



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

MARCH 2002

ANNUAL REPORT

The Friends Of Belair National Park

The opening sentence of last years annual report went as follows "over the years the Friends of Belair group has grown to be recognised by many as a Friends Group of high standing and as a body of achievers."

At the meetings and functions I attend, I so often hear phrases that are very laudatory. The comments are about the amount of work being done, and always in a tone of voice which indicates respect. To get some idea of why we are achievers consider the number of work hours. Three years ago our recorded hours were only 1000+. This year we have recorded over 4000+. Unfortunately these hours do not reflect the unrecorded hours of work, meetings and training sessions e.g. the total number of volunteer hours, which would probably double the figure of 4000.

These hours were accrued through:-

Working bees

VMU 9 has not been weeded before, and being very large with a significantly large number of woody weeds, will take a long time to complete. About 75% has been cleared of small weeds with some felling and ring barking of the larger weeds.

VMUs 12,13 and 23 have had follow up work done. Unit 12 had a big patch of watsonia which was dug up. Units 23 and 13 were follow ups and have little or no weeds left.

During September several working bees saw over 1000 seedlings planted below the Railway Dam as part of the Minno Creek restoration program.

Olives

Unit 11 has occupied Doug and helpers for the year. Not only have they killed numerous olives, but they have also carried out test on various methods. Trees have been marked to enable easy identification and the treatment used and when.

The work was made harder by ineffective killing in the past, with the trees forming multiple risers instead of just a few trunks. This has necessitated laborious clearing around each tree to enable access to the main trunks, the lignotuber and major roots. Usually a tree is poisoned and left standing, but in areas which are used by the public, e.g. Playford Lake, the trees have been cut down with the butt being poisoned. The felled trees have been mulched, thanks to the Park staff for providing a big mulcher and an operator. This has improved the aesthetics of the sites and should help the recovery of natives.

Two different chemicals have been used. Garlon , because of price and Glyphosate in sensitive areas such as in or adjacent to creeks.

We are appreciative of the National Heritage Trust grant of \$2000 which we received for this work

Significant Tree Project

This project commenced late in 2000 to provide a photographic and historical record and a local herbarium of significant trees in Belair National Park. It has been funded by a Friend's Group Grant of \$2000 and a Botanists Grant of \$700. Our members have formed two groups and have been involved in the project throughout 2001. One group has been recording, identifying, assessing, photographing, mapping and researching, and the other group has been preparing specimens for identification through the Botany Grant. Eight members have taken part regularly with 1200 hours done and over 700 trees recorded so far.

Some more detailed reports should be published in the March newsletter.

Adopt-a-block

This has also been successful. Units 17, 18 and 48 have had follow up work carried out. Also two of our energetic members have been making huge inroads by depleting the number of Aleppo pines by chainsaw in VMUs 2,8 and 11. . This depletion of trees will need to be replaced with native trees to maintain a canopy and hence limit the growth of many unwanted species.

There are several other sites where members work quietly without any fanfare.

Bandicoots

Since fox baiting has been carried out in the Park, the numbers of the Southern Brown bandicoot have been steadily increasing in the Park. There have been reports of actual sightings near Playford Lake. This is the opposite end of the Park where previous research has been carried out by various people.

There is a current research project being carried out by a student from the Flinders University. Following a request by her, several members have volunteered to help. This help works in two directions. The student does need help and we need the knowledge and expertise to carry out our own research to establish how wide spread the bandicoots are in the Park

Millipedes.

One of our enthusiastic members spent a considerable time on her hands and knees collecting millipedes. One passer by commented that it wasn't a real quick way to get rid of millipedes. She was not trying to get rid of them directly.

Jill, our secretary and worker, was collecting them to infect them with nematodes, biological control, and then release them around the Volunteer Centre and the Main Office. Jill's efforts have been successful and very few millipedes were to be seen. Thanks Jill

Talks

There have been Eight speakers for the year with subjects including butterflies, orchids, Volunteering at the Sydney Olympics, the police force in the old days, early history of the government farm, being sun smart, a remembrance trip to Crete and a talk by the Colin Malcolm from the Onkaparinga Friends group. Our thanks to all those speakers

The Park Management plan

This has been presented to the public. The Friends of Belair did write a report on the content. There were no major issues, rather omissions, additions and minor changes. It now awaits for a minister to sign it.

Walks

Our stalwart leader of walks for many years, Lynda Knight, has handed over the reins to Judith O'Hara. Judith has been a walker for many years and has ably lead the group on many walks. Not all walks were held at Belair. Other parks were visited including Scott's Creek.

