



Friends
of
Belair National Park
volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

DECEMBER 1999

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

The year is certainly galloping past. It's that time again to think about all the duties that need to be done to make **Our Group** an enjoyable and effective one. Check your own skills and time available or those of other members and if you think you or they would be an asset to the Group please fill in the nomination forms with this newsletter.

Below in this Newsletter is a copy of the statement made by The Minister for the Environment the Hon. Dorothy Kotz. A most welcome statement saying the proposed development of the caravan park on current Park area was withdrawn. Our thanks must go to all who participated in this successful campaign, especially John Hunwick who was the main instigator.

However there is a next phase to be carefully scrutinised and developed in conjunction with the powers that be and that is the Park Management Plan. An important part of this plan is the philosophy, printed elsewhere in this Newsletter, which is the crux of the plan. This is the existing philosophy and it is to be hoped any new Management Plan will vary little from this. There will be meetings/workshops in the new year so please watch out for any notices.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Remember 2000 is only a number, the year 2000 will be what you make it.

Brian DuBois.

URGENT REQUEST

Has anyone any knowledge of our **FIRST AID** (large) **HIVERSACK** - grey/blue in colour, with "Friends of Belair" written in pen, which was misplaced on the day of the Professor Cleland Walk.

It was fairly full, but not over - heavy.

Would you please let Lynda Knight know 8278 2326, if you can help locate it.

ADOPT - A BLOCK.

Although this scheme is relatively new good work is being done by members. Early next year it is hoped to consolidate this scheme and ensure all involved are familiar with the weeds we are desperately trying to control in the Park and the methods needed to achieve this.

Bone seed although very dense in some parts of the Park has a variety of natives struggling to grow among it and it is satisfying to look at areas that have been weeded, bouncing back.

If you have not received a quarterly time sheet please contact me and I will make sure you get one.

Any one interested in joining the scheme please contact me for more information.

Brian DuBois 8278 4275

Working Bees Team Leaders.

Volunteers are required for leading working bees. If you are interested your responsibilities would be as follows:-

Pick up mobile phone from information centre and advise them where group will be working.

Ensure you have first aid kit (bum bag) with you.

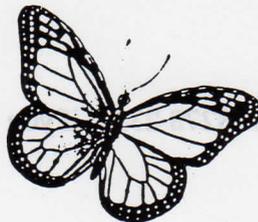
Arrange for necessary tools etc. to be available.

Lead group to weed site.

At end of working bee check all tools etc. have been returned

return mobile phone to information centre and advise them that all volunteers have left site.

Note number of hours that have been worked for our records.



NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Since the issue of the last newsletter we have received some new members. On behalf of all the members I would like to extend a warm welcome to John and Lorna McIntyre, Alana Ivin, Nerissa Haby, Helen O'Leary and Jenny Maslen. If I haven't already done so I look forward to meeting you all at the working bees or the monthly meetings.

Barbara Warburton
Membership Secretary

REWARDS APLENTY!

I have been working hard on my bushcare site all year and sometimes feel a little disappointed that the work is progressing so slowly but the rewards are coming along to cheer me on to continue with my project. After all the showers recently I arrived on my plot to find a Pacific black duck enjoying a bath and a search for food in one of the erosion holes in the track which was full of water after the railway workers had driven dozens of times over it with their heavy truck loads of soil. I crept past it quietly and I enjoyed watching the duck for quite a while before it flew away and I got on with my weeding.

Another morning on the site I returned to my car with all my tools and saw a movement out of the corner of my eye. I turned my head quickly and saw what I thought was a bird on the track. I couldn't distinguish what it was and thought it stayed there a long time for a bird, usually they drink and fly off quickly, so crept closer and as I did it started to move away. It was a Bearded Dragon. I stopped and watched it watching me for a few minutes before it ran off into the pile of briar rose cuttings etc. that the Council have not collected.

Last week Karen Lane, my Bushcare coordinator, gave me six new plants (four kangaroo thorn and two round leaf wattle) to grow on my site to replace the blackberries I have removed. The next day after planting them I was thrilled to watch the little blue wren and family come and inspect each plant. I imagine they were booking a room with a view when the plants are large enough to be occupied. Besides all this I have a family of six magpies who serenade me regularly and kookaburras who laugh with me I hope and not at me. So rewards aplenty to be found for all you members thinking of adopting a block. Don't think about it, do it. It is great fun watching the wild life returning to the area as well as seeing the new native plants emerging.

BARBARA WARBURTON. Membership Secretary.

Montpellier broom - *Genista monspessulana*

What it looks like . . .

Shrub, up to 3m tall with many slender, fairly straight, flexible branches. Stems green, ridged, hairy.

Leaves: clover-like, with almost egg-shaped leaflets clustered in threes. Leaves on alternate sides along stems, on stalks, soft, downy, dull green, lighter underneath.

