



Friends

SALVI



Belair National Park

volunteers working for Conservation

Established 1985

Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

DECEMBER 1998

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The last three months have been very busy. Included in a long list of activities were:-

The Forum. A great weekend was had by all who attended. I feel the highlight of the Forum was the presentation of the Friend's Group of the Year Award. The award included a certificate, two books and a cheque for \$600. Next year the Forum will be at Pinnaroo on the 13th to 15th August. Keep these dates free and join us.

Weedbusters Week. A very busy week with our members, aided by a few members of the public, succeeded in demolishing a large tract of boneseed. Some new members were gained.

Professor Cleland Walk. Another great walk full of information on a great range of plants within the Park. Enid Robertson, who is a veritable fountain of plant knowledge, led the walk. Thanks Enid. Following the Media Release by the Minister Ms Kotz, I was contacted by the Messenger Newspaper for an article on the Friends of Belair National Park. An excellent article appeared on page 9 of the October 28th issue. During discussions with the cameraman I mentioned that one of our members had found a use for boneseed. The very next issue of the Messenger our estimable Doug Riley was featured on the front page with one of his pens. The pens are available from the Belair Park Information Office.

The Director's Grant is now the Community Support Grant for which an application of \$2600 has been made for the Bandicoot Habitat Revegetation project. The \$2600 has three components - \$1500 revegetation materials - \$500 protective equipment - \$600 signage.

Christmas Pageant. We will again be participating in the Apex Christmas Pageant on Friday 4th December at 6.30 pm for 7 pm parade. Everybody - regardless of age - is welcome to join us in the parade.

Constitution. Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of the revised Constitution.

Lastly do not forget the nomination forms also attached to this newsletter. Two long serving members of the Committee wish to stand down next year for a well earned rest. Consequently there will be a need for at least two new faces on the Committee. Make sure you obtain your nominee's agreement to avoid any embarrassment at the A.G.M. If there are enough nominations you can come to the A.G.M. without any fear of being coerced into anything.

Brian DuBios.

SECRETARIES REPORT.

We have had interesting speakers at our meetings in the last few months.

Ph.D students Craig Clarke and Janine Lloyd spoke to us in August about the biological control experiments they are doing on boneseed and broom. They are working in Belair National Park.

Our Liaison Ranger Janine Kraehenbuehl talked to us about the things which are happening in our park and presented her Bandicoot programme.

One of our own members, Dr Ralph Foster, gave us a most interesting talk on Native Grasses. Appreciation Certificates were presented to long time members John Hemer and Kath Norman who can no longer attend out activities.

We have had B.B.Q's twice this year so that people can meet socially. At the last one in November District Ranger, Darren Willis came. At the meeting afterwards he spoke on the progress of development plans for the Caravan Park.

We hope most of our members will attend our Birthday Party at the Volunteer Centre on Saturday December 19th at 6 pm. New members are encouraged to come.

Beth Pitman.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS.

Since the issue of the last newsletter we have received a number of new members. On behalf of all the members I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ingrid Birgden, A.D. Byrne, Ella and Laurence, John and Avis Whitbread, Marianne Broug, Sharon Haylen, Ian Will, Jeff Turvey, Rolf Kaselow and Fae and Jim Trueman. If I haven't already done so I look forward to meeting you all at the working bees or the monthly meetings.

Barbara Warburton.

TUESDAY WALKS

Our walks in the Park on the second and fourth Tuesdays have been enjoyed by an average of twenty people and only once have we been thwarted by rain. This 'lost' walk meant that four or five weeks elapsed, and we missed out on the donkey orchids and my favourite 'golden moths'.

The last walk in October culminated in us having afternoon tea at the Jaeger's home, and feeding their little bandicoots! If the weather is not too hot, we'll try to walk in January, 1999 because the Hyacinth orchids are then at their best.

Lynda Knight.

PROFILE - JOYCE UNDERDOWN.

