



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

DECEMBER 2003

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's December already! I feel this year has moved very quickly, but it has been an interesting and fulfilling one, with busy times.

Friends of Belair have been busy too, with many interesting and rewarding activities since my previous report. Seven of our group attended the Friends of Parks Riverland Forum in Berri on 19-21 September and a report is included in this newsletter. We have received details of the 2004 Mid-North Friends Forum to be held in the Clare Valley on 22-24 October with the theme "Grassy Spaces - Historic Places".

Late in September Pam and I took a heritage walk in the Park for the Friends of the ABC. These are good opportunities to showcase the Park and promote our group, especially as many on the walk were local residents. We are grateful for their generous donation of \$40 to the Friends of Belair. The History Trust of SA is promoting SA History Week from 22-30 May 2004 and we are looking at conducting a similar walk during that week.

The Friends of Parks theme for 2003 has been celebrating indigenous culture. Belair Friends have embraced this theme in two events in October. Friends of Parks organised "Banbabanbalyanendi", a "getting to know you event", at the Warriparinga Kaurna Living Culture Centre by the Sturt River at Bedford Park. The event took place on the night of the full moon, a time of special significance for the Kaurna people. The evening included the lighting of the campfire using firesticks, an interesting menu using indigenous and traditional foods and an indigenous performance. About 14 Friends of Belair enjoyed the evening. Also, at lunch during our annual Professor Cleland Walk, Nicola Keene gave a talk and tasting of indigenous foods used commercially.

We were successful in gaining a grant from the Office for Volunteers to fund three workshops on native grasses in Belair National Park during October and November. The workshops were conducted by Ellen Bennett and Bob Myers from the Native Grass Resources Group and we able to include Friends groups from Onkaparinga, Shepherds Hill, the Habitat and Wildlife Support Group as well as representatives from a local Our Patch group. The workshops included the structure of grass plants, basic identification using manuals, invasive weedy grasses and the management and promotion of native

grasses. Workshops like this provide an opportunity for us to look more closely at the reduction of invasive weedy grasses and the promotion of native grasses in our parks. A problem grass, Texas needle grass, has been recently found in Belair and we are now working to contain this outbreak by removing the immature seedheads. This grass has previously been known on Mt Bold Reservoir land and the Onkaparinga Gorge creekline.

Our Friends group have again taken part in the Blackwood Christmas Parade on 5th December. This is an opportunity for us to showcase the group as part of the local community. This, together with our recognition as "Group of the Week" in the Hills and Valley Messenger in November, will further promote our group.

I hope to see you at our Birthday Tea at the Volunteer Centre on December 19.

Wishing you Seasons Greetings

Ron

AUSTRALIAN JAMBOREE 2004

The 20th Australian Jamboree will be held on the 53ha Scout Association's property "Woodhouse" in the Piccadilly Valley at Stirling East from January 5 to 15 next year. About 11 000 Scouts and leaders from across Australia and the Pacific will take part. Many activities will take place "off-site", and Long Gully in Belair National Park will be one of these. Scouts will be brought by bus from Woodhouse to Long Gully for activities each day and returned at the end of the day. The Volunteer Centre will be used mainly as a communications and first aid centre. There will be scout leaders camped overnight near the activity areas.

Belair National Park was used as a site for an Australian Corroboree in 1936/37 with 4000 scouts camping in the Park. It was held in conjunction with the State's Centenary in 1936. The camping area was bounded by Queen's Jubilee Drive, Gooch Road, Pines Road and Echo Track, with many of its internal tracks remaining today. Weeders have found level areas along Workanda Creek, indicating the location of showers and latrines. Pines Oval was the shopping area with banks, post office, Kodak and a scout shop. The main arena with temporary grandstands was near what is now the Adventure Playground. The swimming "pool" was the Railway Dam. Many of you will have seen the plaques on Workanda Creek giving details of the Corroboree and the memorial to NSW scout William Burchnall who fell from a rope attached to a large River red gum and died on 2nd January 1937. Other legacies of the Corroboree are 20 Lombardy poplars planted along Minno Creek in the vicinity of the Walnut Picnic Ground and trees planted on the northern side of the arena.