Flowers: pea flowers, bright yellow, clustered on short leafy branches. Flowers in August to October.

Fruits: flattened hairy pea pods, black when ripe. Hard black shiny seeds.

Roots: woody, a taproot with shallow branches. Will regrow if cut.



Where it grows, how it spreads

Planted in gardens, has spread into woodland, especially in wetter gullies. Pods burst and scatter seeds which can be washed downhill or shifted in soil. Seeds are long lived in soil and readily germinate after a fire.

Native to Europe and the Azores.



How to get rid of it

Begin in the least weedy bush. Get rid of scattered plants and small patches first. Pull or grub seedlings and most plants when soil is moist. Plants too large to pull: cut and immediately swab. Dense patches: work inwards from the edge. Can be spot sprayed but look for and shield native plants. Chemical: see Table 1. Follow up: pull seedlings as they come up over many years. Pulling soon after a fire can be particularly successful.



Get rid of these related weeds in the same way: forms of Montpellier broom with smaller leaves; flax-leaved broom (*Genista linifolia*) with narrow leaves.

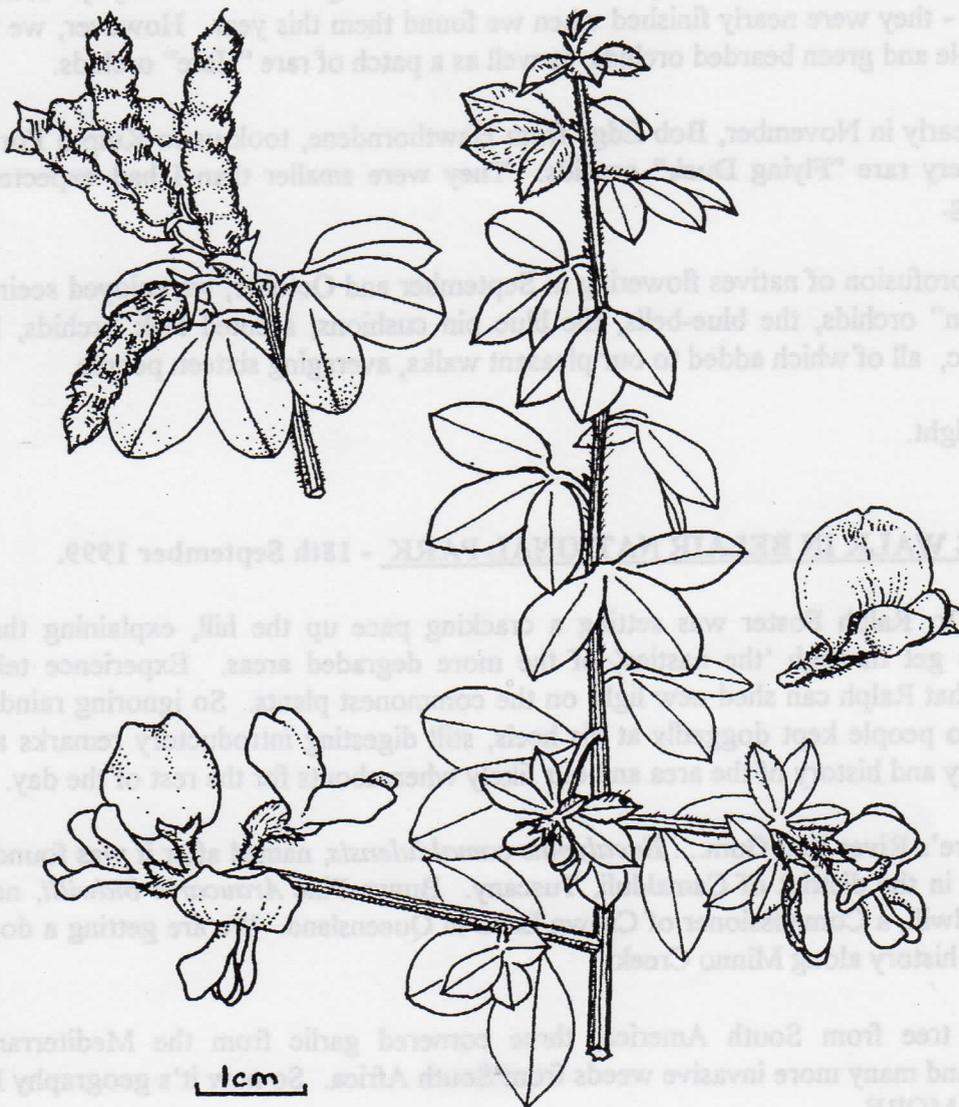
Please note that this weed has a tap root which will regrow if cut or broken off. Consequently the preferred time to pull it is after rain when the ground is soft.

This weed can grow in a thicket with at least one plant per square centimetre. Where this occurs to the exclusion of other plants spraying is an option. Check with working bee Convenor.

