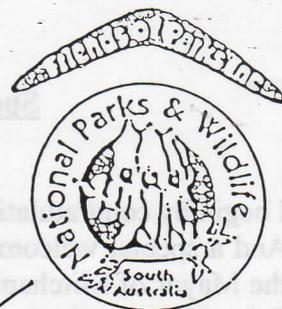




Friends  
Belair National Park  
volunteers working for Conservation  
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

Friends Group of the Decade 1994-2004.

DECEMBER 2005

PRESIDENTS RAMBLINGS

Hi everyone,

Here is the last newsletter of the year. I feel it has been a successful year with work continuing in all areas.

We have several new members and most importantly they include working members.

The highlight of the year was our twentieth birthday celebrations. From all reports it was an enjoyable occasion and highlighted our achievements.

The lunch itself was catered for and I did not hear any complaints about the roast meats and vegetables with some salads for those who preferred cold salads.

For sweets we had a large decorated cake with our Adelaide Rosella emblem for decoration.

We were fortunate to have present at the celebrations, and to cut the cake, our first president John Hunwick.

Ten year service awards were presented to Mary & Eric Cole, Jen & Tim Tolley, Jill Salvi, Ann & Gill Ross, Kay Harries, Aileen Shepherd, Noeline & Brian DuBois by our District Ranger, James Crocker.

Twenty year service awards were presented to Lynda Knight, Vern Whittenbury, Christine Stanley, Beth Pitman and posthumously Ron Pitman by the Mayor of Mitcham Ivan Brooks.

The main presentations of Life Membership were presented to Lynda Knight, Vern Whittenbury, Beth Pitman and posthumously to Ron Pitman by the Hon Ian Evans MP, one of our local members of parliament.

It is also election time before the next newsletter and I would ask that you consider joining the committee. No club can survive without a good committee and office bearers.

At this point I would like to thank Ann Ross who has produced the newsletter for us over a ten year period. Ann is a very busy lady and ours is not the only newsletter that she produces. Thank you Ann for an excellent job.

To all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Brian DuBois



Speech by Dene Cordes at the 20th Birthday Celebrations  
of the Friends of Belair National Park, 30/10/05.

I begin by congratulating the group on achieving 20 years of outstanding growth and achievements. And a special welcome to distinguished guests, Hon. Iain Evans, our Local Member; His Worship the Mayor of Mitcham, Ivan Brooks; Founding President John Hunwick; and our current President Brian DuBois who is also the State President of Friends of Parks Inc. My short address is going to feature two simple words, "CAN DO". This informal slogan can be linked to three historic occasions that are relevant to this gathering.

From 1877 to 1891, a local man, Walter Gooch, lobbied to have the state's first national park declared. He met many obstacles, one of which was Government disinterest, another was the lure of profits by subdivision proponents, and the other was the need to raise funds for his campaign.

Gooch had a philosophy of CAN DO.

He self-funded his campaign. He rallied together eminent citizens and brought them here for a picnic so that they could experience these treasures of conservation, meditation, and wildlife. These people included the Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Sir Edwin Smith), the Chief Editor of The Register Newspaper, prominent business people, Australian Natives Association, Field Naturalists' and others.

The result was that on 19th December, 1891, The National Park Bill was passed and this became our 1st park, 2nd in Australia, and 10th in the world. Gooch never lost his vision of CAN DO.

The second important stepping stone was the launching of the Friends of Parks network in 1981-2.

I had the honour of leading the negotiations under the authority of The Hon. David Wotton, M.P., Trade Unions, and selected staff, delegates of the N. C. Society, and Penny Robertson (a TAFE lecturer). I can assure you that nothing short of a CAN DO determination got this venture through. There were the usual industrial matters that took 18 months of hard work. There were the usual staff and citizens who thrive on negativity, some actually blocking progress. There were others who were not opposed, but who were plainly disinterested. But, there were people who believed in the CAN DO visions of National Parks being supported and locally "owned". The first Friends of Parks group was formed at Ferguson Park, in 1982. John Hunwick had formed a National Parks Association, and Fort Glanville a Historical Association. They became Friends of Parks groups.

