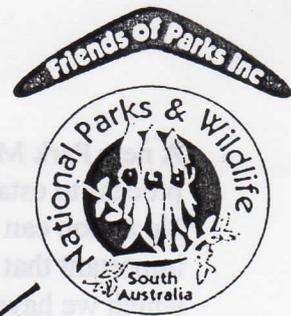




Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

JUNE 2000

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last three months have been busy from many aspects.

Working Bees are certainly healthy, with up to thirteen members working on three sites nearly every week. Lynda has been busy coaxing members to help her make tree guards to protect young trees and shrubs from hares and rabbits. They are a real problem since a successful fox baiting program was carried out by the Rangers. This is a perennial problem as can be seen from an article further down in the newsletter.

Trees and their identification, either significant native trees or those with heritage value, have not been well documented in the past. A sub committee was formed to apply for a grant to accomplish the documentation and identification of trees of interest. This application has been finalised and dispatched. Let us hope it is successful.

Concurrent with this application, we have applied for a grant to hire a botanist. Significant help is required for the identification of rare and exotic trees in the Park.

Eighteen members completed a one day First Aid course. It was a long time coming and was paid for courtesy of Friends of Parks Inc.

Early in the year we received a request from the District Ranger, Terry Gregory, for comment on a proposal for the restoration of Minno creek. It is a major project and is part of the Patawalonga catchment program. We responded to Terry's request with submissions made by two of our members, Ralph Foster and Ron Tamblyn. Our thanks to these two members. Following this Terry invited Ron to be part of a supervisory team and to indicate trees of interest. This project will take place over several years and extends from the Railway Dam to the Western Boundary. At time of writing the first stage is near completion. Those members who are not familiar with the project should take a walk and view the results. There are interpretive signs at the site.

Derek Vogelsang, who was the consultant who put the above proposal together, was invited to address the members. His talk was very informative and made the members aware of the necessity for such a program.

A new Park Management Plan is being investigated. All stakeholders are part of a formal process to establish a new plan. A Park Management Plan is a legal document. No action can take place in a Park which is contrary to the Management Plan. It is important that the plan is appropriate. Currently there is a Community reference group on which we have two members. Barry Palmer representing the Friends of Belair National Park and John Hunwick representing the Coalition. It is hoped that a draft plan will be available for comment later this year.

Mountain bikes in Parks is again on the agenda. A Preliminary meeting has been held with representatives of Friends groups. Other meetings will cover groups such as horse groups and bike groups. It is hoped to have a draft by next January.

If your membership fees are due please use the form included in this newsletter.

Brian DuBois

PARKS & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL.

Sunday 2nd April was the Parks & Wildlife 2000 Festival in Belair National Park and the weather was glorious. The Friends of Belair had received a map of their place in the Santos Marquee - a diagram of a large scalloped area, and on the morning of the Festival when Brian and Jill arrived to put up our display they found that the diagram was actually correct, and the marquee was that shape, with light entering on all sides making the area very bright and airy. Our spot in the Santos tent was between the Native Animal Network, which had live animals including joeys in artificial pouches, and the Friends of Arid Recovery Project which featured furred skins and skulls from the Roxby Downs area, which attracted lots of people. Lizzie had remade our display to feature young people as the Festival was at the beginning of Youth Week and lots of people stopped to talk about our activities. One person even joined and paid up on the spot!

There was lots of interest in our display of weeds "planted" into the grass of the oval with many people not realising that all these were invasive. To our boneseed, olives, roses, broom etc, someone added ash trees, and these were a good talking point as although they are so damaging to the water catchment they have not been featured in the media like olives have.

The New Minister for the Environment, Iain Evans, visiting the stalls, stopped to chat for a few minutes.

The area near the Main Pavilion featured displays and demonstrations by Aborigines who also guided walks. There were many interesting stalls around the Main Oval, of environmental groups and commercial outdoor vendors, lots to eat and great music. The Park looked beautiful, and the entrance, exits and parking were very well signposted for those thousands of visitors.

