



Friends  
Belair National Park  
Volunteers working for Conservation  
Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

March 2012

## President's report 2011



2011 was another successful year for the Friends of Belair National Park. Much was accomplished. Some of the highlights were:

- The repair and painting of the inside of the volunteer centre. Hopefully the outside can now be repainted this year.
- The replacement of the volunteer centre curtains by an enthusiastic group of ladies. Thank you to that group.
- The installations of a reverse cycle air conditioner in the volunteer centre by the Department.
- Our participation in the inaugural Womad Earth Station.
- Receiving various grants enabling the group to hire contractors to remove feral weeds and also buy new equipment such as Lithium battery drills and tree pullers.
- Keeping up our membership numbers with a steady influx of new members.
- Regular monthly meetings with interesting speakers.
- Well attended monthly guided walks in the park.
- An increase in numbers at the annual Cleland walk.

I thank the hard working committee, which has made all this possible, especially Jill Salvi, our secretary, Carol Parrott, our treasurer and Mary Cole who stepped up to take the role of working bee coordinator. A group can only function with an enthusiastic committee organising it. Please consider a place on the committee.

I would like to thank the Rangers who under difficult staffing circumstances, have tried to help us, as much as possible. Jen Pitman, our Liaison Ranger, even though on maternity leave is still taking an active interest in the group. John Gitsham, who took over in Jen's absence was able to help the group before having to attend an extended training course. Kerri Villiers and Kat Mroczek have helped the group in the absence of a liaison ranger. Hopefully the staffing situation will improve this year and we can again have continuity of a liaison ranger, once more.

The Group again has accomplished much in the way of feral plant control. This will be reported upon in the working bee reports. As well as this another 1092 hours were recorded made up of the following:- 20 herbarium and trees, 645 newsletter, website, meeting, etc., 50 grants, 135 volunteer centre, 75 guided walks and maps, 165 Earth Station, 12 hours Blackwood High School. The total hours volunteered by members of the group were at least 3790. This figure would be even higher if more accurate records were kept.

A pleasing feature this year has been the closer cooperation we have had with the Department as regards the control burns. There has been follow up weeding done by the Department in the burnt areas. We especially thank Tim Fulbohm for his efforts. There has also been good consultation with the specialist Department personnel on the areas to be burnt.

As far as membership goes, our best source would

seem to be newly retired people. Because of the nature of our group and our methods of operation, we seem to have difficulty attracting a younger age group to our membership. In the coming year, we can see the upgrade of Belair National Park continuing and we are looking forward to the revamp of the playground area.

Hopefully this exciting improvement will be funded in the near future.

As 2011 was my 5th year as President, I feel the time has come for someone else to take over the role of President. I would like 2012 to be my last in this role. I sure someone else would like to take on this rewarding position.

Please look for a new leader!

Michael Cerchez

## Dam Ladies work report 2011

We should feel very proud with what we have achieved during the past year. The total number of hours worked have increased quite dramatically thanks to the addition of new members

The Dam ladies have followed up weeding in V M U. 11. 12. 17 20.

These areas are looking good, they are a sight to see in the Spring with all the native's in bloom.

We have concentrated our efforts on these V M U'S over many years and it is certainly paying off.

In 2010 we used the tongs of death on the Watsonia along Workanda Creek and revisited the area in 2011. We were pleased to find very few plants compared to the previous year.

The ladies joined forces with the Mattock men clearing Boneseed in V M U 16. We then worked over the fence along the railway line, where the Boneseed was very thick.

April was our busiest Month contributing 105 hours in total, which is a record, for us in any one month, 44 hours of it was spent on revegetation where the landslip had been repaired near the dam overflow. These plants were purchased with money donated by Kerry Boone and selected by Ranger Jen Pitman.

We continue to remove Scabious and Phalaris along the road side, in a number of area's. It is an ongoing battle, as these plants produce a great number of seeds, They would just take over if left unattended We worked 891 hours in 14 V M U's for the 2011 year

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| <b>Membership fees</b>   | <b>10</b> |

Jen Pitman has been busy. In November she worked 10 hours seed collecting and weeding.

In December 31 hour's seed collection propagation and weeding

Thank you Jen.

