



Friends  
of  
**Belair National Park**  
Volunteers working for Conservation



Established 1985

Friends group of the decade 2004

Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

NEWSLETTER 1 2006, MARCH

**Friends of Belair National Park**  
**2005 Annual Report**

Firstly I would like to remind members that what I am presenting is a group report – not a president's report. In view of this I will be presenting part and I will call on the working bee co-ordinator ( Eric Cole) and the group leader (Ron Tamblyn) for the significant tree project to present their relevant reports.

Perhaps the main highlight of the year was our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. From all reports it was an enjoyable occasion with rewards aplenty. The theme was "Friends & Foes" with the foes being the decorations of the Main pavilion e.g. weeds from the Park with many of them in bloom.

Presentations were made by James Crocker, who presented ten year membership badges to Mary & Eric Cole, Jill Salvi, Ann & Gill Ross, Kay Harries, Aileen Shepherd, Jen & Tim Tolley, and Brian & Noeline DuBois, Unfortunately Jen & Tim Tolley were absent and received their award at the Belair Parks birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

Mayor of Mitcham, Mayor Ivan Brooks presented twenty-year memberships badges to Lynda Knight, Vern Whittenbury, Christine Stanley, Beth Pitman and posthumously Ron Pitman who passed away in late July.

Our local member for parliament, the Hon Iain Evans, presented life membership to Lynda Knight, Vern Whittenbury, Beth Pitman and posthumously Ron Pitman. Ron was a foundation member as were all who received life membership. The decision to grant life membership to Ron was made prior to his death and because of the seriousness of his condition was informed of our decision. His widow, Beth agreed to go ahead with the awards posthumously. He will be missed.

The Professor Cleland Walk this year was again a success. It was a historic walk ably lead by Dene Cordes with assistance from Ron Tamblyn. The afternoon session ventured into the eastern end of the park where there are several points of interest. As a result the Sequoia Avenue, a WW2 memorial, has created interest and a meeting with RSL, Park & friends representatives was held with the purpose of opening up walking access to the site.

The last twelve months has seen a big increase in the number of controlled burns being carried out by Park Management. Technically DEH does follow up of weed outbreaks following a burn. If you take a walk on the lodge track you will see a large germination of boneseed. Prior to the burn there was little evidence of boneseed. If this area can be weeded then a large reduction of the seed bank in the soil will be achieved. It is important for us to work with the ranges, especially on areas where we have had good weeding results, to prevent those blocks from becoming worse than before we started working on a block.

Ann Ross, who has been our newsletter editor and printer for many years, has retired. We would like to express our thanks to Ann for this huge effort.

Mike Cerchez has volunteered to take on the job of editor and printer.

We are still working well having achieved over 3000 hrs for the year. Well done.

As for the future – we can now get free police checks. I will be attempting to get a children's program up and running this year. The rangers are interested. We have seven primary schools both private and public, between Bellevue Heights, Coromandel Valley and Upper Sturt, within a two K range of a Park. I believe, with the changes being effected within the schools to teach our children about the environment, we have opportunities or even obligations to involve ourselves in the education of future friends.

Another part of our work, which is urgent, is plant plantings around the revamped precincts. Hopefully Janine will fill us in a bit more.

Finally a 'big thank' you to  
the committee – Jill, Betty, Eric, Ron, Jim, Barry and Mike.  
the 20<sup>th</sup> celebration committee and workers – too numerous to list  
the Volunteer Centre cleaner – Toni Nicholson  
the tea ladies – Carol Parrott and Shirley Callaghan  
all off you for your efforts throughout the year

Brian DuBois  
President

## CONGRATULATIONS

To our president, Brian DuBois. On Australia Day, the Governor of SA, Majorie Jackson-Nelson, entertained Brian, (and others), at a breakfast at Government House. She presented Brian with a medal for his outstanding community service. Brian is also president of Friends of Parks Inc. and his work supporting Friends groups in their work has been truly outstanding.

This is my first effort at producing this newsletter. I hope to make it interesting reading for all concerned. However, I'm only the editor and the Newsletter depends on contributions from the members. You can write letters to the Editor. You can make suggestions. You can supply items of interest.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends of Belair National Park or the Editor. The views are those of the writers of the article. If you don't agree with any points of view, you are welcome to comment by sending a letter to the Editor.

