



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

Newsletter

June 2014

President's Report

Over the last three months the Friends have been giving a good deal of thought to establishing a 3 year plan for our conservation work.

A dedicated band of volunteers, mainly weeders, continues to do a sterling job ridding the park of noxious weeds. Over the last couple of decades we have significantly changed the face of many areas of the park from weed havens to sites of pristine bush. But it is a huge task and some areas have had little or no attention.

Last year we put in over 2500 weeding hours. That's about 50 hours a week. The 847 hectare park is divided into 52 vegetation management units (VMUs) – so an average of 16 hectares each. That means that if we treat all areas the same we can allocate one person for one hour each week in each VMU. In that one hour per week the individual is responsible for weeding an area of 160 standard ¼ acre house blocks. It's obviously woefully insufficient.

So we prioritise. We have already worked on some fairly good areas to make them excellent. We've worked on some dirty areas to make them better. But we have consciously ignored the most heavily infested, steepest and inaccessible areas as being beyond us.

Given those basic truths, we need a plan to maximise our impact from the resources we have.

A survey of the VMUs was made in 1997 and they were rated for their indigenous species, weeds, and conservation significance. In the intervening 17 years we have put in a wealth of good and productive work but we need to clarify what the state is today.

We are going to conduct a vegetation survey of all VMUs to know where we are today.

We need to develop a set of measurable objectives to clearly set out what we will work to achieve.

Then we decide how to get there with a 3 year plan.

While we are doing that, we can do with all the extra volunteers we can find to help ease the load.

Mark Pedlar

A VALUABLE GIFT IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BARRY MARR.

For many years, since 1985, the Friends of Belair National Park have been removing weeds from the Park, mainly from our remaining precious native bushland. In 1997 the whole Park was surveyed in order to draw up a Vegetation Management Plan which has helped direct the work done by the Friends since then. With 52 Vegetation Management Units (VMUs), each scored for biodiversity, rare plants, and the threat of weed invasion, it has been possible to work systematically, setting priorities, recording work done, and ensuring past work is followed up. The results have been very good, even wonderful in some areas.

As so many years have passed, and so much good work has been done, parts of Belair National Park have been transformed. Mainly by removing the weeds, with good follow-up year after year, the bush has regenerated. It has not been possible to work in all areas but priorities have had to be set. Now we need to survey the whole of Belair National Park again, to measure our successes, and to set our priorities again according to where our work will be of most value.

Some of the Friends know various parts or aspects of the Park intimately, but a good survey needs more – it needs expert advice. This will cost money.

Recently the Friends of Belair National Park were very pleased indeed to receive a most generous donation of \$1,000 from Mrs. Carol Marr in memory of her late husband, Barry Marr.

Carol said that she hoped that we will be able “to use it towards some of the wonderful work you all do.” At the General Meeting of the Friends on Saturday 3rd May 2014 it was decided that we use this money towards the vegetation survey of Belair National Park, with the significant contribution in memory of Barry Marr being acknowledged.

Arrangements for the survey are now being made.

Jill Salvi.

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When attending a Friends activity it is a **MUST** that you sign in and out on the attendance book/sheet.

This is not just for the Departments statistics but from your point of view it is evidence that you were in attendance at the specific activity where you may have been involved in a possible injurious incident. You may have suffered no or minimal symptoms from the incidence at the time but the symptoms may have got worse over time. You must have proof of attendance to make a claim.

Look after yourself—sign in & out

The **2014 Cleland Memorial Walk** will be held on Sunday 14th September 2014.

The walk this year will have a historic focus, and start from the Volunteer Centre at Long Gully, beginning at 10.00am. If you would like to learn about some lesser known interesting aspects of the park, and see areas you may not have been through before, please join us.

The walk will take about 2 hours and there will be a Sausage Sizzle and cup of tea (gold coin donation please) at the Volunteer Centre after the walk.

The walk is free, and entry into Belair National Park is free for the public who are coming on this Cleland Memorial Walk organised by the Friends of Belair National Park.

For further information please contact Alan or Barb Raine on 8278 2370.

Volunteering

Many volunteers belong to more than one volunteer group. Jim and Fae Trueman, members of the Belair Friends, also belong to the Friends of Private Bushland [FOPB]

From Jim Trueman

Friends of Private Bushland has undertaken volunteer work to assist people who have suffered severe damage to their properties after bushfires.

First at Saunders Gorge Sanctuary [Sanderston area] where the hard-work of rabbit control had been started. Any new emerging shoots would be destroyed and no re-vegetation established without the rabbit removal.