Then, we set out to form more. Old Government House was the 15th of the ones that the Community Liason Unit formed. And our first rural group formed in 1984 at Butcher Gap. Several others formed and then it came to a feeling of confidence that we could start a group at South Australia's most visited park - Belair. This was a brave, CAN DO decision because the heavily populated surrounding suburbs had just as many people who might oppose a Friends Group as those who might support it.

We decided to CAN DO by forming the Belair Friends by way of inviting a special, invited group to a meeting (read the invitation).

Looking at a photo of those present and the inaugural minutes I see that the people were:

Christine Stanley (National Trust)

Peter Bird (Nature Conservation Society)

John Hunwick (Mount Lofty Ranges Consultative Committee)

Alderman Ann Rungie (Mitcham Council)

Arthur Pratt (Hills Schools)

Hugh Campbell (Friends of Old Government House)

Nicholas Newland (Acting Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service)

John Berry (Ranger-in-Charge, Belair District)

David Conlon (Acting Regional Manager, Central)

Dene Cordes (Community Liaison Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service)  
Lynda Knight, and Ray Nash

Ranger John Berrgy chaired that meeting and I was interim Secretary.

Nicholas Newland gave a few words of encouragement, pointing out that the Park's centenary would occur several years hence.

It was moved by John Hunwick, seconded by Hugh Campbell, that the Friends of Belair Park be formed. Unanimous. John Hunwick was elected as interim Chairman. A Statement of purpose was "to involve the community in supporting the Belair Park achieving its management aims".

One interesting question was whether this group should agree with the Department or whether it can sometimes disagree. So, what has changed 20 years later!!!

It was resolved that the 2nd meeting could now be publicly advertised, and would be held on Sunday, 27th October, 1985, at 10.30 a.m. and would be followed by a nature walk. It was held in the visitor centre, and many people came along. Those who worked on the publicity and letter-boxing were Christine Stanley, Anne Rungie and Peter Bird.

Elected to office were: John Hunwick - Chairman

Membership Secretary - June Johnston

Minute Secretary- Christine Stanley

Treasurer - Eric Clothier

Publicity Officer - Peter McEntee

Three extra members on the Executive Committee were Joe Halstead, Lynda Knight, and Ray Nash. Since then this group has prospered. Each President and Secretary must feel proud. It was chosen as Friends Group of The Year in 1998, Friends Group of the Decade (1994 - 2004.) It has worked tenaciously in ridding the park of much of its woody weeds and smaller ones, especially in its Adopt-A-Plot scheme. It has completed a Significant Trees Register and Herbarium; it has fought to prevent encroachments into the park by commercial interests; it has held an Annual Public Walk; it celebrates the park's birthday every year. It does much more. The early beliefs in CAN DO have been upheld with the Friends of Belair.

But there is just one more CAN DO example - that is this building in which we celebrate. Built in 1900 it was the scene of hundreds of events just like this one today.

In the early 1980's it was to be demolished, having not been maintained for some years, and was closed to the public.

It stepped a Friends Group - the National Parks Heritage Committee, which engaged a heritage builder who gave a report that it could be restored. The Heritage Committee called on 'The Friends of Belair' for further encouragement. The National Parks Foundation and Wynne's Winery made donations. And the State Bank of South Australia gave \$15,000 - just days before it collapsed. Thank God that the Treasurer banked that cheque promptly!

People power proved that, with good vision and combined efforts of Volunteers and the professional staff, the results will be CAN DO.

We all come across people who see a glass of water as half empty rather than half full. I must admit to being one who finds the half empty doomsayers very frustrating, and I do not handle negativity very well. But, today, the Belair Friends, the local and regional staff, and the Community can be proud.

I congratulate you on 20 years of CAN DO.

A WRONG CHART, A WRECK AND A RARE TREE by Ralph Foster

While looking up a plant in HH Allan's "Flora of New Zealand" I stumbled across this intriguing note under the description of the tree *Elingamita johnsonii*.

"The Generic name commemorates the tragic wreck in 1902 of the inter-colonial passenger steamer *Elingamite* beneath the cliffs on which the tree grows."

*Erlingamita* s is a very rare tree in the wild, being almost totally confined to West Island of the Three Kings Group of New Zealand, where in 1970 only 12 trees were still in existence.