The Professor Cleland Walk

was held on the 15th September. It took the form of a figure eight with the Karkoo Pavilion at the centre. The morning session encompassed the Melville Hill track to the upper Sturt lodge. The main focus was on native wild flowers. The afternoon session proceeded down Long Gully to the Joseph Fisher Picnic Ground. Many non native significant trees were viewed. There were 39 walkers. A little disappointing considering 23 were members. Thanks to Judith and her helpers.

Another walk carried out without any fanfare was one by twenty children from Townsend House. Lynda and Judith are to be thanked for this outing for these children.

Many thanks to Lynda for her leadership over the years.

Courses

Two courses were attended by our members this year. Ron Tamblyn attended a Brushcutters course in October. Betty Wise, Vaike Aldridge and Brian DuBois attended a bush care course. Its focus was on the collection and propagating of seeds.

Annual Forum.

Only three of our members, Jill Salvi, Brian & Noelene DuBois attended the forum at Ceduna. It was a long way to travel but as usual it was worth it. This year all business was held on the Saturday, which I believe is a good thing. Friday was a trip to whale watch and we were not disappointed. On Sunday, on the homeward trip, the day was spent around Streaky Bay.

Blackwood Christmas Pageant.

We participated again this year. A small group thought our decorations needed pepping up. As well as the usual balloons and tinsel several stuffed toy animals, hand puppets and animal face masks appeared. I hope this continues because to see the smiles on the children's' faces was worth it..

Birthday Party Tea.

This annual event was again enjoyed by approximately 60 guests and members. Beth Pitman baked a tasty birthday cake, which was cut by Malcolm Anderson.. Thanks Beth.

A small equipment grant was applied for and won. This was for equipment for the comfort of members. We purchased a vacuum cleaner, a roving microphone and a steel storage cupboard. Thanks go to Barry Palmer for this effort.

Another piece of equipment that has come into our possession is a computer and peripherals. Our thanks to Melville Liddle for this generous gift.

There are two people who I need to thank specially they are,

1) Kay Harries does a sterling job of looking after the Volunteer Centre. Kay not only keeps the place clean and tidy but takes all bookings and opens up for all users. Thanks Kay

2) Eric Cole has been our treasurer for five years. He believes it is time to give some else a go. It may not be a big job, but it does require meticulous attention to detail. Thanks Eric for a job well done.

In closing I would like to thank all those who have participated in the many functions, especially the committee and the leaders. Could you please put your hands together and show your appreciation for their efforts on your behalf.

Brian DuBois
President 2001/2

FRIENDS GROUP REPORT – JANUARY 2002

It was pleasing to receive positive feedback from my first report to Friends Groups on work within the whole District

Staff

Richard Coombe has been seconded to Victor Harbour as the District Ranger until 25 February 2002. Janine Kraehenbuehl will be undertaking Richard's role during this period

Raelene Jaffer has had an operation on her hand, is recovering well and has returned to work

Park Festival

There will not be a Park Festival during 2002 but plans are in place for one during 2003

Blackwood Forest

Blackwood Forest has been proclaimed a Recreation Park under the National Parks & Wildlife Act and will be managed by Sturt District

Dogs will be allowed in this reserve off a lead but must be under control

A Community Consultation process is currently in progress to assist in the writing of a Management Plan

Old Government House

A ceremony was held on 4 November 2001 to announce the completion of a Federation Community Grant Program with a Federal Minister, two State Ministers and the Director NPW in attendance.

Funds from the National Heritage Trust, DAIS Heritage Branch and Friends of Old Government House totalled \$240,000 to complete the project

General (Rangers varied roles)

Member of public reported a dead dolphin at Aldinga Beach

Staff collected animal and delivered to SA Museum for research purposes

Seal decided to rest at Glenelg beach in confined space between two fences (construction site and sand erosion protection fence) Numerous calls before 0730 required attention. Staff attended, cut fence and persuaded seal into water.

Koala Management

This is the time of year when Koala Management issues usually increase with the District currently receiving an average of 5 calls per day, regarding sightings or injured animals

A call that requires a rescue can take 2/3 hours to manage and may include media presence

To assist in their management we would appreciate you reporting sightings to your liaison Ranger on a six monthly basis and we will collate responses.

