



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

PATRON: Dr DAVID PATON AM

2009 NEWSLETTER 4, DECEMBER

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@tpg.com.au

**SEASONS GREETINGS
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



*The
Friends of*

Belair National Park are celebrating the 118th birthday of Belair National Park, and the 24th birthday of the Friends of Belair at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, on Saturday 19th December 2009 at 6 pm until sunset. Please bring a large plate, or two plates of finger food to share (savouries, sandwiches, cakes, fruit, etc) BYO drinks. Tea and coffee provided. Come along to enjoy a very happy occasion and meet Friends from other Parks, and local Park Rangers and staff.

Even if you have not come to a Friends of Belair function before, come to our birthday to meet us.

*Barbecue Another social occasion is the
Southern Mount Lofty District Friends & Volunteers Thank You.*

Where: Karka Pavilion, Belair National Park. When: Mon 7th Dec, 4.30.
Bring a chair to sit on. All food and drink supplied. RSVP Olivia Leske
81309051

CALENDAR 2009 AND 2010
***NO MEETING OR WORKING BEE IF
THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN IN
THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES.***

***WORKING BEES WILL NOT TAKE
PLACE IF THE TEMPERATURE IS
PREDICTED TO BE 35°C OR ABOVE.***

REGULAR EVENTS

GENERAL MEETINGS on the first
Saturday of the month. 1.00pm at the
Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair
National Park. Visitors welcome. Come to
hear our interesting speakers at 1.00pm.

No meeting in January.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday February 6th 2010 at 1.00pm at
the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair
National Park.

Followed by the February General
Meeting.

WORKING BEES

*Daylight saving ends on the first Sunday in
April.*

Tuesdays and Fridays, meet outside the
Information Centre, Belair National Park
Before 8.00 am in the summer (daylight
saving time) Enquiries Mike 8339 6801
For working bees on other days telephone
Jill on 8278 6736.

GUIDED WALKS are from April to
December, on the 4th Tuesday afternoon,
but December has been cancelled being in
Christmas week. The next guided walk
will be 27th April 2010.
Enquiries Jenny 8278 8986.

SPECIAL EVENTS 2010

2010 Friends' Forum: Friday to Sunday
20th –23rd August Friends Forum at
Woomera.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2009

PRESIDENT Mike Cerchez 8339 6801
VICE PRESIDENT Jim Trueman 8278
9359

SECRETARY Jill Salvi 8278 6736
4 Colton Rd BLACKWOOD SA 5051

TREASURER Carol Parrott 8278 6783

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Brian
DuBois, Barry Palmer, Isabel Storer, Ron
Tamblyn.

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS

Jill Salvi 8278 6736

GUIDED WALKS

Jenny Skinner 8278 8986

LIBRARIAN

Pam Tamblyn 8278 6593

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mike Cerchez 8339 6801

WORKING BEES

Vacant; contact either Jill or Mike.

SIGNIFICANT TREES

Ron Tamblyn 8278 6593

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We are nearly at the end of another year
and I would like to thank all those who
helped the group to achieve its aims. The
committee, though few in number, kept the
group functioning efficiently. Please
consider going on the committee in 2010.

We need you.

A special thank you to Les and Faye
Loffler, and Peggy Cerchez, who helped
me with the display for the forum. We
only just missed out on being voted the
best display. Thank you to all those

Friends who work in the park either on regular working bees or on their 'adopt a blocks'.

Thank you also again Faye and Les Loffler for the new flying birds for the Blackwood Pageant.

We need to seriously consider where we're going as a group.

- ❖ Do we continue to have monthly meetings?
- ❖ Do we continue to have quarterly newsletter?
- ❖ How do we try to run the group with so few members being prepared to join the organising committee?
- ❖ How are we going to get new members?
- ❖ How do we organise working bees?

Michael Cerchez, President.