The Internet revealed that "the 2,500 ton screw steamer *Elingamite* had left Sydney for Auckland on Wednesday November 5th 1902 " with Capt. Ernest Bacot Atwood in charge. "A smooth and uneventful Tasman crossing brought her towards the northern tip of the North Island and on an oft-sailed course that was calculated to take her well clear of the island on which she was to meet her end. On board were 136 passengers and 58 crew" including 11 Sydney tram drivers (motormen) on their way to Auckland and "a mixed cargo including gold, silver and copper coinage. This was listed in the Evening Post of November 12th 1902 as "...fifty-two boxes of gold and silver, valued at £17,320, shipped by the Bank of New South Wales, apportioned as follows:- £4000 in silver for Lyttelton; £3000 in gold, £10,300 in silver, and £20 in copper for Dunedin". In 2004 this was approximately equivalent to \$US 2 million.

"At 9:00am on November 9th, *Elingamite* sailed into a dense fog which led the Captain to take the appropriate precautionary measures". Nevertheless the *Elingamite* was wrecked with the loss of 45 lives, including 4 tram drivers. "A court of enquiry into the sinking began at Auckland on Nov 28th and lasted about two months. Captain Atwood was found guilty of grossly negligent navigation,.... his masters' certificate was suspended, and he was required to pay costs of £50.00.

After the trial, Captain Atwood was a broken man. Unable to resume the occupation that he loved, he was forced to take up employment as a tally clerk for a coal company. However, although Captain Atwood was to suffer the ignominy of blame for a tragedy that was not his fault, he would in eight years be absolved of all blame."

"As early as the 1890's it had been noted by ...the Survey Department that the Three Kings Island group were not correctly charted in relation to Cape Reinga," the northernmost tip of the North Island "meaning that the nautical maps of the day were incorrect", but apparently no action was taken. "Again in 1910 the Australian Naval Station reported that the Three Kings were wrongly charted" so "in 1911, the *Terra Nova* surveyed the area and established the Three Kings group to be a mile and a quarter south, and a third of a mile east, of their position shown on Captain Atwood's chart."

The *Elingamite* "inquiry was reopened and the court found that the sinking would never have happened had the chart been accurate. Captain Atwood was cleared of all charges and later became a ship surveyor at Wellington where he died in the 1930s."

Over the years there have been exaggerated claims that there was unregistered bullion aboard, and inflated tales about the true value of the coins. In 1969 a syndicate of scuba divers purchased the wreck after lifting more than 12,000 coins and the bronze propeller.

*Erlingamita johnsonii* is a spreading tree with yellowish flowers found in clusters October to December. In cultivation the fruits ripen from green to a distinct bright red in 12-15 months. In 1983 a new colony of *Erlingamita* was discovered at nearby Hinemoa Rock in the Princess Islands and the tree is now cultivated widely from seed and cuttings. It belongs to the Myrsinaceae, a relative of the primula family Myrsinaceae are a family of about 1000 trees and shrubs of which 25 species are native to Australia.

There is also a sedge *Carex elingamita* on West Island. This was discovered in November 1889 but not described until 1958.

Refs The Island That Was In The Wrong Place. The wreck of the SS Elingamite November 9th 1902,

Copyright Denise & Peter 2000

SS Elingamite - Wikipedia the free encyclopedia



## CHRISTMAS

The miracle of Christmas brings heaven  
close to earth,  
That we might share the wonder of our  
Blessed Saviour's birth.



The miracle of Christmas inspires us  
from afar,  
and gives us faith to follow one bright  
and shining star.



The miracle of Christmas brings friends  
and loved ones near,  
reminding us how dear they are at  
Christmas and all year.

The miracle of Christmas is a blessing  
that imparts,  
joy that's meant to linger forever  
in our hearts

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Editor for Friends of Belair National Park newsletter.

Only 4 editions a year. Writing articles is not required, only putting members contributions into a format for someone else to print/ photocopy. Can you help? Volunteers could ring Ann Ross, our editor, on 8278 8051, who is retiring after this last edition, for further details of the work. No pay, but you might win a prize like Ann did.

Computer person to update website about 4 times per year.

Brian DuBois has set up the website, but it needs a volunteer to keep the information current. If you can help, please telephone Brian on 8278 4275. Again no pay, but they might give a prize for websites one day.

*Happy Birthday, Belair National Park.*

### Invitation

Belair National Park will be 114 years old  
on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The Friends of Belair are hosting a celebration and hope that you will come.  
Bring a large plate of finger food to share, and BYO drinks. Tea & coffee provided.