All items can be sent to:

Michael Cerchez  
8 Ising Road,  
Crafers West. 5152

or Email to  
cerchez@chariot.net.au

## EDITORIAL

### CONSERVATION

March 18<sup>th</sup> is polling day. Conservation should be an issue in this election. Think about this word when electing your parliamentarians. Which part of the word do they work by? The "con" part or the "serve" part. Do they con you or do they serve you? Will they really do something about Conservation, which is protection of natural resources and the environment from destruction by human activity. This can only be achieved by adequately staffing National Parks and not by a lot of bureaucratic activity. Law and Order (the big catch cry in this election) also needs to occur in our National Parks. Extra staff is the only way the outlaw weeds, feral animals and vandals can be kept in check. There is little benefit in continually reclassifying and renaming. The end result of current policy could be the renaming of Belair National Park as the Belair Bunny Farm or the Belair Olive Grove or the Belair Boneseed Gardens.



President Brian DuBois presents  
10 year membership certificates  
to Jan and Tim Tolley at the  
Park Birthday, 19/12/06

#### **Significant Tree Project**

#### **Report to Friends of Belair Annual General Meeting 3 February 2006**

When the Significant Tree Project began in 2001 we anticipated it would take between 6 to 12 months for an estimated 50-70 trees. Since then we have extended the project to record, photograph and research both botanically and historically over 1300 trees in Belair National Park

for the Significant Tree Register and the Noteworthy Trees. We have now completed the field work for the project.

The printed version of the Significant Tree Register was launched in July 2004, and the project is gaining recognition by the broader community. There are 57 trees or groups of trees recorded and these trees are being progressively assessed by the National Trust Significant Tree Committee, and so far all trees submitted have been accepted. Friends of Belair received a letter of commendation from the National Trust of South Australia acknowledging our work. Another outcome has been that the Cherry Plantation and the sequoia avenue further east have been accepted for a state-wide list of Avenues of Honour.

The small and enthusiastic team involved have spent many hours on the project, meeting in the field on Friday mornings, beside the many additional hours spent photographing, researching and computing. Final compilation of paperwork and digital recording of the rest of the project is in hand. The Significant Tree Project team has spent over 600 hours on the project in 2005. I thank all involved in the project for their untiring efforts.

Ron Tamblyn  
Coordinator

### THE BELAIR MAZE

Many Friends will know the old hawthorn maze, on a small knoll, five minutes walk from Belair railway station and approached through a plantation of Sugar gums *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*. The maze was originally planted in 1886 and so antedates the dedication of the park in 1891. As the oldest surviving maze in Australia, it has considerable historical significance. There are six rings of European hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*, separated by five paths and joined by seven partitions (barriers), covering about 0.35 hectares.

After many years of neglect, by the 1980's the maze was overgrown with exotic trees and native plants. Its restoration was due to the work of the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS). In 1987 a grant was made by the national executive augmented by a National Estate grant. Society members and other volunteers from South Australia (SA) removed undergrowth and small trees over a period of 18 months and in 1989 larger trees, mainly Aleppo pines, *Pinus halepensis*, and Sugar gums were removed by a contractor. Gravel paths were laid and a drip irrigation system, controlled at Belair Railway Station, was installed. The maze was re-dedicated at a ceremony on November 17, 1991, as a part of the centenary celebrations of Belair National Park.

Because of other commitments the involvement of AGHS members lessened gradually over the next decade. However, after initial difficulties, a successful re-planting programme had begun. By 2001 the watering system was only capable of watering part of the maze and there were approximately 300 vacant sites where re-planting was required. Since then over 250 sites have been re-planted, using hawthorn seedlings and small plants found growing under established hawthorns. Thanks to funds received from a Friends Grant the Department for Environment and Heritage and to a generous donation from the SA branch of the AGHS, the watering system has been restored.

Each season the hawthorns have been sprayed to control attack by sawfly (cherry

slug) larvae, as the insect's natural enemies don't occur in the Adelaide region!

