



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2012



THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has a Red List of Threatened Species which goes as follows: 1. Extinct, 2. Extinct in the wild, 3. Critically endangered, 4. Endangered, 5. Vulnerable, 6 Near threatened, 7. Least concern. There is a threatened species which used to be a lot more numerous in Belair National Park which I think needs classification and that is *Rangerias Dewnrus*, formally known as *Rangerias Dehum* before being renamed. I think this species seldom seen in the Park these days because of its

low numbers in the District so we would have to classify them as a 2 or 3, and we need to do our best to help increase their numbers to be able reclassify them as a 7 or even get them off the list all together. Reasons for the low numbers seem to be due to Government culls, without any significant research into the resulting effects.

There is a railway line, which goes through the Park, for approximately 5.5 Km. The line still has the original fence, over 100 years old, which is in such poor repair that park users often stray onto railway land without even realising it. Of course, feral plants pay no attention to fences, so hence there is a corridor of weeds going through the Park. In the past few years, we've managed by fitting in with ARTC requirements, to weed some 3 Kms of the western section of the railway land. The rail authority doesn't seem to have any feral plant control on their land. This year, however, they have made it impossible for us to do our weeding on railway land during working bees, through their new requirement to have one of their Safety Officers present when we're working on their land. The ideal situation would if ARTC would maintain their land themselves, controlling feral plants and reducing bushfire risks.

The situation with our office holders still needs to be resolved. I have had an offer by someone to stand for the position of President in 2014, after a year spent familiarising himself with the role. I am prepared to extend my time as President for one more year, if no one is prepared to stand for this position next year. We do need to find a new secretary. Jill, after many years as secretary, definitely wants someone else to take over this role. We thank her for the dedication she has had in this position and the excellent job she has done. She is prepared to help the next secretary familiarise themselves with the role. I hope we can keep the Friends of Belair National Park a viable organisation. Please consider one of the roles that need to be filled. Think about joining the committee.

Michael Cerchez
20/11/12

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To all Southern Lofty District Volunteers

We'd like to say...

Thankyou!

The Southern Lofty District invites all Southern Lofty Volunteers to our annual Volunteer Thankyou event, in recognition of all the hard work and dedication undertaken in our parks and heritage sites in 2012. Please join us at:

**Karka Pavilion, Belair National Park
Valley Road
Belair (see map)**

Wednesday 12th December 2012, 4:30pm

Please bring a chair to sit on.
Food and drink will be provided, please let us know if you have any special requirements. See you there!

RSVP: By Wednesday 5th December
to Olivia Leske 8130 9051, olivia.leske@sa.gov.au



You must respond to Olivia by email or phone individually

Do not contact Jill to book

The Weed Society of South Australia has a web page with lots of colour photos of weeds for identification.

http://www.iewf.org/weedid/All_common_name.htm

Click on the image of weed to go to a new page with good descriptions of the weed

THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF THE SCIENTIFIC NAME OF RIVER RED GUM *EUCALYPTUS CAMALDULENSIS*

By Dr. R.C.Foster

Sir Joseph Banks, the British botanist on Cook's first (1766-1771) voyage to Australia never published the botanical discoveries of the expedition and the genus *Eucalyptus* was erected by the French botanist Charles-Louis L'Heritier de Brutelle (1746-1800) in 1788. The name was based on a pressed specimen of messmate stringybark *Eucalyptus obliqua* collected on Cook's third voyage (1766-1780) at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island off Tasmania by the Kew gardener and assistant botanist David Nelson (?-1789). L'Heritier was a lawyer by profession, but was appointed to a fairly high administrative position as superintendent in charge of Forests and Waters of the Paris region. One day whilst walking with colleagues in the Paris Botanical Garden, he was embarrassed to find that he was unable to name one of the trees in the garden. Being conscientious like all public servants, he therefore took up the study of botany, and it became a life-long passion.

In 1786 L'Heritier wrote to Banks a request that he be allowed to study, describe and name new species of rare plants growing in Britain that were to be found in Bank's herbarium. Banks agreed, providing L'Heritier named any new genera after British botanists. In the event L'Heritier failed to honour this undertaking, and in his book *Sertum Anglicum* (written wholly in Latin and published in 1788), only 7 of the 13 genera he erected commemorated British botanists. When he came to Bank's specimen of Messmate, as was customary, L'Heritier based the genus name on classical Greek roots, *Eu*=good or well, and *kaluptos* =covered, because the stamens are covered by a cap of united sepals and petals.