I was born in Adelaide but when I was two years old we went to Wagin, W.A. My Mother came from a farm north of Geraldton. My Father, who was older and born in S.A. had spent many years in W.A. These years are a sunny memory of days spent outdoors. I loved the flowers - Christmas bush, smoke bush along the railway, donkey and spider orchids, everlastings, drosera, paper bark trees, golden gum on the wattles.

My Father took the necessities out to farmers on Saturday afternoons. He took me with him and I became an expert opener of farm gates. There were no grids then.

My Father finished his accountancy exams and we came back to Adelaide to a new house at Myrtle Bank. It was the beginning of the depression and if my Father was home it was because he had no job. Life was rough.

Six years later we shifted to Millicent. I was then the eldest of four. I finished High School and went to Rendelsham which grew chicory for Bickford's Coffee and chicory essence. I spent two years there as a junior teacher. Two years followed at Teachers College where I qualified as an Infant Teacher.

Nearly four years later I married Reg. We had nothing. I was sacked. He was sent to Hendon in a reserved job which required laboratory knowledge and much climbing. The pay was less than the basic rate. I worked as a clerk at Hendon for 15 months. Eventually we came to Blackwood to live in a house in which no plumbing worked.

I had three children and Reg continued working for his Ph.D. He joined the staff of the School of Mines, now the University of South Australia. I spent six years at the Blackwood Kindergarten, then held in the Church of England hall. The girls learned piano, went to Girl Guides and callisthenics. Both went interstate, so I took a year off to sew sequins on costumes and to make half a case of toffee apples each week for sale. I rejoined the Education Department and went to Marion High School where I remained until I retired.

Reg went to Reading, England on sabbatical leave for a year and we all went with him. We sailed via Sydney, Auckland, Tahiti, Panama Canal, Lisbon, Southampton and returned through the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, and the Indian Ocean to Perth. Reg had another year of Sabbatical leave taken in Kyoto, Japan. Michael was in Germany, the girls married with young babies, but I had a wonderful year.

We shifted to Glenalta. I retired, had cancer and recovered. Reg had brain cancer, inoperable and after hospitalisation he came home where I nursed him.

I then spent years looking after grandchildren sent to Adelaide for secondary education. I had cancer again, unrelated to my previous occasion.

Now I live alone and I still love flowers. My other interests include Penguin Club, Probus, Belair National Park and my garden.

WORKING BEES.

FRIDAY WORKING BEES.

We are still working on Unit 23 (project 8). This is a pristine area and is well worth spending time on it.

We depend on our regular workers, but John Duruz tells me that he will be moving out of the district in the New Year as his wife has a teaching appointment in the Clare district. We wish them well, but we will certainly miss them on Fridays. However, John Whitbread has now joined us, and with Betty Wise we will still have a good team.

TUESDAY WORKING BEES.

Eric and his team are currently working on Unit 16.

Ian Will, a new member, has become a regular worker on Eric's team.

SUNDAY WORKING BEES.

We are still concentrating on Unit 17, which is badly infested with olives and broom.

Please come to this monthly working Bee if you can - you would be most welcome.

Every 3rd Sunday starting at 10 am to 12 noon and we meet at the Visitors Centre.

Other working bee times are:-

Fridays 8 am to 10 am (early start during daylight saving)

Tuesdays 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

My thanks go to all those hard workers attending working bees.

Doug Riley.

WEEDBUSTERS WEEK.

What a busy time Weedbusters Week for 1998 turned out to be! It began on the last day of the Friends' Forum (held at Meningie) and ended the day after the Professor Cleland Memorial Walk, all three activities were very well represented by the Friends of Belair.

Weedbusters Week is a national annual event, coordinated in SA by Ross Britton of the Department of Primary Industries and sponsored in SA by Monsanto (the Roundup company), and this year ran from Sunday 11/10/98 to 18/10/98. The area weeded by the Friends of Belair during this week is opposite the area weeded last year - turn left at the Government Nursery, follow Echo Track across the creek and the area is on the right behind the huge fallen tree, studded with milkmaids and now without a boneseed in sight (from the track, anyway). The area has a lot of flowers including the larger orchids and although not a high priority area it is conspicuous to Park visitors.