While much needs to be done, including the re-planting of the remaining vacant sit and the establishment of a regular pruning regimen, the maze is showing distinct signs of recovery!

Thanks are due to the Friends and especially Mr. Ron Tamblyn for his encouragement and practical help. Acknowledgement is made to Dr Barry Long's invaluable articles on the history of the maze.

References:

Long B (1988) 'Mazes in Australia - part H' The Australian Garden Journal 7:113.  
Long B (1991) 'Restoration of the Belair Maze' Australian Garden History 2:11

David Hansman  
January, 2006

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NEW MEMBER

Our first new member for 2006 is Jill Pascoe. Welcome Jill - 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).

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Treasurer's Report to Annual General Meeting

4th February 2006

Our bank balance is considerably less than last year because we paid out grant money of over \$12,000.

Our \$5,000 Award which was put into a term deposit generated \$250 interest and we received donations of \$457 including \$340 for the use of the Volunteer Centre.

Membership was down by 17 and fees received were \$90 less than last year.

The other main cost this year was for our 20th Birthday Dinner which amounted to \$818.00.

Total balance in the bank as at 31.12.05 was \$8,528.07, being \$7,626.90 in the General Account and \$901.17 in the Grants and Special Funds Account.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Financial Statement for Year Ended 31st December 2005

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Bank Interest:		Catering:	
Cheque A/c	80.38	20th Dinner	1263.97
Term Dep.	251.13	Other	40.90
	331.51		1304.87
Barbecue Surplus:	47.85	Donation	50.00
Donations		Gifts	176.12
Vol.Cent.	340.00	Govt. Debits Tax	18.10
Other	117.35	Grants	12524.20
	457.35	Membership Fees	38.00
Grant - TPAG	690.00	Newsletters	203.50
Membership Subs.	807.50	Photographs	34.10
Sundries :		Postage, Telephone &	
20th Birthday Dinner	560.00	Stationery	243.56
Exchange Cheque	200.00	Tools & Fuel	170.44
(Old Govt. House)		Trailer Registration	54.00
		Sundries:	
		Xmas Pageant	35.00
		Exch.cheque	200.00
		Propagation	
		equipment	50.15
		Keys	14.00
		20th Dinner	114.25
			413.40
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>3094.21</u>	<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>15230.29</u>
Balance at 1.1.05	20664.15	<u>Balance at 31.12.05</u>	<u>8528.07</u>
	<u>23758.36</u>		<u>23758.36</u>

GRANTS & SPECIAL FUNDS

In progress as at 1.1.05:	Received	Payments	As at 31.12.05
Restoration Fund	507.48		507.48
Significant Trees	329.07	335.31	6.24 O/D
Bridal Creeper Control	260.00		260.00
Restoration Orchid			
Habitat (TPAG)	10982.00	690.00	11672.00
Peroomba Creek	363.00		223.07
VMU20 Link Project	295.22		295.22
	<u>12736.77</u>	<u>690.00</u>	<u>12525.60</u>
	<u>7626.90</u>	<u>Cheque Account</u>	<u>3276.94</u>
General A/c Funds	901.17	<u>Term Deposit @ 5%</u>	<u>5251.13</u>
Grants, etc.		Matures	14.3.06
	<u>8528.07</u>		<u>8528.07</u>

## AGM 4<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

Leah Egan, acting as the liaison ranger from Belair Park, conducted the election of officers for 2006. All office bearers and committee members from 2005 were re-elected unopposed. Faye Loffler was welcomed as a new committee member.

Other Friends, not on the committee, agreed to continue their special jobs, and they are much appreciated for this. If anyone sees a job that needs doing, or a new project, or if you have special expertise, and you can volunteer for it, please raise the matter with a member of the committee.

## HERBARIUM

Once again we are treating the herbarium boxes to their annual freezing treatment to kill any bugs or insect eggs that might have contaminated them. The herbarium is part of the Significant Tree Project, and contains hundreds of specimens of leaves, flowers, fruit, bark, etc of trees in Belair National Park. They are mounted and labeled, and stored in boxes, mainly in the centre steel stationery cupboard in the Volunteer Centre, with a few elsewhere. Currently, you can see four boxes at a time in the freezer of the kitchen fridge, where they fit very nicely, and remain there for at least 48 hours each, then are replaced by the next four.

