



# Friends of Belair Nation volunteers working for Conservation

Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

JUNE 2004

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

State Flora held a successful information day with workshops at the Belair Nursery on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Friends of Belair was one of the local groups to have a display at this event. A number of our members helped with a barbecue to raise funds for the Friends of Belair Railway Station, raising \$184 for their group. Friends of Belair and Friends of Belair Railway Station also combined for a musical evening on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May in the Volunteer Centre. The evening featured David Winnall playing an organ and his wife singing, leading the group singing many of the tunes from 1900s to the 1970s and running musical competitions to test our memories. Over 30 people enjoyed themselves and in doing so have raised money for a very worthwhile cause.

During the Anzac Day holiday eleven people went on a walk through Colonel Light Gardens. The site was established as a 'model garden suburb' based on the ideas of a forward thinking New Zealand town planner Charles Reade. The first blocks available for public purchase in Colonel Light Gardens were released in 1921. The walk highlighted the features of the suburb - community facilities, land use and retail zones, utility ways (lanes) for electricity, gas and sewerage, the preservation of existing trees where possible, wide road verges and rounded street corners to create a park-like environment. There are many hidden treasures to be discovered in Colonel Light Gardens and if you are not familiar with this area, the City of Mitcham has an excellent walk brochure. This was the first of our holiday walks in the nearby suburbs and I hope we can do another next year.

SA History Week was held 22-30<sup>th</sup> May. Friends of Belair held a heritage walk in the western part of the Park on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Twelve went on the walk and it was interesting looking at some of the lesser known features in the Park. How many of you remember the first aid room north-west of Main Oval, or the former caravan park nearby, or the running track west of Main Oval? Many of you will have seen the front page of the recent Hills & Valley Messenger which showed a charabanc and the refreshment rooms (unfortunately mostly hidden by a caption) at Belair in the mid 1920s. The refreshment rooms, which date from about 1904, were located in what is now the short term car parking area just south of the Information Centre. These refreshment rooms were destroyed by fire in 1955.

The work on reinstating the watering system of the historic Maze near the Belair Railway Station is now complete. We applied for a Friends Grant of \$1860 in 2003 and received \$1000 for the project. The shortfall was made up by members David and Miriam Hansman who have taken a keen interest in the maze. Miriam has been

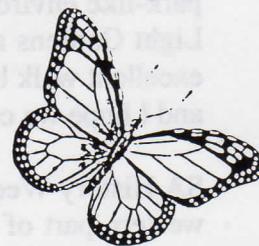
involved in the Garden History Society whose efforts prior to the Park's centenary in 1991 resulted in the watering system and an upgrade of the maze for the centenary. David has been working in the maze, in particular watering, when the watering system deteriorated and also after the controller was burnt in the fire at the station last year. We are very grateful for their contribution to the project and ongoing work at the maze.

Our trailer needed repainting to smarten it up and remove some surface rust. We have been fortunate to get this work and associated signwriting done at cost by the Torrens Valley TAFE. The work has now been completed and the trailer now looks great. Thanks to Barry Palmer for following this through with Torrens Valley TAFE and to Jim Trueman for his assistance.

We are working with the Threatened Plants Action Group (TPAG) and the Native Orchid Society (NOSSA) in an Envirofund Project to restore the habitat of the leafy greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis cucullata*) in Belair. In April and May Belair Friends were helping at working bees, swabbing boneseed on the hillside north of Joseph Fisher Pavilion and pulling broom on the northern edge of Tarnma Gully. At these working bees there was the opportunity to talk with other groups and see the methods they use to deal with woody weeds as well as helping in our Park. There are two more working bees to be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup>.

We applied for a City of Mitcham Community Development Grant to continue with our eradication of olive and other woody weeds along creeklines. Doug Riley, Betty Wise and others have eradicated these on the Workanda and Kurru creeklines east of Playford Lake and the Peroomba valley is the next area to be targeted. We have been successful in being granted \$600 for this project. The grant will assist in providing herbicide, safety equipment, costs in running and maintaining our chainsaw and the purchase of hand tools. Take a look at the work along Peroomba Creek near Playford Lake and further up the valley – if you would like to help please let Eric or me know.