Ron Pitman attended the Corroboree as a scout from the 1st Colonel Light Gardens troop. Ron was Patrol Leader of the Hawk patrol and recalls working to gain his King's Scout award before the Corroboree. Among his memorabilia are maps of the site, photographs,

badges, camp rules and the Australian Corroboree Song Book - Do you remember "The Scoutmaster's Store"?

There are rats, rats, as big as pussy cats -
In the store - in the store,
There were rats, rats, as big as pussy cats -
In our Scoutmaster's store.

Refrain:

My eyes are dim - I cannot see -
I have not brought my specs with me,
I have not brought my specs with me.

Ron remembers the kookaburra totem carved before the Corroboree and displayed at his campsite, chariot races in the main arena and swimming in the Railway Dam. He has prepared a display for our December meeting.

Pam Tamblin's father, Ron Gayler, involved in Scouting extensively during his lifetime, was a reporter on the "Corroboree Advertiser" and has also left a collection of memorabilia from the 1936/37 Corroboree.

There are many members of the Friends of Belair who have been involved in Scouting or Guiding over the years.



WORK IN PROGRESS

The following are areas which are currently being worked. If you are interested in helping in any particular area please contact the member concerned.

VMU8. Along Peroomba Creek from Playford Lake. Olive, briar, pittosporum. Doug 8278 3685

VMU23. Boneseed, broom, etc. Leave from Information Centre 8.00 a.m. sharp TUESDAY or FRIDAY, or ring .. Eric 8278 3816

VARIOUS UNITS. Pulling regrowth boneseed, etc. Leave from Information Centre 9.00 a.m. sharp SUNDAY, or ring .. Brian 8278 4275

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of all members we extend a warm welcome to Sally Hunter and Sandra Simon. We hope you enjoy your time with us and join in our many activities, especially the monthly meetings where you can meet other "Friends".

Welcome also to Mr. & Mrs. Bob Baker.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK. ABN 38 093 387 757
PO Box 2 Belair SA 5052
Email friendsbelairnp@hotmail.com.
Website www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2003

PRESIDENT Ron Tamblyn 8278 6593. 31 Laffers Road BELAIR SA 5052
VICE PRESIDENT Gill Ross 8278 8051
SECRETARY Jill Salvi 8278 6736 4 Colton Road BLACKWOOD SA
5051

TREASURER Betty Wise 8278 3805

COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Brian DuBois, Barry Palmer, Eric Cole, Kay Harries, Jim Trueman, Mike Cerchez.

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Kay Harries	8278 4340
GUIDED WALKS	Judith O'Hara	8271 1534
LIBRARIAN	Pam Tamblyn	8278 6593
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Ann Ross	8278 8051
WORKING BEES	Eric Cole	8278 3816
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8278 6593

STURT DISTRICT DUTY OFFICER AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT.

Telephone 1300 650 411. Quote pager number 465 283. Leave message.

Duty Officer will then respond.

CALENDER 2003/2004

DECEMBER 2003

Friday 5th Blackwood Christmas Parade
Saturday 6th 1pm General Meeting, speaker from the Environment Defenders Office.
Tuesday 9th 2pm Guided Walk BNP
Friday 12th Spring cleaning at Volunteer Centre
Thursday 11th 7.30pm Committee meeting - note 1 week earlier than usual
Friday 19th 6 pm at the Volunteer Centre ****BNP 112TH BIRTHDAY PARTY**
Tuesday 23rd 2pm Guided Walk BNP

JANUARY 2004

No general meeting

FEBRUARY 2004

Saturday 7th 1 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 2004

Saturday 6th 1pm General Meeting. Travel talk with Paul & Betty Franche

APRIL 2004

Saturday 4th 12.30pm Barbecue followed by General Meeting
Tuesday 13th 2pm First Guided Walk for 2004
Tuesday 27th 2pm Guided Walk BNP

WALKS.

Sunday 14th September. Walk for the Parents of Guides S.A.

Hail, rain and strong winds did not deter 17 on a walk from Main Oval to the Scout Memorial. They were very interested and like most of the community had no idea of its existence. Signage would be a good idea. We past Old Government House and walked down the narrow track on the southern side of Queen Jubilee Drive. Where flowers like Early Nancy, Blue Squill, Blue Grass Lily, Donkey Orchids, Native Primrose were in full bloom. The Sun Orchids were up but not open because of the lack of sun. In case you should ask, we were fortunate just wind and grey skies. A very successful outing and a donation of \$25.00.

