



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

Newsletter—September 2013

President's Comments

Heritage refers to something inherited from the past. The past is not the present. It does not have to be hundreds of years ago. How do we keep our heritage? We have to hang onto what we have now, so we can have something of the past to inherit. The Department was once the Department of Environment and Heritage. It seems to have lost the Heritage, with all its changes. We have been forced to think about this again with the Long Gully and Volunteer Centre upgrade. Upgrades seem to mean modernise in the Departments plans and modernise seems to mean get rid of anything that is a few years old. How can we end up with heritage buildings if we don't keep buildings we have now? The 1950s and 60s buildings are from the past.

On the other hand the Department is trying to create Heritage by rebadging its uniforms, thereby making the current Rangers' uniforms and badges something of the past and needing to be preserved in a museum. A change is not always for the better, especially when there is nothing wrong with what is being changed. The Department is short of money due to budgetary restraints and yet it seems to have an endless supply of money to make changes which do little to improve the delivery of services in the Environment. The irony of the situation is that there are so few Rangers left it will probably cost less to rebadge them. Never have so few been asked to do so much with so little.

Weeding is more than just pulling weeds. It's looking for orchids, fungi and plants which are hard to identify, it's looking for other weeders when they stray. It's finding all manner of things ranging from skeletons (koalas, kangaroos, foxes, no humans yet, we keep finding those stray weeders.), old beer bottles, cans, old camping sites, burnt suit cases, marbles, golf balls, weeding tools lost by other weeders. Some of the more interesting finds lately have been a Swiss army knife, an asthma inhaler, and an interesting plate from an old car which follows:

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- Read Owner's Manual Prior to Operation.
- Study and Understand Controls. Make Sure Everyone is Seated.

- Before Driving Car, Read Safety Warnings Located Above Pedals
- Make Sure Wheels Are Turneded Direction.
- Turn Key to ON Position And Be Sure Nothing is in Your Path
- Select Direction By Placing Shift Lever in Desired Position:
F = Forward N = Neutral R = Reverse
- Vehicle Will Start Moving When Accelerator Pedal is Pushed
- Slowly Push Accelerator Pedal to Increase Speed. Park Brake Will Release When Accelerator Pedal is Pushed
- To Stop Car, Release Accelerator Pedal and Push Brake Pedal
- After Stopping Car, Firmly Push Park Brake Until it Locks
- Remove Key and Place Shift Lever in The Straight Up Neutral Position When car is Not in Use.

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It's been winter in case you haven't noticed. This has meant several weeding sessions have been abandoned due to rain. However we were very lucky on the day which was organised for the Hawthorndene Primary School planting day. It was a beautiful day and the students did a tremendous job planting hundred of plants at Gums Oval and Joseph Fisher area. Some Saturday meeting times have been very wintery and yet Friends have come along to hear the interesting speakers which have been organised by Barbara Raine. We have been trying to streamline the general meeting. Unfortunately, the Long Gully and Volunteer Centre upgrades have taken a far bit of meeting time.

Michael Cerchez

SCOUTS AT WORK

On Sunday 2nd June this year, 37 Joeys, Cubs and leaders and parents from the Tuesday Pack of 1st Blackwood Scout Group joined the Friends of Belair for an environmental activity in the Park, and did they work well!

We attacked the planted area between Gold Escort Ground and Walnut Paddock. Buckets and buckets of plantain were removed, and prickly thistles. The kiddies were impressed to have rangers Dennis Francis and Eric DeSmit helping them weed and by digging holes afterwards for planting seedlings. They planted Calcephalus citreus, Themeda triandra, Dianella longifolia, and Kennedia prostrata, to fill in among the trees and larger shrubs already growing. Each plant was surrounded by a guard to keep off the kangaroos and rabbits. Thanks to the rangers and Friends who assisted on the day. The Scouts said they would like to do it again next year.

Join us for

Bushcare's Major Day Out

Sunday 8 September 2013
In Belair National Park

10.00 am to 12 noon

Free Park entry for participants,
ask at the ticket office.

Meet at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully,
Belair National Park.

Join experienced Bushcarers and those who've never tried Bushcare before. Help us rid our bushland of weeds and help our native plants thrive.

Wear covered shoes, long sleeves, long pants, a hat and gloves.

Bring a bottle of water. Tools not required.



Enquiries to:

the Friends of Belair National Park

E-mail: -friendsofbelairpark@msn.com

Phone 8278 6736



*Annual FREE walks in memory of
Professor Sir John Cleland*

**The Friends of Belair National Park
invite you to**

2 FREE Guided Walks

led by Birds SA

in

Belair National Park

Sunday 22nd September 2013

10 am and 2 pm

4 pm (approx) finish.

**Meet at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully,
in Belair National Park.**

**Note: FREE entry to the Park for participants,
and free tea and coffee from the volunteers.**

BYO lunch, snacks, water.

Wear walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen and jacket

Enquiries: friendsofbelairpark@msn.com or phone 8278 6736



Useful Plants (Shirley Alford)

From the chapter on Useful Australian Plants in Penny Woodward's book "An Australian Herbal"

Acacia melanoxylon – Blackwood – The bark and twigs were used by Aborigines as a fish poison and a hot infusion of the roasted bark was used to bathe rheumatic joints.