We were delighted to find a

\* Lotus australis. Australian trefoil, which we found on the edge of the car park by Walnut Paddock. This native is uncommon in the southern lofty region. We are hoping to collect seeds.

These weeds were found by us for the first time in 2011, please look out for them.

\* Myrtil-leaf milkwort (Poygala myrtifolia)- a garden escapee which invades sub coastal areas in most agricultural districts of S.A. One recently found in V M U 9

\* Onion Weed (Asphodelus fistulosus) a DECLARED weed in part of South Australia

\* Star of Bethlehem Chinchinchee ( Ornithogalum thyrsoides) garden escape

I would like to thank all the Dam Ladies for their hard work over the past year, especially Shirley who

has given me a great deal of support.  
Looking forward to 2012 attacking those  
invasive weeds and having a few laughs along  
the way.  
Mary Cole

## **MATTOCK MEN'S WORK REPORT**

The men put in somewhere around 550  
hourson weeding.  
The emphasis was on follow up work in areas  
previously weeded concentrating on boneseed  
and olives.  
Numbers of men at each working bee varied  
from 1 to 6.  
Record keeping in May and June was a little  
patchy, hence the approximate total hours.  
Vegetation Management Units worked in were  
9,16,18,20,23,24,27  
Time was also spent working on railway land  
adjacent to some of these units.  
We had two specialist olive eradicators.  
Spencer concentrated on killing the olives in  
the creek in VMU 6 parallel to Gooch Road.  
Ross has been killing olives in the area behind  
Old Government House, south of the track  
leading to tanks.  
We don't have a report on how many hours  
David Hansman spent on the Maze.

### *First Aid*

Remember when working in  
the park  
Have your first aid bag to  
hand  
**NOT IN THE CAR**

## **Welcome New Members**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to

Glen Marshall, Rob & Di Letcher

and returning members

Dan & Bev Jaeger

## **Hours worked during the year.**

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Tues Fri Men's group  | 550         |
| Dam Ladies            | 891         |
| Betty, Day, Ron       | 579         |
| Vaike, Heather, Kerry | 513         |
| Phil Wake             | 19          |
| Michael Vaughan       | 10          |
| Tim & Jen Tolley      | 132         |
| Dene Cordes           | 4           |
| <b>Total Weeding</b>  | <b>2698</b> |

## **Financial Report 2011**

There is a copy of the audited "Statement of Income  
and Expenditure" for the year ended 31/12/2011  
available for those of you who may wish to see it on  
the notice board.

Our main sources of income this year came from  
donations from several sources. Most notably, \$300  
from our member Kerry Boone who generously gave  
her academic award to the FBNP enabling the group to  
purchase tube stock and collapsible weed bags. Other  
donations came from a redistribution of funds from the  
Kimba forum, the organisers of Earth Station &  
donations re the use of the Vol Centre. Membership  
payments & the sale of the trailer also provided  
significant income.

Our main expenditure this year was \$1100 towards the  
cost of painting the volunteer centre & almost \$600 for  
new curtains for the volunteer centre. Other expenses  
were incurred from the purchase of tools and fuel plus  
stationery items.

Because we have adequate funds in the cheque account  
for our week to week expenses we have been able to  
retain the term investment which was dedicated to the  
do the work on the volunteer centre and hold it in our  
general funds.

Although it never appears in our audited statement  
because the funds are audited through FopInc I feel it  
worth saying that we have, thanks to the hard work of  
Isabel Storer & our liaison rangers, received and  
expended over \$16,000 during this financial year and  
have another \$9,900 available to continue work on the  
removal of periwinkle & woody weed the coming year.

The term deposits have performed steadily in line with  
current interest rate trends and are invested at 5.15%  
and 5.4% respectively.

Total funds in hand as @ 31/12/2011  
\$8369.55

## COMING EVENTS

### Monthly meetings

|                                 |          |                                      |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March  | 1.00 pm  | Talk by Ranger John Gitsham          |
| Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> March | 12.30 pm | Barbecue (in lieu of April meeting.) |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> May    | 1.00 pm  | Talk by Butterfly Conservation SA    |
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June   | 1.00 pm  | TBA                                  |

### Friends of Parks Inc. AGM

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Para Wirra, in the morning.  
Details yet to be finalised.  
For further information, phone Jill 8278 6736.