Holiday Walk 6th October. Sir Mark Oliphant C.P.

There were 17 plus Darcy an energetic lass, who was the first to spot the Donkey Orchids. A very pleasant walk in the section North off Evans Road. Found the Red Beaked of Fire Orchid plus lots of other flowers. 11.45 am and we were back to our cars.

Sunday 12th October. Annual Professor Cleland Memorial Walk.

The weather was perfect for walking in Belair National Park. The gentle spring sunshine, coupled with the excellent planning by Judith and her helpers, made the day an outstanding success, thoroughly enjoyed by 51 participants.

Two walks (morning and afternoon) took us through very different sections of the park and underlined the diversity to be found within its boundaries.

The more energetic morning walk, up Yungarra Track and along to Warri-Parri Ridge past gate 22, was a gentle climb which gave us views of a lesser-known area, first sightings of many spring flowers and the opportunity to discover that descending the Kaloola Track to the Volunteer Centre is not as extreme as it might appear to be! (thank goodness)

Following lunch at the centre, the Year of Indigenous Culture was marked by an interesting talk on indigenous foods and tastings of quandong, lilly-pilly, wattle seed and muntie jams, Dick Smiths new Bush Food Cereal and Haigs recently released Australian Collection of Chocolates - highly recommended!

Then a more leisurely afternoon walk by the running water (!) of Minno Creek, past the greenswards of Walnut Paddock and Gold Escort and back the the main oval via Old Government House.

The Park, always a picture in Spring, is looking particularly fresh, green and vigorous following the good winter rains which have also brought forth wonderful plenitude of orchids and other wildflowers. Jenny's Cleland Walk Plant List was especially appreciated for its notation of the wide range of flowers seen on the walks this year.

Di

A great day. My sincere thanks to Brian, Jill, Jenny, Barbara, Carol, Betty and Shirley, without your willingness to give up two Sundays the day would not have run so smoothly. Thank you to Jenny for your Plant List and a special thank you to Jill for organising the very interesting speaker.

Judith

NEW YEARS DAY WALK

This will be a morning walk in the Crafers-Stirling area. Meet at the Information Centre at Belair at 8.30 am and bring your morning tea with you. We should be back just after 12.00. Any enquiries to 8278 6593.

Do You Have A.A.A.D.D.?

They finally found a diagnosis for this condition, known as A.A.A.D.D.—
Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it goes: I decide to wash the car; I start towards the garage and notice the mail on the table.

OK, I'm going to wash the car, but first I'm going to go through the mail. I lay the car keys down on the desk, discard the junk mail and I notice that the rubbish bin is full.

OK, I'll just put the bills on my desk and take the rubbish bin out, but since I'm going to be near the letterbox anyway I'll pay these few bills first.

Now, where's my chequebook? There's only one cheque left! My extra cheques are in my desk. Oh, there's the coke I was drinking. I'm going to look for those cheques. But first I need to put my coke further away from the computer, or maybe I'll put it in the fridge to keep it cold for a while. I head towards the kitchen and my flowers catch my eye, they need some water. I set the coke on the counter and there are my glasses. I was looking for them all morning! I'd better put them away first. I fill a container with water and head for the flowerpots.

Someone left the TV remote in the kitchen. I will never think to look in the kitchen tonight when I want to watch television so I'd better put it back in the lounge room where it belongs. I splash some water into the pots and on to the floor, I throw the remote onto a soft cushion on the sofa and I head back down the hall trying to figure out what I was going to do.

End of Day: The car isn't washed, the bills are unpaid, the coke is sitting on the kitchen counter, the flowers are half watered, the cheque-book still only has one cheque in it and I can't seem to find my car keys! When I try to figure out how come nothing got done today, I'm baffled because.....I KNOW I WAS BUSY ALL DAY LONG!!
I know that this is a serious condition and I'll get help, but first I'll check my email.

SPRING CLEANING OF THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Friday morning 12th December from 8am.

You are invited to come to this event armed with your cleaning equipment, buckets, cloths, step ladders, whatever. Hoping to be bright and shining for our birthday party the following Friday.

