



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

PATRON DAVID PATON

NEWSLETTER 4 DEC 2011

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK WISH EVERYONE A



AND A



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START CELEBRATING WITH US???

We are hosting a party.

The Friends of Belair National Park are hosting the celebration of the 120th birthday of Belair National Park, and the 26th birthday of the Friends of Belair at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully in Belair National Park on Monday 19th December 2011 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 make welcome other volunteers and Friends from other Parks, and Park Rangers and Staff. Even if you have not come to a Friends of Belair function before, come to our birthday to meet us.

CALENDAR 2011

Monday 19th December 2011 6.00pm

Volunteer Centre, Long Gully BNP

Birthdays. Belair National Park 120th and Friends of Belair National Park 26th

CALENDAR 2012

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 National Park.

Usually with a speaker at 1.00pm.

Visitors welcome

February 4 th	1.00 pm	AGM
March 3 rd	1.00 pm	Speaker, then meeting.
April 7 th	12.30pm	BBQ then meeting.
May 5 th	1.00 pm	"Butterfly Conservation"
June 2 nd	1.00 pm	TBA
July 7 th	1.00 pm	TBA
August 4 th	1.00 pm	TBA
September 1 st	1.00 pm	TBA
September 29 th	1.00 pm	October General Meeting changed because of Friends Forum.
November 3 rd	12.30pm	BBQ then meeting
December 1 st	1.00 pm	TBA

FORUM

28th Annual Friends of Parks Forum.

At Naracoorte Caves, 5th – 7th October.

Hosted by Friends of Naracoorte Caves..

Birthdays. Belair National Park 121st and Friends of Belair National Park 27th
Wednesday 19th December 2012.

Free Guided Walks

April to November on the 4th 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 24th April 2012. Shirley on 8278 1525

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 Mary 8278 3816. Or Mike 83396801
REMEMBER THAT START TIMES CHANGE WITH DAYLIGHT SAVING.
Rain and high temperatures will lead to cancellation of working bees. Ring coordinators if unsure.
For Sunday or Wednesday working bee telephone Betty on 8278 3805.
For Monday, telephone Vaike on 8277 9596.

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
LIBRARIAN	Pam Tamblyn	8278 6593
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Mike Cerchez	8339 6801
WORKING BEES	Mary Cole	8278 3816
Sunday & Wed,	Betty Wise	8278 3805
Monday	Vaike Aldridge	8277 9596
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8278 6593
WEBSITE	Brian DuBois	8270 4215

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Friends of Belair National Park will be held on Saturday February 4th 2012 at 1.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

1. Minutes of 2011
2. Receive the Annual Report (s) for 2011
3. Receive the audited Financial Statement for 2011.
4. Appoint an Auditor for 2012
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2012
President, Vice President, Secretary,
Treasurer and committee members.
6. Set the subscription rates for 2012.
The committee recommends the rate be as for 2011. \$10 single, \$15 joint.
7. Changes to the Constitution.
CHANGE 1.
"4.2.2 Joint Membership (two nominated members residing at the same address)."
Change to:"4.2.2 Family Membership"
CHANGE 2.
"4.4 Special Membership"
Delete this category, and include these memberships as "4.2. Types of Membership."
CHANGE 3
"4.4.1. The Group can elect Honorary Associate members on the recommendation of the Committee."
Delete the word "Associate" and renumber to fit under "Types of Membership".

Change 3 will then read:

“4.2.3. The Group can elect honorary members on the recommendation of the Committee”

CHANGE 4

“4.4.2 The Group can grant Life Membership upon the recommendation of the Committee. These shall be declared at an A.G.M”

Renumber to fit under “Types of Membership”.

“4.2.4 The Group can grant Life Membership upon the recommendation of the Committee. These shall be declared at an A.G.M”

CHANGE 5.

Include the following words

“4.2.5. “Honorary Members” and “Life Members” are deemed to be financial members”.

CHANGE 6.

Include the following words

“4.2.6. A Corporate Group Membership or Association Membership will be deemed to be a “single” member in respect of subscription and voting rights.

CHANGE 7.

6.3. Each financial member shall be entitled to one vote.

Add the following words:

“Two members of a Family Membership, if it is financial, will have one vote each.”

