



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

NEWLETTER 3, SEPTEMBER 2008

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

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Pam Tamblyn 8278 6593

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WORKING BEES

Eric Cole 8278 3816

SIGNIFICANT TREES

Ron Tamblyn 8278 6593

CLELAND MEMORIAL WALK IN BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

We invite you to take part in the annual FREE Prof. Cleland Memorial Walk, guided by The Friends of Belair National Park, on Sunday 21st September, beginning at Government Farm Oval 1, at 9.45am for the morning or full day walk or 1.45pm for the afternoon only walk. BYO lunch/snacks water comfortable shoes, sunscreen and hat. Come and learn about the flora, fauna and history of the park or just come for an enjoyable walk. For further information, ring Shirley on 82781525 or Jenny on 82788986.

WORKING IN BELAIR NATIONAL PARK.

Would you like to work in the Park but you are employed or study during the week, or have children to get off to school, or find 8.30 am is too early? Some years ago we met on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10.00 am to work for 2 hours on projects, weeding, planting, or as required. If you are interested in joining a group at a time different from our current working bees, please telephone the secretary, Jill, on 8278 6736 with your idea

CALENDAR 2008

REGULAR EVENTS

General Meetings on the first Saturday of the month. 1.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park. Visitors welcome.

Barbecues – Meeting 1st November 12.30pm for a barbecue.

Please bring plate of salad or sweet slice to share and \$2.50 donation for meat.

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

Before 8.30 am in the winter. (8.00 am daylight saving time) Enquiries Eric 8278 3816

NO WORKING BEE IF THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN.

Working bees Monday morning, phone for arrangements Vaike 8277 9596

Working Bees Sunday morning, phone for arrangements Ron 8278 6593 or Betty 8278 3805.

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. Visitors welcome. Enquiries Shirley 8278 1525.

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 2008 is Parks month. Our meeting on Saturday 4th October 2008 will begin at 1.00 pm with some beautiful photographs showing “Impressions of the Park”.

Afternoon tea and the General meeting will follow.

December -Friday 19th Belair Park 117th Birthday and Friends 23rd Birthday.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to extend a warm welcome to new members joining the group this year, John & Lindsey-Jane Doley and Malcolm Woolven. We hope that you will enjoy being a part of the group and participating in the many and various activities on our calendar.

SOME HUMOUR NOT TO BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY

Since the last newsletter quite a lot has happened. One obvious feature has been the increase in fuel prices. This has nothing to do



with climate change but could have beneficial effect as the world searches for less polluting transport. It certainly is beginning to make us think about how we use our cars.



Several of us have attended various courses including emergency first aid. Here are some of the things that weren't part of the emergency first aid:

1. If you're choking on an ice cube, simply pour a cup of boiling hot water down your throat. **Presto!** The blockage will instantly remove itself.
2. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
3. For high blood pressure sufferers ~ simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to use a timer.
4. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose

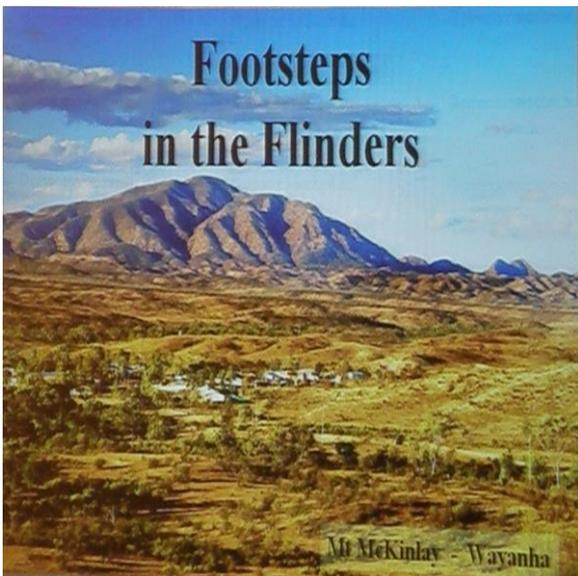
- of laxatives, then you'll be afraid to cough.
5. You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and Duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
 6. Remember - everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
 7. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

