



Friends
of
Belair National Park
volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

September 2001

Spring Edition

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Biological control of millipedes

Six years ago, when I was just another member sitting at the back during a meeting, I used to be distracted, by the numerous big fat millipedes hanging from the ceiling of the Volunteer Centre. The original treatment was to spray the surrounds with carbaryl chemical. This spraying was necessary every year, and it was considered unnecessary with the advent of an effective biological control. Our ever busy secretary, Jill Slavi, got down on her hands and knees and collected hundreds of millipedes, inoculated them with a nematode and distributed them around the Volunteer and Information Centres.

Thanks to her efforts there are very few millipedes to be seen.

Botany course

Our resident botanist, Ralph Foster, has kindly given of his time to undertake a series of lessons on plant identification. This course is being held in the Volunteer Centre, prior to our monthly meeting. It is being well attended. Thanks Ralph for your time and effort.

Olive grant

There are many ways to kill olives. Two different chemicals and various ways to penetrate the bark, plus various places to apply the chemical. In addition there is the time of application.

We previously applied for a Friend's grant to assist in our olive killing campaign and I am pleased to say we were successful in receiving a grant for \$2000.

This will go a long way to help us to kill more olives and for us to document our results. Hopefully this will help us and others.

Website

The Rotary clubs of South Australia in conjunction with EDS and the State Government have, for the last four years, run a special live in Information Technology course for year eleven students from all over the state.

As part of the course students have to design a web site. This year we were a part of this course, and in the near future we will have our own web site. At time of writing there are six other Friends groups with their own web sites.

Draft Belair National Park Management Plan

At long last the draft of the Management Plan has been received. A special general meeting was held to give the members a chance to have their collective say. Unfortunately with so many of our members enjoying the sunshine in more northerly climes we only managed nineteen members. However, I believe those members did give a good cross section response for the rest of the members. Our response has been written and forwarded.

Morning tea for workers

A very successful morning tea was given by our liaison ranger, Janine Kraehenbuhl. Besides providing the drinks and edibles Janine presented volunteer badges to all present and gave a summary of activities in the Park and expressed the appreciation of the staff for the work carried out by the Friends.

Bandicoot trapping

At the above morning tea Janine asked us to consider doing trapping for bandicoots. There is considerable signs of bandicoots in many parts of the Park, especially in the western end. It is hoped that some animals would be trapped, details taken and tagging carried out before released. Jill Salvi has got some volunteers for this work. A few more would not go astray, so if you are interested please contact Jill.

Minno Creek planting of seedlings

As you may know the Park has taken on a very significant restoration project for Minno creek. Already many unwanted trees have been removed. As a result there are some denuded areas requiring planting of species native to the area. There are about fifty boxes of seedlings, approximately fifty seedlings per box, to be planted out.

The first day is Father's day, the 2nd of September, at 9.00 a.m. Please come along with a garden trowel and help in this important work. This will extend over a couple of weeks until all seedlings are planted.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

On behalf of all members I would like to extend a warm welcome to Pauline FERRETT, Nathan RENNIE, Jonathan HUTCHINSON, Bart MILLS, Marshall JENSEN, and Adam YOUNG. I hope you enjoy your time with us and gain a sense of achievement.

Barbara Warburton
Membership Secretary.

INCREASE IN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

The committee has been advised by our treasurer, Eric Cole, that money raised by annual subscription has not been sufficient this year to cover costs of the newsletter and administration and general meeting expenses. Therefore we are proposing that the single and joint (family) subscriptions both be increased as from 1st January 2002. This increase will probably be \$3 per subscription, making \$10 per single and \$13 joint subscription.

We have received grants for specific projects, which we are using for the Significant Tree Project and for poisoning olives, but the general expenses of running the Friends Group must be covered by the annual subscriptions.

This increase in fees will be proposed at the November general meeting, and the new rates for 2002 will be published in the December 2001 newsletter.

If unable to attend the November meeting and you want to express an opinion on this increase, please write to the secretary, Friends of Belair NP, PO Box 2 Belair 5052.

ADELAIDE CUP CARNIVAL AND VOLUNTEER'S DAY

On Monday, 21st May, Ron and I, along with many other volunteers from all over the state, attended the Inaugural Volunteers' Day Breakfast at Morphettville Racecourse.

