



Friends

Belair National Park  
volunteers working for Conservation

Friends of Belair

Established 1985

Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

Friends Group of the Decade 1994-2004.

DECEMBER 2004

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fourteen of our group attended the Mid-North Parks Friends Forum on 22-24 October. The highlight for our group was being awarded the Jean and Verne McLaren Shield for Friends Group of the Decade 1994-2004. Brian and Noeline were awarded an Appreciation Award as well as Jill, for the work they have done for Friends of Parks and Friends of Belair. My congratulations go to you all. The Forum was well organised with an interesting and full program. A report on the Mid-North Parks Friends Forum is included in this newsletter. Each forum sets higher standards for others to follow. This gives me the opportunity to let you know of the 2005 Forum at Victor Harbor 'Encounter With Friends' which will be on August 26-28.

The Friends Group of the Decade Award includes a cheque for \$5000. This is a large amount for any Friends group and we will need to give plenty of thought to making wise and effective use of it. It is provided to Friends groups by the Department for Environment and Heritage, and there is the implication it will be used for projects in Belair National Park in these fields. I hope that all members will be involved in suggesting worthy projects to the committee. This does not mean that other projects are to be put to one side. There is still the opportunity for us to apply for grants such as the SA Office for Volunteers, the Commonwealth Office for Volunteers or the City of Mitcham Community Development Grants or use our own funds for work in other fields as we have done in the past. The committee has a broad based 'wish list' for future funding and purchases, and we welcome your input and ideas. However it would be helpful if you include an indication of the cost involved for any additions to the "wish list".

Our application for a Friends of Parks Grant for 2004/5 has been successful. The grant of \$400 for the VMU 20 Link Project is for the removal of woody weeds and the purchase of tools, spray and safety equipment. There were 44 applicants for Friends of Parks grants, with the total amount sought being over \$80,000, but only \$50,000 was available.

We have been aware of the discovery of Texas needle grass in the Park for some twelve months. Friends cut and collected four plastic bags of the seed heads in 2003 before the seed dropped. Chris Obst from Native Vegetation Services was speaker at our September meeting this year and Chris, Ranger Leah Egan and members of our group have inspected the sites. Friends of Belair and Park staff have since removed the isolated tussocks of needle grass and sprayed the more heavily infested area. This area will be closely monitored to check on the effectiveness of this work. We have a

few copies of a brochure prepared by Native Vegetation Services on "Chilean and Texas Needle Grass: Management, Hygiene and Identification" if you would like more information. Spider mite has been released on gorse in Minno Creek near the Volunteer Centre. A local school was involved in this project as part of the "Warrior Weed Program". I have noticed some yellowing of olive leaves and the olive lace bug on the back of the leaves in the Park. It will slow the growth of the trees, but it will still be back to "drill and fill" with herbicide to kill the olives. Many Friends have commented on the lerps causing yellowing of the eucalypt leaves in the Park. Their occurrence is an annual event, but this year appears to be a bad one for lerps.

During October we had help in the Park from Transitions Optical who had a team building day. There were over forty from this company working with Friends of Belair members pulling boneseed. After the working bee Judith and Lynda led them on a walk. This is the first time we have received help from the corporate world and the publicity it has generated may lead other companies on a similar path. Thanks go to Eric and his team for their part in the program.

Also in October a group of our Friends took part in a working bee with the Threatened Plant Action Group (TPAG) and the Native Orchid Society of SA (NOSSA) above Tarnma Creek, pulling small broom and cutting and swabbing the larger ones. This is our fourth working bee this year with these groups and is part of the Envirofund project on restoring the habitat of the leafy greenhood (*Pterostylis cucullata*). At our August meeting the speakers from TPAG gave some more information on the leafy greenhood – since that meeting another area of *Pterostylis cucullata* has been discovered and Jenny has been involved in an article on the leafy greenhood in "The Australian".