Ron Tamblyn  
President



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OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2004

PRESIDENT	Ron Tamblyn	8278 6593.	31 Laffers Road BELAIR SA 5052
VICE PRESIDENT	Jim Trueman	8278 9359	
SECRETARY	Jill Salvi	8278 6736	4 Colton Road BLACKWOOD SA 5051
TREASURER	Betty Wise	8278 3805	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Mike Cerechez, Eric Cole, Brian DuBois, Barry Palmer, Gill Ross.

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
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.

I would like to give you an up date on the part of Unit 20 which is situated between the railway dam wall and walnut paddock.

In January a group of enthusiastic friends attacked the massive infestation of African daisy which was just down from the dam wall. These daisies were up to 2 metres high and in full flower. In order to stop the spread of seeds we cut them down and laid them in piles.

Betty kindly took some "before and after" photos which we have on view today. As we progressed we encountered Verbena in plague proportions. No worries we thought so we cut them down, together with some very large thistles. Feeling very pleased with our selves, it was all starting to look good.

A great deal of work was achieved in January being not too hot clearing around the new plantings and along the creek.

Having worked on the Walnut paddock side of the block for some time, we decided to go back to view our initial work. Although only a few African Daisy were regrowing most had rotted away but to our horror we discovered the Verbena growing back at an alarming rate and flowering. I have to admit at this point our spirits were very low.

Eric asked Janine to have a look at the problem and she visited the site the very next day. I am delighted to say Janine arranged to have contractors poison the Verbena, and the regrowth of the ash, blackberry etc. This work was started yesterday. There is to be follow up by the contractor at a later date. Our group is delighted to have the prompt back up of the Park on this project. With our spirit's restored we intend to go back frequently to keep the badies down, helping to make this very public area as weed free as possible .So far we have spent 112 hours on this project.

We are learning all the time, and now know more about the life cycle of Verbena

We welcome **any one** who would like to help us with our endeavours on this very worthwhile project.

ERIC

Plus a tip from my physio: prolonged sitting after heavy work can cause problems. Lie down to rest or read after a session of bushcare, don't sit.

Lorna McIntyre

RON TAMBLYN, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK RECEIVING A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE SCOUTS FOR THE USE OF THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE DURING OPERATION FIREPOWER DURING DECEMBER-JANUARY 2004. MAKING THE PRESENTATION WAS RAY ERVINE SUPPORTED BY LESLIE CARLE, THE LEADERS COOK, AND LYNTON CARLE WHO ORGANISED THE ARCHERY SECTION.



BRIAN DUBOIS, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. PRESENTING AWARDS TO DAPHNE JOHNSON, DENE CORDES AND PAM SMITH AT THE FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD ADELAIDE GAOL.



JIM TRUEMAN PRESENTING A GIFT TO PAUL FRANCHE WHO SHOWED A VIDEO AND TOLD OF HIS AND BETTY'S TRIP TO UZBEKISTAN.



BRIAN DUBOIS PRESENTING A GIFT TO DOREEN MARCHESAN WHO SPOKE OF HER WORK WITH THE YELLOW FOOTED ANTECHINUS.

# STURT DISTRICT FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

April 2004

It is six months since i last wrote a Friends Newsletter and have been asked if these had ceased as they found the information extremely interesting as it gave them an insight what is occurring in the District and not just in their patch

I must admit that i was unaware of the interest it made and have therefore decided to re-introduce the Newsletter – i hope you find it worthwhile

## Staff Resources

- Ranger Leah Egan accepted a secondment to the DEH Resource Protection Branch for one month then extended to five months and will return to the District on 3 June 2004. During Leah's absence her position was filled with Rob Laver who within 2 weeks obtained a Ranger position at Lameroo and departed. It was then filled with Michael Trebilcock who 2 weeks later obtained a position at Victor Harbour. We have been lucky to obtain and retain the services of Anthony Pieck who is a graduate and has fitted into the District very well and will remain with us until 19 May 2004 when Leah is due to return
- We have been extremely fortunate in obtaining the services of Senior Ranger James Crocker who has held various positions at Cleland, the Coorong and Kangaroo Island. Before accepting the position in the District James was a Media Liaison Officer in the Premiers Department.
- In September 2003 we obtained the services of five Seasonal Fire Crew members who will be retained until 30 May and are involved in all aspects of fuel reduction and asset protection
- Senior Ranger Richard Coombe is now working in the Cleland District where his Fire Management experience is being used to its limit