Despite being a landholding aristocrat, L'Heritier supported the French revolution, and although he was imprisoned during the reign of terror, owing to the influence of his botanical friends, he escaped the guillotine. Unhappily he lost his estates and fortune, and was obliged to work at the Ministry of Justice. Happily by doing so he ended up richer than before the revolution. However, in 1800 he was murdered outside his own home, and since he immediately fled to Switzerland, his estranged son became the chief suspect.

David Nelson, who collected Bank's Messmate specimen, planted the first apples and potatoes in Tasmania, and collected plants in South Africa and Timor. In 1787 he was appointed Botanical Collector on the ill fated bread-fruit voyage of Capt. Bligh. After the mutiny of the Bounty crew he survived the longboat journey with Bligh to Java but he died there of a fever in Kupang in 1789.

A distinguishing feature of the river red gum is the prominent beak on the cap that covers the stamens in bud. Because of the beak, in 1847 the German botanist Diederich F.L.von Schlechtendal (1794-1866) named red river gum *Eucalyptus rostrata* from the Latin *rodo*, *rodere* to gnaw, hence *rostrum* the part of an animal or bird that does the gnawing, i.e. a beak. Thus there is a gap of almost 80 years between Nelson picking the specimen of messmate and it being given a scientific Latin name: Everyone assumed that so common a tree must have a valid Latin name. For the next 90 years red river gum was known in both botanical publications and the catalogues of timber merchants as *Eucalyptus rostrata*.

However, the name *Eucalyptus rostrata* (as *rostratus*) had already been given in 1797 by

the Spanish botanist monk Abbe Antonio Jose Cavanilles (1745-1804) to a *Eucalyptus* specimen collected near Port Jackson in NSW in March/April 1793 by the French botanist Luis Née (1734-1803) during the Spanish round the world scientific expedition of 1798-1784 led by the Italian nobleman Alessandro Malaspina (1754-1810). Species in Belair National Park first named by Abbe Cavanilles include *Ipacris impressa*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Banksia marginata*, *Astroloma humifusum*, *Erodium botrys*, *Dichelachne rara*, *Eryngium rostratum* and the fern *Asplenium flabellifolium*

. Like Cook's 1st voyage, Malaspina's voyage, though ostensibly scientific, had a hidden political agenda-to report on political and economic affairs not only in the Spanish colonies in South America but also on those of the British colony in NSW, and it is now generally accepted that the Malaspina expedition was a cover for espionage on behalf of the Spanish Crown. After the papal treaty of Tordesillas in 1494, Spain claimed sovereignty over the whole of the Pacific, a fact acknowledged by two treaties between Britain and Spain in 1606 and 1620. Consequently Cook applied to Madrid for a passport to the Pacific, but one was denied.

In 1788 a Spanish naval officer warned the Spanish authorities that the Port Jackson colony could act as a base for raids by Britain on Spanish shipping between the Philippines and America. Significantly Malaspina had fought the British in the Eastern Mediterranean. Could the British be driven out of Australia? Malaspina was greeted as a hero when he returned to Spain, but his political reports on his expedition displeased the Authorities, and he when he took part in a failed conspiracy to overthrow Spain's Prime Minister in 1785 and was thrown into jail. Napoleon campaigned for Malaspina's release and he was finally freed at the end of 1802, although on the condition that he was exiled from Spain.

In 1027 an order of Italian monks, the Camalduli founded a monastery on the Campo Maladoni outside Naples. In the 1950s a catalogue was discovered which contained a list of species growing in the monastery garden of the Camalduli. This list, which had been first published in 1829 by another German botanist Frederick Dehnhardt (1787-1870), chief gardener of the Naples Botanical Garden, contained, in the second edition of 1832, a description of the red river gum as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* after the site where the specimen was collected. Dehnhardt's pressed specimens are in the Natural History Museum in Vienna. This earlier validly published name of 1832 has priority over the 1847 name of von Schlechtendahl so the Latin name of the river red gum had to be changed to *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

Thus we have the curious anomaly that the most common and most widespread *Eucalyptus* in Australia, and one of the most common species introduced overseas is named after an obscure order of Italian monks.