On the Labour Day Holiday Monday eight walkers went on a walk in Aldinga Scrub and we were fortunate enough to find a flowering fire orchid. This is an interesting area, with good variety in its natural vegetation, and a small wetland worth exploring. We had a very successful Professor Cleland Memorial Walk from the Main Oval, through Echo Tunnel to the upper waterfall and Waverley Gate, returning along the Saddle Hill Track and along Minno Creek. The success of this walk is a reflection of Judith's thorough planning and promotion in local media.

There have been some recent changes in personnel at Belair as a result of Cleland and Sturt District being amalgamated to form Southern Lofty District. James Crocker has been appointed District Ranger, Southern Lofty and Terry Gregory is Project Officer, Land Management (DEH). We wish them well in their new positions.

Friends of Belair will again be taking part in the Blackwood Christmas Parade on the evening of December 3. There is room for more of our friends to be involved if you would like to. Our Birthday Tea on December 19 is our last event for 2004 and I hope you can all be with us to celebrate our 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I take this opportunity of wishing you Seasons Greetings.

Ron Tamblyn  
President

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

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 Rd BLACKWOOD SA 5051  
TREASURER Betty Wise 8278 3805  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Mike Cerchez, 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.

Cleland Walk, 10 October 2004

Life goes on, and the day after the election we were greeted by the most gorgeous weather.

There were 25 starters for the walk, with our leaders, tailers and organisers doing their usual great job, including issuing walkers with a plant list.

The walk was 11 km in all – a steady climb up through Echo Tunnel, to the upper Waterfall for lunch, then from Waverley Lodge down along the Saddle Hill track to Long Gully and back to the main oval.

We weren't frogmarched – there was plenty of time to enjoy the wildflowers, and we saw lots. At the eastern end of the park there were carpets of yellow flowering *Hibbertia*, lots of spider orchids, waxlip orchids, parrot pea, bulbine lilies, and a myriad of others. The koalas left plenty of hints on the path that they were observing us from on high.

When our group met Judith at Waverley Lodge she told us to watch out on the Saddle Hill track for her little signs (made with twigs) which would point us to something special – sure enough we found the 'pink fingers' orchids. Thank you Judith.

What a wonderful way to spend a day.

\*Turtles can breathe through their butts.

Judy Jeffery

\*Butterflies taste with their feet.



## FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM 2004

On the weekend 22 to 24 October, fourteen Friends of Belair attended this year's Mid-North Friends Forum at Clare, the theme of which was *Grassy Spaces and Historic Places*. The Friday night session addressed the theme of local history, with tea and the evening's activities taking place at the Coach House of one of the Department of Environment's major heritage buildings, Martindale Hall at Mintaro.

Saturday morning's venue was the Clare Town Hall, beginning with a roll call of the Friends groups attending. Two keynote speakers gave talks in the morning session. Ann Presscott discussed grasslands, explaining the difference between woodland (50% shaded at high noon) and grassland (25% shaded at high noon). In-between these categories grassy woodlands were a see-through habitat, trees being 10–20 metres apart. Much of the western flanks of Belair would be grey box grassy woodland. The grassland conservation issues she saw were

- 1% of original native grasslands left in SA were in nature conservation condition
- a lack of recognition of grasslands and native grasses
- limited experience and skills to manage grasslands

Dr Rod Wells from Flinders University and the SA Museum talked about fossil records and the effects of the Ice Ages on Australia when it drifted north from Antarctica and away from the rain-bearing winds, the climate subsequently becoming warm, dry and windy. As Australia drifted north there was a change in rainfall regime, from summer rainfall to winter rainfall and variable. Australian ecosystems have adapted to this unpredictability and are radically different from the rest of the world. He expressed the view that the impact of climate change and vegetation change may have been more important than the effect of man. One of the afternoon field excursions was to Redbanks near Burra where students and volunteers were conducting a dig of a diprotodon dating some 60 000 years ago.