BADGES FOR SALE

Embroidered badges of the Friends of Belair National Park logo are available at the general meetings, or through committee members, for \$9.00.

These colourful badges showing the Adelaide Rosella are suitable for attaching to windcheaters, shirts, hats, or as souvenirs.

NATIVE FOODS AND PLANTS USED BY THE KAURNA PEOPLE.

<u>Acacia pycnantha</u>	(Golden Wattle)	resin and gum
<u>Arthropodum strictum</u>	(Chocolate Lily)	Tubers eaten
<u>Astroloma humifusum</u>	(Native Cranberry)	Fruits have viscid sweetish pulp.
<u>Banksia Marginata</u>	(Silver leaved Banksia)	Nectar from flowers
<u>Bulbine bulbora</u>	(Native Leek)	Tubers are 75% carbohydrate & 80% water, calcium & iron.
<u>Burchardia umbellata</u>	(Milkmaid)	Tasty tubers, crisp & starchy, found in clusters of 3 to 10 looking like tiny carrots at the base of plant.
<u>Cyperus variginates</u>	(Flat sedge)	fibres used.
<u>Exocarpo cupressiformis</u>	(Native Cherry)	with the seed outside, it is the fleshy stalk that is eaten. It is juicy & sweet to taste though slightly astringent to the palate.
<u>Lilum marginale</u>	(Native Flax)	The delicate blue flowers are followed by tiny oily seed tasting like sesame seeds. The seeds were eaten, the stems spun into string for fishing nets & lines. Its fibrous stems can be woven into linen.
<u>Microcris scapigera</u>	(Yam daisy)	Raw tubers taste bland even bitter but when roasted become sweet.
<u>Rubus parvifolius</u> raspberry	(Native Raspberry)	tastes much like cultivated
<u>Santalum Acuminatum</u>	(Quandong)	The tree has parasitic habits. Each spring a crop of scarlet fruits, with knobbly round seeds which are used to make necklaces & marbles for games. The nut has a rich oily kernel, a food the Aboriginals gather during droughts. The fallen seed can be found under trees. The fruit is rich in vitamin C & the kernels very high in protein & oil

With apologies for any wrong spelling of plant names.

EDIT oR

NEWS FROM BLACKWOOD/BELAIR & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOC.

(Former member and) former Mayor of Mitcham, Dr. Joy O'Hazy, is currently in Mashad, Iran for six months as part of the Medecin Sans Frontieres team. Thank goodness for people like Joy.

2004 FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM

"Grassy Spaces - Historic Places" 22,23,24 October 2004.

Friends of Spring Gully and Martindale Hall Conservation Parks invite you to join them in the Clare Valley for the 20th Friends of Parks Forum.

We do have advance information and also a form for Registration of Interest.

For more information contact DEH - Mid-North District, PO Box 26, BURRA SA 5417.

FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO ENJOYED THE BUSH FOOD
TASTINGS ON THE DAY OF THE PROFESSOR CLELAND WALK
YOU CAN ENJOY WATTLE SEED ICE-CREAM TO YOUR
HEARTS CONTENT (AND IMPRESS YOUR DINNER GUESTS!)

Recipe

2 litres of good quality vanilla ice-cream
2 thimbles full of crushed, toasted wattle seed
1 egg cup full of hot water

Method

Soak the wattle seed in the hot water for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour
Slightly soften the ice-cream and swirl through the wattle seed
mixture. Don't over mix but rather leave the swirls visible in the
mixture.
Refreeze and serve as needed.

NB The wattle seed can be bought from stall 54 in the Central
Market, as indeed can many of the jams and preserves that were
offered at the tasting session.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Saturday February 7th 2004 at 1pm. Hear the
annual report and elect your office bearers and committee for 2004. Please find those
willing to help in the coming year and get their permission to nominate them, by
31/12/03. Refer to the form in this newsletter.
There are also ongoing jobs that need doing but not necessarily by a committee member,
to be sorted out at the AGM.

CARE OF THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Our grateful thanks to Kay Harries for her years of looking after the Volunteer Centre.
She has now decided to retire. We need volunteers to continue this work. Kay suggests
that periods of three months could be better than taking it on for a year at a time. Also it
might be that it could be divided into tasks. The work includes taking bookings, opening
the Centre and locking up after groups, setting out cups etc., purchase of consumables,
and cleaning. No need to be on the committee, and this work is not gender specific. Let
Jill know if you might be able to help, phone 8278 6736.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND THE VOLUNTEER.