Montpellier broom - *Genista monspessulana*



FAMILY LEGUMINOSAE



Do not confuse it with these native pea shrubs

Golden-tip (*Goodia lotifolia*) - stems not ridged, flowers not clustered but in rows at the ends of branches, flower centre tinged with red.

Large-leaved bush-pea (*Pultenaea daphnoides*) - stems not ridged, leaves not divided into 3 leaflets. Flowers with red markings.

Twiggy bush-pea (*Pultenaea largiflorens*) - stems not ridged, leaves firm, not in threes, wedge shaped, without stalks. Flowers orange with red and mauve markings.



From "STOP BUSHLAND WEEDS" by Meg Robertson.

Our thanks to The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc. for permission to reprint.

TUESDAY WALKS

During the last few months, our walking group has enjoyed many interesting walks in the park. The native flowers were in abundance, even though the rainfall was erratic.

One disappointment was the inability to locate *Cyrostylis reniformis*, which is usually near the Lodge Track - another disappointment was our timing to see the "Mayfly" orchids at their best - they were nearly finished when we found them this year. However, we found both purple and green bearded orchids, as well as a patch of rare "Hare" orchids.

One day early in November, Bob Edge from Hawthorndene, took us to Kuinto Forest to see the very rare "Flying Duck" orchids. They were smaller than I had expected but fascinating.

With the profusion of natives flowering in September and October, we enjoyed seeing the small "Sun" orchids, the blue-bells, the blue pin cushions, scented leek orchids, hand-flowers etc, all of which added to our pleasant walks, averaging sixteen people.

Lynda Knight.

NATURE WALK IN BELAIR NATIONAL PARK - 18th September 1999.

Botanist Dr. Ralph Foster was setting a cracking pace up the hill, explaining that he wanted to get through 'the nasties' of the more degraded areas. Experience tells us however that Ralph can shed new light on the commonest plants. So ignoring raindrops, thirty or so people kept doggedly at his heels, still digesting introductory remarks about the geology and history of the area and our likely whereabouts for the rest of the day.

'Good ,here's River Red Gum.... *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, named after it was found in a monastery in the district of Camalduli, Tuscany. Bunya Pine *Araucaria bidwilli*, named after J. Bidwill, a Commissioner of Crown Land in Queensland. We are getting a dose of Australian history along Minno Creek.

A pepper tree from South America, three cornered garlic from the Mediterranean, boneseed and many more invasive weeds from South Africa. So now it's geography BUT THERE'S MORE.....

Yes drama. William Paterson, a Lieutenant. Governor of New South Wales and a keen botanical collector (plants bear his name in the park), fought a duel with the hot-headed John McArthur. Intrigue. William Sanders, the first Curator of the Belair National Park was drowned in the Railway Dam in 1912.

Lunch time already. Lynda and Beth have a welcoming fire and a cup of tea ready for us in the Friends Meeting Room. Greatly appreciated.

We emerge refreshed to the deafening gossip of Rainbow Lorikeet and Ralph is in full flight again.

'These trees could be a rare example of three *Araucaria* growing together. Bunya Pine (*A. bidwilli*), Hoop Pine (*A. Cunninghamii*), Norfolk Island Pine (*A. Heterophylla*). Willows grew here; it's now car parking.' And did he really mention something about aspirin?

Past the remainder of 700 Japanese Cherry trees planted as a War Memorial in 1922.

'What's this Ralph?' *Exocarpos cupressiformis* - native cherry. See the leaves are reduced to minute scales. It's parasitic and the fleshy fruit is edible.

Here is a mass of yellow and blue ground-hugging native plants. Orchids demand attention - donkeys, wax-lips and spiders. Now it's time to retrace our steps.

The Grocers Tree where early residents left orders and money to have goods delivered later. Look at the *watsonia* infestation, would you believe it's endangered in some areas in South Africa. This stand of *Eucalyptus microphylla* is the largest area of natural Box woodland in the Mount Lofty Ranges, a remnant savannah woodland! A new development of eco cabins, convention centre has been proposed here. The mind boggles.

We've walked 9 1/2kms, and learnt a lot. We've peered at leaves, grass, seeds, lichen, bark, cones and yes, even koalas. Our many questions have been answered patiently and with good humour. What a wonderful way to celebrate the 'Year of Guided Walks' and to commemorate the life and work of Professor Cleland. Thank you Ralph.

Fae Trueman.

Managing Bird Populations *ESA* 7/4 P.22-23

In this article Dr David C. Paton outlines a humane, ethical and environmentally sustainable solution to the co-existence of endemic wildlife with horticulture/agriculture. Photographs were not provided by the author. The Musk Lorikeet entrapped in netting illustrates the problems that can occur when artificial protection devices are installed.



SPEAKERS FOR 2000

Do you have a request or a suggestion for speakers for next year? Any suggestions will be passed on to next year's committee.