As well as freezing, we are collecting sachets of desiccating chemicals for the storage cupboard. If you have any of these little packets from your medicines, or from other containers, please save them for us to put in with our specimens. We need lots because most of them are very small packets, but they all help.

If you would like to see the tree herbarium specimens, just ask Ron Tamblyn or Jill Salvi.

The ladies team working below the Railway Dam has been collecting grass and herb specimens to make a herbarium to aid in identifying which are natives and which are weeds. This is an example of new project come about because of a need for it.

## UNIFORMS

Some members have expressed interest in getting new shirts and windcheaters, as we have had previously. This year Belair Friends are part of the steering committee for the Friends of Parks Forum to be held at Echunga/Hahndorf on October 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006, and it would be nice for us to be in uniform. The shirts are blue with our logo on them. Quotes vary according to what we will require. Please see Jill Salvi or phone 8278 6736 if you have any interest in this.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2006

The *Southern Hills Forum 2006* will be hosted by various Friends groups of the Southern Lofty area, of which Friends of Belair National Park is one. The steering committee has been working on the arrangements and we are looking for your support to make it a success. Those members who have attended previous forums usually have a very interesting time, and this one is not far away to travel to. (Next year the forum is at Port Lincoln). We have interesting speakers, discussions, guided tours, and a dinner on Saturday night. Information and registration forms are now available. We look forward to your attendance, and later on might ask for your help in some small task.

**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 2006**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Brian DuBois	8278 4275
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b>	Jim Trueman	8278 9359 and Mike Cerchez 8339 6801
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Jill Salvi	8278 6736 4 Colton Rd BLACKWOOD SA 5051
<b>TREASURER</b>	Betty Wise	8278 3805

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Eric Cole, Barry Palmer, Ron Tamblyn, Faye Loffler

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
GUIDED WALKS	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
LIBRARIAN	Pam Tamblyn	8278 6593
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Mike Cerchez	8339 6801
WORKING BEES	Eric Cole	8278 3816
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8278 6593

The body of any organisation has four bones:

**Wish bones** – who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.

**Jaw bones** – who do all the talking and very little else.

**Knuckle bones** – who knock everything else that everybody else tries to do.

**Back bones** – who get under the load and do all the work.

(Contributed by Faye Loffler copied from The Australian Woodworker Issue no. 124, Nov 2005, quoted from Sawdust and Shavings – the Newsletter of the Triton Owners Club of Oyster Bay.)

'Meet the State Candidates' meetings will be held in the Mitcham Hills prior to the State election on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

This is to give residents the opportunity to meet, hear and question those hoping to represent them in State Parliament.

### **Davenport**

**7.30pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

**Blackwood Senior Citizens, 3 Young St, Blackwood**

This electorate covers most of the Mitcham Hills except for the suburb of Belair.

### **Waite**

**7.30pm Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**Uniting Church Hall, Sheoak Rd (near the water towers)**

This electorate includes the hills suburb of Belair as well as further east to Leawood Gardens.

These meetings are provided as a community service by the Blackwood/Belair and District Community Association Inc.

PO Box 15, Belair 5052

For further information phone 8278 2150

### **Basic Casualty Care Course**

Anyone interested in doing a basic casualty care course please Jill Salvi know.

### **Tools Stocktake**

Please let Eric know what tools you have which belong to Friends of Belair. In writing please on a piece of paper with your name. Thank You.

## CALENDAR 2006

### MARCH 2006

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 1 pm General Meeting  
Volunteer Centre 1pm.  
Speaker - Chris Daniels on *Adelaide -Nature of a City 1836 -2036.*

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Ends  
*refer change to working bee times.*

### APRIL 2006

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 12.30pm Barbecue at Vol. Centre  
and General Meeting  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### MAY 2006

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Open of Walking Season Pines Oval  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Speaker Dr Peter Hornsby  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
National Volunteer Week 15-21 May 2006  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
SA History Week 20-28 May 2006

### JUNE 2006

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
South Australia's Volunteers Day 12 June 2006  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### 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  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Prof. Cleland Memorial Walk.**  
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) Ask for information.**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Starts  
*refer changes to working bee times*

### 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> Belair Park 115<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Friends 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday**  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

### BARBECUE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF APRIL

The general Meeting on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> will start with a barbecue at 12.30 at the Volunteer Centre. Please bring a plate of salad or a sweet slice to share. We ask for a small donation to cover the cost of meat. Tea, coffee and cordial and water available. If you have never been to a meeting before, this is a good chance to meet other Friends and find out what we do in Belair Park in our different ways. Any enquiries ask any committee member.