The total of hours worked was 149 over the eight days with two hour shifts at 9 am and 1 pm each day. Ten new people turned up to work, and several came back for another go. New weeder Ann Way, not only came back but brought her husband the second time, so was awarded the Weedbuster water bottle. (We had been sent caps, rulers, balloons, fridge magnets, badges and stickers for advertising, as well as an assortment of posters, but only one water bottle. Anyone who would like any of the above still remaining, please see Jill).

On the Monday at Government Farm Oval the Deputy Premier Rob Kerin launched the SA Weed Strategy to an audience of about 80, plus a large contingent from St John's Grammar School. Monsanto announced the winner of the Primary School Poster Competition which will be used for advertising next year. Dr Rick Roush presented the inaugural award for outstanding contribution to Weed Management in this State to Dr Enid Robertson (who led our Professor Cleland Memorial Walk the following Saturday).

Congratulations to those Friends who weeded in Weedbusters Week, especially to those who came time and time again. Two shifts on one day turned out to be jolly hard work, especially in the interior of this

block where the boneseed was a wall to wall monoculture. Other woody weeds removed (or poisoned) were olives, roses, South African daisy, and a large area of Sollya.

Jill Salvi.

10th ANNUAL FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM.

Hosted by The Friends of the Coorong, Friday 9th October to Sunday 11th October, and held in the Meningie Area School Stadium.

On Friday evening we were welcomed by Professor Harry Wallace President of the Host Group and Dr Michael Sullivan President of The Friends of Parks Inc. District Ranger of Coorong, Phil Hollows, introduced to 8th edition of "The Tattler". Then followed the Adoption Certificate presentation. Friends of Belair received certificates for Year of Recruitment and Year of Ornithology.

Saturday morning began with registrations and the setting up of displays, thanks go to our President, Brian, for setting up the Friends of Belair display so well. The official opening of the Forum was carried out by the Hon. John Dawkins M.L.C and the welcome was given by Mr Bill Paterson, C.E.O. Coorong District Council. Roll call by Dene Cordes, Manager Community Liaison. After question time, the Keynote speaker, Mrs Leta Padman, gave a colourful history of The Coorong. Two of her books were available for purchase, the proceeds going the Friends of The Coorong. Included in discussion topics was one submitted by Doug Riley, F.O.B on 'Working relations between D.E.H.A.A staff and Friends - drawing on our working with Ranger Stuart Paul. President Brian DuBois F.O.B also put up for discussion "How do we enforce Park Regulations?" Jill Salvi F.O.B asked the question :How are people appointed to Consultative Committee and for how long do they serve?.

After a B.B.Q lunch we embarked on a tour of our choice. Beth and I chose the Lakes Nature Trail and the Salt Creek Primary School, an award winning school. This school is definitely worth visiting if you're down that way.

On Saturday evening we all attended a formal dinner catered for by "Geoff's Gourmacues". Master of Ceremonies, District Ranger Phil Hollows kept the evening flowing smoothly and with humour. Then further awards were presented by the Hon John Dawkins with citations read by Chief Executive John Scanlon and chaired by Allen Holmes, Director of Heritage and Biodiversity.

Our past President Lynda Knight received an individual award.

Six groups celebrated their 10th Birthday by jointly cutting a huge cake.

For me one of the highlights of the evening was the number of family groups present. Young Darcy Holmes (son of Allen) joined M.C Phil Hollows on the stage and almost stole the show.