Do you have expertise or interests that you can share with the Friends of Belair National Park, as a speaker, on committee, or behind the scenes? Do you have any to share with other Friends groups? Please discuss with the committee.

ST JOHNS FIRST AID COURSES.

Friends of Belair in working bees and leading walks in the Park need to be prepared for everything. Our President, Brian DuBois, has found that St John's first aid courses are available to volunteer groups for \$330 for 1 day, max 20 persons. and provide 3 hours standard teaching and 3 hours tailored for our needs. Committee has suggested participants pay \$10 each towards the cost and book the training for early next year. If you are a worker who does not come to meetings and would like to attend this course, advise your working bee leader. The course would probably be on one Saturday, but the day and date need to be decided with members at a general meeting.

*Preferential booking will be given to 'walkers and workers'

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK 14 TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER 1999
6pm at the VOLUNTEER CENTRE
Please bring finger foods to share
BYO drinks and chairs
Tea & coffee will be available

PARKS AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL AND OPTUS WALK

Date for the year 2000 is Saturday 2nd April 1999

EMBROIDERED BADGES

We have a new supply of embroidered badges of the Friends of Belair National Park logo, available to you for \$9. These badges show our rosella emblem in living colour! Our current windcheaters are no longer available, and members voted at a general meeting to have a supply of cloth badges made suitable to sew to any windcheater, hat, work shirt, etc. If you would like to wear yours at the birthday party on 19th, speak to Di Vickery 8278 7380, who has kindly volunteered to handle the sale of the badges.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Your committee is of the opinion it is time to look at subscriptions.

- 1. We no longer receive foliage royalties from the park.
- 2. In consequence our funds will now regularly fall.
- 3. Our current position is good approximately \$2000.00.
- 4 Administration expenses to date including printing newsletter, postage, stationery, phone calls, tax, computer usage, trailer rego., speakers gifts, photocopying, tea, coffee and cleaning374.25
estimated further expenses to end of year.....160.75
TOTAL.....\$535.00

5. Our expenditure on tools and equipment this year amounts to \$900.00. This includes books, amplifier, screen and stand, urn, tea pots, first aid kits and mattock handles. Next year this should be substantially less.

6. Your committee is of the opinion our subs. should at least cover administration expenses.

7. Subscription Income based on current membership.

29 family @ 7.50= 217.50 @10.00= 290.00 @ 15.00= 435.00

46 single @ 5.00=230.00 @ 7.00=322.00 @ 10.00=460.00

\$447.50 \$612.00 \$ 895.00

8. Your committee suggests subscriptions be increased to:-

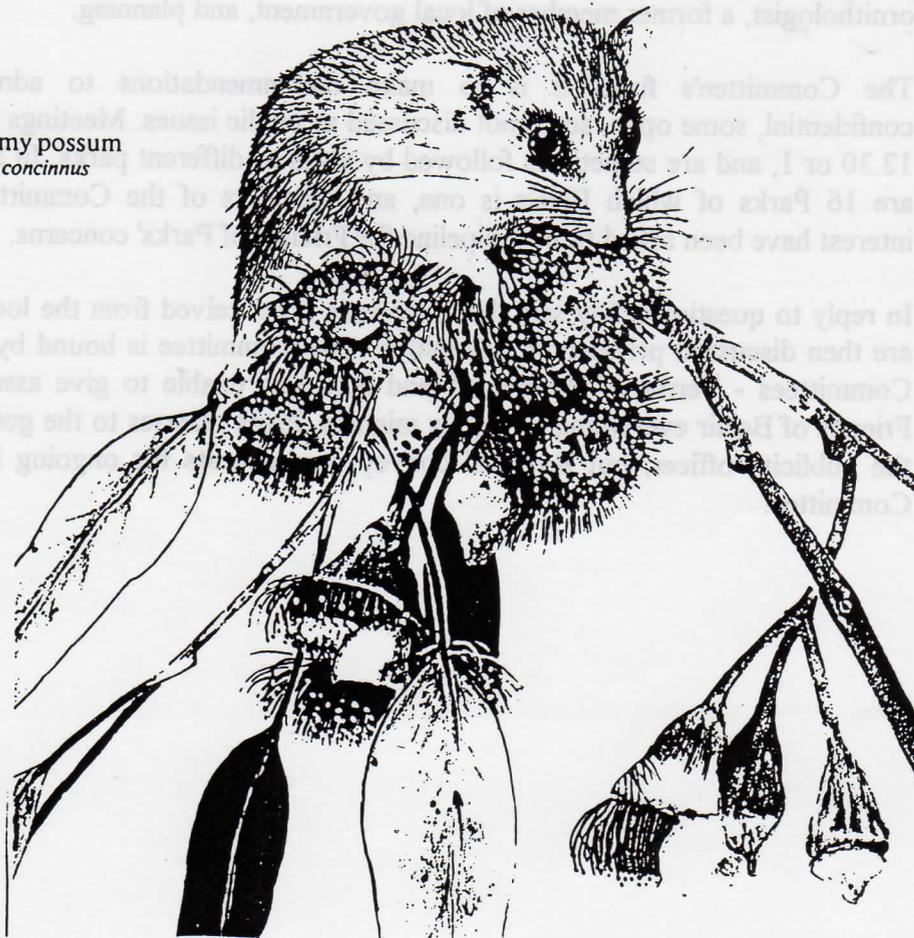
Family \$ 10.00

Single \$ 7.00

Treasurer.