But is it?

In 1806, C.H. Persoon (1755-1837) considered Cavanilles' *Eucalyptus rostrata* was only a variety of *Eucalyptus robusta* ie its botanical name is now *Eucalyptus robusta* Smith var. *rostrata* (Cav.) Pers. However in 1971, the Australian botanists Pryor and Johnson in their book *The Classification of the Eucalypts* say that Cavanilles specimen is the same as *E. camaldulensis* and since Cavanilles 1797 name *Eucalyptus rostrata* predates Dehnhardt's 1829 name *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus rostrata* may be the correct name for river red gum after all. Comparison of the DNA from Cavanilles and Dehnhardt's specimens might decide the issue.

2012 NARACOORTE FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM

This was an interesting Forum. Each Forum seems to have its particular theme which is unique to the area in which it is held. At Naracoorte the main theme was, of course, the Caves which is a World Heritage Site. The other area of interest was Bool Lagoon which is a significant water bird habitat.

The Forum began on Friday 5th October at the Naracoorte Town Hall, which was the venue for all the sessions and the evening meals. The 2 speakers on that evening were Deborah Craven-Carden (Manager, Naracoorte Caves), who spoke generally on the management of the Caves and Ian Lewis who enlightened us on the formation of the Caves. The meal that evening was a smorgasbord.



On Saturday it was an early start at 8.30. The first speakers were Dr Liz Reed and her PHD student Amy Macklen, whose presentation was on the Palaeontology of Naracoorte Caves. The Naracoorte Caves is the only site on Earth that preserves a continuous fossil record of the past 500,000 years. Apart from the larger and spectacular megafauna, such as the marsupial lion, giant kangaroos and wombats, the more than a 100

fossil sites have the whole range of mammals, right down to the minute.

After the Friends of Old government House Morning Tea, the speakers were Steven Bourne (Batman) and Kristen Lear (a Fulbright Scholar from the USA). They gave a presentation on the Southern Bent Wing Bat, a threatened species found in the Naracoorte Caves.



After picking up the Nature Foundation Lunch we met at the Caves for the afternoon's interesting tours of the Wonambi Fossil Centre with its exciting recreation of animals in anatomic form in a realistic setting, Blanche Cave, the Bat Centre, and the Victoria Fossil Cave. Each tour was accompanied by guides and experts on the particular site.

The ElectraNet Dinner was held at the Naracoorte Town Hall on Saturday Night. The DEWNR and FOP Inc. awards were presented and the evening was concluded with Professor Rod Wells giving the after dinner talk on the discovery of fossils at the Naracoorte Caves and its World Heritage Listing.

It was an even earlier start on Sunday morning because daylight saving started.

Some very keen Friends were up to see the dawn at Bool Lagoon. The rest of us made a more leisurely appearance at the Bool Lagoon for a steak sandwich breakfast sometime after 9.00am and then the rest of the morning till lunch was filled by walks and talks at Bool Lagoon, which had plenty of water and plenty of bird life.



Abigail Goodman,
a Caring for Community Ranger,

We travelled back the 20kms to Naracoorte for the afternoon session at the Town Hall. The first 2 speakers were Jack and Pat Bourne, experts on the birds and Bool lagoon itself, speaking about a Lifetime at Bool Lagoon. This was followed by the DEWNR and FOP Inc. session. Representing DEWNR was Tim Collins, acting Group Executive Director, Partnerships and Stewardship Group. He naturally gave a very positive message about the restructure of the Department. The main message was probably that more will have to be done with less. David Mitchell, President, FOP Inc., gave us a realistic rundown on the problems facing Friends of Parks. Some of his comments were: - Parks are valued by the community, but most only want to use them not participate in looking after them. The weakness of the Friends of Parks is that it's an ageing and shrinking organisation, lacks funding, and lacks appeal to younger people and families. We seem to lack a presence compared with other environmental groups. DEWNR has significantly reduced the level of direct support on the ground and in strategic support. There used to be 110 rangers and now there are 80.

We thank Alan Attwood and his committee for a well organised, interesting and enjoyable Forum. As usual, it was a great opportunity to hear some informative speakers, experts in their fields, and also to enjoy the chance to meet people from other Friends Groups around the State.

