



Friends of Belair National Park

Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

Newsletter—June 2013



June Newsletter President's Comments.

It has been a busy and successful start to the year. We have had well attended meetings with 3 excellent speakers. Topics were Weeds of National Significance, Ants and Native Bees. Thank you, Barbara Raines for organising these interesting speakers. We will keep chasing the weeds, avoiding the ants, and looking for the bees. We are, at the moment, investigating building a bee hotel. I've included a picture of an example which is located in the Botanic Gardens in Paris. Of course, this one is 6 star luxury accommodation and we would be looking to provide more affordable accommodation for our local bees as Australian bees are a lot more used to roughing it.



We've participated in several successful events. On Good Friday, we hosted a group from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints for a 2 hour weeding session. I thank Mary for organising this. This large group of 30 plus keen volunteers managed to clear a large section of VMU 9 of boneseed. We also par-

ticipated in the People in Parks Open Day on Sunday 3rd March with a display booth on Gums oval and displays and talks in the Volunteer Centre.

We also had a very well attended weeders meeting, which Mary organised and Jen Pitman ran. The main matters discussed were the new and numerous OHS forms which we are required to use. (See Jill Salvis report in this newsletter.)

We hosted the Annual General Meeting of Friends of Park Inc., 13th May. Thank you to Carol Parrott, Judith O’Hara, Barbara Raines and Jill Salvi for the major part of the organisation and catering, and any others involved in the setting up and arrangements for the day. The morning tea was very well catered for. Thank you for those who produced the goodies.

It is pleasing to see that we’ve signed up a number of new members this year so far. Welcome! We hope you find the Friends of Belair National Park a group that is friendly and fulfilling.

On April 20th in The Advertiser, comics section, “The Politician” featured the Minister for Conservation. His advisor said “This restructuring at the Department of Conservation”. The Minister asked, “What about it?” The Advisor replied, “It’s made the staff more endangered than the animals and plants they’re trying to save”. I wondered where they got such a silly idea from.

Apologies for not being a 100% involved at the moment. The excuse is Peggy and I are in the process of moving to Aberfoyle Park.

Michael Cerchez

BUSY WEEKEND – JUNE 1ST AND 2ND.

It is not too late to join in.

Saturday 1st.

The Friends of Belair National Park will have an information stall at Grey Box Day which is being held at the Main Oval and Pavilion from 10am. The Raine family have offered to set up and manage our display. We will also be guiding a short walk at 10.30am, and a shorter walk at 11.30am to finish before the speeches start at 12 noon. Also, our monthly general meeting at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, starts at 1.00pm with an interesting speaker from the UK, Prof. Stefaan Simons talking on “Badgers” & his work for biodiversity in England.

If you come to Grey Box Day, better bring your lunch, it could be a busy day.

Sunday 2nd.

At 9.30am the Cubs and Joeys from 1st Blackwood Scout Group (Tuesday group) will join us for a working bee meeting at the carpark of Gold Escort Ground. We will do some weeding, and plant some native seedlings. The recent rains have improved the soil so we should do well in both tasks. If you want to help, come along with your gloves on. The more adults, the better. Shirley Alford, Heather Beckmann, Aileen Ferris, Brenda Keen and Jill Salvi have volunteered.

At 10.00am, Alan, Barb and Peter Raine, Barbara Warburton, Mary Cole and Lorelei Clarke will help the Nature Conservation Society SA with their Walk with Nature. This year it is a 3 hour walk on the Waterfall Hike track. After the rains, the bush should be looking good up there, even if the creek is not flowing.

Hoping the rain holds off for this day.

Jill.

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Barry's Presentation at FoPInc AGM

This is a précis of suggestions which were contained in a speech that was made at the FOP Inc Annual General Meeting on May 13th 2013 by Barry Palmer. Please note that these suggestions are personal opinions and were not presented on behalf of the Friends of Belair National Park.

1. "Any other business"

That FOP Inc include "Any other business" as an Agenda item at all Forum's and Annual general meetings.

2. Budget cuts past and future

Having contributed in 2011, 139,000 hours conservatively valued at \$3.753 million entitles members to expect that government will recognise the contribution of volunteers to the environment and increase support to DEWNR.

