



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 4, December, 2007

Merry
Christmas



and **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Please note this is a quarterly newsletter. 4 per year. March, June, Sept and Dec.

Deadlines are the 3rd Monday of the month preceding its issue.

Contributions can be emailed to Michael Cerchez at cerchez@chariot.net.au

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Another year has almost finished and I would like to thank all those who have supported the Friends of Belair National Park during the year. We have achieved a great deal. There's a lot less weeds in the Park. The Minno Creek Railway Dam restoration is progressing well. Adopt a block sites are really benefiting from the work being done, as are the Bush Care efforts. We had a successful Cleland Walk. Tuesday nature walks

have been popular. Our meetings have had a host of interesting and informative speakers. We have consulted with the staff about various matters to do with developments in the Park. Behind every successful group is a hard working committee. Things don't just happen.

I would like to thank the committee, which has kept the Friends group ticking over nicely. I would especially like to thank Jill Salvi the hard work she has done as secretary. Eric and Mary Cole also deserve a special mention for the work they have put in leading the working bees. There are numerous other things, which have been organised or produced by committee members, which I will not list here, but are none the less important. Thanks again to the committee! I would also like to thank

our liaison ranger Leah Egan for her help and guidance. I congratulate her on her appointment as a Senior Ranger. It was also good to have Nalini Klopp join the team as Senior Liaison Ranger and contribute to the group.

As the year draws to a close I hope you will all look forward to next year and consider how you can help Friends of Belair National Park look after Belair National Park. There are many differing roles that need to be fulfilled. Please consider what you can contribute to help our group.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2007

PRESIDENT Mike Cerchez
8339 6801
VICE PRESIDENT Jim Trueman
8278 9359
SECRETARY Jill Salvi 82786736
4 Colton Rd BLACKWOOD SA 5051
TREASURER Carol Parrott 8278 6783
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
Eric Cole, Brian DuBois, Faye Loffler, Barry Palmer, Ron Tamblyn.

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 659

ALL COMMITTEE POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 2008. PLEASE NOMINATE.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK. ABN 38 093 387 757

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Email

friendsofbelairpark@msn.com.

Website

www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

NEWSLETTERS ON-LINE

DEH Volunteer News can be accessed on

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/deh/aa/volunteer_news.html To be

notified by email every time a new edition goes online, send your name and email address to

DEHVolunteers@saugov.sa.gov.au

Friends of Parks Incorporated e-

NEWS can be accessed on

<http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofparks>

The State of Volunteering On-line can be emailed to you regularly from The Office for Volunteers. Email a request to ofv@saugov.sa.gov.au

Friends of Belair National Park Newsletter

can be accessed from our website.

<http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark>

Members, please email

friendsofbelairpark@msn.com if you no longer require a hard copy of the newsletter.

CALENDAR 2007

REGULAR EVENTS

General Meetings on the first Saturday of the month. 1.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park. Visitors welcome. We usually have an interesting speaker. No General Meeting in January

Working Bees on Tuesdays and Fridays, meet outside the Information Centre, Belair National Park

before 8.30 am in the winter, or 8.00am daylight saving time.

NO WORKING BEE IF THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN.

Enquiries Eric 8278 3816

Guided Walks are from April to December, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons.

Meet outside the Information Centre, Belair National Park at 2.00 pm. The public is welcome.

Enquiries Shirley 8278 1525.

SPECIAL EVENTS **CELEBRATIONS**

Refer elsewhere in this newsletter for these coming events. Be there!

THANKYOU BBQ at Cleland with Southern Lofty District 5/12/2007.

BLACKWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE 7/12/2007.

BIRTHDAY of Belair National Park at Volunteer Centre 19/12/2007.

CALENDAR 2008

No General Meeting in January.

February 2nd 2008, Saturday, at 1.00pm –
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

April 8th 2008, Tuesday, at 2.00pm – First of the Tuesday guided walks for 2008.

August 15-17 2008, Friday to Sunday – Friends Forum in Flinders Ranges National Park.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Saturday February 2nd at 1.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

1. Receive the Annual Report for 2007
2. Receive the audited Financial Statement for 2007
3. Appoint an Auditor for 2008
4. Election of Officers and Committee for 2008
5. Set the subscription rates for 2008. The committee proposes that these rates be as for 2007.