Sunday morning about 150 people did the "Breakfast on the Barrages" tour. Imagine breakfast of Coorong mullet - delicious! Back at the stadium:- The Keynote speaker was David Moyle. What he said made everyone feel proud to belong to the Friends of Parks Group of people. He related how Peter Bird and a small group had the idea of friends groups. The idea was passed on to the Minister David Wotton (he was present at the Forum). That idea was eventually launched and today we have 93 groups. David said, I am a friend of all Friends Groups and related the hours and hours the Foundation members put into fighting to preserve our environment and added that whatever we do we must do in a political context. He borrowed a term used by Hugh Passingham and referred to the Parks as "biodiversity arks" "This is the challenge" he said "there has to be a coming together of all the wandering tribes" (those individual groups). He said that the "Foundation" and Friends of Parks Inc have hatched a plan, which will be unfolded shortly. He briefly outlined the format. He reiterated the serious plight of the environment, but was

hopeful for the future and referred to various positive articles which have appeared in the 'Australian'. One such article was headed 'How do we create nature friendly highways' After lunch there were more awards, votes of thanks and the handover to Bill Venning, President of "Friends of Southern Mallee Parks" hosts of next years Forum to be held in Pinnaroo 13th - 15th August 1999.

The Forum ended with goodbyes to Friends we've known for many years and to new ones made, - "See you next Forum" was a common farewell. These Forums provide an opportunity for members of Friends of Parks to meet and discuss their activities, achievements, hopes and future plans. Hope you too will consider going to Pinnaroo in '99. A total of 20 F.O.B members attended the Forum this year.

Ron Pitman.

CITATION. FRIENDS GROUP OF THE YEAR. F.O.B.P.

The Friends of Belair formed at a public meeting in 1985.

The group was involved in the introduction of the Project System in weed control with the holistic pest plant programme where all the work in the park has been planned in accordance with the Strategic Priorities.

The park has been split into 52 Vegetation Management Units, with each described in detail regarding work, time schedules and the importance of each unit botanically. In 1996, the Friends recorded 400 hours of voluntary work, at an estimated value of \$6500. The group took up occupation of the Volunteer Centre and membership increased by 32 in 1997. Attendance at monthly meetings averages 24 members. Working bees are also held on Fridays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays.

Over sixty Southern Brown Bandicoots have been spotted, with fox baiting indirectly contributing to the population increase. To assist in the restoration of bandicoot habitat in Melville Gully, 1500 trees have been planted this year and seed will be collected for continuing revegetation over the next five years.

Major activities have included.

Pest Plant Removal. - Sections of the Park have been cleared of boneseed with results showing substantial native bushland regeneration. Pine and olive trees have been cut out with hand pulling of the smaller plants.

A large patch of watsonia bulbs was removed by hand, as spraying was not suitable. This was labour intensive but worthwhile as individual bulbs were dug out, collected in bags and removed from the site. Hundreds of Monadenia orchid bulbs were dug out and both plants and bulbs were bagged and removed from the park

Chemical Treatment. - was used as part of weed management. Very little South African daisy and boneseed was seen thus indicating the success of the programme.

In the railway area, Friends hand weeded many species including broom, phalaris, and boneseed, with blackberry being spot sprayed.

The Friends are largely responsible for the maintenance and weeding of the Front Office area.

The group has very much appreciated the encouragement of Ranger Stuart Paul who has now transferred to another district but has paid his membership and helps in the park on his days off. The group

acknowledges the support of District Ranger, Darren Willis, Senior Ranger Janine Kraekenbuehl, and the full staff of Belair

Tuesday Walks have an average attendance of 16 - 18 people. The Belair Friends always has representation at the annual Forums. Some members attended mandatory courses in the park - chainsaw instruction, and poison management. Sixty people attended the 12th Birthday of the group last December. The group has a Membership Secretary. There are 30 single memberships, and 17 family = 65 members in total.

A trailer has been purchased to help with weeding, spraying and planting. It has been custom designed by member Doug Riley, and is completely enclosed and lockable.

The group was involved in the Parks and Wildlife Festival for the past two years. A full year calender of events is in the newsletter, which was chosen as the Best Friends Newsletter in 1996.

This group is a good example of one that began in a small way, and grew to a large organisation because of its sound leadership.

HOW TO DISTINGUISH NATIVE GRASSES FROM INTRODUCED.

For those who missed my talk, here is a summary of ways to distinguish native from introduced grasses. Unfortunately there is no one character which distinguishes the native grasses from the introduced species but the following are strong indicators.