To report any injured animals please contact 82785477 during business hours

These are then directed to Cleland CP where it is logged into a Regional database

Issues

Geocaching is a new orienteering sport with participants specifically using a GPS. They aim to go from A to B "cross country" by the shortest possible route and advertise the sport on a Website!!!! . Yes we have notified them of NPW concern, the effect PC may have in wet weather and a Policy is currently being formulated

Phytothera cinimmomi

Samples have been taken by NPW in the Mt Lofty Ranges, forty within the Sturt District. Three samples in Scott Creek Conservation Park and one in Belair National Park have had positive results

Procedures are currently being formulated, signage will be installed to restrict access from these sites. In emergency situations (ie Fire) hygiene procedures will be implemented

Friends Safety

There has been a noted increase in injuries to members of our Friends Groups, two requiring a visit to the hospital and the matter is of concern. The Departments Occupational Health Safety & Welfare unit have noted the increase and raised this issue with Districts

When working on government land, volunteers are required to meet the same safety requirements as District staff by working in a safe manner, wearing protective clothing and/or equipment and be appropriately trained

Your support in this matter to reduce incidents would be appreciated as we **value the input of our volunteer staff.**

If any of your members require training, or you require safety equipment it is suggested you submit an application for a Friends Grants (ex Directors Grants)

Friends Grants

During the past twelve months 30 grant applications with a value exceeding \$300k have passed through the District office, including Friends Grants, NHT, Coast-care, Catchment Boards, Urban Forest Programs, etc

Some groups have sought clarification of the correct procedure involving the submissions and approvals. The following attempts to clarify those issues

- If grants are submitted for work in a reserve managed by National Parks & Wildlife, they (NPW) as the landowner are responsible for ensuring it meets with either the Plan of Management, Strategic Plan or District Plan and supports the activity of the specific volunteer group.
- Groups should discuss any grant application with their respective Liaison Ranger who is able to provide advice, costs and the resources required. If follow up work is required the following year, consideration needs to be given a high priority in seeking additional funds.
- After discussing with the liaison Ranger the application should be sent to the District Ranger for approval as the representative of the land owner. This will allow District to record all applications and if later approved the projects are completed within the set time frame and Project Brief.
- The District forwards the endorsed application to the funding source (NHT Grant Applications request this, Directors Grants require endorsement and the Urban Forest Committee seek an appropriate authority before considering any submissions) .A copy of all Grant Applications is retained in the District office
- Grants should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the closing date to allow the process to be completed

I hope this assists you when submitting future applications

Wishing you all a Happy New Year from the Sturt District Staff

Terry Gregory – DISTRICT RANGER STURT

Report on Working Bees for year 2001

At the beginning of last year I was asked how long it would take to finish Vegetation Management Unit (VMU) 9. I actually had no idea but realised a lot had to be done so my reply was to the end of the year. We actually started this unit in November 2000 and last year had about 6 weeks on VMU 23 and yet we are still on VMU 9 with still much more to be done.

VMU 23 was a pleasure to go back to. The centre was a carpet of boneseed, good healthy young plants which were easy to pull. There were quite a lot of olive trees which had been successfully poisoned, some by drilling and some by frilling. It would seem either way was effective and I personally think the latter has the advantage of having to carry less equipment. There were some olive trees which had been missed and I do not remember exactly where they were however in the future we will be able to record their exact position with the aid of our GPS. Then at a later date we can easily find them for the purpose of poisoning.

VMU 9 has been a difficult block to work. Due to its size it was divided into four sectors and we worked them one at a time. We are currently in sector A which is the worst I have seen in the Park. A forest of pines with many olives to say nothing of boneseed, pittosporum, buckthorn and even plum and pear. One of our weeders suggested we take out the natives and leave the exotics. With the long and wet winter we were able to dig up many large olives which would otherwise have to be poisoned. Many of the pines have been ring barked with the smaller being cut down. We know from experience they take a long time to die, over 12 months. We also found a campsite which required 3 large garbages to remove all the rubbish, mostly food packaging but also over 50 batteries and several throw away gas containers. Around this site were several small piles of stones.

We were requested to deal with an infestation of watsonia in VMU 12. This area had been weeded at some time in the past but never followed up. It was started late November when the ground was quite damp making it easy to pull them but by the time we finished in late December the ground was dry and hard and the corms (bulbs) had to be mostly dug up. Many were in flower and in the process of producing cormils. The heads were all cut off and disposed of. They also produce one to three new corms above and beside the original which subsequently dies off. This year (2002) we will go back just prior to flowering and tackle the regrowth

At the request of two "adopt-a-blockers" we did a little work in VMU 17 removing some new growth boneseed and broome of up to 3 metres high. The soil was wet and it was possible to pull them out. Unfortunately we did not finish the broom and must go back when conditions are right.

