



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

PATRON DAVID PATON

NEWSLETTER 3, SEPT 2011

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.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

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www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2011

PRESIDENT Mike Cerchez 8339 6801
VICE PRESIDENT Jim Trueman 8278 9359
SECRETARY Jill Salvi 8278 6736
TREASURER Carol Parrott 8278 6783
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Brian DuBois, Barry Palmer, Mary Cole, Isabel Storer, Ron Tamblyn.

GUIDED WALKS Jill Salvi 82786736
LIBRARIAN Pam Tamblyn 8278 6593
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Mike Cerchez 8339 6801
SIGNIFICANT TREES Ron Tamblyn 8278 6593
VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS Jill Salvi 8278 6736
WORKING BEE COORDINATOR Mary Cole 8278 3816

CALENDAR 2011

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

General Meetings usually 1.00 pm First Saturday at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair NP, usually with a speaker or BBQ

Note change of date for September meeting, to Saturday 10th September, Speaker Ron Tamblyn on Belair Park History

Saturday October 1st at 1pm, Speaker on Repat Hospital Museum

Saturday November 5th 12.30 pm BBQ Bring salad or sweets, donation for meat.

Saturday December 3rd at 1pm, speaker on Life in soils.

No meeting in January

Saturday February 4th 2012 AGM. at 1pm.

Working Bees on Tuesdays and Fridays, meet outside the Office, Belair National Park before 8.30 am in the winter (8.00am daylight saving, from 2nd October 2011)

Enquiries Mary 8278 3816
REMEMBER THAT START TIMES
CHANGE WITH DAYLIGHT SAVING.
For Sunday or Wednesday working bee
telephone Betty on 8278 3805.
For Monday, telephone Vaika on 8277
9596.

Free Guided Walks April to November,
on the 4th Tuesday afternoon. Walk off at
2.00 pm.

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

Phone Jill on 82786736

Tuesday September 27th

Tuesday October 25th

Tuesday November 22nd

SPECIAL EVENTS

27th Annual Friends of Parks Forum.

At Kimba. Fri 2nd - Sun 4th September
2011, hosted by Friends of Kimba District
Parks. Phone secretary for details

**Birthdays. Belair National Park 120th
and Friends of Belair National Park 26th**
Monday 19th December 2011 at the
Volunteer Centre.

THREATENED PLANT ACTION GROUP

2011 Leafy Greenhood working bees
continuing in Belair National Park.

Saturdays 9/10/11, time usually 9.30 am.

Please bring secateurs and swabbers (if
you have them) gloves, hat and sturdy
shoes.

Details of meeting place in BNP yet to be
advised, will be emailed out to Belair
Friends, or contact Tim Jury, Program
Coordinator

Threatened Plant Action Group

Nature Conservation Society of SA

email tpag@ncssa.asn.au or on 0488 686
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**The annual FREE Professor Cleland
Memorial Walk in Belair National Park,**
guided by the Friends of the park, will be
on Sunday 9th October, 2011. Please meet
at the Volunteer Centre at the start of Long
Gully, at 9.45am. The walk will be
approximately 2 – 2.5 hours in duration. A
reasonable level of fitness is required.
Bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks,
comfortable shoes, hat and sunscreen.
Everyone welcome. Enquiries to Jenny on
82788986. Ask Ticket Office for FREE
admittance.

EARTH STATION

**BELAIR NATIONAL PARK 21-23
OCTOBER 2011.**

IN TUNE WITH THE PLANET.

Check out this event on the website
www.earthstationfestival.com.au

Run by Womadelaide, tickets are available
on line.

Friends of Belair National Park are hosting
an information stall, leading a working bee
on the Saturday morning and guiding a
walk on Sunday afternoon.

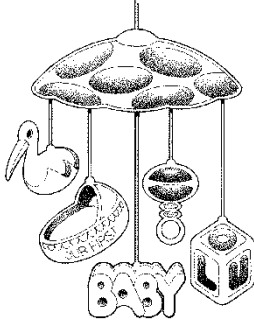
If you would like to help with these, please
telephone Jill on 8278 6736, or email
jrsalvi@bigpond.com.



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Our Liaison Ranger, Jen Pitman is at present on Maternity leave. She has put this to good use by producing a son Felix on August 10th.

Congratulations Jen and Will.



John Gitsham is filling in for Jen and we welcome him to Belair National Park as our Liaison Ranger.

Mary Cole has joined the committee, which is very pleasing. We're always looking for new committee members, so that we can keep the group functioning efficiently.

