belair Group. We hope that the success of the 1998 Festival will encourage others to join us.

Jill Salvi.

Editors Note. Particular thanks are extended to Jill Salvi and Judith O'Hara for their great efforts in organising the walks and for providing a wonderful display of labelled weeds.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER. FRIDAY 14th AUGUST.