



Friends  
of  
*Belair National Park*  
Volunteers working for Conservation  
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

**PATRON DAVID PATON**

**PRESENTATION OF 25 YEARS CERTIFICATES**

**BY DAVID PATON**



**TO CHRISTINE STANLEY**



**TO BETH PITMAN**



**TO LYNDA KNIGHT**



**TO DENE AND DIANNE CORDES**

## **OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2011**

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**

Paul Reece 8373 0548

## **LIBRARIAN**

Pam Tamblyn 8278 6593

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Mike Cerchez 8339 6801

## **WORKING BEES**

Mike Cerchez 8339 6801

## **WORKING BEE COORDINATOR**

Mary Cole 8278 3816

To come Tuesdays or Fridays,

Mary Cole 8278 3816

Sunday & Wed, Betty 8278 3805

Monday Vaike 8277 9596

## **SIGNIFICANT TREES**

Ron Tamblyn 8278 6593

## **NOTE CLASH OF DATES**

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Parks Forum

is on the same weekend as

Friends of Belair September meeting.

Decision is yet to be made on how to handle this.

Change the date, or get replacements for Chairperson and Minute taker.

Yet to be discussed and decided.

## **CALENDAR 2011**

### **NO MEETING GUIDED WALK OR WORKING BEE IF THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN IN MT. LOFTY.**

**General Meetings** on the first Saturday of the month, (not in January) at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair N.Park Visitors welcome.

1.00 pm Speaker or event then the meeting.

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Photo display.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12.30pm BBQ.

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Earth Station.

**Working Bees** on Tuesdays and Fridays, meet outside the Office, Belair National Park

Before 8.00 am daylight saving time. (8.30 am in the winter) Enquiries Mike 8339 6801

REMEMBER THAT START TIMES CHANGE WITH DAYLIGHT SAVING.

For Sunday or Wednesday working bee telephone Betty on 8278 3805.

For Monday, telephone Vaike on 8277 9596.

**Free Guided Walks** April to November, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoon.

Ask at the Office, Belair National Park at 1.45 pm, for meeting place and free entry.

All welcome.

The next Tuesday walk will be on 26<sup>th</sup>

April 2011. A public holiday after Anzac Day. Paul on 8373 0548 or Shirley on 8278 1525

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Friends of Parks Inc. AGM** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Lirra Lirra Cafe, McLeod House, Waite Campus, Urrbrae

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Parks Forum.**

**At Kimba.** Fri 2 – Mon 5 September 2011,

hosted by Friends of Kimba District Parks..

**Birthdays. Belair National Park 120<sup>th</sup> and Friends of Belair National Park 26<sup>th</sup>** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011

## President's Comments for 2010

2010 was the year we celebrated our 25 years of existence as a Friends Group and the end of a decade. 2011 is the beginning of the next decade and hopefully the next 25 years of the Friends of Belair National Park. It's a time to look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. How can we continue as an effective group? What do our priorities need to be? How can we effectively work with DENR to achieve the best outcomes for the Park?

Each year seems to throw up new challenges. Last year it was the release of the Trails plan for Belair National Park and the Bike trails controversy. This seems to have faded into the background with DEH putting its efforts into reorganising itself as DENR. Now the new challenge is the release of the Draft policy "People and Parks". It seems a pity that we have spend so much time on these policies which seem to be so flawed when it comes to making their goals a reality. They state that conserving biodiversity is a key consideration and yet don't seem to come to grips with how this can be achieved. The aims of People and Parks are to increase visitor numbers to the Parks and yet say nothing about the fact that there are funding and staff cuts, and infra structure that needs to be upgraded.

2010 was a successful year for our group. Some of the highlights were:

- Being awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award – Volunteer Group Project Award at the forum
- Given a grant by the Mitcham Council which enabled the purchase of a slasher.
- Our involvement with various schools, especially Hawthornedene and Belair Primary Schools

- Seeing the new front entrance come into existence after all our consultative effort.
- Awarding 25 year certificates to these founding members, Dene and Dianne Cordes, Bev Pitman, Linda Knight, Christine Stanley, Vern Whittenbury
- Having worked 3970 volunteer hours, of which 2950 were directly worked on improving vegetation in the Park.