I have to mention our stalwart Doug and his helpers. They have slowly worked their way along Kurra Creek from Pines Oval to Playford Lake mostly poisoning olives. Doug and Ron have been chainsaw happy cutting down pine and multi-trunked olives but of course poisoning the stumps. The pines were in the vicinity of Pines Oval and the olives opposite Playford Lake. This latter area has been nicely cleaned up and is now a pleasure to observe. Much of the cuttings have been mulched using the NPWS mulcher which can take trunks of 100mm. plus. Several truck loads were taken away.

Brian has led the Sunday morning group working in areas on an "as needs" basis. The response to this was sufficiently encouraging to continue next year.

The following record of hours indicates where our major effort has occurred.

VMU	2	9	11	17	23	others	total
hours	199	854	496	24	181	166	1920

As I have said before, there are many hours worked in our park by others, especially the "adopt-a-blockers" and none of those have been included.

Finally I would like to say what a happy bunch of weeders we have, it is a pleasure to work with them, and I must thank them for their efforts over 2001.

Working Bee Coordinator

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

On behalf of all the members I would like to extend a warm welcome to Delwyn CLARK, William (Bill) ELLENBROEK, Peter and Claire MORPHETT and Judith (Judy) JEFFERY. I hope you all enjoy your time with us and join in our many activities, especially the barbecue before the April meeting when you can meet and mingle with the Friends.

Barbara Warburton
Membership Secretary

FORUM 2002 at Curdnatta Park Sandy Creek 6th, 7th & 8th September 2002

Hosted by Friends of Para Wirra and Friends of Sandy Creek.

Our theme for 2002 will be Birds of Barossa

For further information, telephone 8524 6166 (Ted Hughes) or 8336 0901 (Black Hill Cons.Park Office)

SA National Parks & Wildlife. - Friends of Parks Inc.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2002 - FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK.

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VICE PRESIDENT Ron Tamblyn 8278 6593

SECRETARY Jill Salvi 8278 6736
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TREASURER Betty Wise 8278 3805

COMMITTEE

Vaike Aldridge 8277 9596
Eric Cole 8278 3816
Kay Harries 8278 4340
John Hunwick 8178 0466
Barry Palmer 8270 4150
Gill Ross 8278 8051
Jim Trueman 8278 9359

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS

& CARE Kay Harries 8278 4340
GUIDED WALKS Judith O'Hara 8271 1534
LIBRARIAN Lynda Knight 8278 2623
MEMBERSHIP Barbara Warburton 8278 5590
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Ann Ross 8278 8051
WORKING BEES Eric Cole 8278 3816
SIGNIFICANT TREES Ron Tamblyn 8278 6593

AUDITOR Gavin Stephens 29 Myrtle Road Hawthorndene 5051

LIAISON RANGER Mrs. Janine Kraehenbuehl, Sturt Office, Belair NP.

Friends of Belair National Park, PO Box 2, BELAIR SA 5052.

ABN 38 093 387 757

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FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2001

STATE OF GRANTS & FUNDS AS AT 31.12.01

HELD FOR RESTORATION FUND			507.43
GRANT FOR SERVICES OF BOTANIST (SIG. TREE PROJECT)			700.00
SIGNIFICANT TREE PROJECT GRANT		2000.00	
SIG. TREE EXPENDITURE 2000	28.35		
" " 2001	885.60		
" " "	913.95		
OLIVE TREE ERADICATION PROJECT GRANT		2000.00	1086.05
" " EXPENDITURE			
TOTAL HELD	620.44		1379.56
			3673.09
FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK FUNDS			
TOTAL FUNDS IN ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.01			4528.43
GRANTS - FUNDS HELD			3673.09
FUNDS AVAILABLE TO F.B.N.P.			855.34
TOTAL:			\$ 855.34

Having examined the records & receipts & payments together with the above and finding them correct I find them to represent a true and correct position of the organization as at 30.12.2001.