Managing risk is not new. All our lives we carry out the functions of managing risks. It is a part of how we live. When we were children our parents taught us to look right, then left and then right again before crossing the road. If the way was clear we were to cross straight away to the other side. Why did they do this? They were teaching us how to manage the risk of being run over by a vehicle. We mend holes in our pockets to reduce the risk of losing coins. In homes with open fire places a screen is placed in front of the fire to reduce the risk of sparks setting fire to the carpet or our clothes. At a more formal level, before we were allowed to drive a vehicle on the road we had to sit and pass a driving test. Why? To reduce the risk of injury to ourselves or others. With the fire season upon us we are urged to carry out a number of tasks to reduce the risk of fire damage to our homes. We take out insurance to reduce the risk of financial loss should a serious incident occur. Risk management is a part of our lives.

Employers are required by legislation to have in place safe systems of work for their employees. Under the heading of employee is included those who are not full time employees. An example of this is contractors. Also included are people who assist the employer for no financial reward. They are not on the pay roll. An example of this type is a volunteer.

While volunteers may have the freedom of managing risks in an informal manner there are, as in the case of obtaining a drivers licence, some risk management procedures which have to be carried out formally. There are rules for driving on the roads and we have to be able to show that we have received training and been licensed to do so. So too it is with employers. They are obliged, among other matters, to be able to show to those in authority that they have in place safe systems of work, plant and equipment which is safe for use and that those under their care are trained for their tasks.

Volunteers are likely to be people who have retired from the regular work place but who have particular interests that draw them to join organisations which allow them to be involved with those interests. One of the joys of being a volunteer is being able to pursue ones interests without the restrictions they had to work under when being formally employed. Volunteers quite rightly value their freedom. Things believed to impose upon this freedom are not likely to be happily received. A common response to queries and requests raised may well be, 'it is only common sense.' Unfortunately there is nothing common about sense. The other problem is that when something goes wrong people often revert to another old line, 'it was his or their own fault.' A response not likely to be acceptable to the authorities.

While understanding the feelings of volunteers it cannot be forgotten that, as far as the law is concerned, the safety of employees is the responsibility of the employer. In the case of Friends of Belair Park the body immediately responsible are the National Parks and Wildlife officers who are charged by others with the responsibility of running the park. We most certainly should ensure that we retain the right to work to our own plan, however, that plan must be subservient to that of those managing the park. It would be unacceptable were we to create a plan of activities which ran contrary to those managing the park. This would be counter productive and be one way of creating unnecessary friction. We are there to enjoy ourselves doing those things which we like and which contribute to the well being of the flora and fauna in the park.

On the subject of risk management, the best way to retain our freedom is to be able to show that we have done all that is reasonably practical towards providing safe systems of work, safe plant and equipment and trained personnel. In part, this means we have identified areas of risk and established means of control. Proof of this is by documenting our actions and, to ensure they remain relevant, by regular review. Doing otherwise leaves us open to others taking control of how, where and when we work. Showing that we are managing risks is more likely to leave us free to get on with doing what we want to do while providing the very necessary support to those charged with the management of the park who may also feel more inclined to involve us in the areas of advice and planning.

Jill

I Chose to Look the Other Way



I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.
 It wasn't that I didn't care,
 I had the time, and I was there.
 But I didn't want to seem the fool,
 Or argue over a safety rule.

I knew he had done the job before,
 If I called it wrong, he might get sore.
 The chances didn't seem that bad,
 I've done the same, he knew I had.
 So I shook my head and walked on by,
 He knew the risks as well as I.
 He took the chance, I closed an eye,
 And with the act, I let him die.

I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.
 Now every time I see his wife,
 I'll know I should have saved his life.
 That guilt is something I must bear,
 But it isn't something you need to share.

If you see a risk, that others take,
 That puts their health or life at stake.
 The question asked, or things you say,
 Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
 Then hope you never have to say,
 I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.