Thanks to all our helpers, especially to Brian, Lizzie, Kay Harries and Beth and Ron Pitman.

ABNs and GST

Friends of Parks Inc have advised that Friends groups may be unable to get government grants unless the group has registered for an Australian Business Number and that there are various new tax rules for volunteer organisations.

Having attended seminars on the new tax systems, our Treasurer, Eric Cole, recommended that the Friends of Belair register for an Australian Business Number but not register for GST. This is also the recommendation from Friends of Parks Inc. If we did not have an ABN any grant would have tax deducted from it at the rate of 48.5%. Registering for GST meant a lot of paper work without benefit. The recommendation having been agreed at the May general meeting, the paper work has been sent in to the Aust. Tax Office and we expect out ABN in due course.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS.

On behalf of all the members I would like to extend a warm welcome to David HOPEWELL, Dean DIXON, June WILL, Tom CROWLE, Jennie SKINNER and Anne HUNWICK. Also welcome aboard James and Barbara HORWOOD and family, Sara BOULTON, Heather BECKMANN, Shirley CALLAGHAN, Alexandra and William LAWSON and Esther and Bill BREED. Hello and goodbye to Sally DONALDSON who recently joined us only to escape to sunny Townsville. To all new members I hope you enjoy your time with us and join in some of our activities.

Barbara Warburton.
Membership Secretary.

** Please pay your membership fee NOW if you wish to join for 2000 or this will be your last newsletter.

Friends of Belair National Park

Application for membership

Fees are set annually - please check for current rates
Join before 1st July - full fees apply
Join after 30th June - half fees apply

Fees for 2000

Single \$7.00 Family \$10.00 Corporate \$20.00

Name(s):

Address:

Postcode Phone (home)

Signature:



Date / /

Treasurer
Friends of Belair National Park
PO Box 2 Belair 5052

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



3 JUNE ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5TH JUNE 2000

World Environment Day (WED), commemorated each year on 5th June, was established in 1972 by the United Nations General Assembly. It is one of the principal vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. Each year, the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the agency responsible for coordinating WED activities, selects a city as the main venue for the international celebrations. This Year, Adelaide has won the right to host this special event. WED is being hosted by Environment Australia, the SA Department for Environment and Heritage and the Adelaide City Council.

The City of Adelaide, in association with a broad range of community groups are staging numerous community events in Rundle Mall on WED, Monday 5/6/2000. The Mall will be themed as a "river" to highlight the focus on water issues. This will involve lengths of material strung overhead, running from one end of the Mall to the other, representing deterioration and rejuvenation. A range of organisations, community groups, performers in Rundle Mall will help to raise awareness of issues and promote clean living.

One of the highlights of WED 2000 will be a spectacular youth parade along King William Street with the theme "Caring for Catchments".

(extracts from WED WEEKLY)

Other activities include Tree Planting events, Environmental Tours, The Prime Minister's Environment Awards, a Youth Parliament, educational programs.

The Friends of Belair are celebrating WED by inviting the public on Saturday 3rd June to their general meeting at the Volunteer Centre, and on Sunday 4th June with a BYO breakfast at 8.30am at the Volunteer Centre. This will be followed by planting out 500 seedlings. Everyone welcome. Hope you can come.

HABITAT.

IN NATURE ALL LIVING SPECIES ARE
PART OF A WHOLE; NONE CAN SURVIVE
IN ISOLATION.

IF THE HABITAT LOSES ITS INTEGRITY,
EXTINCTIONS FOLLOW.

THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH FROM
WHICH 'HOMO SAPIENS' IS NOT EXEMPT.

Ian McCann. Naturalist and Author.

COMING EVENTS

JUNE 2000 Sunday June 11th, or Thursday June 15th at the Volunteer Centre.

PESTICIDE USE IN THE MT. LOFTY RANGES WATERSHED REGION

1 day workshops on responsible chemical management for the Mt. Lofty Ranges Watershed, FREE workshop, lunch supplied. Project objectives include:
Education, awareness and promotion of the safe use of chemicals
Adoption of the best practice/guidelines to minimise chemical use
Improved water quality and environmental health in the watershed.
Ring Jill Salvi, 8278 6736, for enquires, or to book a place.