### NEWSLETTER DATES

Newsletters will hopefully be handed out at the June, September, and December meetings.

**DUE DATE** for the June Newsletter is **May 20<sup>th</sup> 2006.**

## FBNP Annual Report for 2005

### Working Bees for Weed Eradication

Walking through the park it is easy to forget how it was some 10 years ago. VMU 9 was a carpet of boneseed. Either side of the path going north between VMUs. 17 and 18 was likewise. Look there now and see the difference. We are having an effect and this is obvious in many parts of the park not seen by the general public.

Most of the year was spent by the men eliminating boneseed from VMU 20 and by the *dam* ladies doing varied work in the dam area, incidentally also VMU 20.

VMU 20 was steep and the boneseed big but I am pleased to say the men stuck at it. In October I met up with TPAG (Threatened Plant Action Group) who were also working in VMU 20 between the Fisher Pavilion and the railway, cutting and swabbing boneseed etc. Their philosophy involves least disturbance to the ground so as to preserve any possible threatened species. Our work was approaching their area of operation and hence they requested we cease further work in this area. Up to that point we had had their agreement. Disappointed as we were we accepted their request. We are hopeful that the Park can get a grant to cut and swab the remaining boneseed in this unit. TPAG will never cope with it as they have only about 4 working bees a year in this area. We hope to get approval to go on railway property and eliminate the mass of weeds growing thereon and then infesting park property.

Over the years I have watched the profusion of olive developing in VMU 19 (contained between Old Government House and Queen's Jubilee Drive) and spreading across the drive into VMU 26. At that time the ground was damp and workable and for the present we decided to abandon our programme of boneseed elimination and tackle the olive in VMU 26 so as to arrest the spread of olive. Hence we have been working in this area digging out the smaller olives however the larger still need to be poisoned. Despite the fact the ground is now dry and hard we are still at it. I must say I was surprised at the density of olive in some spots.

During the year our groups joined forces to tackle small infestations of broom in VMUs. 30 and 31, either side of the Yulti Wirra Track. We also joined forces to do follow up work in VMU 17.

Our ladies have had a busy year working in the dam area carrying out a variety of tasks. In February they were propagating grasses then planting during the winter. Weeding continued throughout the year. The guards, necessary to protect the seedlings from the rabbits, have just been removed to allow direct seeding to take place. They have been encouraged by the lack of African daisy and verbena growing this year. Can you recall just how dense this was when our ladies took on this area? Unfortunately blackberry and thistle have appeared but they are being tackled. Last Spring a great number of arum lily appeared and these were dealt with. Arum lily is a weed of major significance in Western Australia and when you see the problem there it is obvious we must deal with them so they do not get out of hand like boneseed and olive have done in the past.

We were disappointed at the loss of so many plantings during the flood. Mother

Nature will have her way. Rabbits are a big problem here as they are up Queen's Jubilee drive. The other day I counted 17 walking between the gate and the water tank near Old Government House.

Over the year we have put in 1248 hours of work in the form of regular working bees on Tuesday and Fridays but further work has been done at times other than these. A very good year considering we lost 16 days through rain and fire bans.

Finally, a big thank you to all our weeders who have turned out throughout the year.

Eric Cole  
Working Bee Coordinator  
Jan. 06

### ***Needle Grass: the battle continues***

*Clare Griffin, Environmental and Biodiversity Services*

In recent years, a new environmental and agricultural threat has been highlighted in South Australia. 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 is one of the 20 Weeds of National Significance (WONS). It has been described as potentially the worst environmental weed of native grasslands, which are amongst the most threatened ecosystems in Australia.

In agricultural regions these grasses reduce pasture production and stock carrying capacity, and can cause injury to the skin and eyes of livestock.