- 1) **That FOP Inc write to the Minister responsible for DEWNR and request an increase in Volunteer Support Rangers to the level prior to the amalgamation of DEH and NRM.**
- 2) **That FOP Inc write to the Minister and the CEO of DEWNR requesting that they become more respectful towards its Friends of Parks volunteers and responsive to their needs.**
- 3) **That FOP Inc write to the Minister and the CEO of DEWNR seeking an investigation and report on why office staff, without work, continue to be paid.**

3. Paid grants application officer.

- 1) **That FOP Inc write to the CEO of DEWNR requesting that a Grant Application Officer be appointed to prepare and submit grant applications for FOP Inc and for approved Friends Group projects.**
- 2) **If this is not approved then FOP Inc and approved Friends Groups projects shall be prepared and submitted by DEWNR experienced Grant Application Officers.**

4. Memorandum of Understanding review.

That FOP Inc write to the CEO of DEWNR requesting that the current MOU be changed to a PARTNERSHIP including FOP Inc as an equal partner in all matters that now have Departmental approval, and must be consulted about any proposed changes that will affect FOP Inc and its members.

5. FOP Inc. proposals.

- 1) **That DEWNR advises FOP Inc within 20 working days of the receipt of any proposal of the decision.**
- 2) **The manager of the Volunteer Support Unit be trained and become an approved Freedom of Information Officer whose responsibility will be to handle information requests from FOP Inc. and Friends Groups.**
- 3) **Advise FOP Inc of the decision by June 30 2013.**

6. Cultural change for DEWNR

- 1) **That DEWNR revise its policy not to return phone calls requesting information.**
- 2) **That DEWNR remind all of its staff that Parks and reserves are public land and the public is entitled to know all financial matters including those on the departments Register of Leases and Licences.**

If you would like more details of the above please contact Barry on 8270 4150

New Members

We have had a sudden burst of new members. Eight new members have joined us since our last newsletter.

They are:- Ankica Markulin, Tina & Wayne Gallasch, Elizabeth Martin , Graham Greaves. Lorelei Clarke, Sarah Allen and Gary Beens.

We give them a warm welcome and hope that by being a member their enjoyment of the Park will increase and they can be part of the team which endeavours to maintain the natural attributes of the park.

There are many ways they can contribute to the team. There are many functions that have nothing to do with weeding.

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son,

"You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut.

Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said,

"Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible,

but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said,

"You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that:-

Samson had long hair,

John the Baptist had long hair,

Moses had long hair,

and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

Dad replied!

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

BURNT AREAS

It has been requested, for your own safety, that you do not walk through freshly burnt areas of the Park. Branches can be weakened by fire and can drop unexpectedly.

The Chicken or the Egg

We hear a lot about getting the young ones to join. This story, written by our reporter, Noeline, has echoes of this conundrum.

Alan and Barbara Raine have lived in the Belair area for over 20 years and during that time spent many hours in Belair National Park with their four sons, walking, bike riding and just enjoying the park.

All four sons developed a keen interest in Conservation and the Environment and in recent years both Peter and Andrew were involved with seasonal work both at Cleland and Belair National Parks. They would often ring their parents and suggest they come and see what area they were working in and what they were working on. It was during this time the boys became aware of the work of Friends of Belair and suggested to Alan and Barbara that they should become members. They took their advise and joined in 2011.

Since then Alan and Barbara have become actively involved with weeding in the park and have joined the Adopt - a Block program, at which time they then said to the boys -- Okay now you should also join and of course the boys did.

The Raines thoroughly enjoy the companionship of like minded people , plus the satisfaction of pulling up Bone seed and other obnoxious weeds, as well as admiring the natural flora and fauna. They also feel that they now have the time to give back after years of enjoying what the park has to offer. As Alan said - For years he walked through the park and enjoyed it but since his involvement with the weeding program he has become more aware of the beauty of the park in areas he had never previously seen.

The boys work in the park when their time permits . It is refreshing to have two generations of a family as keen ambassadors of the park and involved with the Friends. One suspects that the Raine family name will appear on the active members list for many years to come.

PROFESSOR CLELAND MEMORIAL WALK

IN BELAIR NATIONAL PARK. Sunday 22nd September 2013.

John Burton Cleland, (1878-1971), first became a member of the Commissioners of the National Park in 1926, and was Deputy Chairman from 1931 for 5 years. Cleland was Chairman of the Commissioners from 1936-1956. During this period, he undertook the self-imposed task of inspecting Belair National Park on foot, during the period between Christmas and New Year's Day. The Commissioners visited the Park twice a year to inspect the "improvements", but Cleland at this time set out to walk around its boundaries. His purpose was to assess weeds, fire breaks, fencing and anything else that came to his attention, so that he could advise park staff more specifically as to how they could best discharge their duties. It is this action of his that the Friends of Belair National Park commemorate with the annual Professor Cleland Memorial Walk.

Professor Cleland Walk cont.