May 17th will be another working B for weed control on the Heritage property Crooked Tree [Rockleigh area]. After diligently removing weeds over the years they are now faced with a massive infestation because of the fires and then the rains.

Award for Betty and Paul Franche

From Jim Trueman:-

This energetic couple of environmentalists have been awarded Life Membership of The Friends of Onkaparinga Park. They joined the group 1987 and are also Friends of Belair. Always active at working bees, meetings, celebrations and raising many 1000s of dollars undertaking Council's Kerbside recycling collections- a mammoth task. Paul & Betty instigated and ran a bottle and can collection which swelled the funds of the group. Paul has been auditor of the group for a period of 12 years or so. Betty has painstakingly researched the history of the Park, also served as Treasurer for 4 years. Their volunteer work exemplifies their dedication and concern for our environment and the award is well deserved.

Editors Note:-

Betty and Paul have been members of the Friends of Belair National Park since 20th July 1989. At the AGM in March 1990 Paul was engaged as auditor, and served until February 1997. They have both put in regular attendance at meetings.

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to three new members.

Eleanor & Chris Lavish and Brian Kell



Black Tiger Snakes on Kangaroo Island

One of the interesting facts that I learnt on Kangaroo Island, from Dr Peggy Rismiller, was that the Black Tiger Snakes of KI do not hibernate in winter. Even on the coolest days, they will be out acting like little solar panels soaking up the sun, often on paths. I only learnt this after almost stepping on one, (not being alert).

Michael Cerchez

2014 FOP FORUM



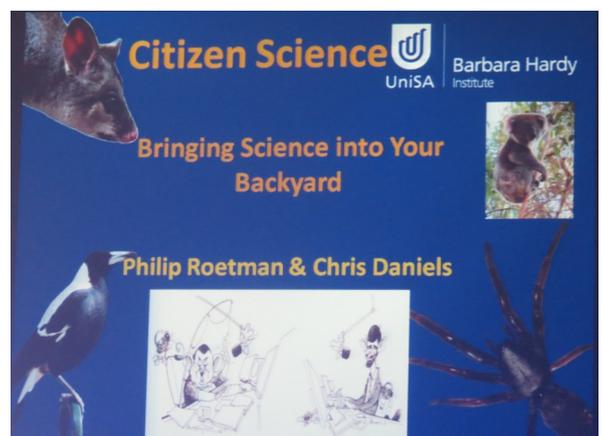
The 29th FOP Forum was held at Kingscote on Kangaroo Island. This was a very successful and well attended forum.

We were well represented with the following members attending: Peggy and Mike Cerchez, Di and Rob Letcher, John and Lorna McIntyre, Ann and Gill Ross, Jill Salvi

The forum had a slightly different format, in that Saturday was devoted to keynote speakers' presentations and the ElectraNet Dinner. All day field trips occurred on Sunday, followed by a barbecue, and on Monday morning more key note speakers gave their presentations.

The speakers were all excellent, focusing mainly on island environments and more specifically on Kangaroo Island.

Professor Chris Daniels' presentation was on Citizen Science, the Magpie, Spider, Possum, Blue Tongue, and Koala counts. Professor Phillip Hayward presented the notion of the aquapelago, a concept that attempts to emphasise the integration of island and coastal societies with marine environments, resources, histories and imaginations. Terry Wilson spoke on the initiatives which have been taken on Lord Howe Island, to restore the natural environment and preserve the cultural environment. Associate Professor John Paterson, who has been involved in the excavation of exceptionally well preserved fossils of Cambrian marine animals at Emu Bay on Kangaroo Island, showcased this remarkable site. This was also one of Sunday's Field trips.



On Monday morning, the speakers focussed very much on Kangaroo Island. Dr Pip Masters, who runs the Repel the Invaders team, spoke on the management of Deer, Goats, Pigs Feral cats and Peacocks. The eradication of goats has been very successful. Deer and Peacocks are also under control. Pigs and cats are still a real



problem. Ms Pam Catcheside gave us the benefit of her knowledge of Kangaroo Island fungi. Kangaroo Island has a variety of fungi, possibly due to the large amounts of remnant vegetation.

Dr Richard Glatz, who has been studying KI insects for 15 years and has discovered a new family of ancient moths, illustrated some of the unique insects which are found on KI. The final speaker reminded us that Kangaroo Island is surrounded by the marine environment. She spoke of the work in sea grass research and establishment, coastal and beach clean ups, research into little penguin numbers and the eradication

of local infestations of marine pests.