6. Alteration to the Constitution.

It has been proposed to alter paragraph 9.4 as follows.

9.4 *On dissolution of the Group all property of the Group remaining after payment of all debts and legal liabilities shall be transferred to*

DELETE *“the Community Liaison Unit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service”,*
REPLACE WITH *“Friends of Parks Incorporated”*

to be used by other Friends of Parks Groups
DELETE *“in the Sturt District of the National Parks and Wildlife Service”*

The AGM will be followed by afternoon tea and an ordinary monthly meeting.

FEES FOR 2008 WILL REMAIN THE SAME AND ARE NOW DUE
\$10.00 Single \$15.00 Family

To all Southern Lofty District Friends & Volunteers

We'd like to say...

Thankyou

Join us for an evening of fun and celebration in

recognition of your time, passion and achievements in helping look after our special reserves and places.

Wednesday 5th December, 4:45 pm

Cleland Wildlife Park

Program 4:45 Nibbles, beers and cheers

5:00 Recognising our volunteers

Invitation

Friends of Belair National Park will celebrate the 116th birthday of Belair National Park and their own 22nd birthday at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, in Belair National Park on Wednesday 19th December 2007 at 6 pm.

Please bring a Large plate of finger food to share (savouries, sandwiches, cakes, fruit, etc)

BYO drinks. Tea and coffee provided.

BLACKWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE

Friday 7th December 2007, from Gulfview Road Blackwood at 6.30pm.

Meet at Jill Salvi's at 5.00pm, (4 Colton Road) to help set up, or find us and our trailer in Gulfview Rd. if you can march in our group.

Before the event, we will be issued with a position number, but we don't have it yet. For more details, phone Faye 8278 5401, or Mary 8278 3816. There will be a Rotary Fair in Waite Street Reserve afterwards.

The "Dam Ladies" introduced five new members to the Friends at our November meeting. Thelma, the kangaroo, Kyllie, the kookaburra, Smokey, the koala and Emmaline, the emu, will ride on the Friends Trailer at the Blackwood Christmas Parade. Our other new is Monty, the echidna, a rather prickly, but friendly, "little critter" We thank Faye and Les Loffler for their efforts in creating the critters.



Tuesday Nature Walks

Tuesday Nature Walks continue to be an enjoyable wander in the Park and a learning experience for many of us. We are lucky to have some regular walkers who are a mine of information, and are generous in sharing their knowledge. In particular, Dr Raph Foster who readily responds to a call of "Ralph", and he not only knows the name of the plant but often has an interesting story to tell about it.



The Professor Sir John Cleland Memorial Walk was held this year on Sunday 14th October, which thankfully turned out to be a fine, cool and slightly cloudy day - perfect for walking! 30 people took part in the morning walk which left from Pines Oval 2, looped around the Carawatha, Lodge and Moorowie Tracks and eventually ended up at Playford Lake for morning tea.

Although the season was well advanced as far as flowering plants went, we still saw a nice lot of flowers, including some orchids. We returned via Sir Edwin Avenue and Gooch Rd where we talked about the history of the Park and its exotic trees. After a picnic lunch in one of the new shelter sheds, 20 walkers, including 11 newcomers, set off up the Lodge Track, across the railway line and into Block 23 where there was a spectacular lot of king spider orchids (*Arachnorchis tentaculata*) still in bloom. Thanks to everyone who helped out to make it a successful event. Hopefully, by holding it earlier next year, there will be an even more interesting display of flowers for us to show off to visitors!

Jenny Skinner

THE CLELAND WALK 2007



← 1ST morning group



2nd morning Group →



← Ron gives a walker the treatment

The afternoon group →



Numerous specimens of
Arachnorchis (Spider Orchids)
were seen on both walks



BUTTERCUPS IN BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

There are over 600 species of buttercup worldwide in the temperate regions of both north and south hemispheres. Of these, four species are recorded for Belair National Park. Three species are native, 1 is an introduced weed.

Identification requires mature (brown) fruits to see if they are smooth or have rough protuberances and open flowers to see if the sepals form a cup below the petals or are bent backwards against the flower stalk. (See illustration).