FLINDERS INVESTIGATOR GARDEN

On Tuesday 8th September, 11 of us made our way down Coromandel Valley towards Clarendon to visit Lance McCarthy's 'Flinders Investigator Garden', a patch of land once overrun with olives and blackberries, overlooking Gulf St Vincent. His vision was to plant a garden with some of the species that the botanist Robert Brown and artist Ferdinand Bauer discovered and drew on their voyage around Australia with Matthew Flinders. Since starting this epic undertaking in



2000, Lance has planted many hundreds of Australian natives, with special emphasis on the Proteaceae family. His newly planted Banksia garden near the top of the gully should be a treat in spring in a few years' time. Already he has beautiful displays of Dryandras, which seem to do particularly well here, Isopogons and Banksias, all against a



backdrop of magnificent River Red Gums and Acacias. In conjunction with Flinders University, he is hoping to establish a similar garden on campus where his beautiful collection of Ferdinand Bauer botanical drawings can also be put on display. We all found this a very interesting afternoon and well worth the visit. Jenny Skinner

LES LOFFLER'S EXHIBITION

On Friday September 4th, in conjunction with the 10th National Treenet Symposium, Les Loffler held a very successful exhibition of his exquisite wood carving in the dining room at Urrbrae House.

His unique concept of displaying, both the timber and the shape of the tree that it came from, made this a very interesting display for the many delegates at the meeting.

Treenet is an independent non-profit organization whose main aim is to enhance the body of knowledge that exists about street trees and to use this knowledge to preserve and manage this most valuable urban asset. It is based at Adelaide's Waite Arboretum and is sponsored by local councils, nurseries and other interested groups. Treenet also has an initiative to document, preserve and reinstate existing Avenues of Honour, avenues of trees



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. Native American Proverb

Report on 25th Friends of Park Forum Sunnybrae Farm 30th Oct – 1st Nov 2009

This was another very successful and interesting forum, despite the fact numbers were down a little on last year. We had a very good representation at the forum with 13 members being in attendance some or all the time.



planted to commemorate those who gave their lives in the wars. Our own Sequoia Avenue has lately been listed as an Avenue of Honour. Jenny Skinner



The venue was excellent, an oasis of shade and green with peacocks and guinea fowl in an industrial area of Adelaide. (Amazing what a sewerage farm can become.)



There was also a very interesting historical museum of items, which contain many items which were familiar to many of the Friends who viewed them. The forum and dinner were held in the cow shed.

As has been the custom Friday evening began with a barbecue tea. Brian Dubois was session chairman. Pat Harbinson Past President, Friends of Gulf St Vincent welcome all to the forum and made the point that the stormwater from the Adelaide Metropolitan Area was the cause of many of the Gulf's problems and it would make sense to harvest it considering our critical water shortage. This would help solve 2 problems.

The key note speaker was Colin Harris who gave a very interesting illustrated talk on The Adelaide Plains: an Environmental History, which set the theme for the forum, Rediscovering Adelaide, Urban Biodiversity and Heritage.

The Official Opening was conducted by the Hon David Wotton, who covered the beginnings of the Friends of Parks organisation 25 years ago, when he was Minister for the Environment. Alan Holmes, Chief Executive, DEH, then

spoke on the theme Citizens and Service. The big issues he mentioned were

- i. Sustainable living
- ii. Environmental stewardship
- iii. Climate change
- iv. How does the political system cope?
- v. Public Services can achieve very little by themselves.

A sense of place is needed for all citizens and the Friends groups are a community building activity.

The keynote speaker was Philip Roetman whose topic was The Paradox of the Possum and the Power of Citizen Science. Operation possum was a very successful survey. Some of the conclusions were that possums are urban adaptors and caused problems in urban communities. The paradox was; most people love possums even if they hate them too.

The groups without parks who were the main organisers of the forum then each gave a 3 minute summary of their group's aims and activities. List of groups follows; Butterfly Conservation SA Inc, Campground Hosts, Friends of Gulf St. Vincent, Friends of Mound Springs, Scientific Expeditions, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, The Field Naturalists Society of SA, The National Parks Heritage Committee.

Tom Gara was the next speaker of the morning and he gave an interesting talk on the topic: The Land of the Kaurna: Indigenous occupation of the Adelaide Plains prior to 1836.

Rostrevor College became a Friends Group in 2006 and run an excellent environmental program in Morialta Conservation Park. Two year 6 students gave a presentation of the good work being done by the school.

Following an excellent lunch, the excursions took people off in various directions:

- 1) Coastal Parks, Mutton Cove to Patawalonga Creek.