Native to South America, Chilean needle grass was first recorded in South Australia from Lucindale in 1988, while Texas needle grass was recorded in 2000 from the Fleurieu Peninsula.

In 2003, a project with the aim of eradicating Chilean needle grass and confining existing infestations of Texas needle grass was instigated. The project estimated that the number of hectares infested in South Australia is approximately 238ha of Texas needle grass and 14ha of Chilean needle grass. The largest infestation of Chilean needle grass occurs in coastal areas on the Fleurieu Peninsula, while other smaller outbreaks have been recorded from the northern suburbs of Adelaide, into the Adelaide Hills. Texas needle grass has been recorded throughout the Onkaparinga Catchment area.

In 2004, the first year of a control program was implemented. This involved spot spraying individual plants with herbicide as well as an integrated approach of cropping and herbicide application. The majority of the control work was undertaken on Chilean needle grass on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Other work concentrated on infestations of Texas Needle grass on roadsides and private properties within the Clarendon area.



In 2005 the battle against these aggressive grass weeds continued. This was primarily through the project 'Protecting Agriculture and Biodiversity from Grass Weeds' funded through the National Heritage Trust 2 program, but also with additional support from the 'Threat abatement to protect biodiversity in Onkaparinga River National Park' project, funded by the Australian Government Envirofund.

A survey was undertaken in the Adelaide Hills region that included Randell Park and areas adjoining Randell Park and Belair National Park. No new infestations were identified, highlighting the importance of containing and treating known infestations swiftly, so as to prevent spread into neighbouring areas.

In November, a field day was held at Onkaparinga National Park to train the members of Friends of Onkaparinga Park (FOOP) on how to identify Texas Needle Grass. The workshop was a success with many members taking part, and as a result of their training FOOP members have identified a number of new infestations within the park. An evaluation of the previous years control efforts has left the project team cautiously optimistic. Control efforts have shown some initial success with the density of infestations that were treated in 2004 being reduced in 2005.

Control work was expanded in 2005 to include more infestations on private properties within the Clarendon region as well as infestations within the Onkaparinga River National Park.

Through a combined effort involving landowners, government and non-government groups we persevere in removing this threat.

If you would like more information on Chilean or Texas needle grass, or think you may have either of these grasses on your property, please contact your local Animal and Plant Control Board. For more information on the project contact Clare Griffin, Environmental and Biodiversity Services, on (08)83517533 or email [clare.griffin@ebservices.com.au](mailto:clare.griffin@ebservices.com.au).

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## WALKING SA News

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### Upgrade track between Saddle Hill Road to upper Minno Creek

In discussions regarding walking trails in Belair National Park the Department of Environment and Heritage agreed to a pilot track being cut as a fore-runner to possible realignment/upgrading of a steep section of an obscure existing opportunistic walking track. The track, near the eastern boundary of the Park, provides an alternative for walkers who now climb over two locked gates on a vehicle access track to cross the railway at an unauthorized crossing. The walking track crosses over the nearby railway tunnel.

On 27 October 2005, Rob Marshall, Peter Beer and Arthur Ward, all members of Friends of Parks Walking Trails Support Group, voluntarily cut a pilot track about 250 metres long to bypass about 100 metres of the steepest section of the existing walking track.

The pilot track starts at the foot of a hill just north of the avenue of sequoias on Minno Creek near the eastern boundary of the Park. The work involved cutting through thick blackberries, gorse and pittosporum. It also involved cutting through some dead fallen trees (except for one about 800mm in diameter) and a minimum of benching to enable the workers to traverse the steep cross slopes.

Further work was done during November 2005, by volunteers to bench the pilot track to an appropriate standard for recreational walkers and as an access for working parties to control the invasive pest plants in the area. Attractive mature Native Cherry trees and seedling Blackwoods were noted by the volunteers as feature survivors amongst the plethora of pest plants.

It is anticipated that work on the track will be completed by the end of December 2005.

Arthur Ward

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget it is renewal time, 1st January. We have appreciated your support and hope your interest in the Friends will continue. The fee remains the same as it has been for several years.

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

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

Name : .....

Address : .....

Telephone : ..... Email .....