Chairman
Gavin Shillito
21 North Rd
Newport NSW
21.11.2002

OPENING BALANCE				2800.17
RECEIPTS				
SUBSCRIPTIONS	595.50			
DONATIONS	380.30			
GRANTS:				
SIGNIFICANT TREE PROJECT	2000.00			
OLIVE TREE ERADICATION PROJECT	2000.00			
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEER	689.00			
INTEREST	35.34			
SALE OF BADGES	18.00			
SALE OF RAFFLE TICKETS - FOUNDATION	32.00			
TOTAL:	\$ 5750.14			
PAYMENTS:				
GOVERNMENT TAX	18.91			
ADMINISTRATION	558.32			
PRINTING NEWSLETTER	187.81			
TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	363.65			
HAIF CUT OF GPS NAVIGATOR	341.80			
SIGNIFICANT TREE PROJECT	885.60			
OLIVE TREE ERADICATION PROJECT	620.44			
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEER GRANT				
VACUUM CLEANER	156.00			
WIRELESS MOBILE PHONE	219.00			
METAL CABINETS	324.00			
SUBSCRIPTIONS	689.00			
WEED MANAGEMENT SOCIETY	25.00			
CONFERENCE COUNCIL	60.00			
FRIENDS OF PARK INC	5.00			
MISCELLANEOUS				
PICTURE FRAMING	175.00			
PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS	34.35			
BLACK WOOD PAGEANT	25.00			
NATURE FOUNDATION	32.00			
TOTAL	\$ 4021.88			
				\$ 4528.43
FUNDS HELD				
RECONCILIATION				
FUNDS HELD AS PER CASH BOOK			4528.43	
CHEQUES NOT PRESENTED				
N/108 KEITH BOURN 136.00				
N/116. BRYAN BOURN 82.95				
FUNDS AS PER BANK STATEMENT			218.95	
			\$ 4747.38	

P.T.O.

BETH'S COLUMN

On Wednesday, December 12th 2001 many of our members attended and Appreciation Barbecue at Cleland Park given by Central Region. It began at 5pm but the weather turned very cold that evening and people did not linger as long after the meal. We were pleased that the four young Mormon Elders, who do weeding on Tuesday, came along to the BBQ and enjoyed mixing with the other folk. They looked very cold in their light white shirts.

The following Wednesday we celebrated our 16th Birthday and the 110th Birthday of Belair National Park. This was held in the Volunteer Centre and friends came from Onkaparinga, Old Government House, Campground Hosts and Friends of Belair Railway Station. It was an enjoyable evening, with delicious food. Malcolm Anderson cut the birthday cake.

Our Friends' group really appreciates having the Volunteer Centre for our meetings and other activities. We are the envy of some other groups who do not have such a facility. It is great to have a place we can call "home" Friends of Old Government House also use the Volunteer Centre and many other Day Conferences are held there.

We were pleased that our Liaison Ranger, Janine Kraehenbuehl attended the AGM and did the official part as well as speaking to us as a group.

Several members have been on holiday recently. Judith O'Hara had a walking holiday near Sydney, Lynda Knight went on a Tasmanian tour and Jill Salvi and Shirley Alford went walking in the Grampians.

Noelene and Brian DuBois have a new grandson and one of their sons became engaged recently.

The AGM of Friends of Parks Inc. will be held at Kingston House, Kingston Park on Thursday 2nd May, commencing at 10.30 am. Morning tea and lunch will be served. Total cost \$10 for meals. Please arrange own transport. Last year a number of us went to Meningie for the AGM and had a wonderful day. Please think about coming and let Jill or Brian know if you intend coming. The guest speaker will speak about the Kingston family and Kingston House.

TUESDAY WALKS

To the Tuesday leisurely walkers. Thank you for your enthusiastic support. It has been a pleasure to plan the strolls

On the 26th December, 12 of us decided to walk off our Christmas lunches. We ventured into Stirling Linear Park, from Mt. Lofty Station, covering all the trails in 3 1/2 hours.

New Years Day 11 people walked Mt. George C.P. We got drenched three times. Still we found the exercise very enjoyable.

This year 2nd and 4th Tuesday Walks will commence on 9th April at 2pm from the Information Centre.

Hope to be walking with you soon.

Judith O'Hara.

FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd May 2002 at 10/30am for 11am start at Kingston Historic House, Cameron Avenue, Kingston Park 5049.

Guest speaker will be Ms Marjorie Trott - On the life of Kingston and the homestead.

A light luncheon will be provided at \$10.00 per person. RSVP 1/4/02.

If you would like to be included in our group booking, please advise Jill Salvi on 8278 6736, and send her your \$10 by 29/3/02.

PROGRESS REPORT ON OLIVE ERADICATION.

While the main objective was the eradication of olives, other introduced weeds were also included, such as:-

Buckthorn, Pittosporum, African Daisy, Hakea Larina, Boneseed, Hawthorn, Pine and Blackberries. The area worked on over the last 12 months was the Kurra Creek, which is in Unit 11 and runs parallel with Pines Oval Road. The area extended from Pines Oval to the Playford Lake and was one of the worst infested parts of the Belair Park for olives.