SEPTEMBER 2000

PROFESSOR CLELAND MEMORIAL WALK - Saturday 9th September 2000

Keep this date free in your diary for our annual guided walk, either for the whole day, or just the morning or the afternoon. We start at 10am and finish about 3pm. Bring your lunch and a drink, comfortable shoes and a hat. Final details in next newsletter.

OCTOBER 2000

16th ANNUAL FORUM FRIENDS OF PARKS - Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October

This will be held at MILLICENT and hosted by Friends of Canunda & Beachport Parks. Theme: Diversity with a Difference.

If anyone would like further information about coming with the Friends of Belair to the Forum this year please contact Jill Salvi on 8278 6736 for details and registration forms. If you don't want to drive, there is a bus there on Friday and back on Monday.

TUESDAY WALKS 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2pm.

As we only commenced our year 2000 walks in April, (after a very hot summer) I have only three walks on which to comment. Fortunately, some rain in early April brought into flower the "Parson's Bands" orchids, near the Upper Sturt Lodge. The heath there is now flowering, as is the astraloma and some mosquito orchids.

Two walks were led by Ron Tamblyn - one in the North-Western corner of the park, and the other near the Volunteer Centre but over the creek.

On both these walks we have admired many "Significant Trees" and have greatly appreciated Ralph Foster's botanical knowledge. One tree of extra special interest and great beauty was an exotic from Queensland, a "fire-wheel" tree.

The average number of walkers is 14 - do come and enjoy walking in the Park.

Lynda Knight.

Olive - *Olea europaea*

What it looks like . . .

Tree to 10m tall with a dense rounded crown. Foliage grey-green. Trunks usually low branching. Evergreen. Seedlings have a white felted stem and regular paired leaves.

Leaves: pointed, narrow, arranged in opposite pairs, with short stalks. Smooth on top, leathery. Usually dark green above, lighter coloured to silvery underneath, edges slightly rolled under.

Flowers: small, cream, with 4 petals but only two yellow anthers. Flowers clustered on spikes along branches.
Flowers in late Spring.

Fruits: olive berries, oval, fleshy with a large stone, green at first then purple-black with a smoky haze on the skin when ripe.

Roots: woody, extensive, strong taproot in seedlings, young plants form a lignotuber - a swollen stem near ground level. Will sucker strongly from cut roots and stumps.



Where it grows, how it spreads

Planted for its fruit, olive has spread by seed into bushland in many areas. Its worst impact is in grassy woodlands, less common in shrubby forests. Birds and foxes eat olive berries and spread seed. First infestations are often under large gum trees where birds roost. Olive seedlings and other weeds are the most likely plants to thrive under a dense olive tree canopy.