## Planning

- The final Plan of Management for the Onkaparinga River Reserve is nearing completion. Consultation with numerous groups and other government bodies will no doubt provide a plan that will be acceptable to all
- The Draft Plan for the Blackwood Forest Recreation Park will shortly be released for public comment
- A Reference Group has been formed to discuss the proposed joint management of the Craighburn Farm (181ha) and Sturt Gorge Recreation Park (147 ha). A draft Plan will be written and public comments will be sought as with all Plans of Management. There are many groups who wish to use this area for both recreational pursuits including horse activities, cycle riding, bush walking and other more unusual activities which will require serious debate
- Due to the increase in kangaroo populations and incidents in the Mt Lofty Ranges all Management Plans will include how kangaroos will be managed in a specific park under the heading Kangaroo Management

### **Vegetation Management**

- The SA Government IMTP (One Million Tree Program) has implications in the District and staff are in constant liaison with this branch relating to site suitability, species and planting regimes  
These large scale programs require the writing of Revegetation Plans which are submitted to local Bushfire Prevention Committees for comment due to the implications of fuel loadings, access and fire management issues  
Parks involved with these programs during 2004 include O'Halloran Hill RP (20,000 seedlings/cells) and Onkaparinga River NP (40,000 seedlings/cells)
- As with all weed control programs the "follow up actions" are paramount and District staff under the guidance of Janine Kraehenebuhl has been undertaking works on programs initiated in 2003

### **Vermin Control Programs**

- Fox baiting was carried out in early 2004 in Belair, Mark Oliphant, Scott Creek by park staff and in the Onkaparinga River by that dedicated Friends Group. The recorded increase in "bait takes" is a positive aspect and will no doubt allow the increase of the populations of the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoots

### **Fire Management**

- This has been identified as a major initiative by DEH in 2003-04 with the SA Government providing substantial funding for the program
- Fire Ecologists, Operations Officers and Seasonal Crews have been funded to undertake Fire Prevention programs, especially targeted in the Mt Lofty Ranges area
- Fuel reduction along park boundaries that have major assets nearby has seen the removal of many woody weeds.
- Internal tracks have been upgraded to allow access for emergency vehicles and for the protection of fire fighters in emergencies
- A contractor with a specialised "verge mower" has been used throughout the MLR to clear overhanging vegetation along access tracks. Using this contractor has proved to be very economical and he is fully conversant on the requirements of parks policies and hygiene
- Prescribed burns were completed in November and December in many parks by all staff, not particularly within its own District
- Autumn burns will be undertaken in the month of May while Seasonal Crews are available and will be carried out in Belair, Sturt Gorge and Mark Oliphant parks
- Prior to any prescribed burning there is a requirement to provide Burn Plans, Pre and Post surveys and Photo Points locations and the appropriate approvals sought before any burn is initiated.
- It is recognised that this is a very emotive issue and efforts have been made to discuss concerns through a consultation process. While not all agree with some of the works it should be recognised that they are undertaken to "protect life and property in the event of a bushfire" under the Country Fire Services Act

### **Department Correctional Service**

- The DCS (Department Correctional Services) has increased its program and now have two teams working within the Mt Lofty Ranges parks. Team 1 concentrates on the removal of woody weeds while Team 2 concentrates on Fire Prevention works. Parks where projects have been completed include Belair, Brownhill Creek, Blackwood Forest, O'Halloran Hill, Shepherds Hill, and Hallett Cove. The program is supervised by Janine Kraehenbuehl .