The method used at the beginning was drilling and applying neat Round-up - then as we progressed, we changed to Round-up 40% ,water 60% and frilling. That was early March 2001 - then in early May we changed to Garlon 600 and Diesel 1-25 with frilling, and we have used this method ever since, with the exception of Olives in the creek, where Round-up 60/40 was used for safety reasons. The changes in the method were brought about by our trials at the beginning of 2001. Round-up 60/40 and Garlon/Diesel 1-25 are both effective , but Garlon/Diesel 1-25 is less expensive.

Instead of leaving dead Olives standing in an area close to Playford Lake, we thought it more prudent to cut them at the base, so that they could be mulched and chipped by the Park people assisted by the Friends. This has proved to be a much tidier way to go. A real forest of Olives was handled much better this way. The massive stump bases were then frilled and poisoned, and this was done in early November. So far no new shoots have appeared.

From Early March 2001, large Olives were labelled with the herbicide and the date on which they were done, so that we can now check as time goes by, how effective our program has been.

On the seventh of December, a complete inspection of all the Olives treated over the last 12 months, was carried out, using a G.P.S. Only two green stems had two or three 4mm shoots on them but they were dying, and after recent inspection , it was noted that they did not survive.

I'm convinced that the method we are using is working well. I have heard of and experienced, large infestations that have been treated and survived because of ineffective methods used. It is very encouraging when one looks at the Playford Lake area, and comments made by various people reinforces our resolve to keep going, as long as we don 't look at areas we have not started on yet.

During the 12 months I was assisted by a number of people. Betty Wise has been a very diligent worker, and others who have assisted throughout the year were Barbara Warburton, Vaike Aldridge and others on occasions have helped.

We are still working on Unit 11 as we have been for the last 12 months. It is interesting to note that we have seen a number of subspecies Africana. This was described by our Botanist Dr. Ralph Foster in a paper he presented in November last year.

It is helpful and encouraging to receive help with our program from Belair Park Management. Recently the chipper/mulcher and an operator, Ian Robinson, have been working with us, removing huge heaps of Olive boughs, and although it is hard work keeping the machine fed with boughs. It gobbles up logs 6" in diameter in a matter of minutes and spits chips into the truck, and as long as we can feed the machine the truck can be filled with chips in about an hour. Ron, too, has been a tremendous help in this operation, as with many others along the way.

375 recorded hours

D. Riley
2/2/02

D. John Hunwick

Born at Tumbly Bay in 1944 and lived in Port Lincoln for the first ten years before moving to Adelaide. After attending Prince Alfred College John went to Adelaide University, studied zoology and became interested in ecology. He then went on to Sydney University and gained a Diploma of Education and was sent to teach in New Guinea. Returning to Adelaide John commenced teaching at (what was then) Kings College (now Pembroke) before moving to Bedford Park Teachers College where he remained until retrenched in 1995.

Since 1964 John has been working both professionally and voluntarily to save Australia's native wildlife. This began with a focus on the role of national parks and their management. After studying for a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies (also Adelaide University) he became active in the development of Friends Groups. The South Australian National Parks Association and the Friends of Belair Park were two groups with which he worked during the 1980's.

In recent years John has been directly involved in the return of the Bilby to South Australia, with its currently successful re-establishment on Thistle Island and Roxby Downs. A supporter of the Warrawong concept John is delighted to see the return of the Numbat, the Greater Stick-nest Rat, the Brush-tailed Bettong and the Burrowing Bettong. He awaits the return of the Brush-tailed Phascogale and any one of the three quolls presently extinct in SA. In the meantime he would like to see more decisive action taken to reduce Koala numbers wherever they did not occur naturally in the past.

With time came the clear recognition that the saving of native wildlife depended on a number of factors: money, nature reserves, laws, good public servants, and committed politicians. But all those are not very meaningful unless the people wanted to save wildlife. The only long-term protection that wildlife can really depend on is public support for their continued existence. Accordingly John works to see that Friends groups are created and get involved in wildlife management, and that the Friends of Parks Inc works towards protecting wildlife even at the inconvenience of the Park Service if need be.

At present John is a member of the Wildlife Advisory Committee which allows him to become informed on what is happening throughout the state in matters relating to wildlife, as well as offer advice as to what could be done to ensure its protection.

John presently has two goals to develop and implement: to create a Biosphere reserve between Coffin Bay and Lincoln National Parks to join them up as one protected area, and to support the development of a National Parks Commission-type organisation in South Australia that would take the responsibility of park management away from Governments and their agendas and put it in the hands of people who have the priority of saving wildlife.