1-10-99.

Western Pigmy possum
Cercartetus concinnus



STURT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

What is a Consultative Committee? A Consultative Committee is where community environmental concerns are debated prior to being put to the government. The purpose of each committee shall be;

1. To provide an avenue for communication between local communities, the Minister, and the Department.
2. To enable local communities to contribute advice on biodiversity, management of reserves, wildlife, heritage, planning, works programmes, and financial budgets.
3. To enable the Minister and the Department to consult with the local people and to inform them of activities, current and proposed, within the Department.
4. To involve local people and park users in the preparation of draft management plans, policies, and their periodical revision.

The General Meeting of Friends of Belair National Park 6/11/99 was preceded by a barbecue at 12.30pm held at the Volunteer Centre. Ray Eastwood, our new contact person with the Sturt Consultative Committee, was invited to introduce himself to the Friends.

Ray has enjoyed the Park for many years but on his retirement in 1990, seeing needs not filled in the Park, and asking questions, was invited to be on the Consultative Committee and has been for 5 years. He is in his third term which expires on 30/6/2000. His background is in electrical engineering and program management.

The Consultative Committee's skills are widespread over members with a cross section of experience and skills. At present the Committee is under strength owing to resignations. Members of the Committee put up names for consideration on the principle of keeping balance of disciplines and gender, and currently includes tourism, a geographer, ornithologist, a former member of local government, and planning.

The Committee's function is to make recommendations to administration, some confidential, some open, some not discussed as public issues. Meetings are usually 9am to 12.30 or 1, and are sometimes followed by visits to different parks. In Sturt district, there are 16 Parks of which Belair is one, and members of the Committee with particular interest have been asked to be a pipeline for Friends of Parks' concerns.

In reply to questions, Ray said that proposals are received from the local community and are then discussed privately in committee. The Committee is bound by the "Consultative Committees - Terms of Reference" and Ray was unable to give assurances to tell the Friends of Belair everything or supply minutes. Press releases to the general public are via the publicity officer, but Ray will convey our requests for ongoing information to the Committee.

The work to come on the new Park Management Plan will be an onerous task. The last one took 6 years gestation. There were still some of the same concerns and philosophy with specified zones and practicalities.

Ray said that previously he had not appreciated the constraints Parks & Wildlife worked under, and that volunteer work was an enormous contribution.

John Hunwick asked Ray to thank the Committee for the liaison.

Ray gave his telephone number and invited members to ring him with their concerns, but said it was better to write to him at 10 Petherick St Glenalta.

Your committee asks that correspondence to Ray Eastwood, if sent as a Friend of Belair National park, be forwarded through the committee of Friends of Belair.

BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP

On Sunday 26th September 1999 the Volunteer Centre was the venue for a Biodiversity workshop, one of a series held during September, biodiversity month.

About 35 people attended some from as far away as the mid north, listening to 3 speakers during the morning, and in the afternoon walking through and examining an area adjacent to the adventure playground.

Speaker Janet Pedlar explained the value of different types of habitats, illustrating this with the differing requirements of the local birds. We learnt of the dangers of "tidying" the environment, which may mean the removal of a bird's feeding perch, nesting site, or protection from predators. The loss of remaining pockets of scrub which may provide only temporary shelter could endanger the migration of birds from one area to another, leading to their extinction. During our walk, through grassy woodlands changing to shrubby areas, we could see the differing food supplies, grubs, insects, nuts and flowers and differing habitats. Many birds were calling and flying around us and a wedgetail eagle soared overhead.

Patrick O'Connor introduced us to the wealth of fungi around us, vital to the life cycle of bushland. We had all seen fungus breaking down old dead materials, but Patrick showed how many plants depend on underground fungi which extract nutrients from the soil and are a vital partner for the plants roots. He also showed pictures of truffle type fungi which grow underground and are an important food source for small animals. In the grassy woodlands where the soil appears bare in patches, fungi react with algae to form a fragile crust to hold the soil.

Rick Davies showed how the spaces between trees were not "empty" but were rich in biodiversity with a multitude of little plants. The remaining grassy woodlands were in danger because they were perceived as "empty space" and were often used for camping or car parking. In the afternoon, in an area next to the Valley Road, specimens were collected from an area the size of a room. Thirty-five different native plants were found, only 2 being trees and 2 large shrubs. The remainder were grasses, rushes and sedges, lilies, orchids, creepers, small shrubs, and so on, none being showy, but all a part of marvellous biodiversity.