-- Author Unknown --

Five Friends of Belair, Judith, Lynda, Betty, Shirley and Jill spent a delightful week in Innes National Park this month, staying in the Engineer's House at Inneston Historic Township. The house sleeps 10, and with gas appliances, solar electric lights and good solid furniture, it was most comfortable. We surprised kangaroos by the verandah and a currawong came looking for handouts for its family. The view from the house was over Inneston Lake, Dry Bone Lake, and out to Cable Bay with its islands. Very pretty and very peaceful.

The walk through Inneston is well documented, so you can see how the gypsum was mined and how the people lived. There is a well documented walking trail from the township following the old train line (originally made of wood) to Stenhouse Bay where the gypsum was loaded onto ships. Some of us walked the trail both ways, some one way, after great discussions on how to get home again. Every day we traveled to a different bay or headland, visiting beaches and lighthouses. The "toe" of Yorke Peninsula must surely have the prettiest coastline in South Australia and is so easy to travel, with good roads, and good walking trails and signs.

The flowers were almost finished, but there were enough to keep us busy looking up the books, but the salt lakes appeared to be dead, and there were not many birds about except on the cliffs and beaches. We were intrigued by the brilliant pink colour of Marion Lake, and by flowers growing in what seemed to be pure gypsum.

It was a lovely holiday, interesting but relaxing.

JS

RIVERLAND FRIENDS FORUM

This year's forum was held at Berri from September 19-21 and seven of our group attended. The main venue was the Berri Town Hall which was an ideal location, providing good space for the business of the Forum as well as large display and refreshment areas. The supper, morning and afternoon teas and lunches were each prepared by local community groups. This spread the load and the local community benefited financially. Harold Crouch's "Birds of Belair" display attracted a good deal of interest during the breaks.

The nature and range of speakers reflected the degree of the commitment and involvement of the local community of the Riverland in conservation and the restoration of wetland habitat. The organisation and planning for the visual presentations beforehand meant that the speakers were able to begin smoothly without any lengthy setting up, and I found this one of the features of this Forum. Keynote speakers dealt with the biodiversity along the river and salinity in the Murray-Darling basin. A bonus on each day was the short illustrated talks given by members of Riverland Parks on the interaction between the community and the Friends group, on the development of a wetland area by the Friends in conjunction with students from Glossop High School and of research done on the Regent Parrot, found in the mallee areas near the river.

On Saturday afternoon there were visits to various features in the Riverland. Pam and I went by bus to the Banrock wetlands near Kingston. After an overview of the wetlands we were taken through the vineyards to a section of the boardwalk where we were able to view the wetlands close up. The wetland owes much of its success to the enthusiasm of the people involved and its location near lock 3, which allows water to be taken from the higher level and released at a lower level, and which is not subject to the natural fluctuations of the river. It is interesting to see the close relationship between conservation and business at Banrock, spearheaded by manager, Tony Sharley. Another tour was by river to a wetlands project at Katarapko, returning by bus. Two river boats took many on a River Murray tour upstream from Renmark.

The Forum dinner on Saturday night was held at the Berri Resort Hotel, during which the Minister for Environment and for the River Murray, Hon. John Hill, addressed the Friends and presented awards.

AN ECO EXPERIENCE

In September a friend and I took one of our "Travel Auction" get-aways at Saunders Gorge Sanctuary, Sanderston, 18km along the Walker's Flat Road from Mt. Pleasant. "I've seen that place", my grandson informed me. "They're funny little dome huts in the middle of a bare paddock." Sounded delightful!

Well, things are not always what they seem and they were - delightful, that is. We stayed in a very comfortable "environmentally friendly nature lodge", solar powered, rain water which is recycled for the native garden being established around the lodges, and thermal cooling.

The owners, Brenton and Nadine Newman, have fenced off a large area of their sheep grazing property as a sanctuary and are returning it to nature. We were supplied with a list of over 150 native plants and 60 bird species which have been identified in the sanctuary. Olive and peppercorn trees are being removed from along Saunders Creek and thousands of saltbush have been planted.

Brenton took us on a 4-wheel-drive tour up to ridges and down into valleys. We walked through the gorge and around the property and dined at the restaurant where Brenton is the chef, serving delicious a-la-carte meals.

It was a great, relaxing experience, only 1½ hours drive from home.