There were four field excursions/tours in the afternoon – 'Grassy Woodland Wonders' (Emu Flat Reserve, Spring Gully Conservation Park, Halbury Park Lands), 'Grassland Castles' (St Aloysius Church Sevenhill, and winery cellars, Martindale Hall and Polish Hill River), 'A Grassy Gem' (Mokota Conservation Park and the National Trust Mine Site at Burra) and 'A Walk in the Past' (Redbanks Conservation Park).

The forum dinner was held at Quelltaler Winery, Watervale, preceded by an art exhibition "Parks, Landscapes & Heritage of South Australia". Among the awards presented at the dinner Friends of Belair were awarded Friends Group of the Decade 1994-2004 and presented the McLaren Shield. My acceptance speech gave me the opportunity to highlight our display of the Significant Tree Project. Brian and Noeline were awarded an Appreciation Award as well as Jill, for the work they have done for Friends of Parks and Friends of Belair.

\*Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.

Tables at the dinner were decorated with different native grasses in keeping with the theme of the forum, grown and selected for the centre the tables. There was a competition for each table to identify their grasses during the evening.

For the early risers on Sunday there was bird watching at Spring Gully Conservation Park and a breakfast at the historic shearing shed at 'Kadlunga', Mintaro. Tim Milne was a speaker at the morning session back at the Clare Town Hall, giving insights into the pygmy blue-tongue lizard found near Burra. Although there were early records of the lizard in South Australia, the first recent specimen was found in the stomach contents of a brown snake killed on a road near Burra. Subsequent searches of live specimens proved difficult, but they were discovered living in spider holes in nearby grasslands. Millie Nicholls, a keynote speaker gave a practical view to perennial grasses and the studies of the Mid North Grasses Working Group. She pointed out the importance of perennial grasses – they need pruning (e.g. grazing), but also need time to recover. They provide homes for bacteria, worms, grubs, beetles etc in their root systems. These grasses are well adapted to survive the hot/cold/wet/arid conditions. Burning of grasslands is still controversial - the soil is open to erosion, weeds are encouraged and many of the good bugs are killed. We should be careful with broad spraying and use spot spraying.

The management of animals is important – animals should graze for short periods, then the area rested. Rowan Cootes, who has a property north of Spalding followed on with this theme. His approach was one of holistic management, based on the work of author Allan Savory. Rowan talked about resting the vegetation and land, grazing yet not overgrazing, the impact of animals dunging and fertilizing making dry plant material available to microbes and the impact of herds, chipping soil by their hoofs to provide a bed for seed. He spoke of subdividing farms into small paddocks as small as 5 ha, and 3-4 days grazing per year in some areas. Both speakers gave us insight into the work being done in maintaining grasslands in the rural sector.

There was a good mix of speakers covering many aspects of the theme 'Grassy Spaces and Historic Places'. Their talks were topical relating to the tours, well presented, with good visuals. They were polished and went smoothly and to time.

Forum questions and discussion topics were introduced and discussed during the business sessions. Further information on these and the following discussions will be made available in the minutes of the Forum.

Ron

The citation for the Jean and Verne McLaren shield awarded to the Friends of Belair, winners of the Friends Group of the Decade, 1994-2004 was:

This group began in 1985 with only eight members. There are now one hundred members.

During the years it has excelled in so many ways, such as the production of an award-winning newsletter; weekly walks for the public and members; and the systematic removal of boneseed, broom, pines, briar roses, olives, pittosporum, monadenia and other feral plants from over 800 hectares, of the Park. They have also introduced the Adopt-a-block scheme to encourage families to look after a designated area in their own time; completed a Significant

Trees Survey, a Register, and Herbarium; and actively promoted the Park's history and built heritage.

The Belair Friends go beyond the Park boundary, participating in local pageants, newspapers, forums and neighbouring groups.