1. *Most* native grasses are perennials whilst *most* introduced species are annuals.
This means that.
 - a) **In spring** and early summer, any grass which has dead (brown) stems and dead (brown) leaves mixed in with the living green ones is *likely* to be a perennial.
 - b) **In Summer** any grass with green leaves is *likely* to be a perennial native grass.
The introduced annuals are dried and withered by late summer.
But *Dactylis* and *lolium* are introduced perennials: however within the park these are mainly restricted to the lowland Western end.
2. More than half of the **native species** have leaf blades which are **less than 2mm** wide. Most grasses with blades more than 5mm wide are likely to be introduced, but again there are introduced species (e.g. *Aira*), which have leaves less than 2mm wide.
3. Most of the **native grasses** have **short ligules** and in many of them the ligules are **reduced** to a ring of short **hairs**. But some introduced species (e.g. *Lolium* also have very short ligules). The Wallaby grasses (*Danthonia*) have 2 tufts of hairs (collar hairs) at the junction of the leaf sheath with the stem.
4. Just as you can distinguish many introduced European trees by their relatively yellow-green leaves from the natives (e.g. Eucalypts) which have darker green leaves, so many of the introduced grasses are more dark green. But there are exceptions in both cases.
5. Most of the **introduced** grasses have broad **flat** leaf blades. Many of the **native** grasses have narrow leaves with **inrolled** edges. But again there are exceptions.
6. Most of the **introduced** grasses have **soft pliable** leaf blades : the **native species** are often **stiffer** and harder.

Ralph Foster.

COMING EVENTS.

December 1998.

Friday 4th	6.30 pm	Blackwood Apex Christmas Pageant.
Saturday 5th	1 pm	General meeting.
Tuesday 8th	2 pm	Tuesday Walk.
Saturday 19th	6 pm	Birthday Party (13th year)
Sunday 20th	10 am	Working Bee
Tuesday 22nd	2 pm	Tuesday Walk
Thursday 31st		Nominations close for Office Bearers.

January 1999.

No meetings or activities.

February 1999

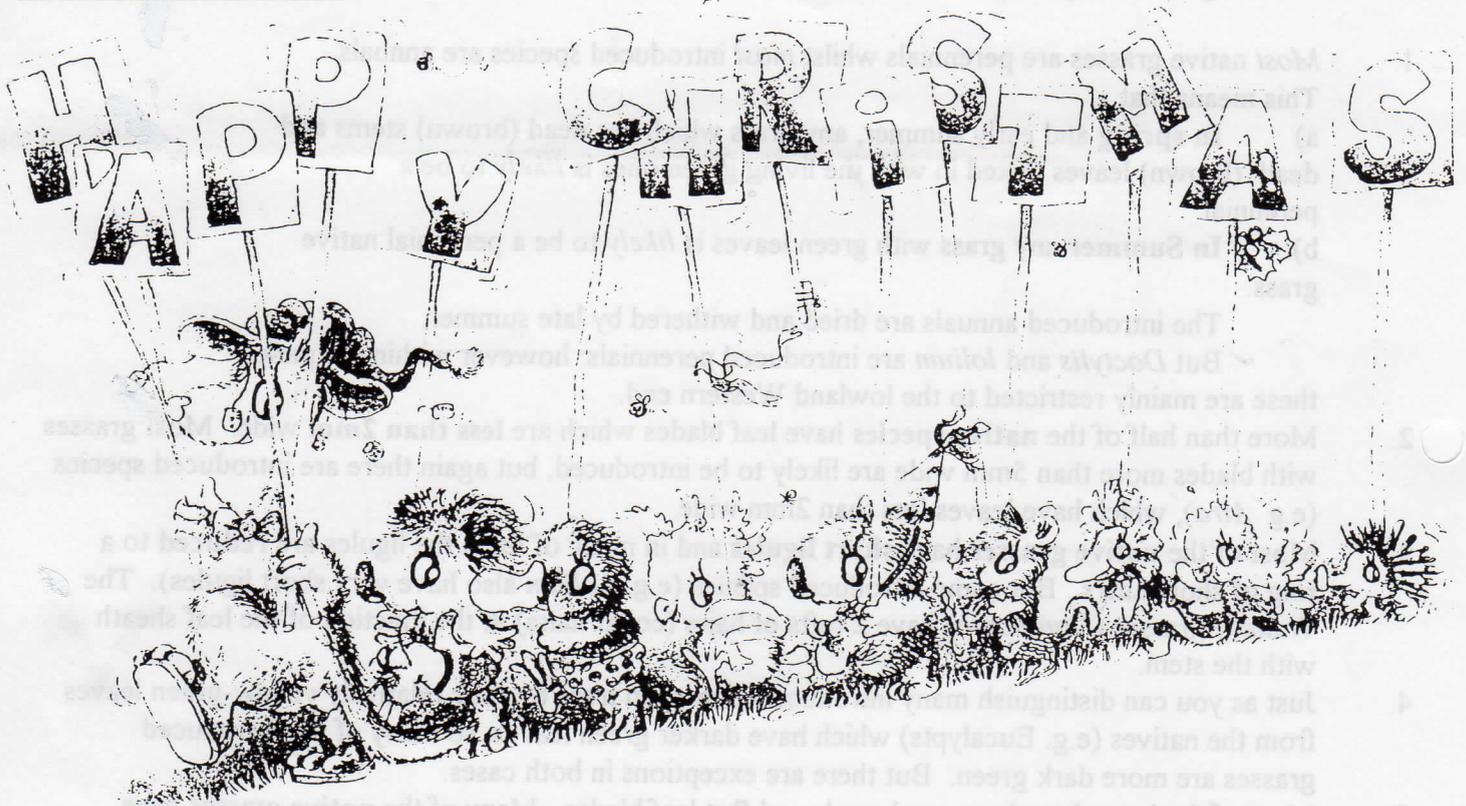
Saturday 6th 1 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