We arrived there at 8.30am, after parking our car, without charge, in a newly official car park. Already there were many volunteers lining up for breakfast which was served in the 1st floor public bar area and downstairs outside.

We had our free breakfast of eggs and bacon with toast with tea or coffee. A glass of champagne was also included if you wanted one. We sat out in the sun around tables. Some people at our informal breakfast table were Peter Alexander and his wife. Peter had been a speaker at Friends of Belair a couple of years ago on 'Bounce Back' in the Flinders Ranges.

As we walked around we saw many people we knew from different volunteer groups - Scouts, Probus, Meals on Wheels, sporting teams and school committees.

Ron and I had wonderful free seats in the Main Grandstand for the races. They were close to the finishing line and in full view of the large video screen. Several of our Belair Friends Group were there also.

We had a very happy and pleasant day there.

Beth Pitman.

FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Our President, Brian DuBois attended the AGM at Meningie on 1/6/01, and was elected Vice-president unopposed. Changes were made to the constitution.

Six other members of Friends of Belair also attended, all traveling down in a bus organised by FoPInc, and had a very pleasant day, going down through Tailem Bend and returning via Wellington.

SPEAKERS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Many thanks to those interesting speakers who addressed our general meetings recently. Speakers have been John Whitbread, on "Policing as it was", Colin Malcolm of Friends of Onkaparinga River Reserve, and Pam Tamblyn, on the early history of Government Farm. Apologies from Roger Sallis who will speak on the railway line history next year.

Coming up, on September 1st Lynda Knight will tell of her recent commemorative trip to Crete, on October 6th Doug Bickerton will speak on native orchids, and on December 1st we have "Sunsmart". (November 3rd is a barbecue).

PROFESSOR SIR JOHN CLELAND MEMORIAL WALK

Saturday, 15th September, 10am to 3pm - half day or whole day.

This year, a "figure of 8" route will enable us to start, finish, and eat our lunch at the Karka Pavilion at the far end of Long Gully. The morning walk, 10am to 12 noon, is fairly energetic to the hillsides of the flora area. The afternoon walk, 1pm to 3pm, is along the valley floor, to hear about the historic plantings of exotic trees.

Those members unable to attend the Tuesday walks, come on Saturday 15th September. This will be a most interesting day. Everyone is welcome. Free to all.

Enquiries to Judith O'Hara, phone 8271 1534.



Radiata pine - *Pinus radiata*

What it looks like . . .

Tree with a straight upright trunk, grows to 30m or more. Spreading or narrow shape. Branches tend to be straight, whorled. Bark dark brown, deeply cracked on old trees.

Leaves: needles, each with three hard waxy faces, in groups of 3 along branches.

Flowers: cones brown, of two types. Male cones small, scaly, clustered. Female cones 7-15cm, woody, short stalked, single or in clusters. Both types of cone may be found on one tree. Female cones may mature for several years.

Fruits: dry winged seeds are released from mature pine cones.



Where it grows, how it spreads

Grown in plantations for timber and Christmas trees, in gardens, on roadsides and farms for shade and shelter. Spreads into woodlands and coastal dunes. Under pine trees, shade and the carpet of needles exclude most native plants. Seeds are carried by wind and spread long distances by cockatoos which feed on cones and carry them into the bush.



Native to North America



How to get rid of it

Begin in the least weedy bush. Pull young plants first. Trees: cut close to the ground. If stumps resprout, cut and swab (see Table 1). Take care that falling pines do not knock over native trees. If you cannot fell trees you can ringbark them. Pine foliage is slow to break down so if it covers a large area, make gaps among needles or branches on the ground to encourage germination of natives. Follow up: pull pine seedlings.