The dinner on Saturday night was up to the usual high standard. The Jazz Ensemble students, from the local schools' music program entertained the delegates before the dinner. Students from the Community Education Complex, where the forum was held, catered for the event. Chris Daniels gave a very amusing, illustrated account of how nature was out to get you, which had everybody laughing.



The Field Trips on Sunday were very successful. Peggy and I went on the Rarities, Relics and Renewal Field Trip. The first stop was at Pelican Lagoon, where Dr Peggy Rismiller and Mike Mckelvey spoke of their research into Echidnas, Rosenberg's Goannas and Black Tiger Snakes at this unique aquatic reserve. We then continued to Lashmar Conservation Park, where Kathy Stove, one of the local Friends, explained the problems they were having with Arum Lilies which have spread from a historic grave site.

After a short walk along the beach to the mouth of the Chapman River, we had a very pleasant lunch stop at the Chapman River winery, which supplied great gourmet platters, and wine at reasonable prices.



The weather set the right mood, (windy and rainy) for our last stop which was Cape Willoughby Lighthouse, where local Historian Mr Wren Lashmar conducted a very informative tour of the light house complex. On Sunday night the students from Parndana Area School put on a barbecue featuring the foods which they produced as part of their training in Hospitality.

As you can see it was an excellent forum, well organised, and well catered for, and hopefully not the last.

If you want a more detailed account of the forum there will be DVDs available at a later date.

Michael and Peggy Cerchez

Summary of the first meeting of the History & Heritage sub-committee of FoBNP 14/5/2014

Photos.

- Photo albums, some photos with details, some without, of people and events.
- Special photo albums, by Jenny Skinner, of historic sites and structures, labelled.
- Albums of significant trees and other trees for the Significant Tree Project.
- Sundry photos, loose and on display sheets, mostly not captioned, to be sorted.

Proposed Actions

- Examine loose photos, for names and functions, or other interesting facts.
- Examine photo criteria to compose a spreadsheet in to list the photos.
- Photopoints. Check for updating.
- Volunteers will take photographs of sites and buildings as per the list from Pam Tamblyn, and include GPS positions.

Information that we have.

- We have all minutes of Friends of BNP from 1985 to the present stored at the Volunteer Centre.
- (Also financial papers, field notes for weeding, significant tree project, etc.)
- Ron Tamblyn has a collection of maps.
- The FoBNP library has "The Park at Belair" by Dene Cordes, also "The National Park of South Australia" first published in 1909.
- The filing cabinet at the Volunteer Centre has many files to be examined, including Management Plans and other plans.

Getting Information.

- "Trove" newspaper reports are available for research.
- Files from Belair were sent to Cleland (information on the Park?)
- Discover where is the model of Karka Pavilion
- Discover what happened to the beams from the previous office – from fallen sequoia.
- Foots House is somewhere. Find out more.
- Lockup (jail) – should we recover it, or get similar from Blackwood Police Station.
- Ask president, Mark Pedlar, if the vegetation survey could include the GPS of any ruins or suchlike that they come across.
- 1936 map – Barry to ask Mitcham and Cleland office. Photocopy parts in Pam's papers.
- Check cupboards in storeroom – these might belong to DEWNR. Old pictures and prints.
- Look at what storage is required.

The following people are already involved.

Brian (chair) & Noeline DuBois), Barry Palmer, Tina & Wayne Gallasch, Bev Jennings, Jill Salvi, Ron and Pam Tamblyn, Jen Pitman, Dene Cordes and Lorna McIntyre.)

As you can see there is plenty that can be done to record and make available many interesting facts about Belair National Park and the connection to the Friends. Have you any skills in this regard or would like to help. We will be happy to involve you.

Staffing cuts– Nothing changes

From the minutes of The Friends Of Belair Park - dated 11th February 1988.

“General Business.

J. Hunwick spoke of the staffing of parks. The National Parks Association is so concerned about the staff cuts that steps had already been taken to enlist the support of Friends Groups. It was decided to nominate \$100 from Friends of Belair Park to cover printing costs in the campaign for the retention of staff in parks.”

In the late eighties there were a total of 26 rangers and workmen stationed at Belair.

Presidents of the Friends of Belair National Park.