### **Capital Investment Programs (CIP)**

- Work has begun on the upgrading of the Belair National Park with the Karka Pavilion works now completed with complimentary comments coming thick and fast
- Design Plans for the Karka Heritage Precinct and Pines Oval Bush Precincts have been completed, tenders let and work will begin in May and is expected to take 4 months. When completed the areas will allow constructive comments on the upgraded facilities that will then be implemented throughout the rest of the reserve
- Upgrading of the walking trails in the Hallett Cove Conservation Park has been completed by contractors as part of the part of the SA Government Coast Park Program. James Crocker has been supervising and working closely with DEH staff and the Friends Group on new interpretive signs which will be installed in June 2004 . An official opening of this substantial \$350,000 infrastructure project is planned for Spring 2004
- Design Plans for the upgrading of car parks in Shepherds Hill RP (Ayliffes Road), Scott Creek CP (Dorset Vale Road) and Blackwood Forest RP are in progress. Liaison with local councils and Friends Groups relating to egress, stormwater and surfaces of these areas are issues that require consideration before seeking quotes for works to be undertaken. Funding of \$26,000 has been provided for these works which must be implemented by 30 June 2004
- Fencing repairs in the Onkaparinga River NP on its eastern boundary will be undertaken to control stock entering the park and destroying some of the native seedlings planted by the Friends Group and the 1 Million Tree Program. The majority of the \$6,000 funds for fence repairs are to be spent on Thorley Road in the Scott Creek CP where urgent attention is required to control illegal access by mountain bikes and motor cycles. The area has been identified as a positive PC (Phytophthora cinnamomi root fungus) site therefore the district placed these works as its top priority over other works in the District
- New plant and machinery has been purchased including a 3 tonne Tipper Truck (\$65,000), John Deere Ride On mower for Belair NP (\$35,000) and a Wood Chipper (\$60,000) for use in Fire Mangement programs

### **Onkaparinga River Signs**

- New 900mm x 600mm metal signs on steel frames have been installed in the park at 18 locations by staff with assistance from the Friends Group
- Information Bays will shortly be erected to finalise this project
- Unfortunately after 14 days two were vandalised and require replacement

### **Adventure Activity**

- Scouts Australia held their 2004 Jamboree in the Belair National Park from the 5 to the 14 January. It was in the scouts words " a magnificent venue for such an activity and was an over whelming success". The logistics of the scouts and park staff saw 16 articulated buses arrive in the park each day transporting 1400 scouts and leaders into the park at 1000 hrs and departing at 1830 hrs. As this was during the South Australian school holidays all events were held in the eastern end of the reserve causing no disruption to other regular users

### **Land Issues**

- After 4 years of negotiation an agreement between DEH and Transport SA is expected to be finalised in May 2004. The Southern Expressway required 26 ha of land to be excised from the O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park for its construction. This will be replaced by the transfer of approx 55 ha of Transport SA land at Seacombe Heights being added to the park with a substantial amount of funding for basic park infrastructure

### **Grant Applications and Information**

- There has been 22 applications from Friends Groups seeking funding to assist in park management since 1 July 2004 to 20 April 2004
- Applications have varied from the purchase of tools, equipment, Personal Protective Clothing, chemicals, training fees, removal of woody weeds to propagation of seedlings and a Heritage Tree Survey
- To assist in your submission it would be appropriate to discuss the issue with your liaison Ranger in the first instance
- All applications require the signature of the "land owner", the District Ranger is designated as that person and we are required to record and retain copies of all applications
- Should any group require further up to date details where funds are available they should contact Pam Smith, Community Liaison Branch for assistance
- For information funding is available from the following sources
  - Friends Grants (old Director NPW Grants),
  - Plant and Equipment
  - Environment Funds (Canberra based)
  - Heritage Grants
  - Local Councils

### **Fundraising Effort**

- The persistence of the Friends of OGH (Old Government House) over the past few years saw the culmination in 2003 when a Dining Table in the era of this heritage building was purchased by the group
- The magnificent table was presented to liaison Ranger Neville Houlahan and District Ranger Terry Gregory on behalf of DEH
- At a cost of \$18,000 the table was named the Hugh Campbell Table for his efforts in obtaining this unique piece of furniture. It is sad to reflect that Hugh has since passed away but we have the knowledge that he was able to be at the ceremony and explained the efforts of the group

## Vandalism

- Wanton vandism seems to be a constant drain of resources with two staff rostered to carry out repairs each day
- If you are aware of any damage to park infrastructure please notify your liaison Ranger who will arrange repairs as soon as practical