The Belair species are divided into 2 groups

1. Lateral faces of “seeds” (achenes) smooth.

These are perennial plants, present all year round, and both are native

a) NATIVE *Ranunculus lappaceus*
Smith

Basal leaves 3-lobed, the central lobe with longest stalk. Stems and leaf stalks with long spreading hairs
Flowers 15-40 mm diam with 5 spreading sepals.

Achenes lens-shaped, in a globular head, each with smooth faces and long slender terminal hooked beak

b) NATIVE *Ranunculus pachycarpus*
B. Briggs

Basal leaves simple, 3-lobed or ternate, hairy. Stem leaves divided into 3 sessile (non-stalked) lobes

Flowers 13-28mm diam. Sepals 5, spreading

Achenes smooth, globular, beak 1.5-2mm, with recurved tip

2. Lateral faces of achenes with prominent tubercles.

Annual plants, come up in winter-spring,

c) INTRODUCED **Ranunculus muricatus* L.

Leaves rounded, hairy, shallowly 3-lobed, lobes crenate

Flowers 8-10 mm diam, FLOWER STALKS LONG

Sepals reflexed (*bent downwards*)

Achenes with *many spiny tubercles*

Beak 2-3mm nearly straight

Muricatus means rough after the rough shell of the sea mollusc from which a purple dye was obtained in ancient times.

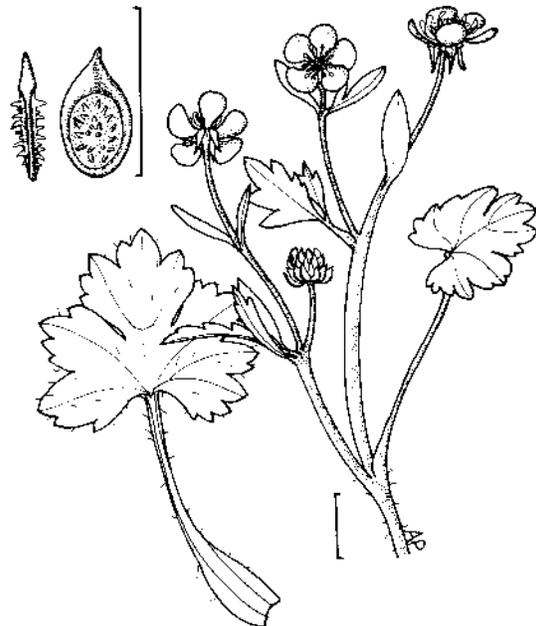
d) NATIVE *Ranunculus sessiliflorus* DC
var. *sessiliflorus*

Plant hairy. Leaves with 5 lobes, Flowers 2-3 mm in diameter, FLOWER STALKS very short

Sepals 3-4 hairy, spreading

Achenes flat with prominent tubercles each with a recurved bristle

Beak short triangular, sharp pointed



The illustration of *Ranunculus muricatus* is from Anne Prescott's book "It's Blue with Five Petals"

Article by R.C. Foster

**Notes on the Plant Identification Day,
Volunteer Centre, Belair Park.
18 September 2007**

Course co-ordinator **Harry Chambis** recommended several books, including: Ian G. Read, *The Bush: A Guide to the Vegetated Landscapes of Australia*. Leo Costermans: *Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia*. Gwen Elliot: *Australian Plants Identified*.

There was also a very good weed book – Mary Cole has the details.

We participated in an exercise which comprised using vegetation maps and keys to vegetation associations/structures in a particular area. We were asked to choose one plant from each ‘layer’ which matched our chosen number on the key. For example, for an area around McLaren Flat we chose plants which might grow in the Woodland Layer, Tree Layer, Tall Shrub Layer, etc., right down to Orchids and Grass and Sedge Layer.

For keying out plant families, Harry’s notes are taken from Gwen Elliot’s *Australian Plants Identified*.

Basically they can be broken down into: Kingdoms, Families, Genera, Species, Sub-species.

Harry discussed Plant Origins – e.g.

- Exotic – originate from outside the country (not native to Australia)
- Native – grow within the country
- Indigenous – grow within a region
- Endemic – grow only within a more specific region (e.g. SA only, or a region within the state).