- 2) Historic Walk, SA Museum and Science centre
- 3) Reserves of Burnside, revegetation and remnant vegetation.
- 4) Maritime Heritage, Port Adelaide Tour and Maritime Museum.
- 5) North East Parks, Folland Park, Angove Park Scrub, Tarrowi.

On return to there was time to relax before the dinner sponsored by ElectraNet. Greg Rice, Executive Manager, development and Projects, ElectraNet spoke on their actions as environmentally responsible corporate citizens.

Jay Weatherill, Minister for Environment spoke on the importance of sustainability and seemed to emphasize that it was more important than conservation. The forum awards were then presented.

DEH Awards 2009-11-16

Outstanding Achievement Award- Individual Contribution; Alex McLeod, Friends of Moana Sands Con Park

Outstanding Achievement Award- Volunteer Group Project Awards;

- Friends of Mound Springs
- Friends of KI Western Districts
- Friends of Scott Creek C P

Friends of Parks Inc Awards

Best Biodiversity Project; Friends of Shorebirds, SE

Most Supportive Liaison Ranger Volunteer Support Ranger; James White, C & M Worker, Deep Creek, CP
Friends Group Achievement of the Year; Friends of Onkaparinga Parks.
Best Display; Camp Ground Hosts.

On the Sunday there was a breakfast for those organised enough to get there by 7.00am.

The first speaker of the morning was Bruce Norman, manager of water systems with the Salisbury Council. This was most enlightening as to what should have been going on all over Adelaide to harvest and reuse storm water. By recreating some of the natural wet lands, storm water can be purified to a sufficient quality in 10 to 15 days to be stored underground for later use for industry and parks and gardens.

The next item of the morning was comments about the volunteer stocktake. David Mitchell, President of FOP INC, gave his views under the heading of the Reality of the Present.

These were the priorities for the next 12 months as he saw them:

- An improved and honest partnership model with DEH incorporating ways of communicating and working together that optimises & leverages the knowledge and skills of all parties
- Review and re-issue of a Memorandum of Understanding that is positive, fair, relevant and quantifiable to all parties
- Commitment to a joint action-oriented process that ensures implementation of a program of continuous improvement
- Improved skills training, welfare and safety for all volunteers to enable them to optimise their contribution and self-fulfilment
- Improved grant application processes and support for member groups
- Examination of the Association's constitution to ensure that it is relevant

and appropriate to the organisation's needs

- Review of the membership criteria particularly with respect to what we currently call associate or affiliate membership
- Promotion of Friends of Parks and recruitment strategies designed to renew the organisation and sustain member groups
- Consider moving away from on-ground work to grant acquisition and project management in recognition of the sad fact that "none of us is getting any younger".

John Schutz, Executive Director, Regional Conservation Delivery, followed on promising to do what he could within the constraints of the budget cut backs.

After another sumptuous morning tea there were questions from the floor. The main one of interest to us was the one concerning post fire weed management. DEH realised that Friends groups were spending hundreds of hours trying to control the numerous weeds which germinate as a result of the burn. They promised to employ special staff to study the fire ecology and manage the post burn weed problem.

Also DEH will try to have more correctional services teams working in the parks.

'Guns in the Sand Dunes' was the intriguing title of the talk given by Russell Sheldrick, President of the Fort Glanville Historical Association.

The forum was closed by the chairman Brian DuBois and the Invitation to attend the 2010 forum at Woomera was given by Lesley Hunkin.

A very nice lunch closed the events at Sunnybrae Farm.

Then many of same excursions were available for those who wanted to go on them.

Michael Cerchez

Did you know?

In 2009 we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Youth Hostel Movement.

The first Youth Hostel was opened in Germany in Altena Castle, North Rhine/Westphalia on August 26th 1909.

It was established by a teacher, Richard Schirrmann, who saw the need for low cost accommodation for young people when he was forced to find somewhere to shelter with his students during a storm.

Today, Youth Hostels are no longer just for the young, although the names given in various countries would suggest otherwise. For example Jugendherberge, in Germany, Auberge de Jeunesse in France and Ostello della Gioventù in Italy. These days most hostels can accommodate travellers of all ages, with family rooms, double rooms, usually with private bathrooms, as well as



the usual dormitory style rooms. Breakfast is included, and some offer evening meals at a small additional cost.