April 1999

Tuesday 13th 2 pm First Tuesday Walk for 1999

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

FEBRUARY 19th 1999.



The Season's Greetings * * * * *
and best wishes for the New Year

F.B.N.P. CONSTITUTION.

Your committee are of the opinion our Constitution needs modifying so as to make it a more easily workable document and therefore submit the following amendments for your consideration. The amendments will be submitted for discussion and voting at the 1999 A.G.M. in accordance with the requirements of the constitution.

CLAUSE 2. OBJECTS.

This clause does not define our objects as well as it might. For example there is no reference to activities for the enjoyment of our members, therefore we propose clause 2 be deleted in its entirety and the following substituted:-

2. OBJECTS .

The objects of the group shall be:-

- (1) To provide voluntary assistance to Belair National Park in close cooperation and liaison with the staff.
- (2) To raise funds for special projects to benefit Belair National Park and for administration and social activities of the Friends of Belair National Park.
- (3) To provide cultural and social activities for the enjoyment of Members and the public.

CLAUSE 3. MEMBERSHIP.

With our subscription rates being so low concessions are unnecessary therefore delete sub clause (2)(iii) then sub clause (2)(iv) becomes (2)(iii).

Replace sub clause (5)(ii) with the following:-

The annual subscription rates for each class of membership shall be such sum as the members shall determine from time to time in a general meeting.

This clause has been taken from the model constitution and is required so we can determine the following year's subs at a November/December meeting. Currently we can only change the subs at an AGM (March) and even then they cannot be applied till the following year.

Replace sub clause (6) with the following:-

Any new member joining more than six months into the calendar year shall pay half the full subscription rate applicable at the time.

CLAUSE 6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Omit sub clause (4)(iv). This will be applicable if the previous amendment is adopted. Clause (4)(v) then becomes (4)(iv).

CLAUSE 8. FINANCES AND PROPERTY.

Omit sub clause (2) therefore sub clauses (3), (4) and (5) become (2), (3) and (4). This will be necessary if Clause (2) OBJECTS is amended as it is contrary to the objects.

19-8-98