Native to Mediterranean, SE Asia

How to get rid of it



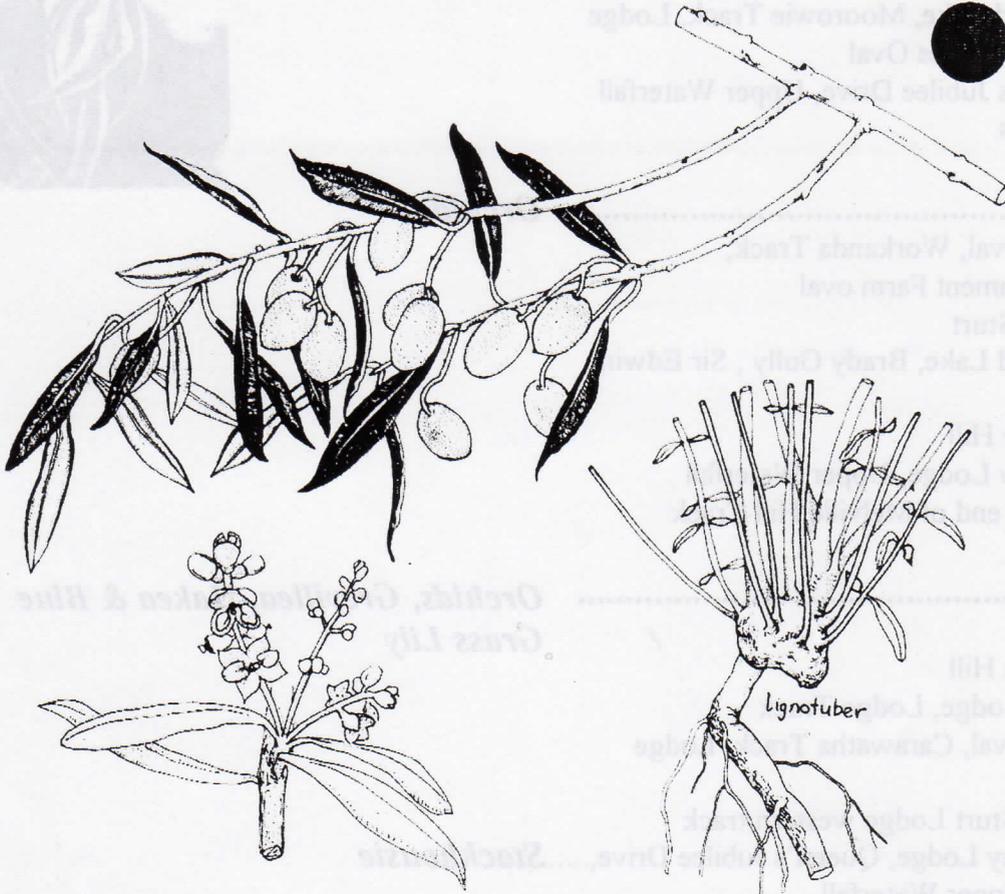
Begin in the least weedy bush and get rid of small and scattered plants first. Seedlings: pull or grub in winter. Remove lignotuber. Trees: cut stems close to the ground, frill bark, especially around the root-stem junction, and swab immediately. Chemical: see Table 1. Follow up: pull seedlings and treat regrowth.

A method currently being used by the Friends is to drill into the base of the trunks, the ligno tuber and the roots with a 10 to 12 mm spade bit to a depth of 10mm. These drill holes need to be no more than a hand width apart (10cm). The drill holes are filled with neat bio-active roundup to which has been added some vegetable dye for ease of working.

Olive - *Olea europaea*



FAMILY OLEACEAE



Do not confuse it with these native plants

Bullock-bush (*Alectryon oleifolius*): a plant of the semi-arid and arid areas. The name means "olive-leaved" but the leaves are similar top and bottom, so check the leaves.

Seedlings of olive may look similar to native *Correa* seedlings, but the paired leaves of olive are smooth on top.



From "STOP BUSHLAND WEEDS" by Meg Robertson.

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

Wild flowers - general location and time of flowering

June Orchids

- 1 Waverley Lodge, Queen's Jubilee Drive, Yulti Wirra
- 2 Upper Sturt Lodge track (going west).
- 3 Belair Lodge, The Maze, Sir Edwin Ave.
- 4 Playford Lake, Brady Gully, Lodge Track, Sir Edwin Ave
- 5 Pines Oval, Carawatha track, Lodge track, Sir Edwin Ave, Brady Gully
- 6 Playford Lake, Moorowie Track, Lodge Track to Pines Oval
- 7 Queen's Jubilee Drive, Upper Waterfall to rocks.



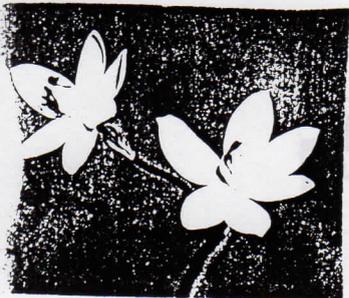
July Orchids

- 1 Pines Oval, Workanda Track, Government Farm oval
- 2 Upper Sturt
- 3 Playford Lake, Brady Gully, Sir Edwin Ave.
- 4 Melville Hill
- 5 Waverly Lodge, Upper Waterfall
- 6 Eastern end of Melville Hill Track