It was a most interesting day.



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hon Dorothy Kotz MP

Minister for Environment &
Heritage
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

15th Floor, Wakefield House
30 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Ph. 8226 5855
Fax: 8226 5859

Tuesday, 26 October 1999

BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

The Belair National Park is the oldest national park in South Australia, and this Government places great importance on protecting such a valuable natural resource, so close to the metropolitan area.

Members would be aware that in 1997, the lessee of the Belair National Park golf course, Murtfam Pty Ltd, purchased the adjoining Caravan Park lease. Murtfam proposed the redevelopment of the caravan park by extending the leased area by 6 hectares into a degraded area of the adjoining park and incorporating conference and function facilities, lodge and eco cabin accommodation and a range of new camping sites.

In accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*, any such development would be required to meet with the provisions of the *Development Act* and *Hills Face Zone* planning requirements.

As such, a proposed three month public consultation period was postponed whilst further clarification was sought on legislative provisions and how they may relate to the proposal.

From the outset, a commitment was made to consult with and consider community opinion prior to making a decision on whether the proposal should proceed. In this I was ably assisted by the local Member for Davenport, the Hon Iain Evans MP, who has continually consulted his constituents on this issue and provided me with regular feedback.

National Parks and Wildlife SA have been negotiating extensively on this proposal, both with the proposer, Mr Howard Murton and with the local community. I commend the National Parks officers for their informed and inclusive approach to this issue.

Following discussions with National Parks officers and representatives of the local community, Mr Murton has advised me that he is formally withdrawing the redevelopment proposal.

I have been heartened to see the level of community support for the Belair National Park over the past few months, and I would encourage those who have expressed an interest to continue to enjoy and involve themselves in the conservation of one of our most significant National Parks.

It has been 10 years since the current Belair National Park Management Plan was adopted and the status of the Park has changed from that of a Recreation Park to a multiple use National Park within that timeframe. With that in mind, I am happy to announce to the House today a review of the management plan.

National Parks and Wildlife SA have begun preparing a new draft management strategy for Belair. *Preparation of that plan will be carried out in consultation with stakeholders. The draft plan will then be released for at least a three month public consultation period, with ample opportunity for further community involvement.*

As part of this process, National Parks and Wildlife SA will continue to work with Murtfam Pty Ltd and the local community, to identify opportunities to enhance existing facilities within the existing leased area only. This will occur in a manner which is consistent with legislative provisions and the natural attributes of Belair National Park.

I take this opportunity to reiterate this Government's commitment to protecting the natural assets of this State.

This is a Government that listens to community concerns. As Environment Minister, it gives me great hope to see the level of community interest in our National Parks, and I look forward to working with the community on the future management of Belair National Park.



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Dorothy Kotz MP

Hon Iain Evans MP

Minister for Environment & Heritage
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Minister for Industry and Trade
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

COMMITMENT TO BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

A proposal to redevelop existing caravan park facilities encroaching into Belair National Park has been withdrawn, with the State Government announcing a new draft management strategy is to be prepared for South Australia's oldest national park.

Environment Minister Dorothy Kotz says private operators of the Belair National Park Golf Club and Caravan Park had proposed to extend the lease area by 6 hectares into a degraded part of the adjoining park to incorporate conference and function facilities, as well as a lodge and eco cabin accommodation.

Mrs Kotz says following negotiations with National Parks and Wildlife SA and the local community, the proponent Howard Murton has withdrawn his proposal.

"I'm heartened to see the level of community support for the Belair National Park over the past few months," she says.

"It highlights the importance of our State's natural assets to the community.

"It has been 10 years since the current Belair National Park Management Plan was adopted, and the status of the park has changed from a Recreation Park to a multiple-use National Park within that timeframe.

"A review of the management plan is underway to ensure one of our most significant national parks is conserved for future generations to enjoy."

Minister Kotz says National Parks and Wildlife SA will work with the Murfam Pty Ltd and the local community to identify opportunities to enhance existing facilities within the Belair National Park Caravan Park.

Member for Davenport Iain Evans has welcomed the announcement, saying the Government and proponent have listened to the community.

"The community will also welcome the opportunity to be consulted on any improvement to the Caravan Park.

"This will occur in a manner which is consistent with legislative provisions and the natural attributes of Belair National Park."

There will also be at least a three month public consultation period for the draft management strategy for Belair.

He says the State Government is committed to protecting Belair National Park, as it's considered one of our most valuable assets with almost 280,000 visitors last year.

Media Contact: Paula Richardson 0419 826 475

THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The management philosophy of the present Park plan has four components.

First, the Park should be managed to provide a high quality, natural environment which the public can appropriately use and experience.

Second, areas within the park where the natural systems remain structurally intact, or where the species or communities are of particular value, should be actively managed for their long-term preservation.