On behalf of the Group, I would like to thank the ladies who have been involved in giving the Volunteer Centre a facelift. The paint job looks great and the new curtains will make all the difference. Thank you Mary Cole, Jenny Pedlar, Shirley Alford, Jill Salvi, Faye Loffler and anyone else who may have been involved.

Unfortunately, some of our members have been experiencing some medical problems. We're certainly thinking of you and are wishing you well. Les Loffler, after a few setbacks is making good progress with his hip replacement. Dene Cordes is recovering well after his bi-pass operation. Doug Riley is home after his operations.

We are also especially thinking of Isabel and Robin Storer, and Dianne Cordes.

Michael Cerchez



It Makes a Difference

As the old man walked
the beach at dawn
he noticed a young man
ahead of him picking up
starfish and flinging them
into the sea.
Catching up with the youth
he asked him
why he was doing this.
The answer was that
the stranded starfish
would die if left until the morning sun.
But the beach goes on
for miles and there
are millions of starfish
countered the other.
How can your effort make any difference?
the young man looked
at the starfish in his hand
and threw it to the safety
of the waves.
It makes a difference to this one.

Anonymous contribution

Venomous Animals Seminar for DENR Volunteers

Morialta Resource Centre – 24. 06. 2011
Presenters: Geoff Coombe - Living with
wildlife.

Chris Cotton- Intensive Care Paramedic
and a snake expert from Cleland Wild
Life Centre

3 types of venom

Coagulopathic - bleeding disorders
Myotoxic - muscle damaging
Neurotoxic - paralysing

Australian venomous snakes -

Brown snakes – coagulopathic
Black snakes - myotoxic
Death adder - neurotoxic
Taipan - all 3 types of venom
Tiger - all 3 types of venom

Mt. Lofty Ranges - Eastern Brown, Red
Bellied Black, Tiger, Pygmy Copperhead.

Approx. 1,000 bites per year in Australia. 300 treated with anti venom.

Average deaths 2 – 4 per year in Australia
Most due to brown snakes. 70% of brown
snake bites not venomated. It is believed a
snake has the ability to choose to
venomate, or choose the amount of venom,
depending on how big the danger it
perceives.

Snakes bodies have lower temperatures in
winter. Males appear some weeks before
females in spring. Watch out on cool days
in spring.

Three “P”s in snake country.

PLAN TRIPS (communication);
PREPARE (carry First Aid equipment)
PRACTICE (rehearse for emergency)

COMMUNICATION – mobile phone
emergency number is 112 – which
connects to all networks when dialled.

FIRST AID – DO NOT clean, cut or suck
the bite. (Medics need to identify the
venom)

DO NOT apply a tourniquet

DO APPLY AN ELASTICISED/CREPE
PIB. (Pressure immobilising bandage)

Most important the casualty keeps still and
does not move.

Bite to face or trunk – apply pad on bite.

Bite to limb – start bandaging firmly at
bottom of limb all the way up the limb. Do
not elevate the limb. Speed is important.
Splint the limb.

Watch for loss of consciousness – loss of
airway. Be alert for respiratory or cardiac
arrest.

Medics will need to know time and
circumstance of bit, any previous
venomous incidents, history of allergy,
asthma, or significant medical conditions.

The source of some of the information at
the Seminar was: Australian Venom
Research Unit, University of Melbourne.
Their website – lots of information, even a
video of a leg being bandaged!)

Report by Shirley Alford & Mary Cole



**Watch out, I'm coming out in
spring!**

Fire Matters

The Post-fire Weed Menace

By Kirstin Long, Fire Ecologist

Fires are usually far from our minds in winter (unless we're curled up next to one!), but the need to control weeds in burn sites doesn't stop. Over the winter months our Fire Ecology team (a part of the Region's Fire Management Unit) will be busy mapping weed infestations prior to next season's burns. We use this information to write post-fire weed management plans so that our Weed Management Officers know what the priorities are and can 'hit the ground running' when they commence weed control work in Spring.

Over the last season we have been very fortunate to have two very capable Weed Management Officers in Craig Lowe and Tim Fuhlbohm undertaking post-fire weed control. These guys have greatly improved our capacity to tackle the post-fire weed menace. The Region's Fire Management Unit has also adopted a new team-building exercise... 'Weed Busting Days'! These days give us the opportunity to get out to different burn sites, get our hands dirty, and make as big a dent as possible in the weeds at that site. This not only gives the team a great sense of achievement but also ensures we also have a good appreciation of post-fire weed control issues.