Other Friends groups, and special guests, have been invited, so come along and enjoy.  
at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park,  
at 6pm

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2005

*Happy Birthday, Belair National Park.*

## CALENDAR 2005

### DECEMBER 2005

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm General meeting  
speaker David Oag (access)  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Volunteers Day  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided walk  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm **Park Birthday**  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided walk

### JANUARY 2006

no general meeting.

### FEBRUARY 2006

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 1 pm AGM.**

### MARCH 2006

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
speaker Chris Daniels  
on biological ecology of Adelaide  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Ends

### APRIL 2006

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 12.30pm Barbecue  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### MAY 2006

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
speaker Dr Peter Hornsby  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
History Week  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### JUNE 2006

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Kerry Boone and Norm Wilson, who have both become weeders, Kerry working with Vaike and Norm with Eric's team. We hope you enjoy your membership with us and hope to meet you at some of our other activities such as the monthly meetings (first Saturday, 1.00 p.m. at the Volunteer Centre).

### JULY 2006

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### AUGUST 2006

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### SEPTEMBER 2006

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### OCTOBER 2006

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Friends 22<sup>nd</sup> Forum at Echunga  
& Hahndorf hosted by Southern Hills  
(that is Belair Friends with others)**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Starts

### NOVEMBER 2006

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Barbecue  
followed by General Meeting  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### DECEMBER 2006

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm Park 115<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK.

ABN 38 093 387 757

PO Box 2 Belair SA 5052

Email [friendsofbelairpark@msn.com](mailto:friendsofbelairpark@msn.com) Website [www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark](http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark)

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2005

PRESIDENT	Brian DuBois	8278 4275
VICE PRESIDENTS	Jim Trueman	8278 9359 and Mike Cerchez 8339 6801
SECRETARY	Jill Salvi	8278 6736 4 Colton Rd BLACKWOOD SA 5051
TREASURER	Betty Wise	8278 3805
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.	Eric Cole, Barry Palmer, Ron Tamblyn,	

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
GUIDED WALKS	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
LIBRARIAN	Pam Tamblyn	8278 6593
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Ann Ross	8278 8051
WORKING BEES	Eric Cole	8278 3816
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8278 6593



The Group of Award Winners.

WORKING BEES

Now it is daylight saving, Tuesday and Friday working bees start at 8am, meeting outside the Park office. If you would like to give it a go, turn up before the start time, wearing stout shoes or boots, gardening gloves, a hat and sunscreen. Bring some water to drink. We can show you what to do, and it is only for 2 hours, before it gets too hot.

Sunday working bees are now by arrangement. If you want to work then, or sometimes we have students looking for environmental work on Sundays, phone Betty on 8278 3805 or Ron on 8278 6593, and we will work something out with you.

TRAINING AVAILABLE

Friends of Parks Inc have funds available for training, and are offering courses in chainsaw use, brushcutter use, various first aid courses, and various bushcare courses. Please phone Jill on 8278 6736 if you would like more information.



Life Members Beth Pitman, Vern Whittenbury and Lynda Knight.



Past and present Presidents cutting the Birthday Cake  
Lynda Knight, Daphne Johncock, John Hunwick, Ron Tamblyn and Brian DuBois.

## THE FRIENDS OF PARKS 21<sup>ST</sup> FORUM 2005

I had the opportunity of attending my first Friends of Parks Forum on the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup> of August to the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2005, held in the Southern Fleurieu. In total, 9 members of the Friends of Belair were in attendance over the weekend, a weekend that had delightful weather, perfect for admiring the beautiful landscape of Victor Harbor.

The theme of the Forum was "Encounter with Friends" which I thought was a fitting theme for someone like me, at their first Forum, looking forward to meeting new people.

Friday evening marked the official opening of the forum at the Victor Harbor Community Centre with some interesting guest speakers. Laurie Haegi, the Regional Conservator of the Adelaide Region of DEH officially opened the weekend, emphasising that an increase in volunteer participation can help the environment a great deal, a point not lost on the audience.

Deputy Mayor of Victor Harbor, Cr Deane Michelmore, spoke of his recollections of the Fleurieu Peninsula area, particularly after the Ash Wednesday fires. He also provided the following advice, "The only difference between a stumbling block and a stepping stone is how you use it".