The concept of the Youth Hostel has spread worldwide, and there are now 90 associations and more than 4000 hostels in over 80 different countries, in towns, cities and the countryside, internationally.

On our previous trip to Europe in 2004 we stayed in a variety of hostels, from the Heidelberg University to a once grandiose old hotel in Cluj Napoca in Romania, a basic holiday cabin in Szolnok, Hungary, to a modern hostel in Siena.

Apart from Bavaria, which has an age limit, Youth Hostels are generally open to travellers of all ages, providing they are members of the Youth Hostels Association, which is worldwide. Membership is relatively inexpensive, and it is best to organise this before leaving Australia.

Earlier this year we ventured to Europe once more, and we stayed in hostels whenever we could. We found a hostel in most places we wanted to visit. At the first hostel we visited in each country, we were given a booklet, and map of all hostels, and this made it easy to choose the accommodation for the next night. The friendly receptionists, most of whom spoke fluent English, were always happy to ring and book a room ahead for us. Then, it was usually pretty easy to reach the next destination, and our room would be waiting. I have said usually, and that's where the Tourist Information Office comes in to the equation. But that is another story.



By travelling this way, we met many lovely people, which does not always happen if you stay only in hotels, and overall we had only one room which was a bit average. On the whole, it was a wonderful experience, offering inexpensive, clean accommodation together with friendly, helpful people to help us along the way. One important caution, though, is that there are usually

stairs involved, which is common in Europe. We only stayed in two hostels which had elevators, and on the second occasion, our room was on the ground floor!

Peggy Cerchez

New Wine for Seniors

California vintners in the Napa Valley area, which primarily produce Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio wines, have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic.

It is expected to reduce the number of trips older people have to make to the bathroom during the night.

The new wine will be marketed as

PINO MORE

I HEARD IT ON THE GRAPEVINE!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Friends of Belair National Park

will be held on Saturday February 6th 2010 at 1.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

1. Receive the Annual Report for 2009
2. Receive the audited Financial Statement for 2009
3. Appoint an Auditor for 2010
4. Election of Officers and Committee for 2010
5. Set the subscription rates for 2010. The committee proposes that these rates be as for 2009.

The AGM will be followed by afternoon tea and a general monthly meeting.

Please Note: If it is a fire ban in the Mount Lofty Ranges the Annual General Meeting will be deferred to the until the next month's meeting.

VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED FOR 2009.

If you have an “adopt-a-block” or work apart from the Tuesday and Friday morning working bees, we need to know how many hours you have worked in Belair National Park in 2009. These volunteer hours are all added together to give a grand total for Friends of Belair, and it is usually Grand. The total for 2008 was 4380 hours.

This is added to all other South Australian friends’ working hours and demonstrates to the government how much South Australians care for their Parks, and hopefully is an influence on government policy. Certainly the hours worked in Belair do influence how much money we manage to get from grants to be spent in the Park.

So add up your hours for this year and send the total in to Brian DuBois on E-mail Address bandoobs@internode.on.net Or send to Friends of Belair National Park, PO Box 2, Belair 5052, or put in an envelope addressed to Friends of Belair and leave at Belair Office.

TRAINING ON BRUSHCUTTER OR WHIPPER SNIPPER.

Friends of Belair are proposing to buy a whipper snipper for “mowing” rough grass areas as a weed control method. If anyone would like to do the brushcutter course, required for whipper snipping in the Park, please advise the secretary, on jrsalvi@bigpond.com and we will put you name on the list. Training will be Free to you, being paid by Friends of Parks Inc. or by the Dept. for Environment.

You will, however, be expected to help in the work.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE
PLEASE PAY BY Jan1st 2010.**

\$10 a single membership

\$ 20 a family

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK. ABN 38 093 387 757

**PO Box 2 Belair SA 5052 Email: friendsofbelairpark@msn.com.
Website: www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark**

This newsletter is available by Email. If you prefer not to receive a printed copy please let a committee member know.

National Police Certificates are replacing the Police Checks which were necessary for those working with vulnerable groups such as the children, the elderly and people with disabilities. If you need one of these please contact Michael Cerchez who will go through the procedure with you, as it is too lengthy to publish here.

DISCLAIMER

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