Next year, unfortunately, there won't be a Forum. However, in May 2014, you will all have a chance of an overseas trip because the next Forum is to be held on Kangaroo Island.

Michael Cerchez

Reminder

When there is a total fire ban. There will be no activities.

No working Bees — No meetings — No walks

We are hosting a party.

*On Wednesday the 19th December 2012
the Friends of Belair National Park
will celebrate their 27th birthday
& the 121st birthday of the park.*

*You are invited to join us at 6pm at
The Volunteer Centre, Long Gully BNP
to mark this occasion & to share a light meal together.
Please bring a plate of finger food to share
BYO drinks. Tea & 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.

A Sex Talk

A mother driving her seven year old daughter to school through heavy morning traffic

Mother: I was driving the girls to school last week and daughter heard something on the radio that started a conversation I was NOT prepared for.

Daughter: What does Sexy mean Mum

Mother: It's an adult way of saying good looking but you are not to use it you are too young.

Daughter: That's what two girls at school said. They know about sex, but they said I was too young to know.

Mother: they know about what? (panic rising)

Daughter: Sex, but they only told me the small way you do it not the big way, because I am too young.

Mother: What did they tell you?

Daughter: They told me the small way you do sex is when mummy and daddy do kissing in the nudie. is that true?

Mother: (Now finding it very hard to concentrate on the driving!) Yes.

Daughter: Will I ever know the big way?

Mother: No Sweetie not EVER if your Dad has his way.

Mother: Have to say I didn't think I would have to get ready for that conversation just yet. SO for all my friends out there with 7 year old girls, GET READY its coming!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Friends of Belair National Park will be held on Saturday February 2nd 2013 at 2.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park.

The AGM will be preceded by an invited speaker: Shauna Potter, whose topic will be "The work of Biosecurity SA".

As members must be financial to stand for office at the AGM, or to vote, and as annual subscriptions are due on 1st January, please pay your subscriptions before the AGM, at the December 2012 meeting, or before the meeting on 2nd February 2013.

OR pay direct by using the following account information and notify the treasurer by email. acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au (note that there are 2 "t"s)
BSB 105-078 Acc No: - 306250940 Acc Name: - Friends of Belair Park
Annual renewal is \$10 a single, \$15 for a family.

Please do not try to pay your annual subscription at the birthday party, 19th December.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting at 2.00pm

1. Minutes of 2012
2. Receive the Annual Report (s) for 2012
3. Receive the audited Financial Statement for 2012.
4. Appoint an Auditor for 2013
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2013
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - committee members.

6. Set the subscription rates for 2013.

The committee recommends the rate be as for 2012. \$10 single, \$15 joint.

All members will have received a copy of the constitution in the past. The constitution is available from our website

<http://www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofBelairPark>.

If you need another copy and do not have web access, please telephone Carol Parrott on 8278 6783 for a printed copy.

The AGM will be followed by afternoon tea and a short 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 2nd March 2013.)



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, Mark Pedlar, Isabel Storer.	

FUNCTIONARIES

GUIDED WALKS	Jenny Skinner	8278 8986
LIBRARIAN	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
NEWSLETTER EDITORS	Brian & Noeline DuBois	8270 4215
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8393 9803
VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
MEMBERSHIP	Carol Parrott	8278 6783
WEBSITE	Brian DuBois	8270 4215
SPEAKERS	Barbara Raine	8270 2370
WORKING BEE COORDINATOR	Mary Cole	8278 3816
WORKING BEES for 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,

Check the next newsletter – March 2013 – for next year's program.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friends of Parks 29th Annual Forum

No forum until 2014 which will be held on Kangaroo Island
More information in the next Newsletter

Professor Cleland Memorial Walk

To be advised for 2013.

Birthday Party

Held on the 19th 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 very welcome
Saturday December 1st 1.00 pm.

Speaker Mr. Robin Coles.

Topic: "Aboriginal Rock Art in the Adelaide Hills".