The Friends of Belair National Park are planning this memorial walk to take place this year on Sunday 22nd September in conjunction with Birds SA who will lead us. There will be a morning walk at 10.00am and a different afternoon walk at 2.00pm. Both walks will leave from the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, where parking is available. Entry to the Park will be free for participants.

Put this date in your diary. Final details will be in the September newsletter.

Our thanks to Birds SA for their support.

PARKS WEEK, 2ND to 8th March 2013.

& PARK DAY AT BELAIR ON THE SUNDAY

The activities at the Volunteer Centre were a definite success.

Saturday, we had more than 50 in the audience for Prof. Chris Daniels' talk on "Ants", and a few good chats with visitors.

On the Sunday, the talks arranged by Jen Pitman, on threatened flora and fauna were successful, with more than 15 in the audience each time. We also had casual visitors for cups of tea, and some asking for help finding their way in the Park.

We put on a view of a koala in a tree just by the Volunteer Centre, and early in the morning a couple of emus across the road. Clever us.

One guided walk from Gums Oval had 6 participants which was good, the other had 2.

From Volunteer Centre, one walk had 2 "others", the other only us.

A big thank you to all the Friends who worked and/or supported our activities in Belair National Park on this weekend.

Our speakers on threatened flora and fauna left us lots of information sheets, which are available in the Volunteer Centre.

DEWNR is considering having this as an annual event.

With more time to plan and advertise, I think a Parks Day at Belair each year could be a big success, especially in Spring, when it is at its best.

Jill Salvi.

Recent additions to our Library

IT'S BLUE WITH FIVE PETALS by Ann Prescott. 2012 edition.

THE POSSUM TAIL TREE - Understanding Possums through Citizen Science – by Philip Roetman & Christopher Daniels.

THE FEARSOME FLUTE PLAYERS – Australian Magpies in our lives - by Philip Roetman & Christopher Daniels.

THE OCHRE WARRIORS - Peramangk Culture & Rock Art in the Mount Lofty Ranges – by Robin Coles & Richard Hunter.

Information on threatened species, BIRDS, FAUNA and PLANTS, supplied by the Department.

Many books have been generously donated by Ann and Gil Ross, Jenny Skinner, and Tim Fulbohm during the past year and I thank them on behalf of our members.

Shirley Alford

NEW TRAILS PLAN

Friday 17th May 2013. The Minister, Ian Hunter, was on hand to open the new trails this morning, and as I heard about it, I went around to Pines Oval to check out the goings on. I was lucky enough to meet the Minister, who chats very nicely. He and others, and some cyclists with bikes were all at the closed gate between Pines Oval Road and Echo Track (which is shared use) and I was very pleased to see how good the bushland on the sides of the track was looking. I didn't get a chance to point out that "we did that" but did manage to apologise for my working clothes, so the Minister knows the Friends are in the Park working. The new "shared use" signs are very clear. If the maps could show shared use trails so well, I think we would have little trouble. Please report any cyclists off trail, or near misses etc. either to friendsofbelair@msn.com or to me or direct to our liaison ranger, as we have been asked to monitor the bike use.

Jill Salvi.

Also a copy of the map is available off the internet at the following link

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/52565927/psa-gen-belairmap.pdf>

NEW FORMS FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Weeders of the Friends of Belair National Park met with liaison ranger, Jen Pitman, and Dr. Melissa Pettigrew, Senior Ranger-Volunteer Support, Southern Lofty District at the Volunteer Centre on Friday 26th April 2013 to discuss new forms to use and the work program.

Mel advised that money from the Natural Resource Management funds was available in the budget for the next 3 years for Friends work in BNP.

NEW FORMS FOR DEWNR. Use of the new forms will start now.

Form 1 – Project registration. Several forms, for different kinds of volunteering, are required.

Form 2 – On site hazard. One annual check for the whole Park is usually sufficient for weeding.

Form 3 – Volunteer Attendance. (required to be filled in daily), for working bees and adopt-a-block, also for guided walks and functions. Record date, times, sign on, sign off, site (VMU), and work done.

Any hazards or incidents need to be reported immediately to liaison ranger, who will follow up the paper-work.

Form 4 – Volunteer Induction Checklist. If current procedure by FoBNP covers all this, then continue current procedure.

Form 5 – New Volunteer Registration. Current members have sufficient registration.

Volunteers new in 2013 should use the new form. Continue using a sealed envelope from the volunteer with medical and emergency information for the use of emergency personnel.

For volunteers not members of FoBNP. (scouts, schools, community groups) the liaison ranger will register these on our advice.