Acacia pycnantha – Golden wattle – Its bark has a high tannin content and used to be a major source of tanbark for early settlers. It was also used as an infusion or decoction for a number of ailments, particularly diarrhoea.

Acaena novae-zealandiae – Bidgee-widgee – It was used as a tea substitute by early white settlers. In New Zealand it was regarded as a tonic and applied externally as a wash for wounds and bruises.

Banksia – The nectar can be licked from the flowers, or the flowers can be soaked in water and the syrup drunk for colds and sore throats.

Dodonea viscosa – Sticky hop bush – The whole plant contains tannins and was used as an astringent. Chewed leaves were used for toothache and applied to severe bites and stings. It has been used in other countries to reduce fevers, for stomach disorders, and for sore throats.

Eucalyptus camaldulensis – River Red gum – When cut it produces large amounts of ruby red kino which has a high tannin content and so is a good astringent. It was used dissolved in water and drunk for diarrhoea, and the actual 'gum' has been used in cough lozenges. Aborigines also used an infusion of the leaves and twigs to bathe the head during colds and fevers.

Lavatera plebia – Native hollyhock – The leaves were once boiled and made into a poultice for boils, and the roots were eaten.

Blood donor...An Arab Sheik was admitted to Hospital for heart surgery, but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to store his blood-type in case the need arose.

As the gentleman had a rare type of blood, it couldn't be found locally, so, the call went out.

Finally a Scotsman was located who had a similar blood type. The Scot willingly donated his blood for the Arab.

After the surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman as appreciation for giving his blood, a new BMW, diamonds & thousands of US dollars.

A couple of days later, once again, the Arab had to go through a corrective surgery. His doctor telephoned the Scotsman who was more than happy to donate his blood again. After the second surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman a thank-you card and a box of Quality Street chocolates.

The Scotsman was shocked that the Arab did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had anticipated. He phoned the Arab and asked him: "I thought you would be generous again, that you would give me a BMW, diamonds & money, but you only gave me a thank-you card and a box of Quality Street ." To this the Arab replied: "Aye laddie, but I now have Scottish blood in ma veins".

TRIP TO CURRENCY CREEK ARBORETUM.

On the afternoon of Saturday 24th August a full busload of Friends and friends visited the Arboretum of Eucalypts at Currency Creek. Beginning about 20 years ago, the arboretum is now growing about 700 of the 900 known species of Australian Eucalypts. The thousands of trees grown there are spaced evenly in formal rows, so that each individual tree can be identified on the database. Dean Nicolle, the owner, collects the seeds from their native habitat for planting in the arboretum for scientific study. He showed us many diverse trees during a guided tour taking two hours, some of the trees growing nowhere else under cultivation. Some of the flowers and fruits were huge and spectacular, and some of the leaf forms were most unlike any eucalypts we were familiar with. It was a most fascinating tour. We bought Dean's latest book, "Native Eucalypts of South Australia", kindly signed by the author, for the Friends of Belair library.

Many thanks to Peter Raine for organising the trip and for driving the bus there and back.

Many thanks also to Dean Nicolle for giving us a wonderfully interesting tour.





Environmental Weeds of the South East

Sollya or Blue-bell Creeper - *Billardiera heterophylla*

Sollya or Blue-bell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla* syn. *Sollya heterophylla*) is a shrubby climber native to Western Australia, which is causing significant environmental problems in eastern Australia. Over the last 50+ years it has been used widely as an ornamental garden plant and has escaped into areas of native vegetation where rainfall exceeds 550 mm. It grows in a variety of habitats and is able to tolerate moderate frosts, partial shade to full sun and can survive extended dry periods. In the South East it is found within an area bound by the towns of Naracoorte, Kingston, Beachport and Mt Gambier and in areas of adjacent south western Victoria.

Its dense foliage smothers native vegetation preventing natural regeneration and impacts on native fauna by altering the habitat composition.

Description

The stems of Sollya are coppery brown to grey. Leaves are inserted individually at different heights along the stem on stalks less than 2 mm. Leaves are 20 - 50 mm long and 5 - 15 mm wide. The upper surface is glossy green with the under surface being lighter in colour with a prominent mid-vein. Flowers are blue-mauve and sometimes pink or white in colour. Flowers have 5-petals and are approximately 1 cm in size and occur in clusters of 1 - 5 in drooping clusters at the end of the branches. Sollya flowers in spring - summer. The fruits are cylindrical 15 - 35 mm in size and drooping on stalks. Fruits are initially green, turning purple-green. Each fruit contains more than 50 seeds and fruiting is usually prolific.

Sollya can easily be confused with native creepers such as Sweet Apple Berry (*Billardiera oviformis*). Ensure that correct identification of the species is made before control is undertaken.