John has recently remarried and enjoys life immensely with Anna. His two children live interstate and overseas and are a constant source of pride and joy

THE FASCINATING STORY OF THE FIG

By R.C.Foster

There are over 1000 different species of fig, more than 40 species being native to Australia. Of these 1000 species, three have been introduced into Belair National Park, *Ficus macrophylla*, (Morton Bay Fig), *Ficus platypoda*, (Small leaved Moreton Bay fig) and *Ficus carica* (the Edible fig), the latter planted by Nicholas Foote in the late 1830's. The edible fig has become a feral pest species in Onkaparinga National Park. *Ficus platypoda*, which is native to South Australia, has very high levels of calcium (4000mg/100g), as well as higher protein and fat content than expected for fruits.

The fig flower head is like a dandelion head turned inside out so that the flowers are inside a hollow sack. Within this hollow sack the fig produces 3 kinds of flower, a) male flowers (stamens only), b) fertile, long-styled female flowers (no stamens) and c) sterile, short-styled female flowers, the ovaries of which contain gall wasps specific to the species of fig.

In the wild, the edible fig *F.carica* also produces 3 different types of fig each year. The first type (*profichi*) which are produced in spring, contain male flowers and sterile female flowers. Winged females of a wasp (*Blastophaga psenes*) which have overwintered as larvae in autumn-produced figs, enter the fig and deposit an egg in the ovary of several of the sterile female flowers, the short styles of which are hollow and match the length of the wasp's ovipositor. Having laid her eggs the female wasp dies. Native figs are pollinated by the Agaonidae (Hymenoptera) especially the genus *Pleistodontes* that are virtually confined to the fruits of Figs. When edible figs were first brought to Australia, *Blastophaga* had to be specially introduced also to ensure fruit set, (*Insects of Australia*, p.915).

Within the fig, each wasp egg develops into a larva, which causes the transformation of the sterile flower into a small gall on which the larva feeds. If the "wrong" wasp enters with the wrong length of ovipositor, its egg will be deposited either above or below the ovary, so larval development will not take place. This ensures that the fig feeds only the larvae of the "right" pollinator.

About 3-4 months later the new generation of adult wasps is ready to emerge. The male wasps are wingless and have much reduced eyes and legs, and each emerges from its gall by biting its way through the gall wall. It then bites through wall of any nearby galls containing a female wasp and mates with her. Having mated, the male wasp dies inside the fig without ever seeing the light of day.

At the end of the fig there is an opening near which the male flowers of the fig develop. The female wasps have both eyes and wings, and each leaves its gall through the hole bored by the male. Unmated females remain entombed in their gall because their mouthparts are not modified for chewing. Each emerged mated female wasp makes for the terminal hole in the fig, becoming dusted with pollen from the nearby male flowers as it leaves.

Meanwhile a second type of fig has been produced (*seed fig*) which contains only long-styled fertile female flowers. The pollen-coated female wasps enter these figs and pollinate the female flowers inside. Each female floret is embedded in the wall of the receptacle, and since its style is solid and much longer than the ovipositor of the wasp, the wasps are prevented from laying their eggs in the ovaries of the flowers, and each fertilised flower produces a seed. Hormones produced by the developing ovules cause the flower head to enlarge and become the edible, seed-filled fruit we know as a fig. These are attractive to birds and tree dwelling mammals, and since the fig is rich in laxatives, the seeds are soon widely sown undigested, each with a parcel of fertilizer.

Later, in the autumn, a third type of fig, (mother or '*mamma*') is produced, this time containing only sterile flowers. These have short styles which exactly match the length of the ovipositor of the wasp. The fertilised female wasps lay their eggs in these sterile flowers which again are induced to form galls on which the larvae feed. The larvae remain dormant until the following spring when the *profichi* are formed and the cycle is repeated. Because these '*mamma*' figs produce only sterile flowers, they only benefit the fig plant by providing an over-winter home for the pollinating wasp.

Hence, of the three types of fig produced annually by wild figs, only one type (the seed fig) is edible by humans. However since antiquity mankind has modified this complex process by the selection of one-sex cultivars. The three types of fig produced annually are mentioned individually in the Old Testament, and *caprification* was illustrated on monuments of ancient Egypt. *Caprification* is the process whereby each spring, branches containing figs from male trees (goat figs or *caprifigs*) are hung amongst the figs on female trees. This facilitates transfer of pollen to the female trees by the wasps, and markedly increases crop yield. Unlike the wild figs, these cultivars produce only long styled female flowers in each of the three cropping seasons so not one, but three crops of edible figs are possible each year.