Friends Forum 2014

Dear Friends of Parks Groups,

Planning is well underway for the Friends of Parks Forum on Kangaroo Island in 2014. The Forum will be held from May 10 to 12 2014 with the theme-

Connecting People Places and Parks

Kangaroo Island one of Australia's natural strongholds

The islands natural assets and natural defences create the opportunity for a whole of landscape approach to conservation

The organising committee, consisting of Friends of Cape Gantheaume, Friends of Dudley Parks, Friends of KI West, Friends of the Glossies and Natural Resources KI, have secured some excellent guest speakers on the unique aspects of islands and Kangaroo island specifically. The field trips will be unique and access some places not accessed by visitors. We have established a strong partnership with Sealink and Kangaroo Island Community Education.

The draft program for the forum is as follows-

10 May 2014	11am-5pm	Guest Speakers and Forum Matters (including lunch and afternoon tea)
	6:30pm	Forum Dinner
11 May 2014	9am-5pm	Field Trips
	6:30pm	BBQ Dinner
12 May 2014	9am-1pm	Guest Speakers and Forum Matters (including morning tea and lunch)

The detailed program will be developed in the next couple of months.

Sealink are preparing some travel and accomodation packages specifically for this Forum, at reduced rates, which will only be available once registration commences in about September 2013.

The organising committee is now seeking sponsors for the Forum. Attached is some further information that your group may wish to consider.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any matter further,

Daniel Rowley

Chair Forum 2014 Committee

Email- rowleydj@bigpond.com

Phone- 0467 319 925

Good Friday Working Bee

Good Friday was a great success. we had 30 volunteers from Church of Latterday Saints who were staying at Nunyare, the conference centre in Belair for the Easter weekend. They offered to come and do some weeding in Belair Park. We met them at gate 2 and walked along Lodge Track nearly to Brady Gully Track. We went into 9D a nice open area with lots of boneseed, we then worked back towards the lodge. We know they enjoyed the experience, as we received a very nice e-mail from Barry

Hi Mary

Once again thank you for organising the group activity, especially to your group for giving up their Easter break to enable this to happen, every one who participated enjoyed the experience and felt it was worthwhile. They enjoyed working with your group, who would have thought that weeding could be so enjoyable. They also enjoyed the walk to and from the venue, well done. we hope to work with you



If only we could get this group a couple of times a week.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2012

PRESIDENT	Mike Cerchez	8270 8870
VICE PRESIDENT	Mark Pedlar	8278 1991
SECRETARY	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
TREASURER	Carol Parrott	8278 6783
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.	Mary Cole, Brian DuBois, Barry Palmer, Barbara Raine, Jim Trueman.	

FUNCTIONARIES

GUIDED WALKS	Bevin Scholz	8278 6411
LIBRARIAN	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Brian & Noeline DuBois	8270 4215
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8393 9803
VOL. CENTRE BOOKINGS	Mary Cole	8278 3816
MEMBERSHIP	Carol Parrott	8278 6783
WEBSITE	Brian DuBois	8270 4215
SPEAKERS	Barbara Raine	8278 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	Vaive Aldridge	8277 9596

BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Belair National Park Office 8278 5477
After hours Emergency 1300 650 411 then quote page number 465 283

FREE GUIDED WALKS

The next Tuesday walk will be on June 25th.. Subsequent walks will be on the July 23rd, August 27th, September 24th, October 22nd and November 26th.

Put these dates in your diary. Enquiries to Bevin on 8278 6411 or Jill on 8278 6736

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friends of Parks 29th Annual Forum on Kangaroo Island 10th May, 2014.

For more details refer article in this issue.

For information phone Jill 8278 6736.

Professor Cleland Memorial Walk

This year, the Friends of Belair National Park, will be holding their annual Sir John Cleland Memorial Walk on Sunday 22nd September.

For more details refer article in this issue.

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 welcome

June 1 st	Prof. Stefaan Simons – Badgers and Protecting Their Habitat in U K .
July 6 th	Stephan Wait – Woody Weed Control
August 3 rd	Ryan Hamood – My Adventures in Conservation
September 7 th	Peter Bird – The Fauna of Waite Conservation reserve – a neighbouring Grey Box Grassy Woodland
October 5 th	Bevan Scholz – Orchids in Belair National Park
November 2 nd	12.30 pm Barbecue
December 7 th	Tony Whitehill – Significant Trees

WORKING BEES.

Meet by Belair Park Ticket Office

BEFORE 8.30am Standard daylight time or BEFORE 8am Daylight saving time

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

Daylight Saving starts again 6th October 2013

Working Bees on other days, meet by arrangement.

For Mondays, phone Vaike on 8277 9596

For Sundays or Wednesdays phone Betty on 8278 3805

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.