We congratulate President Ron Tamblyn, Immediate Past President Brian Dubois, and Secretary Jill Salvi, along with all members. We commend the supportive staff of the Southern Lofty District and Adelaide Region. Congratulations!!

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon. John Hill, presented the McLaren Shield and a cheque for \$5000 to Ron Tamblyn and a framed certificate to Jill Salvi. The shield and the certificate are now in the Volunteer Centre for all to see.

## **PHYTOPHTHORA**

The following article was published in the September issue of the 'Phytophthora Newsletter' published by the DEH.

### **Phytophthora at The Common, Beaumont**

Trees have been declining in the last 3 years near the north-eastern corner of The Common, a reserve in the Adelaide suburb of Beaumont and managed by the Burnside City Council. Two native Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) trees and an introduced Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) have died and death has been associated with a *Phytophthora* species, possibly *P. nicotianae*, as this was found in soil samples collected from around the trees.

Prior to European settlement, Grey Box Woodland stretched from around Burnside in the North to Willunga in the South. It was found in areas with heavy clay soils and an average yearly rainfall of 525-700 mm. Both conditions are suitable for infection by *Phytophthora*. Currently, only 10% of the original distribution remains in scattered areas along the Hills Face Zone and Grey Box Woodland now falls within the top five most threatened communities in the State.

*Phytophthora nicotianae* was first reported from tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) in 1896. More than 30 plant species are known to be affected by this *Phytophthora* species in South Australia, including the ornamental plant species Hebe, Hibiscus, Gerbera and Pine; the fruits quandong, citrus, tomato and olive and native plant species belonging to the genera *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Bauera*, *Correa* and *Prostanthera*. *Phytophthora nicotianae* is known to be persistent in soil and infected plant tissue for many years due to the abundant production of chlamydospores (= resting spores).

The following measures have been taken by the Burnside City Council to minimise the spread of *Phytophthora*:

- The infested area has been quarantined by fencing off and signage.
- Equipment and footwear will be disinfected with Phytoclean®.
- The affected area will no longer be irrigated since excess moisture in the soil will increase the severity and spread of the disease.
- Grass will be cut with a brushcutter and at a height so that no soil disturbance occurs.
- Tolerant plant species, such as She-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) and Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) will be planted.

These measures are a good example of how a small area can be managed for *Phytophthora* with minimal financial commitment by planning and modifying work practices.

In Belair National Park there are two *Phytophthora* areas denoted by signs, where access is restricted, one north-east of Pines Oval and the other south of Cherry Plantation Road near the Eastern Gate. There are other areas where it is suspected that *Phytophthora* is present. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (Pc) has been identified in Belair. There is no cure for Pc, nor is there any way of stopping its spread once it has infested an area. However, we can slow down its movement and minimise its introduction into new areas. The best way to control its spread is to prevent the dispersal of infested soil or plant material. The Park office and the Friends Group have copies of booklets and pamphlets if you would like further information.

## Belair National Park 113<sup>th</sup> birthday



## & Friends of Belair Pk 19<sup>th</sup> birthday

at the Volunteer Centre  
Long Gully,  
Belair National Park

Sunday 19th December 2004  
at 6pm

Please bring finger food  
to share

(savouries, sandwiches,  
cakes, fruit, etc)

BYO drinks, and a chair  
if required.

Tea and coffee provided

### CALENDAR

#### DECEMBER 2004

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm General meeting  
Mike & Peggy Cerchez Travel  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided walk  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm **Birthday Party**  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided walk

#### JANUARY 2005

No general meeting

#### FEBRUARY 2005

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 1pm AGM

#### MARCH 2005

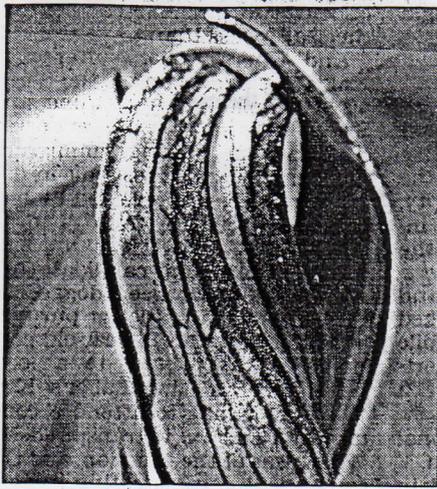
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