## Bushfires

- The grass is still very dry and fuel loadings high therefore the risk until we recieve some good rains has not deteriorated. We are still on high alert for any fires that occur in or adjacent our parks
- There has been a number of illegally lit fires in Onkaparinga River (3), Shepherds Hill (5) and Brownhill Creek Recreation Parks(2) recently
- If you see someone acting suspiciously please take any details and report to our office at Belair NP
- If you are reporting a fire contact you local Country Fire Service station who will attend and notify the Duty Officer

Terry Gregory  
District Ranger Sturt



## FAMILY WORKING-BEE

In February I received 2 family memberships from 11-year-olds Sam and David and had the pleasure of meeting them and their mothers, Brigit and Kay, at the March general meeting.

The boys had an interest in the environment and live close by so decided to join with the intention of working in the Park at week-ends. Another 11-year-old, Adele, had enquired about doing 10 hours community service required as part of her school curriculum, so she and her mother Kate, together with the boys, Brigit, Kay and David's older brother Rhys, formed a group with Ron, Jill and myself and on Sunday 14th March we started work on the regrowth of boneseed and South African daisy on VMU8. During the following weeks Jill's daughter and grandsons Christopher and Ryan joined us then another new mother and son team, Julie and Kelly. It has been lovely to see the young people out on a Sunday morning.

VMU8 was a very degraded unit. Ron and Doug spent many hours cutting pine, pittosporum and Hakea laurina which was then burnt. Following the burn and subsequent rain, the boneseed and South African daisy took off at an alarming rate and last winter Eric's team spent weeks clearing the regrowth. This year it was up again but our young group has done a wonderful job removing it and at the same time showing a great interest in the natives now appearing. So far we have identified Kennedia (running postman), Hardenbergia, Lobelia, Hibbertia, and Senecio (cotton fireweed) slowly returning among the young Grey Box, Dodonaea, Acacia pycnantha and A. paradoxa.

Unfortunately the rain needed to encourage these natives will also produce bridal creeper (already appearing), cape tulip in abundance as well as new growth of boneseed, etc. Hopefully our young team will remain interested and persistent so that this degraded area will in time be a showpiece of native beauty.

Betty

### JUNE 2004

Saturday 5th 1pm General meeting  
With Bev Langley of Minton Farm.  
Tuesday 8th 2pm Guided walk  
Tuesday 22nd 2pm Guided walk

### JULY 2004

Saturday 3rd 1pm General meeting  
Launch of Significant Tree Register

Tuesday 13th 2pm Guided walk  
Tuesday 27th 2pm Guided walk

### AUGUST 2004

Saturday 7th 1pm General meeting  
Threatened Plant Action Group

Tuesday 10th 2pm Guided walk  
Tuesday 24th 2pm Guided walk

### SEPTEMBER 2004

Saturday 4th 1pm General meeting  
Chris Obst Texas/Chilean needle grass

Tuesday 14th 2pm Guided walk  
Tuesday 28th 2pm Guided walk

### OCTOBER 2004

Saturday 2nd 1pm General meeting

Sunday 10th **Prof. Cleland memorial  
walk in Belair NP.**

Tuesday 12th 2pm Guided walk

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 22, 23, 24

### **2004 Mid-North Friends Forum**

"Grassy Spaces – Historic Places"

Clare Valley

Tuesday 26th 2pm Guided walk

### **PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS**

The Friends of Belair National Park have several photograph albums, including one which shows progressive views of areas cleared by members of feral plants. If you wish to see or borrow these albums they are available from our Library or you can see them at our General Meetings.

### NOVEMBER 2004

Saturday 6th 12.30pm Barbecue  
followed by General meeting  
Tuesday 9th 2pm Guided walk  
Tuesday 23rd 2pm Guided walk

### DECEMBER 2004

Saturday 4th 1pm General meeting  
Tuesday 14th 2pm Guided walk

Sunday 19th 6pm Birthday Party

Tuesday 28th 2pm Guided walk

Vaike Aldridge found the following poem  
which she would like to share with you.