EDITORIAL AND PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We purchased a laptop computer and data projector in July. This will hopefully put an end to some of the problems we have been having at meetings. However, technology has a habit of letting you down when you least expect it, so there will probably still be occasional glitches. Guest speakers at meetings this quarter have been of the local variety. Ron Tamblyn gave us an illustrated paddle up the Murray. Our neighbouring Friends Group president, Amy Blaylock, filled us in on what is happening in Sturts Gorge. Jen Tolley showed us what Vets without Borders in India are doing.

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2008 FRIENDS FORUM REPORT



The 24th friend's Forum was organised by the Friends of the Flinders Ranges National Park. It was held at the spectacular venue of the Old Wilpena Homestead, with its collection

of restored historic buildings, magnificent gum trees and the backdrop of St Mary's peak. The business sessions and dinner were held in a large marquee, nice and cosy with plenty of gas heaters. The weather was a little on the cold side however the 250 delegates were kept very comfortable.



Forums are like Olympic Games. Each one seems to outdo the last. This is certainly the case with the last 5 we have attended. The Friends of the Flinders have certainly made it difficult for the next forum.

The keynote speakers were of great interest:

- * Dr Victor Gostin filled us in on aspects of the geology of the Flinders in his talk, "Anatomy of an Ancient Landscape".
- * Arthur Coulthard, an Adnyamathanha man and Senior Ranger of the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park was very entertaining with his talk and songs on the Adnyamathanha story.



* Bill McIntosh, from the pastoral family, owners of Gum Creek for six generations, gave the European Perspective in his talk "Farmers and Pastoralists."

* Frank Williams and Tony Bott, two of the Flinders Friends spoke on "Colourful Characters of this Brilliant Landscape".

* DEH Staff briefly spoke on the following topics:

1. Healthy Parks, Healthy People.
2. Marine Park magic.
3. Saving Threatened Species.
4. To Burn or not to Burn.
5. In Safe Hands
6. Friends in the Scheme of Things.

* The President of the Friends of Park Inc David Mitchell gave a challenging speech on our Vision for the Future, A dream of how DEH and Friend's could work together.

The food was excellent. Those country ladies certainly haven't lost their touch with the morning teas. The Forum Dinner was catered for by the Isolated Children's Support Group, who provided home made dips, soup, roast, and the signature dish of the Flinders, quandong pie with cream.

Unfortunately, as they were all interesting, we could only go on 2 field trips. We chose the 2 Gorges trip (Bunyeroo and Brachina) which was a great choice because Victor Gostin



decided to go on this one and was able to illustrate his talk of the previous night on the excursion.

The other trip was a walking excursion into Wilpena Pound to the Hills Homestead and Wangarra lookout, and the floor of the Pound. Peggy and I were last on this walk in 1966 so it proved very interesting.

The dinner was a very pleasant affair. Vince Monterola was the master of Ceremonies and kept us entertained with plenty of humour. Jay Weatherill was able to introduce himself as the new Minister for the Environment and indicated that he would do his best for the environment. He presented a series of awards to some deserving groups and Friends. (Refer to The Link (Issue 26))

There was even a floorshow. Jasmine Reschke, a 20year old from Mulga View Station entertained us with her beautiful voice and guitar, singing some songs of her own composition.



Jasmine then combined with Arthur Coulthard to sing some other well-known songs, which we all enjoyed.

It's hard to wrap up one evening and two days in a short report. There were many things we have left out. The only way to have the full picture is to be there. Next years Forum is in Adelaide at the Sunnybrae Farm and we're sure it too will be a great experience.