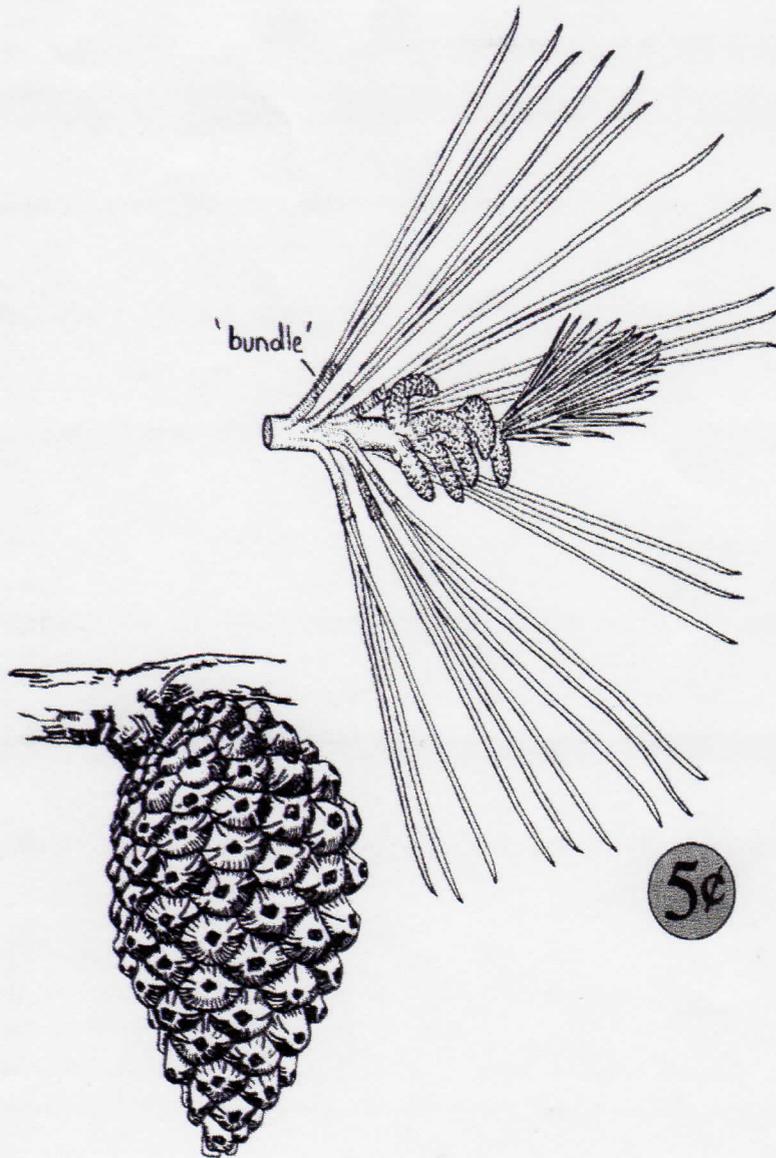


Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) has needles in twos and can be dealt with in the same way. Other *Pinus* species do not usually spread into the bush.

Radiata pine - *Pinus radiata*



FAMILY PINACEAE



Do not confuse it with these native plants

Native pines (*Callitris* species) and native cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) do not have long, straight needle leaves in bundles of two or three.



From "STOP BUSHLAND WEEDS" by Meg Rodertson.
Our thanks to the Nature Conservation Society of S.A. Inc for permission to reprint.

LEARN ABOUT PLANTS

Do you know how to analyse a flower so that you can look up what it is? An enthusiastic group joins Dr. Ralph Foster in the Volunteer Centre at 11am on the Saturday morning of the monthly general meeting to learn about identifying flowering plants. With our razor blades and magnifying lenses we can slice and count petals and sepals and all the other bits and pieces, and even write down in formulae what we have done - great for those of us who cannot remember how many bits or how many pieces. Then into the reference books for the identifying. And it actually works. The hardest part is getting the group to stop and move over for the general meeting.

Guided Walks

We are continuing to explore the Park on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays walks. 2.00p.m. Information Centre.

The Wirra and Tilti tracks take you through grassy woodlands dotted with S.A. Blue Gum (*eucalyptus leucoxylon*). Of course it has scatterings of Bone Seed, Olive, Bridal Creeper and Sweet Pittosporum. Still it is a lovely section of the Park. Here we found Mosquito Orchards (*acianthus exsertus*). This orchid is small with a heart shaped leaf close to the ground with a burgundy underside.

Our winter strolls have been rewarding for the plant lovers and hopefully interesting for the others. My hope i.e. we all get a greater knowledge of the Park.
Looking forward to walking with you . Judith

Orchids we have found this year.