Third, the park should be a place where the public awareness of the role of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, its aims and objectives, and the reserve system which manages it, can be improved.

Fourth, the park should provide for the pursuit of only those recreational activities which are not in conflict with the intention of the preceding philosophical elements.

MANAGING BELAIR – WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Now that the latest proposal for a development in Belair has been withdrawn, the Friends of Belair Park need to think very seriously as to what to do next. It is very easy to be united against something, but much more difficult to work and develop what we want.

The first thing that needs to be done is for everyone concerned about Belair to become familiar with the existing Park Management Plan. This provides the philosophical and management basis for what is to come. There is nothing to be gained if people do not understand and accept the basis of managing this park.

The next step is to start defining what we perceive is needed for the reasonably foreseeable future. This is not so much an exercise in working out what WE want, but a process of working out how we see what needs to be done to protect, restore and manage this part of the Adelaide hills environment. If the environment is not first in our considerations then it comes nowhere.

Assuming we believe that Belair has a role in contributing to the maintenance of local biodiversity into the future, we need to work out how that can best be achieved. It involves such issues as continued cat and fox control, the possible need to restrict dogs (even on leads) to so-called “recreation” areas, fire control, the weeds that are to have priority for action, horse-riding, considering the possibilities of reintroductions, etc.

Having defined what needs to be saved, and how that is best achieved, the environment has to co-exist with probable recreation pressures. What forms of recreation are to be encouraged? what forms to be discouraged? and over what time period? These are issues that need consideration.

Finally, it must be stressed, that what ever is planned for the management of the park, it will have to be financed. It is evident that the State Government WILL NOT spend anything like what is needed on Belair. It is at this juncture that any ideas that are likely to provide an ongoing source of revenue for the park come into possible consideration. While many ideas are likely to be rejected, there may be some that are worthy of consideration and not dismissed just because they are “development” proposals. Such ideas should be possible in a plan of management while others are strongly forestalled saving much time and money.

To start this process the following activities could be undertaken by FOBP as time permits:

- hold a public meeting (well advertised) to (1) explain the park philosophy and management structure, and (2) invite public input (ideas, suggestions) into a discussion phase about the park’s future

at a meeting of FOBP prepare a series of statements about various aspects of park management in preparation for the consultant who will have the responsibility for preparing the DRAFT management plan

invite Mr Murton to talk to the FOBP from the point of view of a developer assessing the park and its management

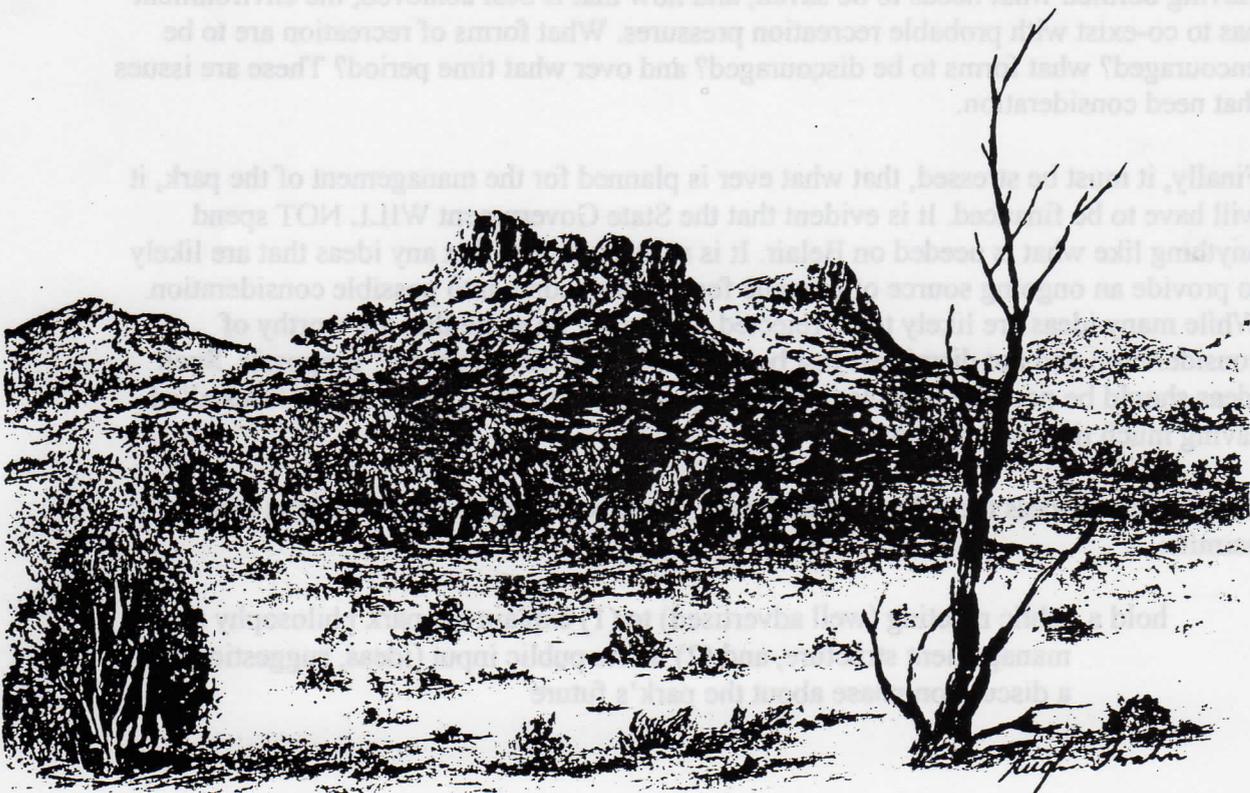
hold another public meeting to present a series of management proposals to "test" public reaction to ideas generated so far