Staff within the Fire Management Unit are really keen to work more closely with Friends of Parks groups when planning and undertaking post-fire weed control. We believe that we can better use post-fire opportunities to tackle weed issues that may be more difficult to tackle at other times. If your group is interested in finding out:

What post-fire weed control is occurring in a recent burn site in your park, or How your group might be able to work in collaboration with our Weed Management Officer so we can jointly achieve more, then please speak to your Liaison Ranger who will have copies of post-fire weed management plans and can

put you in touch with the relevant Fire Ecology team member.

From Southern Mount Lofty Newsletter.

When is a weed not a weed? When it's tree violet!

The Tree Violet is a small shrub, which grows up to 2 metres tall, with small yellow flowers. (Family Violaceae Hymenanthera denate now called Melicythus denate). Unfortunately, the Tree Violet grows amongst Olives and can easily be mistaken for Olives.

The differences are that Tree Violets have long spines and the leaves are elongated and paired



whereas the Olive trees leaves are more rounded and alternate.



Memorial Planting in Belair National Park.

On 10th July 2011, about 30 Friends of Belair with some Rangers joined the daughter of Toni Nicholson and the family of Eric Cole, to plant trees as memorials to them.

Tim Fuhlbohm gave a talk about Toni and about Eric, and their love for and dedication to the park. He described the



reasons for choosing the planting site, overlooking two of Toni's favourite areas, the Adventure Playground and Old Government House where the public congregated, but a site easily visited within the bushland areas.



Toni's daughter and friends planting in Memory of Toni

From this corner of Queen's Jubilee Drive, the views extended to the large areas of good bush restored under Eric's directions as Working Bee Coordinator.



The Cole Family planting in memory of Eric

A site of red gum and sheoaks in early days, he hoped it could be returned to what it had been. About 50 trees (4 Acacia acinacea, the round-leaved wattle, and 45 Sheoak) from seeds originally collected by Tim within the Park were planted on either side of the roadway. Areas planted North West VMU 20, West VMU19, and North West VMU 26.

Jill Salvi and Mary Cole

Photographs in this newsletter were supplied by Barry Palmer, Mary Cole, Betty Wise, Michael and Peggy Cercez

BOTTOM BANG AT BATTAMBANG

We were informed by our Cambodian guide that tomorrow we could ride the Bamboo Train. He said it would be a rough, bottom banging ride because the rails were uneven and the gaps too wide. What was a Bamboo Train, we wondered? Was it running on bamboo rails or was it like a Queensland cane train, with a small engine and bamboo carriages?

The next afternoon we toured the countryside near Battambang by Tuk Tuk, the 3 wheeler Chinese motor bike vehicle popular in Cambodia. The monsoonal downpours eased as we arrived at a collection of buildings on a railway line. The bamboo train ride was going ahead.



It was a normal steel railway, maybe a little bent and twisted, that disappeared into the distance. Where was the train? All we could see were some bamboo platforms on wheels, with a 4 stroke motor on the back. That was the bamboo train, we were told. We could travel for 3, 5 or up to 20 kms. We chose 3 kms. Of the group of 11,



8 brave fool hardy souls decided to ride the train.

We sat on the hard bamboo platform, the engine started and the platform hurtled forward, bucking up and down, the wheels banging on the gaps between the rails. Yes, there was the bottom bang! The rails luckily followed a straight, raised route through the paddy fields. Cows, dogs and people jumped off the line, just in time, as we flew towards them. We stopped on a bridge 3 kms along the track to admire the view and the monsoon storm approaching ominously.

How were we going to get back? The train did not have a reverse. Simple! Take the motor off. Lift the platform up, swap the axles around.



Turn the platform through 180 degrees, replace the motor and reattach the belt. Climb back on board and take off in the opposite direction to try and beat the storm, actually towards the storm. Suddenly, 2 kilometres down the track, another bamboo train was hurtling towards us on the single track. What now? Fortunately we were just at a village, which seemed to be the other train's destination. The oncoming train was quickly dismantled and lifted off the rails. The axles rolled down the embankment and we were able to proceed and reach our Tuk Tuks just as the storm hit.

Michael and Peggy Cercez

A PAGE OF PICTURES



Ron's caught a big olive



Elizabeth popping broom

Jim's been released since!



Weeding on the railway land ↑



Jenny leading the Senior's Walk



**A blast from the past. Guess who?
Now a lot more conservation minded.**