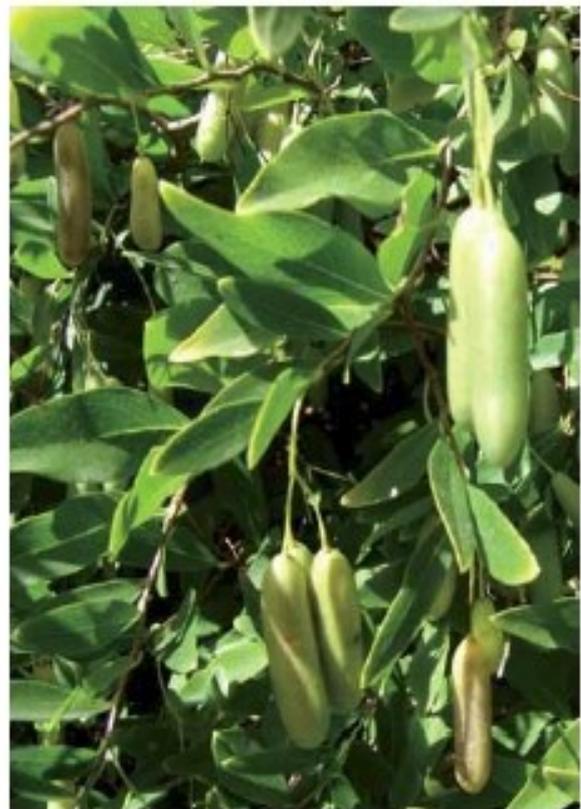
How does it spread?

Sollya only reproduces from seed, which are distributed by birds and foxes and potentially other animals such as possums and bandicoots. After fire or soil disturbance, the prolific regeneration of seedlings will occur.

Control

Small plants can be hand pulled or dug using minimum soil disturbance techniques. The entire root system needs to be removed to prevent regrowth. Larger plants can be controlled using either the Cut and Paste or Drill and Fill method. These methods are best applied before the fruits develop. If the plant cannot be treated immediately, the severing of the vine will prevent seeding, however follow up work will be required. Plants can also be sprayed using selective and non-selective herbicides. In areas of native vegetation this is likely to have off-target damage.

If you see Sollya and would like its identification confirmed or would like further information about this species, contact the Bush Management Adviser, South East on 08-8735-1143.



Leaf and fruit of Sollya

Further Information

Department for Environment and Heritage
Telephone (08) 8735 1111
www.environment.sa.gov.au

FIG: 2642/06/06/Billardiera heterophylla 11/06



School student activities

This year Hawthornedene Primary School again walked to the park and planted numerous tree.

Sites included Gums Oval and Joseph Fisher Pavilion

Gums Oval



Getting ready

Joseph Fisher Pavilion



Getting ready



Ranger Dennis shows how



A little bit more help



The finished projects

Bridal Creeper (Betty Wise)

My most hated weed is bridal creeper. I have been going on about it for years and this year it is worse than ever.

It's appearing where I have never seen it before, usually under a tree - evidence of its spread by birds.

I have sprayed large infestations (July to September) and followed up for several years with reasonable success.

One source suggests slashing to prevent fruit production but this also needs yearly follow-up. In my experience the best method is to dig it so I always take plenty of plastic bags to carry it away. In the past I have taken it home and left it in the sun for several months before disposing of it but the Council tells me I could put it in my green wheelie-bin as green waste is treated before mulching.

I hope I am not becoming obsessed with this ### pest because I find myself clambering or crawling into the most difficult places if I spot the slightest sign of growth, then having to back out again clutching my tool and plastic bag. I am glad there is never anyone around with a camera! I have discovered we may have an ally in rock fern! On Unit 18, near the railway line where bridal creeper is rampant, I have noticed it does grow among the bracken fern, but not among the rock fern which is spreading. I am now watching and hoping the rock fern doesn't smother other natives such as orchids and ground covers.

I will keep persisting because my adopted blocks, Units 11 and 18, have some beautiful bushland with a great variety of native flora and it doesn't take bridal creeper long to grow from tiny beginnings to smothering menace.



Job satisfaction (Mary Cole)

On the 7th June the Mattock Men and the Dam Ladies joined forces to plant 50 *Juncus Pallidus* and 50 *Dianella Longifolia* in VMU 17 near the nursery corner, this area was cleared of Oak Ash & Elm trees a few years ago see photo.

Last year we planted *Acacia Melanoxylon* (black wood). It is very encouraging to see self seeding eucalyptus and other natives starting to taking over what was a very degraded area.



Clearing the rubbish



Final result

FRIENDS of BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

Email:- friendsofbelairpark@msn.com

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2013

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	Bevan Scholz	8278 6411
LIBRARIAN	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Brian & Noeline DuBois	8270 4215
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8393 9803
VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Mary Cole	8278 3816
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

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 September 24th. Subsequent walks will be on 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 poster 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

September 7 th	Peter Bird – The Fauna of Waite Conservation reserve – a neighbouring Grey Box Grassy Woodland
October 5 th	Bevin Scholz – Orchids in Belair National Park
November 2 nd	12.30 pm Barbecue + Work results in VMU 15 – Mary Cole
December 7 th	Tony Whitehill – Significant Trees

2014

January	No meeting
February 1 st	Annual General Meeting

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
Acc Ref:- your name (membership fees)

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.