prepare pamphlets, media releases, etc keeping the community informed about the possible directions of Belair management

hold a photographic display featuring the park and inviting the photographers to accompany them with comments about how they feel about the park

encourage school children to express their views on the future of the park after they have been introduced to its various features and display their drawings, writings, etc in local shops, library, etc.

What is presented here is not immutable, but a stimulus for producing ideas on which group action can be taken on behalf of the Park and future generations.



PROPOSED BELAIR GOLF COURSE

Scheme Disapproved by Royal Society

At a meeting of the Royal Society last night, the president (Mr. H. M. Hale) said that the proposal to put down an 18-hole golf course at National Park, Belair, would detrimentally affect the park as a sanctuary for native flora and fauna.

He added that, if the proposal were carried out, it would mean the destruction of peppermint gums in their virgin state. At a time when deforestation was taking place rapidly in the State, it was essential to do all possible to preserve native trees.

A letter was read from Professor J. B. Cleland, one of the Commissioners of National Park. It asked for the opinion of the society on the proposal. It added that there were advantages claimed for the proposed golf course. These included that the course would serve as a fire break and that it also would be a source of revenue.

Sir Douglas Mawson moved :-

"That in view of the few and small areas set aside in this State as flora and fauna reserves, this meeting strongly urges the Commissioners not to permit any further interference with virgin portions of the National Park such as would result from the construction of the proposed 18-hole golf course. Such a golf course would render about 160 acres of the most natural part of the Park useless as a flora and fauna reserve, and would alienate this portion for the benefit of a small section of the community, and render it inaccessible to the majority of the people. Rarities in animal, bird and plant life would be eradicated. We urge that the whole area in question should be reserved for all time as a native sanctuary.

Sir Douglas Mawson said that everything should be done to preserve flora and fauna which might prove valuable for future generations. The same applied to native rock carvings. Golf could be played elsewhere, as there were facilities already available for it.

Professor J. A. Prescott seconded the motion.

Dr. C. T. Madigan, a former commissioner, said that the park had to be self-supporting, and it was the duty of the commissioners to find the revenue for its upkeep. He thought that they were looking at the commissioners' proposal from the wrong angle. The idea that thousands of tons of timber was to be cut down was ridiculous, as only a few trees would be removed. There would be no danger of the fauna being driven away by a few golfers looking for lost golf balls.

The motion was supported by Mr. A. J. Wylie, and Dr. W. Christie, representing the Field Naturalists Society, and carried.

The Advertiser, August 13 1937

An all too familiar story
Ron Tamblyn

COMING EVENTS

December 1999

Friday 3rd	6.30 pm	Blackwood Apex Christmas Pageant
Saturday 4th	1 pm	General meeting - speaker Maggie Ragless
(Monday 13th	7.30 pm	final committee meeting)
Tuesday 14th	2 pm	Tuesday walk
Sunday 19th	10 am	Working bee
Sunday 19th	6 pm	14th Birthday Party
Tuesday 28th	2 pm	Last Tuesday Walk until April 12th 2000
Friday 31st		Nominations close for Office Bearers

January 2000

No meetings or activities

February 2000

Saturday 5th 1 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 2000

Saturday 2nd Parks & Wildlife Festival / Optus Walk
Tuesday 12th 2 pm First Tuesday Walk for 2000

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

23rd February 2000.



*May the Peace and Joy of Christmas
abide with you
throughout the coming year.*

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS BEARERS FOR 2000

Please help us to get off to a good start next year by considering the officers bearers for 2000 *before* the A G M on February 5th.

All nominations must have the approval of the person you are nominating.

Nominations to be in the hands of the present Secretary (Jill Savli) by 31-12-99.

They can be telephoned in to 8278 6736 or sent to 4 Colton Road, Blackwood 5051.

POSITION

NOMINEE

President

.....

Nominated by

Vice President

.....

Nominated by

Secretary

.....

Nominated by

Treasurer

.....

Nominated by

Committee Member

.....

Nominated by

The four committee members will be allocated specific responsibilities by the President.