Life Cycles

The time within which a plant flowers, sets seed and dies.

Naming plants

Latin or Greek used. Latin is safe to use because it is ‘frozen in time’, and will not change (English is still evolving).

An example of plant classification:

Myrtaceae family Myrtaceae is an international family, not limited to Australia (e.g. Feijoa and Guava)

Genus = general name.

Some plants in the Myrtaceae family are:

Genus *Callistamon*

“ *Melaleuca*

“ *Eucalyptus*

“ *Leptospermum*

Sub species and variety - further divisions within species; e.g. *E. platypus* var. *heterophylla* (variable leaves). In a small geographical area it has these variable leaves.

Hybrids.

- Hybrids are generally sterile, so need to be propagated by cuttings.
- In the event that they reproduce, they will revert to one or other of parents, and often have an inferior form of that parent.
- Unfortunately the Mt. Lofty Ranges *Grevillia lavandulacea* has crossed with *G. rosmarinifolia*, and there is a danger that *lavandulacea* as a pure species will disappear.

We drove up to Waverley Lodge, then had time for a short walk. We discussed:-

- *Acacia melanoxylon*. Harry reminded us that when the leaves mature they become modified stems. This is often the case with Acacias native to hot dry areas – e.g. not with Cootamundra wattle which is from a wetter area in NSW.
- *Indigofera australis* (mauve pea flowers)

- *Plantago varia* (native plantain). Leanne (who was assisting Harry) pointed out the leaf shape, which is a good way to distinguish it from the non-native species. It has small points on the sides of the leaves, and a definite mid-vein, unlike the non-natives.

Thanks Harry. We liked your broad and practical approach to the subject of plant identification



Judy Jeffery

ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDENS

In September Judith O'Hara and I went on a brief visit to Port Augusta to visit the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens and we were very pleased with our decision, because the Eremophila bushes were flowering profusely, in all their diversity. The garden is very extensive

and is as yet not fully planted, but there are some very dedicated members who weed and so on. Water is a problem but Port Augusta is leading the way in sewerage recycling.

Our Volunteer guide was an elderly Yorkshire Man who showed us around the garden. Then we had a very pleasant lunch in the in the cafe, where the attendants were most agreeable . The gift shop is well stocked with high class Australian objects and books. Wadlata also serves meals and information. We stayed in a small motel in this surprisingly tidy city, with large gum trees in parks and a new foreshore area of lawns and seats, swings for children, etc. Altogether it was well worth the effort.

Linda Knight.

Over breakfast one morning, Mary said to her Eric, "I bet you don't know what day this is."

"Of course I do," he indignantly answered, going out the door to a working bee.

At 10 AM, the doorbell rang, and when Mary opened the door, she was handed a box containing a dozen long stemmed red roses. At 1 PM, a foil wrapped, two pound box of her favourite chocolates arrived. Later, a boutique delivered a designer dress. Mary couldn't wait for Eric to come home.

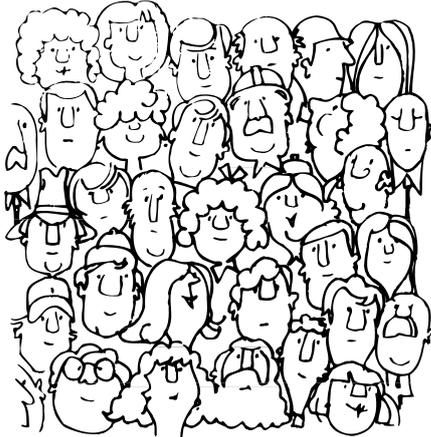
"First the flowers, then the chocolates, and then the dress!" she exclaimed. "I've never had a more wonderful 'Arbour Day' in all my life!"

**CONRATULATIONS ERIC ON
YOUR 80TH BIRTHDAY ON 27TH
SEPTEMBER**

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS



Is this you?



Join the Group!



Renew your Membership or join as a new member of Friends of Belair National Park.

The fees remain the same as they have been for several years.

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

I/We enclose my/our membership fee of \$10 single/ \$15 Family or Group.

Name(s) :
.....

Address :
.....

Telephone :Email