



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985
Quarterly Newsletter March 2015



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

Friends of Belair National Park

President's Report

2014/5

I don't know where the last year has gone but it is now my honour to present my first Annual President's Report. Such reports seem to continuously describe record years. However, it is a fact that we have again seen marked improvements.

We now have over 100 members 77 of who regularly actively volunteer in some capacity. We'd love to have higher numbers in both of those categories and will continue to strive to increase numbers. The Friends' objectives include improving the biodiversity of, and showing the public the beauty of a park covering 847ha. We always need extra pairs of hands.

Bushcare and biodiversity improvement occupy much of our volunteer time. This year 42 weeders have put in just under 3000 hours of work resulting in real progress in many areas of the park. Organ-ised working groups operate on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. However there are several members who have adopted particular areas and put in many hours outside the working bee occasions. For many years we have kept records of the work done and can track our progress over time. This year we've put these records into a worksheet and now not only have the data but can readily search them. Further, we are working on electronic methods of mapping these data as well as weed and endan-gered species locations in the park.

The ARTC Adelaide to Melbourne rail corridor is one significant feature of the park that affects our bushcare. The nature of the terrain makes it difficult for ARTC to control all of the weeds with their normal spray practices and the public are not allowed in the corridor except at authorised crossing points. However, we've renegotiated an agreement with ARTC to enter the corridor several times a year, under supervision to remove boneseed and other woody weeds that otherwise invade the park.

This year we have developed a 3 year plan to formally guide our bushcare activities. It will remain a live document but mark 1 is now ready for release. It lays out the guidelines we will work to in decid-ing which parts of the park to work in and how often to revisit them. At the outset it will be necessary to restrict our efforts to those areas we already attend. As these require less follow up work and as we gain more arms and legs we shall be able to spread our influence further across the park.

While bushcare is a major function of what we do there are significant other activities carried out by some very active volunteers. Besides the weeders, there are another 35 very active volunteers carry-

ing out other work. Apart from the hottest months we have run well attended walks in the park as well as the annual Cleland Memorial Walk in the spring.

The park is unique among national parks because of its use as a recreation area for most of European settlement. Our History and Heritage group is working assiduously to ensure we rediscover and preserve as much of that heritage as we can. As well, our library continues to expand and now boasts a very respectable series of works on many aspects of bushcare and other topics.

Community group visits to the park attended and managed by volunteers have included several school groups. Scouts have planted trees and among the corporate groups around 15 Westpac staff took the opportunity to lend a hand with bushcare on a Friday morning. Even our local MP the Hon. Andrew Southcott came and got his hands dirty weeding with us one Friday.

This report reflects the dedicated work of 77 people, none of whom I've mentioned by name. There simply isn't space to do them all justice but this does not diminish the significance of their efforts. However, I must mention one. Mary Cole our weeding coordinator for several years has decided to step back from the role but to continue as a weeder. Mary has put in an exceptional amount of work and has executed the role with enthusiasm. Thank you Mary we continue to value your input and experience.

Mark Pedlar — President

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Upcoming Events.

Monday 16th March 2015,

Consultation re Strategic Business Plan and Future Directions for the Organisation.

9.30am for 10.00 start to 1.00pm. at the Volunteer Centre,
Long Gully, Belair National Park

morning tea provided by Friends of Belair. (details to be arranged)

Friends of Parks Incorporated. (umbrella group for the Friends)

(for more details refer Presidents's Chat no.55, 21/1/2015)

Agenda items include relationships with DEWNR, with other Friends of Parks, etc., programs and future roles, questions and discussions.

For booking or more information, contact Jill on 8278 6736, or friendsofbelairpark@msn.com.

Sunday May 3rd 2015.

BELAIR OPEN DAY 2015.

Entry to the Park on this day will be free, creating an exciting opportunity to showcase the important environmental and cultural heritage values protected in the park as well as the wonderful recreation opportunities that people can experience in this beautiful natural setting.

Friends of Belair National Park will have a display at Gums Oval, and will provide activities for children – art activities, colouring, drawing, making origami frogs, and probably a bird and turtle viewing at Playford Lake. Perhaps another guided walk, and a planting session. Your suggestions and help are warmly welcomed. Contact Jill on 8278 6736 or friendsofbelairpark@msn.com.

Weeding Report for 2014

Weeding Program in Belair National Park

There are 34 Friends actively working in the park on Bush care.

Some of us work on the regular Tuesday and Friday working bees, and the third Saturday in the Month. Others work on their adopted blocks.. The names of all the weeders appear below.

During 2014 we worked on 35 of the 52 VMU'S

Volunteers from the following groups have helped us with our bush care

Origin Energy

West pack Bank

Blackwood Scouts (who did some planting for us, And then enjoyed a walk, spotting Koala's).