Robin is a Botanist who has worked for many years documenting the art and culture of the Peramangk people of the Adelaide hills area. He is a tutor for the Workers Education Association of South Australia (WEA) and has conducted tours with the WEA to aboriginal painting and archaeological sites in the Mount Lofty ranges for 25 years. He has published a book, together with Richard Hunter (deceased), http://www.axiompublishing.com.au/flypagetpl/shopproduct_details/262

No meeting in January.

Saturday February 2nd 2013

Annual General Meeting.

also Speaker: Shauna Potter

Topic: "The work of Biosecurity SA".

Shauna is a WoNS National Coordinator with Biosecurity SA. She will talk to us about her research in the management of pest plants (eg Bridal Creeper). There is some info at: http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/nrm_biosecurity/weeds/weeds_of_national_significance

WORKING BEES.

Tuesday and Friday mornings. Enquiries 8278 3816

Meet by Belair Park Ticket Office

BEFORE 8.30am winter time, or

BEFORE 8am daylight saving time (from 7th October 2012)

Working Bees on other days, meet by arrangement.

For Mondays, phone 8277 9596

For Sundays or Wednesdays, phone 8278 3805

Membership forms and information are available from the Belair National Park Office or on our website or telephone 8278 6736.

DAYLIGHT SAVING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. 2012/13

7th October 2012 to 7th April 2013

Membership Payments

- 1) Pay the treasurer at a meeting
- 2) Forward payment to
The Treasurer
Friends of Belair NP
PO Box 2, Belair 5052
- 3) Pay by internet use the following account information and notify the treasurer by email.

acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au

Bank SA

BSB 105-078

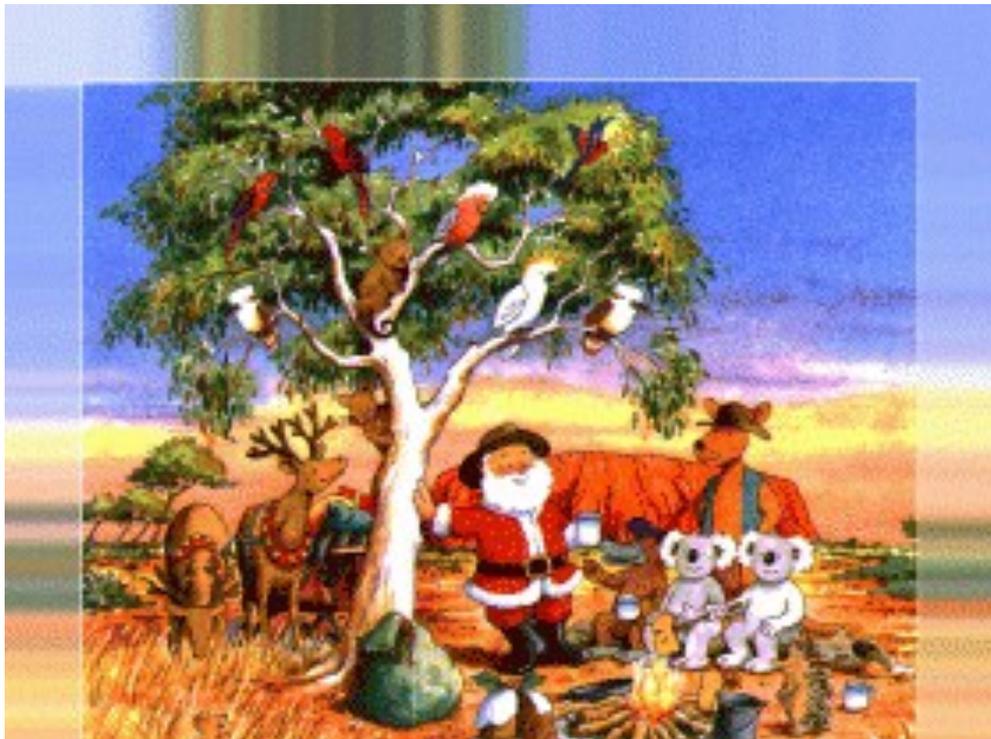
Acc No:- 306250940

Acc Name:- Friends of Belair Park

Annual renewal is \$10 a single, \$15 for a family regardless of when it is paid.

If joining after 30th June, your first half year is discounted to half price, so please pay \$5 for single, or \$7.50 for joint membership.

In Australia Santa's first stop



Santa's last stop



The Aussie spirit of Christmas.