Mike and Peggy Cerchez

Fox Baiting Program Belair National Park 2008

Introduction

Fox Baiting was carried out in five of the reserves in the Southern Lofly District in Autumn 2008: Belair National Park (BNP), Scott Creek Conservation Park (SCCP), Mark Oliphant Conservation Park (MOCP), Cleland Conservation Park (CCP) and Onkaparinga River National Park (ORNP).

Methods

This autumn the baiting program was run for a 6-week period. Forty-three bait stations were baited in Belair National Park. Dried Kangaroo baits were initially laid at each bait station then checked weekly by Park's staff. Baits are buried under the soil. When baits were taken from a station, they were replaced with fresh bait. When a station had not had bait taken for 3 weeks, the old bait was replaced with a fresh one. All baits were retrieved at the completion of the program.

Results

- Bait takes vary between stations. Approximately 19% of Bait Stations had all of their baits taken.
 - Approximately 54% of all baits laid in Belair were taken.
 - Over time is a trend showing increased bait takes, decreasing slightly in the last week.
 - Bait takes for the autumn 2006 to autumn 2008 programs all show a trend for increasing bait takes over time, despite slow bait uptakes in the initial weeks.
- The 2008 autumn baiting program shows steady bait take over the program at about 40%.
- There was a small increase of baits taken in autumn 2008 (54.3%) than spring 2007 (50.2%), see fig.4.
 - Activity was recorded at 34 bait stations during this baiting program, compared to 35 in spring 2007.
 - Belair National Park had the second highest bait takes compared to all other parks in the 2008 fox-baiting program.

Discussion

- It is unknown at this stage if foxes have consumed or cached the baits.
- It is hoped the fox baiting program will assist native animal survival in Belair National Park, and is being coordinated with a rabbit control program, also showing success as opportunistic rabbit sightings are down since the program began. Formal rabbit and fox population surveys have not been undertaken for BNP however.
- The next fox-baiting program will be undertaken in spring 2008.
- The frequency of bait takes can be affected by many variables, prey abundance, fox population, bait shy animals, etc. The 2008 baiting program occurred during the second year of drought, and this likely affected the results. The exact reasons will not be revealed without further study.



**Friends
of
Parks
Inc**

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conservation**

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Barbara Hardy, A.O.;*

Mr. Verne M'Laren, A.M.; Hon. David Wotton

1 July 2008

Friends

This is the second in my regular series of personal notes to you the members about my aspirations and ambitions for the organisation and most importantly for you the members. Again I stress that they will be my personal views only but I would like to think that over time we will be able to develop a meaningful dialogue about ways Friends of Parks Inc can improve things for member groups. I must also add that it is not my intention that these random notes replace the Friends E-Newsletter.

If you think that you've read those words before you are absolutely right. I thought that they were worth repeating just to help you work out where they fit in the plethora of information that you receive either electronically or more

traditional methods. This raises an issue about how we as the umbrella organisation communicate with member groups. The Chain ceased publication more than a year ago and Friends of Parks has endeavoured to fill the gap with the introduction of the E-Newsletter whilst DEH has increased the flow of information to volunteers through the electronic Link. Any feedback on the effectiveness of these processes would be appreciated.

We are in the early stages of reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the relationship between DEH and Friends of Parks. This will be the second revision of the document since the incorporation of Friends of Parks and it is my ambition to turn it into something that will facilitate a positive, robust and collaborative partnership between the two organisations. The department has indicated its willingness to participate in the process with similar aspirations. It is my intention to consult widely with member groups as part of that process and in the meantime if you have any suggestions that you would like us to consider please let me know. For your guidance I have attached a copy of the current Memorandum of Understanding.

Regards

President



19 August 2008

Friends

I've just had the very good fortune to spend the past four days in the Flinders with a group of like-minded Friends attending the 2008 Forum. It was a brilliantly organised event in a little bit of heaven. Congratulations are due to Frank Williams and the Friends of the Flinders Ranges and to the organising committee under Vince Monterola's capable leadership for putting on such an enjoyable, informative and friendly event. Whilst I'm recording my personal thanks I should also mention that the entire event would not be possible without the generous support of several corporate and non-government sponsors, I'm sure there will be more official and detailed coverage and pictures to follow from a variety of sources.