Betty

*Friends of Belair National Park
are celebrating the 112th Birthday of Belair National Park
and also their own 18th Birthday*

*at the Volunteer Centre (formerly Long Gully Kiosk)
on Friday 19th December 2003 at 6pm*

Please bring a LARGE plate (or two) of finger food to share (savouries, sandwiches, cakes, fruit, etc), BYO drinks, and a chair if required. Tea and coffee provided

Awards for 10 year service with our group will also be made on this evening.

Beth Pitman has once again very kindly volunteered to make the birthday cake.

If you are unable to attend the Saturday meetings, this is your chance to meet other members. Please come and help to celebrate.

I would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the items they have contributed over the past year, they have all helped to make an interesting and informative newsletter, I hope you agree, so please keep them coming in 2004 and do tell me if there are other things you would like to see in print.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL AND MAY

YOU HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Congratulations to the helpers

TODAY is International Volunteer Day.

It is a day when people worldwide celebrate the efforts and achievements of those who freely donate their time, expertise and energy to enhance the communities in which we live.

In South Australia, we boast the highest volunteer-participation rate in the nation and I am honoured to not only be the Premier but also the Minister for Volunteers.

This enables me to show my sincere gratitude and support to the men, women and children who make our state a better place to live, work and visit.

On this international day of recognition, I would like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers in SA and across the globe for the wonderful work you are all doing.

Our communities would not be so safe, clean or healthy if it was not for the hard work and dedication of the volunteers.

The second annual State Volunteer Congress, which is being held today, gives more than 250 volunteers and volunteer-program managers the chance to get together and discuss issues relating to the implementation of the Volunteer Partnership *Advancing the Community Together*.

This partnership is a strong commitment by my Government to supporting volunteering both now and in the future to ensure its sustainability.

The successful implementation of *Advancing the Community Together* relies on the valuable input from both the Government and the volunteer community and I encourage all volunteers to speak openly and freely at all times about issues that affect them and their organisations.

Please join me today in thanking our true heroes - volunteers.

MIKE RANN
Premier

Minister for Volunteers

Parks' friends offer valuable network of aid

NATIONAL Parks and Wildlife SA has a Friends of Parks network comprising 126 friends' groups and 6000 volunteers who support national parks, wildlife and built heritage across South Australia.

Each group is semi-autonomous but works in close partnership with rangers and site managers.

Last year, the Friends contributed 37,583 work days, valued at \$6.1 million. In addition, they got more than \$200,000 in fundraising and grants - all to benefit SA parks.

Among the many activities carried out by the Friends are revegetation and weed control, heritage sites' restoration and maintenance, maintaining walking trails and signage, wildlife surveys and monitoring, camping ground hosting, administrative and clerical work, and educational and cultural projects.

□ Inquiries: Pam Smith, Department for Environment and Heritage community liaison unit, ph 8124 4784, e-mail pamela@saugov.sa.gov.au or visit www.communitywebs.org/FriendsOfParks



Mike Rann



Friends of Parks Inc. thanks the 6000 Volunteers involved in our National Parks, heritage sites, and wildlife.

**Friends of Parks
Consultative Committees
Campground Hosts**

Enquiries to:
Community Liaison Unit
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide 5001
Telephone: 8124 4784
Email: smith.pamela@saugov.sa.gov.au

FRIE5-12

Nominations for Office Bearers for 2004

Please help us to get off to a good start next year by considering the office bearers for 2004 before the AGM on February 7th.

According to our constitution, Office Bearers shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, elected from the financial members at the AGM.

The Office Bearers together with not less than two additional financial members constitute the Committee. We generally have four additional committee members.

The person that you wish to nominate MUST give you permission before you nominate them. Please send nominations to the present secretary (Jill Salvi) by 31st December.

Phone 8278 6736 or mail to 4 Colton Road Blackwood SA 5051, or Email friendsbelairnp@hotmail.com.

Position	Person nominated	nominator	seconder
President			
Vice President			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Committee			

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's that time of year again! Subscriptions for 2004 are due 1st January. Please tear off the slip below and enclose with your remittance.

The Treasurer
 Friends of Belair National Park
 P.O. Box 2
 BELAIR 5052

I enclose my membership renewal of \$10 Single/\$15 Family.

Name : Address :

..... Telephone :

E-mail