I would thank the following people for their efforts during 2010. Jill Salvi, our hard working secretary who has kept the group going, Carol Parrott who has managed our finances, as treasurer along with various other tasks, Isobel Storer who as a committee member managed a lot of the publicity and grant applications, other committee members, Jim Truman, Barry Palmer, Delwyn Clark, Ron Tamblyn and Brian Dubois all helped in various ways to keep the group functioning, Mary Cole with Shirley Alford's assistance kept the women's working bee hard at work, Noelene Dubois kept the Volunteer Centre clean after its frequent use, Carol Parrott and Shirley Callaghan organised the afternoon tea at meetings, and have now offered to take over the cleaning of the Volunteer Centre, Jenny Skinner again organised some marvellous walks, Pam Tamblyn has been looking after our ever growing library. I also thank, on your behalf, Jen Pitman, our dedicated Liaison Ranger, who has helped us tremendously in the past year.

I would like to thank the newsletter editor and men's working bee coordinator, but can't because I'm still filling in with these 2 tasks.

2010 was year of good rainfall. It's pleasing to see of native vegetation recovering and thriving. The downside, of course, is the weeds are also thriving. It's very hard for the group to do much other than maintain previously weeded areas. New areas will just have to wait hopefully for some action from initiatives put into place by DENR. It is pleasing that the department is organising the follow up work in the fuel reduction burn areas. We have in the past spent many hours on this, and will be able to devote our time to other areas.

### **Dam Ladies End of year report for 2010**

We had a very busy year, working 781 hours. Most of our work has been follow up in VMU 17, 20, 12, 5 and 15. We have been attacking all the usual weeds. Over the past few years we have worked on the Watsonia along Workanda Creek in VMU17 and VMU 12. A few years ago this creek was choked with this invasive weed. This year the number of plants had greatly reduced from the previous year when we first used the tongs of death. We feel we are getting on top of the problem. Using the tongs of death again this year we managed to do most of the work before they had flowered. We have covered VMU 17 and 12 quite extensively. In the spring we had managed to remove a large number of Monodenia flowers before they set seed, we then used the tongs of

death on the leaves. Much quicker than digging each root out.

Young Boneseed and Broom was removed from VMU 17 over the year.

The revegetation area below the Railway Dam is looking good, with *Acaena echinate* and *Acaena novae zelandiae*, and native geranium, taking over in places. The *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman, has been a picture. The *Dianella*, Kangaroo apple and a number of other natives which we planted, particularly native grasses are well established after the winter rains. The Kangaroo apple propagated and planted some years ago has produced seedlings. We removed most of the Tangier Pea before they seeded.

*Phalaris* was a big problem, we removed as many seed heads as we could, then cut them down to the ground, unfortunately we were rather late and many of them had flowered, we just can't be everywhere. The good news in the dam area – Arum lily, blackberry, artichoke thistle, bristly ox tongue, Yorkshire fog and verbena, all once prolific, are now ALMOST nonexistent.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Mitcham Council, which we used to purchase a slasher. It was put to good use slashing the exotic grass, onion weed and soursob. We have continued to attack the scabious on either side of the road adjacent to Walnut Paddock.

We feel we have achieved a great deal this year.

Shirley and I would like to thank all the ladies who have given us such great support throughout the year.

***Mary Cole***



Using the new Kangaroo Bags

## SITUATIONS VACANT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### Volunteers are desperately needed

for the following:

Please volunteer yourself if you can help, or persuade another Friend of Belair to help out. These are the positions needed for regular, periodic tasks, but could be “job-share” so you can help without being tied down.