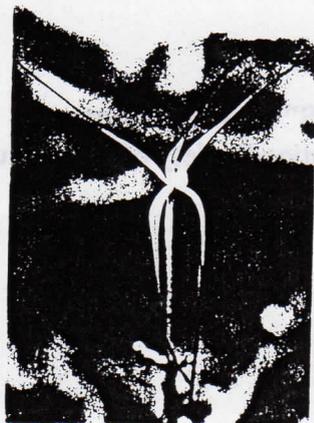
August Orchids, Grevillea, Hakea & Blue Grass Lily

- 1 Melville Hill
- 2 Belair Lodge, Lodge Track
- 3 Pines Oval, Carawatha Track, Lodge Track
- 4 Upper Sturt Lodge western track
- 5 Waverley Lodge, Queen's Jubilee Drive,.....*Stackhousie*
Yulti, Upper Waterfall -

- 6 Brady Gully, Lodge Track, Pines Oval
- 7 Karka, Melville Gully Road, Melville Hill
- 8 Government Farm Oval, Queen's Jubilee Drive (west). *Flax Lily, Blue Bells & Native Flax*



*blue fairies,
daddy long-legs, rabbit-ears and the heart-lip spider orchid*



EXPERIENCES OF A FOUNDATION MEMBER OF F.O. B.PK.

It is at the suggestion of our President Brian DuBois that I am putting pen to paper to give a brief word picture of my experiences as a Foundation Member and one of the oldest F.O.B Pk members.

On the birthday of the Park 19th December 1990 Beth and I received an Appreciation Certificate for being Foundation Members. On another occasion 7th August 1991 we received an Appreciation Certificate for "outstanding support to the Friends of Belair". It is my intention to give a generalised account of my contribution to F.O.B.Pk. Early in the piece I was Secretary for a few years and President on two occasions and from time to time filled in on those positions when the incumbent was either away or unable to carry on. I was also a Foundation Member of the Centenary Steering Committee. In those early years of consolidation we had many up and down periods - highs and lows. At one point we briefly thought of disbanding and becoming simply VIP'S "Volunteers in Parks". However our basic loyalty was to the Park and so we plodded on. As our home then was in Lowan Ave, close to the Park, committee meetings were usually held there. Occasionally we met the Burley's home. Our general meetings early in the piece were held on a Thursday night in the Information Centre. Later we decided to meet on a Saturday. It is only since we were given the old kiosk at Long Gully and have had a good relationship with the Staff that we have made good progress, becoming "Friends Group of the Year" in 1998.

My special interest in the Park is a spot on the Echo Tunnel Track where there are two plaques, which tell of the Scout Corroboree held in the Park, Christmas 1936 - 37. I attended that event and have since spent many hours working in the area. A number of times I have worked with Scouts, once was when they were doing "boneseed" pulling to achieve their Environment Badge. On one occasion I was working with "John" and as we worked we discussed all manner of subjects. John started passing derogatory remarks about Aborigines. I asked "Have you met any or do you know any Aborigines John?" He hadn't. A short time later who should appear on the scene but Ranger Malcolm Lane. I said to John "Let me introduce you to an Aborigine" John and Malcolm shook hands and we enjoyed a long conversation. When John was to receive his Badge I was invited to the occasion.

On another occasion I kept a friendly eye on a teenager who was doing "Community Service" work for an offence he had committed. The lad worked well and when he'd completed his allotted work I put in a good report about him. In a phone conversation with his father - almost tearfully he said that was the first time in at least two years he'd had a good report of his son.

My late friend Godfrey Parkinson and I put the seats up at Waverley Lodge - used by the Tuesday Walkers. Another thing we did was to examine the boundary fence around the Park. Godfrey offered to do the Sheoak Road boundary and I did the rest of the fence line - fixing holes as I went along. Sir John Cleland as Chairman of the Commissioners

of the National Park set himself the task of walking round the boundaries on a tour of inspection. It is, of course, this action of his that F.O.B.Pk seeks to commemorate by conducting the Cleland Walk each year. His late daughter, Joan Paton, led our first Cleland Walk around the perimeter of the Park.