END OF CHANGES.

All members will have received a copy of the constitution in the past. If you need another copy, please telephone Carol Parrott on 8278 6783 for a printed copy, or email acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au for a return by email.

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

(If there is a TOTAL FIRE BAN in the Mount Lofty Ranges on that day the meeting will be postponed until the following month on Saturday 3rd March 2012.)

President’s comments.

Another year has all but disappeared and we have had a successful year with quite a few accomplishments.

Our membership has seen a steady stream of new members.

- We have contributed many hours of work to Belair National Park.
- We have had the inside of the volunteer centre repainted and the curtains replaced.
- We participated in inaugural Womad Earth Station.
- We had several successful walks for outside groups and a good attendance at this year’s Cleland Walk.

Thank you to all the Friends who made these things happen. They don’t just happen on their own. They need people to make them happen. They need you to make them happen.

You can help in a number of ways:

- join the committee,
- join the executive,
- volunteer for some of the tasks that need to be fulfilled such as editing the newsletter,
- keeping photographic and newspaper records,
- producing displays,
- finding guest speakers,
- maintaining the volunteer centre,
- cleaning the volunteer centre, etc.

Let us know what you can contribute and I'm sure we'll be able to accommodate you.
On another completely different matter, it is of concern that there are so few rangers left in the Southern Mount Lofty Region. Numbers are so low that they gone below the critical level and it is hard to see how the Parks in the District can be managed with these poor staffing levels
Michael Cerchez

New curtains at the Volunteer Centre.

This was a most successful undertaking by some of the Friends of Belair National Park.

It took over 30 hours in all.

Jenny Pedlar, Shirley Alford and Mary Cole did the measuring and chose the material; walnut colour, 100% polyester, 100% block out, fire resistant, fade proof, 32 metres in all to make 5 curtains.

Faye Loffler, Jenny and Mary did the cutting. As you can imagine, this was no small task with so much material. Faye was a great help with her cutting tools.

Jenny spent 24 hours sewing.

Jenny, Faye and Mary then hung them, which took quite some time.

A very big task, extremely well done, and we now have quite beautiful curtains.

A FEW LAUGHS FOR THE END OF YEAR. ENGLISH IS A FUNNY LANGUAGE

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
3. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
4. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
5. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
6. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
7. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
8. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
9. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
10. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
11. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
12. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
13. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
14. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
15. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'
16. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
17. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.



The Tulip tree has recovered and is flowering. Is it called a Tulip tree because of the leaves or the flowers?

WOMAD EARTHSTATION

Belair National Park hosted the first Womad Earthstation, on 21st-23rd October. This was a great success. The attendance was about 10,000, although the actual number was hard to estimate because some people attended on more than one day.



Apparently the actual numbers there on any one day was 3000. The mix of environmental ideas and World music worked well.



The speakers' tents always seem to be well attended. In fact the session Greening in the Community Case Studies, Cate Blanchett, Andrew Upton, Tim Jarvis, and Scott Kinnear, had a big overflow outside the tent.



Our stall was quite well attended and hopefully will be good publicity for the group and we gained some new members out of it. Thanks to all our members who volunteered their time over the weekend and before. A special thanks to Jenny Skinner and Jill Salvi, who did the major organisational work, and to Mary who organised the weeding.

Unfortunately the weeding session was not a great drawcard. Only 8 Earthstation patrons joined in, but they were quite enthusiastic. On the other hand the guided walk had a good crowd who seemed to appreciate it.



We will have to review our involvement and offerings for the next Earthstation if there is one. Several of us attended Rod Quantock's session, entitled "Bugger the Polar Bears, This is Serious". Rod managed to have his audience laughing, as he covered a whole series of environmental issues, with no thought of political correctness. Unfortunately his solutions to the problems were far from practical.



"Man up a Tree" also drew good crowds with his environmental message about clearing the forest, even though he wasn't really up a tree. The DENR stall did a roaring trade in selling Tee shirts, including 2 with Belair National Park designs. Cleland's live and dead animal demonstrations proved very popular with the children who keen to touch

live lizards, a stuffed fox and an Echidna skin.

Trees for Life also had a very popular stall because they had activities for young children.