#### APRIL 2005

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm First Guided Walk.  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR REDUCING STRESS

1. Thou shall NOT be perfect, or even try to be.
2. Thou shall NOT try to be all things to all people  
and spread thyself too thin,  
Thou shall leave things undone that ought to be  
done.
3. Thou shall NOT criticise thy self for decisions  
that were made without the benefit of hindsight.
4. Thou shall learn to say "NO"
5. Thou shall scheduled time for thyself, and thy  
supportive network
6. Thou shall switch-off and do nothing, regularly
7. Thou shall be boring, untidy, inelegant and unat-  
tractive at times
8. Thou shall NOT even feel guilty!
9. Especially, thou shall NOT be thine own worst  
enemy, but be thy best friend.



Secret: Leafy Greenhood Orchid

## Volunteers in orchid rescue

Rebecca DiGirolamo

IN secret locations across the Adelaide Hills, hundreds of volunteers work by stealth clearing pockets of native bush to carefully preserve a fragile native orchid teetering on the brink of extinction.

They have spent more than 700 hours removing noxious weeds that threaten the largest population of Leafy Greenhood orchids found in South Australia.

So vulnerable is the remnant stock of about 11,000 Leafy Greenhoods that a management dossier mapping their location at four sites in the Mt Lofty Ranges is kept under lock and key after an entire population was pilfered by collectors back in the 1980s.

"Fifty years ago the Adelaide Hills had many, many more orchids, and people used to pick them in bunches," said volunteer Jenny Skinner.

"But what they didn't know was that the orchids don't transplant well and they wilt when picked."

The bulk of the vulnerable species, also found in declining numbers in Tasmania and Victoria, is spread across six sub-populations in the Belair National Park near Adelaide.

While illegal collectors are a danger, the biggest threat is exotic weeds competing for native bushland and urban development, with a golf course and shopping centre destroying two populations.

"Four populations have become extinct due to weed invasion in recent times," said ecologist Tim Jury.

Mr Jury leads the orchid action group and so far the group has restored two sub-populations. "They are recovering but more work needs to be done," Mr Jury said.

Ms Skinner said she eagerly awaited the brief flowering of the orchid around September each year but the battle continued to ensure the plant's survival.

TUESDAY WALKS, for 2005 will commence on 29th March. Meet 2pm at Information Centre. I would like to thank Jill for her assistance in planning and advertising the Prof, Cleland Walk. Thank you, Jennie, the plant list was very useful, as we had several walkers interested in the Flora. Thank you Brian, Ron, Jill, Betty and Mary for your time and participation.

Our numbers were down but I consider the day a success.

Possibly next year we will have a morning walk with Lunch under the Oaks.

I wish you all a Healthy, Happy Festive Season, look forward to walking with you in the Park.

Judith.

### IMPORTANCE OF INSECTS.

Contrary to our opinion that we are the centre of the universe, insects are the single most important group of animals on earth. This is partly due to the number of species (estimated at up to 30 million) and the numbers of individuals (estimated at one and half trillion for every person on earth) (1.6 x 10<sup>12</sup>). We don't see the majority of these insects because most of them are between two and four millimetres long.

If humans were suddenly to vanish from Australia today, there would be a few ecological problems such as pollution and out of control fires but within a few months these would be controlled and within a few decades it would be difficult to tell we had ever been here. However if insects were to vanish suddenly, the ecosystem would collapse and within a few months humans would become extinct. Plants would no longer be pollinated, all the major animal groups would quickly die out, the soil would die and start to rot and before long the only things left would be bacteria and algae, just as it was a billion years ago.