More recently cultivars have been developed which produce figs without the need for pollination. These figs are necessarily seedless, and the plants are entirely dependent on man for their propagation from cuttings.

This unique symbiotic relation between each fig species and its pollinating wasp is thought to be responsible for the evolution and continued maintenance as separate species of the more than 1000 species of fig, similar to the unique symbiotic relationship between the Orchids and their pollinators.

Refs. M. Proctor et al. (1996), *The Natural History of Pollination*,
Faegri & van der Pijl, (1966), *Principles of Pollination Ecology*

THERE ARE 1000 SPECIES OF FIG, 3 ARE TO BE FOUND IN B.N.P.

Avocado and Beef Roll

Microwave

Serves 4. Cooking time 15 minutes.

500 g topside mince

1 egg lightly beaten

1 pkt. French onion soup

½ cup tomato sauce

⅔ cup grated cheese

1 avocado thinly sliced

Combine mince, egg, soup mix and tomato sauce in bowl, mix well, turn onto large plastic sheet, roll out using second sheet plastic on top of meat. Sprinkle meat with cheese, lay sliced avocado on top of cheese.

With help of plastic roll up carefully, remove plastic place in oblong dish, cover with kitchen paper and microwave on 100% power for 15 minutes, finish under grill to brown top.

Delicious

JOKE TIME

How to bathe the cat!

1. Thoroughly clean the toilet.
2. Add the required amount of shampoo to the toilet water, and have both lids lifted.
3. Grab the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
4. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close both lids. (you may need to stand on the lid so that he cannot escape)
CAUTION; Do not get any part of your body too close to the edge, as his paws will be reaching out for any purchase they can find.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "powerwash and rinse" which I have found quite effective.
6. Have someone open the door to the outside and ensure that there are no people between the toilet and the outside door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift both lids.
8. The now-clean cat will rocket out of the toilet, and run outside where he will dry himself.

Sincerely,
The **DOG**.

CALENDAR FOR 2002

FEBRUARY 2002

Saturday 2nd 1pm AGM
*No Tuesday walks this month

MARCH 2002

Saturday 2nd 1pm General Meeting
Speaker - Friend of Scott Creek
*No Tuesday walks this month

APRIL 2002

Saturday 6th 12.30pm Barbecue
followed by General Meeting

Tuesday 9th 2pm first of Tuesday Walks
Tuesday 23rd 2pm Tuesday Walk

May 2002

Thursday 2nd 10.30am
Friends of Parks Inc AGM

Saturday 4th 1pm General Meeting

Tuesday 14th 2pm Tuesday Walk
Tuesday 28th 2pm Tuesday Walk

June 2002

Saturday 1st 1pm General Meeting

Tuesday 11th 2pm Tuesday Walk
Tuesday 25th 2pm Tuesday Walk

July 2002

Saturday 6th 1pm General Meeting

Tuesday 9th 2pm Tuesday Walk
Tuesday 23rd 2pm Tuesday Walk

August 2002

Saturday 3rd 1pm General Meeting

Tuesday 13th 2pm Tuesday Walk
Tuesday 27th 2pm Tuesday Walk

September 2002 - Biodiversity Month

Saturday 7th 1pm General Meeting

6th - 8th September 2002

Friends Forum, Curdnatta Park, Sandy Creek

Tuesday 10th 2pm Tuesday Walk

Tuesday 24th 2pm Tuesday Walk

PROF. CLELAND MEMORIAL WALK
date to be finalised

October 2002

Saturday 6th 1pm General Meeting

Tuesday 8th 2pm Tuesday Walk
Tuesday 22nd 2pm Tuesday Walk

November 2002

Saturday 2nd 12.30pm Barbecue
followed by General Meeting

Tuesday 12th 2pm Tuesday Walk
Tuesday 26th 2pm Tuesday Walk

December 2002

Saturday 1st 1pm General Meeting

Friday 6th B'WOOD XMAS PAGEANT

Tuesday 10th 2pm Tuesday Walk

Thursday 19th 6pm BIRTHDAY PARTY
AT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Tuesday 24th 2pm Tuesday Walk
to be confirmed

REGULAR WEEKLY WORKING BEES

(for 2 hours)

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

8.00am Daylight Saving Time
OR 9.00am in the winter

SUNDAY working bees

8.15am Daylight Saving Time
OR 9.00am in the winter.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$10.00 single, \$15.00 joint
due 1st January.

please forward to PO Box 2, Belair SA 5052
if you have not already paid.