### **It Makes a Difference**

As the old man walked  
the beach at dawn  
he noticed a young man  
ahead of him picking up  
starfish and flinging them  
into the sea.  
Catching up with the youth  
he asked him  
why he was doing this.  
The answer was that  
the stranded starfish  
would die if left until the morning sun.  
But the beach goes on  
for miles and there  
are millions of starfish  
countered the other.  
How can your effort make any difference?  
The young man looked  
at the starfish in his hand  
and threw it to the safety  
of the waves.

It makes a difference to this one.

## Needle grass: highlighting a new threat to the environment.

Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) and Texas needle grass (*Nassella leucotricha*) are perennial tussock grasses that pose a serious threat to temperate native grassland and pasture areas. Chilean needle grass has been proclaimed one of the 20 Weeds of National Significance (WONS), and has been described as potentially the worst environmental weed of native grasslands, which are amongst the most threatened ecosystems in Australia.

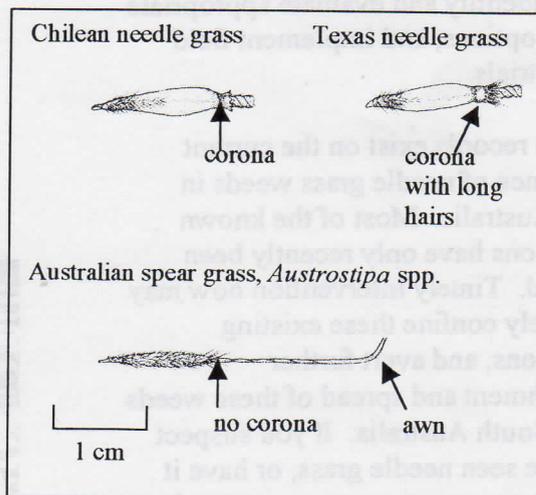
Chilean and Texas Needle Grass are native to South America and were first collected in Australia in 1934 from Victoria. Chilean needle grass was first recorded in South Australia from Lucindale in 1988, while Texas needle grass was recorded from the Fleurieu Peninsula in 2000.

In agricultural regions these grasses reduce pasture production and stock carrying capacity, and can cause injury to the skin and eyes of livestock with their long, sharp seeds. Once established, they are very difficult to eradicate. Thousands of seeds per square metre are produced, which can remain viable in the seedbank for several years. As well as normal seeds, both species also produce stem seeds, or cleistogenes, which enable plants to reproduce despite grazing, slashing or fire. The main flowering period for both grasses in South Australia commences in spring and extends into summer.

In South Australia, outbreaks of Chilean needle grass have been recorded north-east of Adelaide, whilst the largest infestation is known to occur on the

Fleurieu Peninsula. Recorded outbreaks of Texas needle grass are limited to the Fleurieu Peninsula region. Climate matching in Australia shows that Chilean needle grass has a potential distribution estimated at around 40 million hectares, while Texas needle grass is climatically suited to 4.8 million hectares.

Chilean needle grass and Texas needle grass are similar in appearance to native spear grasses (*Austrostipa* species) as they all have sharp seeds with a long tail (awn) and a hairy tip. Therefore, careful identification of plants is required prior to undertaking any control programs. The seeds of both species are the best feature to use for identification, and it is likely a hand lens will be required. The most distinctive feature of both needle grass species is the corona (a raised crown of small teeth) at the join of the seed body and the awn (tail of the seed), which the native spear grasses do not have.



The seeds of Chilean needle grass, Texas needle grass and Australian spear grass. Drawings K. Firth.

The needle grass seeds are likely to be spread by attachment to machinery,

animals or clothes, the harvesting of hay, or the movement of livestock from infested to clean areas. Water can also disperse seed.

Little is currently known about appropriate management practices for needle grass in South Australia. However, opportunities exist to investigate the integration of several management techniques. A project entitled, "Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*): raising awareness, determining extent and targeting control", has been jointly funded through the WONS and Natural Heritage Trust 2 programs. Native Vegetation Services (NVS) has been engaged to undertake this project, in partnership with a number of government and non-government agencies. The objectives of the project are to implement the first year of a program within the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges region to raise awareness of the weed species; determine the current extent of infestations and identify additional areas at risk; identify and evaluate appropriate control options, and implement field control trials.