Year	President	Year	President	Year	President
October 1985	John Hunwick	1/02/1997	Lynda Knight	3/02/2007	Mike Cerchez
10/12/1987	John Hunwick	7/02/1998	Brian DuBois	2/02/2008	Mike Cerchez
9/12/1988	Ray Nash	6/02/1999	Brian DuBois	7/02/2009	Mike Cerchez
8/03/1990	Ray Nash	5/02/2000	Brian DuBois	6/02/2010	Mike Cerchez
14/03/1991	Barry Burley	3/02/2001	Brian DuBois	5/02/2011	Mike Cerchez
7/03/1992	Barry Burley	2/02/2002	Brian DuBois	4/02/2012	Mike Cerchez
20/02/1993	Ron Pitman	1/02/2003	Ron Tamblyn	2/02/2013	Mike Cerchez
5/02/1994	Dapne Johncock	7/02/2004	Ron Tamblyn	1/03/2014	Mark Pedlar
4/02/1995	Ron Pitman	5/02/2005	Brian DuBois		
3/02/1996	Lynda Knight	4/02/2006	Brian DuBois		

A wet week



Plantain sprouting in the head.

This situation requires the seed to be fully developed and with rain and damp conditions lasting long enough for the seed to germinate.

The condition is unusual. I have seen it in a wheat crop on Eyre Peninsula back in 1967 when these conditions occurred.

When the conditions dry up the sprout should die.

This plant was spotted and submitted by Lorna McIntyre

A Clever Jury...

In a criminal justice system based on 12 individuals not smart enough to get out of jury duty. Here is a jury to be proud of.....

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defence's closing statement, the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for all of you", the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom." He looked towards the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened.

Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement, but you all looked on with anticipation. I, therefore, put it to you, that you have a reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed, and I insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty.

"But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door."

The jury foreman replied:

"Yes, we did look, But your client didn't!"

Then

From the story of the Friends (1985)

One of the first working bees of the Friends was the most dramatic - a head-on attack on rampant Sollya which had escaped from the Nursery. Twelve Friends used the old-school method of dragging chains to demolish the huge bushes, with a rallying cry from Chairman Hunwick, "Well done, you stalwarts!".

and Now.



The "Dam" ladies tackling sollya recently, without chains and less workers , but no less dramatic, .

Certificate of Appreciation

At a recent meeting of the **Blackwood, Belair District Community Association** our President, Mark, who is also a member of the BBDCA, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the valuable work that the Friends of Belair National Park have performed on behalf of the Belair National Park.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Postal Address:- PO Box 2 BELAIR SA 5052

Email:- friendsofbelairpark@msn.com

www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

Website & Newsletter:- bandoobs@gmail.com

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2014

PRESIDENT	Mark Pedlar	8278 1991
VICE PRESIDENT	Mike Cerchez	8270 8870
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	Barbara Raine	8278 2370
LIBRARIAN	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Brian & Noeline DuBois	8270 4215 bandoobs@gmail.com
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8393 9803
VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
MEMBERSHIP	Carol Parrott	8278 6783
WEBSITE	Brian DuBois	8270 4215 bandoobs@gmail.com
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	Vaike Aldridge	8277 9596

BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Belair National Park Office 8278 5477

After hours Emergency 0427 556 676

Put these numbers in your mobile.

FREE GUIDED WALKS April to November

On the 4th Tuesday afternoon each month at 2.00. pm

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

The next Tuesday walk will be July 22nd, .. Subsequent walks will be on the August 26th, September 23rd, October 28th and November 25th.

Put these dates in your diary. Enquiries to Barbara Raine on 8278 2370

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friends of Parks 30th Annual Forum. To be held in 2016

For details of this years Forum refer article in this issue (June).

Details for the next forum will be published when available.

Professor Cleland Memorial Walk

This year, the Friends of Belair National Park, will be holding their annual Sir John Cleland Memorial on Sunday the 14th September, 2014.

Details in this issue.(June)

Birthday Party

Held on the 19th of December to celebrate the birthday of Belair National Park.

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2014

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

July 5th - Nick Crouch "Tennyson Dunes"

Nick is a member of the Friends of the Tennyson Dunes as well as a Tafe lecturer at Urbrae for the Conservation and Land Management course.

Aug 2nd - Dr. Rachel Westcott "Wild Animal Rescue"

Rachel is a Vet who runs "Savem" - SA Veterinary Emergency Management, which works to rescue and treat animals, to reunite them with their owners, or return wildlife to suitable habitat

Sept 6th - Geoff Coombe "Snake Awareness".

Geoff is a Herpetologist and together with Snake Catcher Ruby he will give us practical advice on how to manage any encounters we have with snakes as we work in the Park.

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 Sunday 5th, October 2014

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.