Taken from Butterfly Conservation SA. Inc  
Newsletter No 18, September, 2004.



Australia Oct 4 '04

## PRIVACY

To protect us, we have privacy laws  
Of course they are necessary because  
We should not to others have to submit  
To the bad behaviour of people we meet

Our privacy laws may have gone too far  
Nowadays there seems no bar  
To minority groups getting their way  
Whilst the majority votes hold no sway.

Discrimination is the by-word for  
Everything you don't like about the law  
Doesn't matter about everyone else  
Today's world contains just One-self.

No more can we ask "Are you C of E"  
That's invasion of privacy you see  
So visits to hospitals, nursing homes will be  
A thing of the past for you and me.

Take the burglar- breaks into your home  
And you and your child are there alone  
Who amongst us wouldn't lash out  
To protect our child and our things all about.

But you have no right - says the law  
To assault this person- no matter what far  
Seems that you have to ask permission  
To protect your property from submission.

To respect and regard and live responsibly  
Used to be the fashion for you and me  
Now for some of our youngsters this is not the case  
And today's attitudes are right in your face.

Your kids can leave home at age 16  
Even earlier if you are a bit mean  
Insisting on doing just as they should  
Can encourage them to rebel against all that is good.

Of course every person has their rights  
And there have to be laws to stop all the fights  
Majority rules - has been the standard.  
But sometimes it seems the minority is handed  
The privilege of having it's way as standard

With rights come responsibilities  
And most of us realize that communities  
Need the balance of these two things  
To have order and peace among human beings.

So let us all with our privacy respected  
And our rights and responsibilities all protected  
Live together in peace with justice for all  
And may the love of God all people enthrall

With permission of Shirley Beale, Vice President  
Southern Queensland Area

## COOK'S CORNER



### EGG & SPRING ONION SPIRALS

- 1 Loaf unsliced wholemeal bread
- 125g (4oz) butter, softened
- 8 Hard boiled eggs
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoon sour cream
- 4 spring onions, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard

1. Remove crusts from loaf of bread, cut lengthwise into 8 slices. Butter each slice
2. Mash eggs finely, combines with mayonnaise sour cream, spring onions and mustard. Spread evenly over bread.
3. Roll up each slice of bread, wrap firmly in plastic wrap, refrigerate until cold.

Served sliced

WORK IN PROGRESS

The following groups meet regularly and welcome anyone who would like to join them. During Daylight Saving (i.e. the hottest months) most members prefer to work earlier in the day, therefore you will note that meeting times have been changed.



VMU8 Peroomba Catchment. Olive, pittosporum, etc. Meet at Unit 8 past Playford Lake, R.H. side Sir Edwin Ave. 8.30 a.m. **WEDNESDAY or SUNDAY**, or ring Ron 8278 6593

VMU20 Below Railway Dam. Cutting or removing feral weeds in preparation for planting native groundcover. Meet at Information Centre 8.00 a.m. sharp, **TUESDAY or FRIDAY** or ring .. .. Mary 8278 3816

VMU23 Regrowth boneseed, broom, etc. Meet at Information Centre 8.00 a.m. sharp, **TUESDAY or FRIDAY**, or ring .. .. Eric 8278 3816

VARIOUS UNITS Meet at Information Centre 8.00 a.m. **SUNDAY** or ring .. .. Jill 8278 6736

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Myra Makin, Jamie Roney, Cate & Hilary Woods, and Brian & Mrs. McGowran. We hope you enjoy your membership with us and join in our many activities, especially the monthly meetings (first Saturday, 1.00 p.m. at the Volunteer Centre) where you can meet other "Friends".

Jamie has already joined one of our happy working groups, while Brian enjoyed our Professor Cleland Memorial Walk in October.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

December means it's almost time for renewal of membership, due 1st January. We have appreciated your support and hope you will continue your interest in the Friends.

-----

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 : .....