There was an interesting assortment of environmental stalls displaying various aspects of sustainability.

The music was varied ranging from the singers, such as Paris Wells and Rickie Lee Jones through to the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra and Kronos Quartet.



The campers had an idyllic area at the Karka Pavilion end of Long Gully. Many comment on being woken by the growls of Koalas, the sound of birds, and getting up to find Kangaroos in the area.

One thing Womad Earthstation did achieve was to bring people to Belair National Park who hadn't been there before and hopefully they will come again.

Michael Cerchez

SOME PICTURES TAKEN IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS



A collection of weeders as photographed at the October Meeting



The Cleland Walk: Jenny Skinner addressing the participants.



At the Thank You Barbecue at Cleland



A local enjoying spring in the park

WORKSHOP REPORT

On Tuesday 6th September, I attended a one-day Bush for Life workshop at Woorabinda Reserve in Stirling, conducted by Harry Chambis and Margie Barnett of Trees for Life. The main emphasis was on regeneration, not revegetation.

TFL follow the principles pioneered by the Bradley Sisters in NSW and Enid Robinson in SA, of minimal soil disturbance, working from areas of good natural bushland and islands of native plants.

The main points were:

- Disturb the soil as little as possible. If necessary tamp down and cover with leaf litter.
- Do not remove a plant you cannot identify.
- Do not remove a weed unless a native plant will benefit, except for a few species of weed to the site or highly threatening weeds, e. g. bridal creeper , monadenia

Slashing is recommended on large areas of weeds to reduce the amount of seed, preferably in late winter or early spring and may require follow up slashing after 2 to 4 weeks. Perennials, once slashed, should be allowed 3-4 weeks to develop lush growth and spot-sprayed.

TFL also recommend spraying with Glyphosate, where appropriate such as bridal creeper, which need follow up spraying of seedlings in subsequent years. Of course care must be taken to avoid run-off onto native plants.

Other Herbicide applications discussed were “Tongs of Death” on strappy bulbous weeds and “cut and swab” where a weed is too large for hand weeding or in clumps of weed. With this method it was recommended the cut weed should be trimmed and spread around to decompose. “Drill and Fill” was also discussed.

Biological Control was not recommended although there is a page (p36) dedicated to it in the handbook

“Bush For Life” given to us at the workshop and now in the FOBNP library.

Betty Wise.

A request from Belair National Park.

If you have a card to open the barrier at the Belair ticket office, check that the barrier is DOWN and blocking you before using your card. If you flash the card while the barrier is up, it brings the barrier down after you have entered. If the barrier is up, it is probably up for some important reason or emergency. If an emergency vehicle meets the barrier it might just crash through. Only use your card when the barrier is down.

Please observe the speed limit within Belair National Park. It is 40 kph, at all times.

PRESS CUTTINGS

We recently received a photo album donated for the purpose of retaining Press Cuttings, photos and related articles for the Friends of Belair.

The intention is to keep a historic record of the group. The album would also be made available for members and other interested parties to view.

If you have any photos or articles you would like to donate we would be very grateful.

We will also be looking for a volunteer who would be interested in putting this together and maintaining it in the longer term.

If you think you have something to donate or are willing to volunteer please contact Mary Cole.....82783816

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome ALAN & BARBARA RAINE, PHIL & TINA WAKE, LYNDA & TED A'BEARE, as new members and hope they enjoy their time with the Friends of Belair National Park

What do you value?

Visit the website to have your say: www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au

This values mapping exercise ends December 2011.

We are planning for the future and want to know what natural resources you value in your area.

They can be rivers, creeks, trees, remnant vegetation, agricultural land, coastline, wetlands, swamps, wildlife populations or reefs.

Tell us what you know about this resource: where it is, what condition it's in, what its social, economic and environmental values are; is it threatened? Anything else?

Knowing what natural resources our community values will help us amend the next regional NRM Plan for Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Government of South Australia
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

For further information on the current Draft Management Plan for South Australia please go to the link www.environment.sa.gov.au/haveyoursay/draftstatenrmplan

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, March, June, Sept, and Dec.

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

Photographs in this newsletter were taken by Barry Palmer and Michael Cerchez.

DISCLAIMER

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