1. Assistant web-master – details  
Brian DuBois, E-mail  
bandoobs@internode.on.net
2. Working bee coordinator – details  
Mike Cerchez, E-mail  
cerchez@tpg.com.au
3. Newsletter editor - details Mike  
Cerchez, E-mail cerchez@tpg.com.au
4. Minute secretary – details Jill Salvi,  
E-mail jrsalvi@bigpond.com

### For Sale

1 x small men’s windcheater @ \$40

1x size 12 women’s windcheater @ \$40

1x size 14 women’s t shirt @ \$30

Plus small sized light blue t shirt &  
windcheater (old style) 2<sup>nd</sup> hand  
available for “donation”

### Welcome new members

Heather Holden and Chris Stagg

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

**Deadlines are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the  
month preceding its issue.**

**Contributions can be emailed to Michael  
Cerchez at cerchez@tpg.com.**

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

FOR USE OF KANGAROO BAGS AS RAIN  
SHELTERS:

1. EMPTY WEEDS OUT FIRST
2. CUT EYE HOLES SO YOU CAN SEE  
WHERE YOU’RE GOING



**FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK**  
**Statement of income and expenditure year ended 31-12-2010**

Income	\$	Expenditure	\$
Opening balance	4337.27(term deposit) 1122.92(term deposit)	Postage & telephone	0099.00
	2711.14(Cheque acct)	Tools & fuel	1992.92
Membership fees	0587.50	VC catering	0187.78
Donations	0864.40	Membership fees	0064.00
Bank Interest	0257.97	Herbicide	0020.51
T-shirts/Jumpers	0210.00	Vehicle Registration	0065.00
Grant/Mitcham Council	1100.00	Stationery/Ink	0526.06
Award/DENR	1250.00	Sundries	0031.60
		First Aid Supplies	0030.43
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>12441.20</b>	Photos	0013.95
		External Hard Drive	0074.00
		Flowers re T Tamblyn	0040.00
		Reference Book	0089.95
		Fop Inc AGM	0040.00
		Wooden Coasters	0040.00
		Coffee Mugs	0073.68
		T-shirts/Jumpers	0264.00
		<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3652.98</b>
		<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>8788.22</b>
	<b>12441.20</b>		<b>12441.20</b>

**GRANTS AND SPECIAL FUNDS**

“Restoration of Minno Creek in the Dianella Precinct” (comprised of \$507.48 from original restoration fund + \$2000 Channel 10/Telstra Award + \$50 donation D Hansman	2557.48		
* Volunteer Centre	1193.66		
DNER Award	1250.00		
	<b>5001.14</b>		

\* NB on term deposit.

<b>CHEQUE ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION</b>	
Opening balance	\$2711.14
Add receipts	<u>\$4269.87</u>
	\$6981.01
Less interest on term deposits	<u>\$0248.57</u>
	\$6732.44
Less payments	<u>\$3652.98</u>
	\$3079.46
	<b><u>\$3079.46</u></b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	
<b>Cheque Account</b>	<b>\$3079.46</b>
<b>Term deposits</b>	
078.4036197160	\$4515.10
078.4036450160	<u>\$1193.66</u>
	<b><u>\$8788.22</u></b>

***Congratulations to Kerry Boone who won an award from Forestry SA for her work in the environment.***

***Kerry has gifted this award of \$300 to the Friends of Belair National Park for assistance in their work. The ladies are very pleased with the purchase of collapsible bins for safely removing weeds, especially their seeds, and we have on order small shrubs, herbs and grasses to be planted this autumn in our revegetation project below the railway dam.***

***Our grateful thanks to Kerry for her generosity to the Friends of Belair.***

**Holders of orange cards are asked to display their permits, on the left hand side of the dash, while their vehicles are in the park.**

**OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATIONS ON DECEMBER  
19<sup>TH</sup> 2010**



**David Mitchell and Ron  
Tamblyn in serious  
discussion amongst the silver  
finery**

*A well decorated  
cake for an  
important  
celebration*



**David Mitchell, President of FOP  
INC congratulates the Friends of  
Belair National Park on reaching  
25 years as a group**



**Kat Mroczek, Acting District Liaison  
Ranger, cutting the cake as a part of  
the celebrations**





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## Friends of Parks Inc

Volunteers working for conservation

**President: David Mitchell, BA (Hons) MBA**  
21 Orange Avenue, Golden Grove 5125  
E-mail: [dm\\_mitchell@bigpond.com](mailto:dm_mitchell@bigpond.com) Telephone: (08)82511088

[www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks](http://www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks)

ABN 32 457 858 155

*Patrons: Mr. C. Warren Bonython, A.O.; Dr. Barbara Hardy, A.O.; Mrs. Jean M'Laren;  
Hon. David Wotton*

7 February 2011

Dear Friends of Parks

### **Friends of Parks Inc. AGM 2011: Board nominations**

I'm getting in early in the hope that you'll give the matter some serious consideration. The AGM will be held in the Lirra Lirra Café at the Waite Institute on the morning of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Full details will be circulated in a few weeks' time via the Volunteer Support Unit. This letter is to ask you all to give serious consider to nominating for a position on the Board.