Our new Minister, Jay Weatherill MP, and his young family were in attendance and it was gratifying to see such a large contingent of DEH staff mixing and networking with our member delegates. This is the way we need to interact for 365 days of the year and I sense a renewed sense of purpose. Let's

work together to ensure that my optimism is not misplaced.

On the way up to the Flinders, along with Trevor Naismith from the Department, I visited the Friends of Dutchman Stern and the Friends of Telowie Gorge where I was again knocked out by the level of commitment and expertise possessed by so many of our volunteer groups across the State. The pride in their parks was palpable and only matched by their knowledge of the area and the passion for the challenge. Long may the flame continue to burn.

On that poetic note I'll refer you to the attached address *that* I made to the Friends Forum at the weekend. It seemed to be well received by volunteers and staff alike and several delegates asked if I would distribute it more widely. (*Not published in this newsletter because of its length. However Friends of Belair national Park have copies.*)

Happy reading, fruitful
volunteering

Regards

David Mitchell
President

BRIDAL CREEPER *Asparagus asparagoides*

Mary Cole has recently attended a workshop on Rust for bridal creeper, and is most impressed with its effectiveness. It has been released in Belair National Park and is spreading rapidly, naturally and by assistance. At the September meeting we will show photos of results in an orchard, courtesy Anne McLean of the Belair office.

Some further notes:

“In the first 18 months of its release, at sites across the country, the rust managed to reduce fruit production of the bridal creeper by more than 75 per cent. To speed up its spread, the rust now needs to be introduced to other affected areas by hand, before bridal creeper will finally be bought under control.” CSIRO's Dr. Louise Morin.

And on not digging out all those tubers!

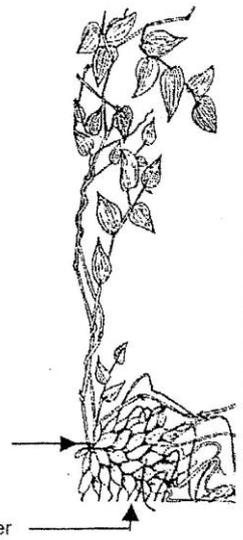
“Bridal creeper does not have bulbs – the structures referred to are water storage organs called tubers and cannot start a new plant. There is a growing point where the stems arise. This must be destroyed. Any underground growing point left in the soil will produce a new plant. There are almost always numerous seeds (from fallen berries) caught up among the tubers. New plants grow from these seeds, not from the tubers. See illustration.” Enid Robertson

Letter to the Editor, Wildlife & Habitat Support Group Newsletter.

This is a growing point where the stems arise. This must be destroyed.

These are water storage tubers not bulbs. A plant cannot grow from a tuber

Enid Robertson



Spencer Trowse working on Olives. Spencer has been responsible for the clearing of a large number of olives on Queen Jubilee Drive. Not only does he attend Tuesday and Friday working bees, but he has also contributed many extra hours of voluntary work.





An interesting specimen of wild life encountered on one of our working bees was this mouse spider, (black body and red fangs). On looking up the details on this spider, this is what was found: Bites are common and usually uneventful but potentially fatal.

Editorial and President’s comments concluded:

I’m concerned about the general membership and committee of the group. There are too few people fulfilling the necessary roles to keep this group active and viable. Please consider how you can help to keep the group strong and looking after Belair National Park.

It has also come to my attention that some of the other Friends groups are engaged in a greater variety of activities. This maybe a way of getting more people involved. Some of the other activities are restoration of heritage, wildlife and plant surveys, track maintenance, preparation of display materials.

Mike Cerchez
President and Newsletter Editor

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of the articles and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Friends of Belair National Park.

Want to join Friends of Belair National Park

Just fill out the form below and send it to: -

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:

E-mail.....