## Some autumn flowers



|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Botanical Name:</b> | <b>Eriochilus cucullatus</b> |
| <b>Common Name:</b>    | <b>Parsons bands orchid</b>  |
| <b>Flowering Time:</b> | <b>Autumn</b>                |
| <b>Height:</b>         | <b>To 20cm.</b>              |
| <b>Occurrence:</b>     | <b>Very common</b>           |



|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Botanical Name:</b> | <b>Calostemma purpureum</b>      |
| <b>Common Name:</b>    | <b>Garland lily</b>              |
| <b>Flowering Time:</b> | <b>Late summer, early autumn</b> |
| <b>Height:</b>         | <b>Shin to knee high</b>         |
| <b>Occurrence:</b>     | <b>Very common</b>               |

# Does anything really change with government

A newspaper clipping from 1986

## Belair Park run down by staff cuts, say rangers

By JENNY BRINKWORTH

Park rangers have blamed staff shortages for the closure of some recreational facilities, including tennis courts and barbecue areas, at Belair Recreation Park.

The rangers and other National Parks and Wildlife staff, all members of the Public Service Association, met yesterday to discuss the effect of the shortages on the maintenance of the State's parks.

They then issued a statement warning that some of SA's parks were facing long-term damage due to shortages caused by an increase of more than half in the area of national parks and a decline in the number of staff servicing the area.

Acting general secretary of the association, Mr Adrian Butterworth, said fewer than 100 rangers were responsible for directly protecting and supervising more than 7m hectares of "some of the State's most precious heritage".

The lack of staff was "the single most important reason for the immense problems of soil erosion" now being faced by the Cleland Conservation Park and similar problems at Morialta Park, the Coorong and the Canunda National Park, near Millicent in the South-East.

It had also resulted in recreational facilities at parks such as Belair Recreation Park becoming run down and subject to closure.



SA's parks are deteriorating, says Belair ranger Mr Ian Watts, showing a broken sign.

Belair ranger, Mr Ian Watts, confirmed yesterday that 12 tennis courts in the park had been closed because there was not enough staff to repair them.

He said two toilet blocks near the main oval had been bulldozed rather than repaired, for the same reason, and visitors to this area had to use two small toilets in the park office.

Many electric barbecues were broken and would not be fixed for some time and the roads were in a very bad state after the heavy winter rains.

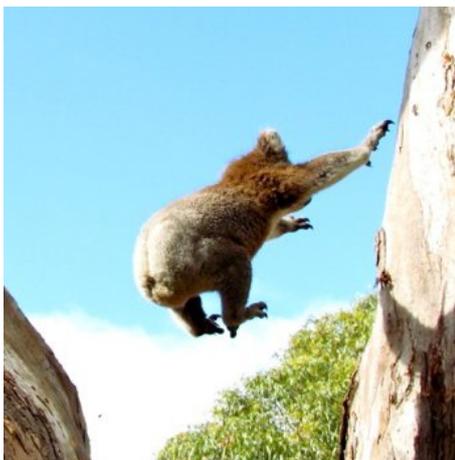
Soil erosion, broken signs and fallen branches were other maintenance problems which staff did not have time to attend to.

Mr Watts said 13 park rangers and 12 park assistants were responsible for maintaining a park of about 5000 hectares which was visited by about 1.5m people a year.

"It's just not working," he said.

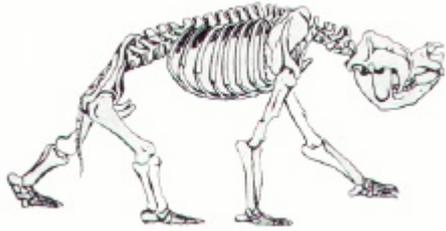
A spokesman for the Department of Environment and Planning said yesterday he was not aware of any facilities being closed at Belair.

He denied a claim by Independent Liberal MP, Mr Evans, whose electorate takes in the park, that the department was setting the scene for ovals, courts and other facilities to be put under the control of some private operators.



Is it a bird?  
Is it a plane?  
No- its super koala.  
He can leap tall trees in a single bound.