On a more general note a few things of interest that I recall: Early in the piece F.O.B.Pk formed a sub - committee to fight the proposal to demolish the Pavilion near the Main Oval. Eventually it was decided by the "powers that be" to restore it. Some F.O.B.Pk members felt strongly that the Park needed an interpretive centre and suggested the Pavilion could be used for this purpose. Another venue suggested for this purpose was the old kiosk, now the Volunteer Centre.

When, on one occasion F.O.B.Pk learned of proposed Staff cuts we conducted a STOP (Staff our Parks) Campaign - we held a Street Stall in Blackwood and approx. \$270. Another Street Stall raised approx. \$260 to defray expenses. Once we participated in an ABC Educational film to be used in schools throughout the nation.

Enough of reminiscing I'll sign off. Ron Pitman.

TREFOIL AND FLEUR DE LIS

Recently, during introductions at a working bee, I realised that there were quite a few of our members who were once Girl Guides or Boy Scouts. Here are some names, so far,

Girl Guides.

Beth Pitman
Pam Tamblyn
Judith O'Hara
Joyce Underdown
Lynda Knight
Ann Ross
Jill Salvi (Lone Sea Ranger)

Boy Scouts.

Ron Pitman
Ron Tamblyn
John Whitbread.
Barry Burley
Rhodes Barlow
Gill Ross

I would be interested to hear of any more members of this world wide organisation, who are also Friends of Belair Park.

It may interest some readers that we have a small Scout Memorial area within the Park - near Pines Oval. In 1936-37 a large Scout Association Corroborree was held in Belair National Park and a young Scout accidentally lost his life there. We try to visit this Memorial at least once a year, during our Tuesday Walks.

Lynda Knight.

In July 1998 the Friends of Belair planted understorey plants at the Gums Oval. This planting has suffered pruning and bark removal by the resident hares during the summer. Lynda Knight and friends have made and placed 100 wire netting tree guards around these plants to protect them from further damage. Early records, 100 years ago, of the Planting Committee of the Commissioners of the Park refer to the problems of hares (and other introduced animals) -

“The plantings of ornamental trees, shrubs in various parts of the Park and attending to those planted during the first 6 years has constituted a large item in the year’s expenditure. Very few trees have however been purchased, the small nursery in the Park supplying most of the stock required. In addition to which gifts of trees to the Park have been made by the Conservator of Forests and the Director of the Botanic Gardens. Last season a few varieties of ti-tree were tried with success in parts of the Park where planting had hitherto failed and the Commissioners are experimenting further with similar trees and varieties of callistemon in places where the soil is of a sterile character. The planting of another row of trees along each side of Sir Edwin’s Avenue has been commenced. The trees selected are Canary Island pines and *Araucaria bidwillii*, the existing avenue of two varieties of gums. As nearly everything planted has to be protected either by fencing, stakes and wire netting or guards to prevent damage by hares and horses, the cash is necessarily large.”

(Planting Committee Report for the year ending 30th June 1900).

Times haven’t changed.

Ron Tamblyn



NOTES

GENERAL MEETINGS held in Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park at 1pm on 1st Saturday of the month. No meeting in January.

Note:- October General Meeting changed to Saturday 14th October 2000 because of the Friends Forum being held 6-8 October at Millicent.

WORKING BEES, Tuesday and Fridays, 9am in the winter (8am when daylight saving), and 3rd Sunday of the month 10am, meet outside the Information Centre. Enquires Eric Cole 8278 3816

TUESDAY GUIDED WALKS meet in the car park near the Information Centre at 2pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, April to December. Enquires Lynda Knight 8278 2623

CONSTITUTION

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

FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO JOIN Friends of Belair National Park - call Brian DuBois (President) 8278 4275 or Jill Salvi (Secretary) 8278 6736.

Postal address: Friends of Belair National Park, PO Box 2, Belair SA 5052.



western barred bandicoot,