Limited records exist on the current occurrence of needle grass weeds in South Australia. Most of the known infestations have only recently been recorded. Timely intervention now may effectively confine these existing infestations, and avert further establishment and spread of these weeds within South Australia. If you suspect you have seen needle grass, or have it growing on, or near your property, place a sample of the grass in a sealed bag and take it to your local Animal and Plant Control Board (APCB), or the Plant

Biodiversity Centre in Adelaide for identification.

To find out more about the project, contact Chris Obst (NVS) on 8299 9633, or email [info@ebservices.com.au](mailto:info@ebservices.com.au).

### DUST IF YOU MUST

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter  
Bake a cake or plant a seed  
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb  
Music to hear and books to read  
Friends to cherish and life to lead?

Dust if you must, but the world's out there  
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain  
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind  
Old age will come and it's not that kind  
And when you go – and go you must  
You, yourself, will make more dust.



## Where Life Can Take You

Some of you may have noticed that I no longer make it to meetings as often as I used to, and may be wondering where I am. Well, after all my years of studying I was finally able to resign from Bi-Lo (after 9 long years!) after being employed by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (or "Wallaby" for short) in their Berri office. Some of you may remember the Honours study I did on Southern Brown Bandicoots in BNP. Well, my new job has nothing to do with animals whatsoever! I am specifically working in Water Licensing and my new title is Data Administrator which basically means I enter meter reading data and send out letters. While this job is not connected to my studies specifically, it's important to remember that the River Murray is under a lot of stress and it's important to monitor the volume used to ensure its health for future generations. Being in Berri now makes it difficult to come to meetings and events, but rest assured I will come along any chance I get. The most important thing I've learned through my new role is that every little thing we do can help the environment in some way. I know what an active group the Friends of Belair is, and no matter how small a task may seem to you, remember that all the little things combine to make huge changes to the environment. You're all doing wonderful things! Keep up that excellent spirit you all have, and I hope to see you all soon.

Melinda Kovac

Did you hear about the hospital board who decided that a tennis court could be built in the hospital grounds for the staff if the doctors paid for it? They sent out memos to the medicos and asked them for their comments. Replies were swift.

The dermatologist said to scratch the whole thing.  
The cardiologist said his heart wasn't in it.  
The surgeons decided to wash their hands of it.  
The amnesia specialist said to forget it.  
The allergy specialist said there shouldn't be any rash moves.  
The neurologist thought the hospital board had a lot of nerve.  
The eye specialist thought the idea short-sighted.  
The paediatrician told the board to grow up.  
The chest doctor said don't hold your breath.  
The psychiatrist said they need their heads read.

But there was a ray of hope.

The pathologists said they would look into it, and  
The micro-surgeons said they were thinking along the same vein.



The Editor welcomes items of interest from members to be included in this Newsletter. Please forward to ANN.ROSS  
Deadline for September Newsletter is 20TH.AUGUST.

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, VMU2 Sir Edwin Avenue. Regrowth boneseed, etc.  
(See article "Family Working-Bee"). Leave from Information  
Centre 9.00 a.m. sharp SUNDAY, or ring .. Ron, Jill or Betty.  
(Refer Office Bearers list)

VMU20 Near playground. Very large boneseed, briar, etc.  
Leave from Info Centre 8.30 a.m. sharp TUESDAY or FRIDAY, or  
ring .. .. Eric 8278 3816

VMU12 Along Workanda Creek. Regrowth boneseed, broom, etc.  
Leave from Info Centre 8.30 a.m. sharp TUESDAY or FRIDAY, or  
ring .. .. Mary 8278 3816

If you are unable to attend on these days there are small groups working on their adopted blocks. Contact any of the above who will put you in touch with the member concerned.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Barbara Lewis, Donald & Heather Drage, Helen Janz, Michael Hackett & Claire Meiklejohn, Rosemary Mackenzie, John & Deirdre Travers, Debra McWhinney & Wayne Miller and Julie & Kelly Doddridge. We hope you enjoy your membership with us and join in our many activities, especially the monthly meetings (first Saturday, 1 p.m.) where you can meet other "Friends". Julie & Kelly are already part of our Sunday team.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due 1st January. To those who have not renewed we remind you that this will be your last Newsletter under your 2003 membership.

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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 .....