(photo courtesy Bevan Scholz)



**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Parks Forum**  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
Naracoorte Caves, SA

**Forum Framework**

The programme will be similar to previous forums with a welcome night, speakers, field visits and a formal evening for FOPs AGM and awards. The difference will be that at Naracoorte everyone will be able to participate in every activity and not miss an experience because of limits on numbers.

**Theme**

The theme of the 2012 forum is '*Past, Present and Future*'.

Allen Attwood  
President  
Friends of Naracoorte Caves  
Phone: 08) 8764.7577

On any day declared as a total fire ban with a fire danger rating of severe, extreme or catastrophic (a fire danger index of 50+ -100+) , all volunteer field based activities are to be cancelled. This is in accordance with the Policy and Operating Principles for Days of Heightened Fire Danger and the Volunteer Management Framework.

Fire danger rating information is updated daily and available from the CFS Website or Bureau of Meteorology.

Further to this the Chief Executive approved the closure of all reserves on days of catastrophic fire danger in December through to March.

For our purposes all activities including meetings at the Volunteer Centre, walks and work will be cancelled.



**Photopoint 1**

VMU 10

Off Brady Gully track, Behind fallen twisted tree.  
2001 Initial clearing boneseed and small olive.  
Sep 2007 No boneseed regrowth.

## **GOLDEN RULE**

A golden rule for 'weeders' is that  
if not 100% sure a plant is a weed, leave it alone

**BUT GET IT IDENTIFIED.**

- It might be a weed and hence needs to be eradicated if possible  
or least controlled to prevent spread.

- It might be a native species rarely seen in the Park  
or could be similar to a known weed.

**Protection** – not removal is the way to go.

## **Birthday Tea**

2011 saw the Friends of Belair celebrate their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. In addition the National Park celebrated its 120<sup>th</sup> on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

On this day we held a celebratory tea for both birthdays at the Volunteer Centre. Over 40 people attended, including members from other Friends groups.

Below are a couple of photos of the cake and its cutting by Jen Pitman who represented the Staff.



**"USE IT UP.  
WEAR IT OUT.  
MAKE IT DO.  
OR**

**DO WITHOUT!"**

Dr Barbara Hardy

**FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK**  
**Statement of income and expenditure year ended 31-12-2011**

| <b>Income</b>       | <b>\$</b>                                      | <b>Expenditure</b>     | <b>\$</b>       |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening balance     | 4515.10(term deposit)<br>1193.66(term deposit) | Postage & telephone    | 130.80          |
|                     | 3079.46(Cheque acct)                           | Tools & fuel           | 1814.41         |
| Membership fees     | 727.50   | VC catering            | 1138.04         |
| Donations           | 1856.00  | Membership fees        | 54.00           |
| Bank Interest       | 342.73   | Herbicide              | 133.88          |
| BBQ                 | 85.00  | Vehicle Registration   | 48.00           |
| Grant reimbursement | 1305.43  | Stationery/Ink         | 361.37          |
| Sale of trailer     | 750.00   | Sundries               | 296.25          |
|                     |  | First Aid Supplies     | 188.27          |
| <b>Sub total</b>    | <b>13854.88</b>                                | Tube stock             | 150.15          |
|                     |  | Camera                 | 109.98          |
|                     |  | Painting Vol Centre    | 1100.00         |
|                     |  | <b>Sub total</b>       | <b>5525.15</b>  |
|                     |  | <b>Closing balance</b> | <b>8329.73</b>  |
|                     | <b>13854.88</b>                                |                        | <b>13854.88</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  | 1261.1         |  |  |
|   | <b>3818.58</b> |  |  |
| * NB on term deposit.   |                |  |  |

**CHEQUE ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION**

|                                      |           |            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Opening balance                      |           | \$3,079.46 |
| Add receipts                         |           | \$5,066.66 |
| Add funds transfer from term deposit |           | \$650.00   |
|                                      | Sub total | \$8,796.12 |
| Less interest on term deposits       |           | \$315.77   |
|                                      | Sub total | \$8,480.35 |
| Less payments                        |           | \$5,525.15 |
|                                      | Total     | \$2,955.20 |