I believe that this is a crucial time for Friends of Parks and that the future of the entire organisation is at something of a crossroads. The Department is in the midst of a major restructure, the value of volunteers has been acknowledged and there are increasing signs that we are being recognised as serious partners in providing good stewardship to parks, reserves and heritage assets. In fact without us the Department would flounder.

This presents huge challenges and opportunities to us all and to the Board in particular. Increasingly we are being consulted on a wide range of policy and strategic issues, finalising a new Memorandum of Understanding, and assisting with the roll-out of a series of revised operational procedures. Keeping on top of all that is happening requires a range of knowledge, skills and general interest that quite frankly we are finding it difficult to provide.

We continue to fulfil our governance requirements quite capably but need to add to our general skill and knowledge base. The Board is increasingly being used as the communication link between the Department and member groups on policy and strategic issues which demand greater intellectual horsepower and different approaches in order to engage member groups more meaningfully.

Please circulate this letter around to members in your groups and anyone at all interested can contact me (see letterhead above) or any of the other Board members (Pam Smith can provide details). Currently we meet on the first Thursday evening of every second month (i.e. June, August, October, December etc) at the DENR Keswick office, although this could be changed and more work could be done out of session and electronically. This is a serious plea for help at a time when we are being asked to respond to changing circumstances which offer some serious challenges to our member groups, individual volunteers and the environment. I ask you to give serious consideration to this request.

Kind regards  
President



### **Koalas Are Picky Leaf-Eaters**

*By Staff Writers*

*Washington DC (SPX) Nov 29, 2010*

Koalas may be the pickiest marsupials around: They evolved to feed almost exclusively on the leaves of Eucalyptus trees, and they are highly selective when it comes to which species and even which individual trees they visit. When the furry leaf-eater settles on a particular tree, it relies on a number of factors, including taste, to make its selection. In a study published in the November issue of *Ecology*, a journal of the [Ecological Society of America \(ESA\)](#), researchers used koala feeding preferences to design a new method that could help ecologists and conservationists map habitats. Ben Moore and colleagues from the Australian National University and the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Scotland collected and analysed leaves from all the trees available to koalas in a Eucalyptus woodland using a near-infrared spectroscopic model. To define "palatability" in koala terms, the researchers tested leaves on captive koalas

and recorded how much they ate: They found that the koalas ate less foliage when it contained lots of lipid-soluble phenolic chemicals known as formylated phloroglucinol compounds (FPCs). The researchers then tracked [koala](#) tree visits in Eucalyptus woodland to show that tree preferences of wild koalas could be predicted using the taste preferences of the captive koalas. The researchers also determined the chemical composition of the trees' leaves and other factors such as tree size and neighbourhood quality, or how attractive each tree's neighbours were to koalas. Specifically, koalas spend more time in large trees; however, the individual trees they prefer depend on the taste of the leaves and the "neighbourhood" in which the tree is growing. Although tree size and taste are most important to the koalas, the researchers found that trees were visited more often if they were surrounded by smaller, less palatable trees or by larger, more palatable trees. Moore and colleagues explained that trees surrounded by smaller, unpalatable trees were probably more attractive by comparison. At the other extreme, trees surrounded by other large, palatable trees were visited more frequently because koalas were attracted to these high-quality areas. "This method uses a new technique to combine our understanding of animal behaviour with the [chemical](#), spatial and physical aspects of the environment to make a map of koala habitat, as koalas see it," said Moore. "Our approach can aid ecologists in tracking and examining the presence or absence of animal populations in different areas-and it can measure plants' susceptibility to herbivory-by determining the quality and value of a habitat from the herbivore's point of view."