Ron Taylor, of the Friends of Newland Head, guided us through a project the group has been heavily involved in on the restoration of the Waitpinga cliff line, showing remarkable before and after photos of the cliffline.

Prior to the Group Awards being handed out, Ian Henry of the Friends of Deep Creek entertained the crowd with his poem titled "Encounter with Friends" and his demonstrations of how to have various "encounters" with friends, a theme carried throughout the weekend.

Following the roll call on Saturday morning, Dr Louise Lawson gave a very interesting talk on earthworms. Personally, I didn't think a presentation on earthworms would be very exciting but she proved me wrong! The Reynella East Primary School gave a presentation of their revegetation work at Kyeema Conservation Park, and Catherine Kemper of the SA Museum rounded up the Guest Speakers for the day with her presentation on marine mammals.

The forum topics were discussed throughout the morning, raising some debate on certain issues but everything seemed to flow smoothly and on time. The tour buses then departed for the day, with big packed lunches supplied by The Nature Foundation SA. There were a total of 5 tours, taking people to the Talisker Mines at Silvertown and Deep Creek Conservation Park, Granite Island, two different cliff walks at Newland Head, and a whale tour. The weather was magnificent and I believe helped people to enjoy the tours even more.

The Forum Dinner was held at Hotel Victor with local poet Pat Cornish providing the entertainment. Individual awards were presented on the night, presented by The Honourable John Hill, M.P.

For those that could get up early enough on Sunday morning (I wasn't one of them), there was bird watching at Kent Reserve. This was followed by a delicious cooked breakfast at Kent Reserve. What better way to have your breakfast, than to be able to enjoy beautiful scenery with the sun peeping through the clouds on a Sunday morning.

The forum topics and questions then continued at the Victor Harbor Community Centre, where the Minister was kind enough to respond to questions and contribute to discussions.

The morning included students of the Victor Harbor Primary School giving a presentation of their planting days at Granite Island. Rob Freeman, of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, was the final speaker for the weekend, talking about the impact of plantations.

Another delicious lunch was on the table, and then we all said our farewells. I have nothing to compare my first forum to, but I personally had a wonderful time and felt that the weekend was very well organised, very interesting, and above all else, lots of fun!

Melinda Kovac

## PECAN & CHEESE

### APPETISERS

- 2/3 Cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4 Cup milk
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/2 coarsely-ground pecans
- 2 tbsp butter
- 90 g plain flour
- 1/4 tsp salt

COMBINE cheese butter & milk, add flour, paprika & salt. Mix well, add pecans. Place spoonfuls of this mixture on to greased trays, spacing well.

Press into this rounds with a fork .

Bake 200C for 10 minutes or until the edges are golden brown. Makes 36



### MY GET UP AND GO HAS WENT

How do I know my youth is all spent?  
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.  
But in spite of it all , I'm able to grin  
When I think of where my get has been

Old age is golden, so I've heard said  
But sometimes I wonder when get into bed  
With my ear in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

As sleep dims my eyes I say to myself,  
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?  
But I'm happy to say as I close the door  
My friends are the same, perhaps even more.

When I was young, my slippers were red,  
I could kick my heels over my head.  
When I grew older, my slippers were blue,  
But I could still dance the whole night through.

Now I am old, my slippers are black  
I walk to the store and puff my way back,  
The reason I know my youth is all spent  
Is my get up and go has got up and went.

But I don't mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the grand places my get has been,  
And since I've retired from life's competition  
My schedules're all scheduled (with complete repetition)

I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
Pick up the paper and read the 'obits'  
If I see my name missing, I know I'm not dead,  
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

From the Editor.

I have really enjoyed the my ten years as Editor of the Friend of Belair newsletter. So much has happened in that time, reports on Working Bees, Forums, Birthday Parties etc also the many and varied articles you have written, all combined I hope that you have found this to be an interesting and informative newsletter.

Many thanks go to all of you for helping to make this an enjoyable and rewarding job. With all good wishes for a Harry Christmas and a Safe and Peaceful New Year.

Ann Ross.

**JOKE**

It doesn't hurt to take a hard look at yourself from time to time, and this should help get you started...

During a visit to the Mental Asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No." said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug." Do you want a room with or without a view?

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

-----  
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 : .....