<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	Parsons Bands
<i>Prasophyllum nigricans</i>	Midge orchid
<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>	Mosquito Orchid
<i>Pterostylis sanguinea</i>	Banded Green-hood
<i>Pterostylis nana</i>	Dwarf Green-hood
<i>Pterostylis robusta</i>	Large Striped Green-hood
<i>Corybas diemenicus</i>	Helmut Orchid
<i>Lyperanthus nigricans</i>	Fire Orchid (leaves only)

PHOTOS PLEASE

Could anyone please donate or lend (for copying) photos from previous forums for inclusion in our photographic records? Those required are 1990 (?), 1993 (Telowie Gorge), 1994 (?), 1995 (Innes National Park), 1996 (Onkaparinga), 1999 (Pinnaroo), 2000 (Millicent).
Betty Wise - 8278 3805



2001 WEST COAST FORUM, 'Where the Desert meets the Sea', Ceduna .

Hosted by Friends of Streaky Bay District Parks, Friends of the Far West Parks, Friends of the Great Victoria Parks and Friends of Parks Kimba.

This was a most enjoyable Forum, with more than 200 delegates. Of these, more than 80 travelled on two buses from Adelaide to Ceduna on the Thursday, touring around Streaky Bay on Sunday and returning to Adelaide on Monday. There was a choice of full-day trips on the Friday, 4WD to Yumbarra Conservation Park, boat to St. Peter Island, or bus again to Head of the Bight where we saw the whales including mothers and calves, and a large shark (not feasting). Also a variety of scenery, including marvellous cliffs and huge white sandhills, the flat treeless Nullabor, scrub and cultivated paddocks.

On Friday night the Minister, Iain Evans, presented the minor awards. Best Wildlife Project was by Sporting Shooters who reduced numbers of feral goats in the Flinders from 25 per square kilometre to less than 1. Others were, Whyalla Conservation Park without a resident ranger who published their own Management Plan, Scott Creek for their website, botanical surveys, weed control, trails, heritage buildings, Dingley Dell for poetry reading in their park. A great variety of projects.

Greg Leaman, Director, said NP&W was committed to working with Friends, and SA was leading the country with volunteers in parks.

Minister Evans congratulated the Friends on the huge volume of work done, equal to 167 extra staff, but more importantly, showing the pride that people had in their communities. As Minister for Volunteering, he answered questions on the issues being addressed for legal liabilities. Yurebilla, the 2nd generation of parklands, was being expanded through strategic purchases, such as adding to Scott Creek, and the Blackwood Forest. It was hoped to get property between Cleland and Belair for the mountain bikers to help protect these parks.

On the Saturday, various discussion topics referred to working together - Campground Hosts and Coastcare with Friends, Native Title, Arid Recovery with WMC, Adelaide Uni and Green Corp, Ark on Eyre with Friends, farmers and landholders, Friends and the Nature Foundation and Landcare. The discussion topic of mountain bikes and other recreation brought the recommendation that park management plans zone areas for conservation only (as already recommended for Belair).

We had a variety of excellent speakers. Exchange Ranger, Howard Morgan showed slides of Brecon Beacons National Park, Wales, which is a "working" park with farmlands and industries, and Terry Arnott, Marine Archeologist, told of "The History of Whaling on the West Coast of SA" which was fascinating as it had been an enormous industry, with many ruins and remains still about. Peter Needle and Jane Cooper showed pictures of birds of the area, and told of the rare black cockatoo, numbers increased by 16% (4 birds) but it is an increase. Mitch Dunnett, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, told of sacred sites and what to watch for in the area.

Main awards were presented by the Minister at the dinner on Saturday night. Neville Houlahan of Sturt District and based in Belair was the Rotary Ranger of the year. Congratulations Neville!

NOTES

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

President Brian DuBois, phone 8278 4275, email bandoobs@pslmember.on.net

Secretary, Jill Salvi, phone 8278 6736.

Treasurer, Eric Cole, PO Box 2, Belair SA 5052.

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

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS & CARE Kay Harries, phone 8278 4340

WORKING BEES, Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 9am in the winter.

8am Daylight Saving Time.

Meet outside the Information Centre.

Enquiries Eric Cole, 8278 3816. or Brian DuBois, 8278 4275.

TUESDAY GUIDED WALKS meet in the car park near the Information Centre at 2pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, April to December. Ring noon - 1pm if the walk is in doubt because of the weather. Enquiries, Judith O'Hara, phone 8271 1534. .

SIGNIFICANT TREES OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK PROJECT

Enquiries to Ron Tamblyn, phone 8278 6593.

CONSTITUTION Copies are available from the Membership Secretary, Barbara Warburton 5/173 Main Road Blackwood 5051, phone 8278 5590, or at General Meetings.