**FUNDS AVAILABLE**

|                |       |            |
|----------------|-------|------------|
| Cheque Account |       | \$2,955.20 |
| Term Deposits  |       |            |
| 078 4036197160 |       | \$4,113.43 |
| 078 4036450160 |       | \$1,261.10 |
|                | Total | \$8,329.73 |

## OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2012

|                    |   |           |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| PRESIDENT          | Mike Cerchez  | 8339 6801 |
| VICE PRESIDENT     | Jim Trueman   | 8278 9359 |
| SECRETARY          | Jill Salvi  | 8278 6736 |
| TREASURER          | Carol Parrott   | 8278 6783 |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS. | Mary Cole, Brian DuBois, Barry Palmer,<br>Mark Pedlar, Isabel Storer. |           |

## FUNCTIONARIES

|  |                        |           |
|--|------------------------|-----------|
| GUIDED WALKS                           | Jenny Skinner          | 8278 8986 |
| LIBRARIAN                              | Shirley Alford         | 8278 1525 |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR                      | Brian & Noeline DuBois | 8270 4215 |
| SIGNIFICANT TREES                      | Ron Tamblyn            | 8278 6593 |
| VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS              | Jill Salvi             | 8278 6736 |
| MEMBERSHIP                             | Carol Parrott          | 8278 6783 |
| WEBSITE                                | Brian DuBois           | 8270 4215 |
| WORKING BEE COORDINATOR                | Mary Cole              | 8278 3816 |
| WORKING BEES for<br>Tuesday or Friday, | Mary Cole              | 8278 3816 |
| Sunday or Wednesday                    | Betty Wise             | 8278 3805 |
| Monday                                 | Vaike Aldridge         | 8277 9596 |

## **FREE GUIDED WALKS**

April to November, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoon each month.

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

All welcome.

BYO afternoon tea.

See what is in flower each month on a quiet 2 hour walk.

The next Tuesday walk will be on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Enquiries to Jenny on 8278 8986.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Friends of Parks Inc. AGM

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Para Wirra, in the morning.

Details yet to be finalised.

For further information, phone Jill 8278 6736.

Friends of Parks 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum at Naracoorte Caves. 5-7 October 2012.

See further details elsewhere in this newsletter, or phone Jill 8278 6736.

### Professor Cleland Walk

This walk is held annually, usually in September or October.

Detailed information will be advised closer to the event.

## Birthday Party

Held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December to celebrate the birthday of Belair National Park.

## MONTHLY Meetings 2012

Usually (not always) on the first Saturday of the month.

1 pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair NP.

Usually with an interesting speaker first, then the meeting.

### VISITORS WELCOME

|   |          |                                      |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March            | 1.00 pm  | Talk by Ranger John Gitsham          |
| <u>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March</u>     | 12.30 pm | Barbecue (in lieu of April meeting.) |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> May              | 1.00 pm  | Talk by Butterfly Conserv SA         |
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June             | 1.00 pm  | TBA                                  |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July             | 1.00 pm  | TBA                                  |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> August           | 1.00 pm  | TBA                                  |
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> September        | 1.00 pm  | TBA                                  |
| <u>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September</u> | 1.00 pm  | TBA (in lieu of October meeting)     |
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November         | 12.30 pm | Barbecue                             |
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December         | 1.00 pm  | TBA                                  |
| <u>No meeting in January</u>              |          |                                      |
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February         | 1.00 pm  | AGM                                  |

## Working Bees.

Meet by Belair Park Ticket Office

Daylight saving time BEFORE 8am

Standard daylight time BEFORE 8.30am

Tuesday and Friday mornings. For information phone Mary on 8278 3816

Working Bees on other days, meet by arrangement.

For Mondays, phone Vaike on 8277 9596

For Sundays or Wednesdays phone Betty on 8278 3805

### Annual subscriptions

**Are now due. Single \$10, family \$15.**

**Payment options by cash or cheque to The Treasurer FBNP, PO Box 2, Belair 5052."**

**Direct transfer to Bank SA; BSB 105-078; Act No 306250940; Acct Name "Friends of Belair Park"**

**Description "Membership fees"**

**Following bank transfer of fees please send email to Carol at [acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au](mailto:acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au)**