Windsor Gardens College

Last by no means least we had the help of a Politician. Yes, Andrew Southcott came and helped us. He said how much he enjoyed the experience.

Putting all these hours together we reach the grand total of **2987**

That's 441 hours more than last year. This was achieved by a number of new weeder's joining us. Plus the tremendous amount of hours put in by the Raine Family. I would also like to mention Ross Handsaker who has for the last year put in in 491 hours killing Olives and some Ash, a great effort.

Whether we have put in just a few hours or many I think we should be vey proud of what we achieved in 2014. One thing is for sure we will never be out of work, still plenty to do.

This is my final report as weed coordinator. I would like to wish Barb success in her new role , when it comes to her enthusiasm for the park I am sure she will do a great job. I will still be around working on the Bush care, recording hours doing the stock taking of tools and first aid bags.

I would like to say a big thank you to every one who has helped me over the past few years. There are to many to mention.

2014

Aldridge, Vaike	Alford, Shirley	Boulderstone, Craig & Jo
Cerchez, Mike	Cerchez, Peggy	Cole, Mary
Drage, Heather	Ferris, Aileen	Foggarty, Mandy
Handsaker, Ross	Hocking, Aileen	Janz, Helen
Kell, Brian	Lavis, Eleanor	Loffler, Faye
Markulin, Ankica	Neill, Di	Pedlar, Mark
Pedlar, Jenny	Raine, Alan	Raine, Barbara
Raine, Peter	Raine, Steve	Salvi, Jill
Scholz, Beven	Trowse, Spencer	Trueman, Jim
Trueman, Fae	Vasilevskis, Vilis	Wake, Phil
Warburton, Barbara	Wise, Betty	Woolven, Malcolm

I have had great fun, and lots of laugh's, they do say laughter is the best Medicine.

Mary Cole February 2015

MEN'S WORKING BEES ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Over the past 12 months we have put in 556 hours weeding and planting on Tuesdays and Fridays. These hours were worked by 12 men. We mainly maintained previously weeded VMUs removing mostly Boneseed, Olives, Broom, Rhamnus (Blowfly Bush, Buckthorn), and Sollya. We, in fact, worked in 18 Vegetation Management Units. We aimed to reduce the residual seed bank and fresh seeding by birds and the wind. On several occasions, we combined with the ladies to work on specific tasks in certain VMUs. I thank Bevin Scholz and Alan Raines, who filled in on numerous occasions, when I was not able to attend working bees. I thank all the men who worked at various times throughout the year. Without your efforts there would be a lot more weeds in the Park.

Ross and Spencer have continued the tedious work of killing olives in various areas in the park. Their independent effort has greatly reduced the number of Olives in the VMUs in which they have worked.

In November we finally returned to the railway land working under the supervision of a safety officer. This was after an absence of several years. New Commonwealth Occupation Safety Requirements have made working on the Railway Land a little more complicated but we hope the success of the first working bee will enable us to continue to reduce the weeds in some of the rail corridor.

I would also thank Mary Cole for her excellent and dedicated work as Working Bee Coordinator in the last 4 years. Without her efforts the men's group would not have been able to achieve our results.

Michael Cerchez

February 2015

Hermann & Elli's tree.



In 2013 we received an enquiry about "Hermann & Elli's tree" but I was unable to find any information about it. I searched on "Trove" on the internet and although I found a couple of references where a Hermann was linked with an Elli, nothing seemed relevant.

This tree is a large dead gum tree in Karka Picnic Ground on the bank of the creek. There had been a sign made of two pieces of metal attached a little above head height. "Hermann &" above and "Elli's tree" below. Sadly, in one of the recent spring storms, half of the tree broke off, taking the sign with it. But the sign has now been re-attached thanks to our good Park workmen.

The mystery still remains. Who were Hermann and Elli?

Jill Salvi.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

LIBRARY REPORT 2014

During the past year 27 books have been added to our library, many donated by members who have been clearing out their bookshelves or moving to a smaller home. Thank you to those generous people.

Recent additions include “The Park at Belair” and “Hub of the Hilltops” both written by Dene Cordes, one of our members. We are extremely grateful to Dene who went to considerable trouble so that our library would have these interesting, but out of print, books about Belair.

A record of the 2014 Guided Walks has been compiled by Barbara and Alan Raine and there is a copy for members to borrow. It will not only be an asset for future walk leaders but of interest to those of us who walk in the Park – even ‘armchair’ walkers. It not only contains a record of the walks but vegetation information and photographs.

Various Government departments produce information on weed management. We now have manuals on : - the control of declared plants in Sth. Australia; boneseed management, etc. The more recent publications have been obtained at talks held in our region, so thanks are due to Mary Cole and others who attended these talks as the information is not automatically sent to anyone who pulls up a weed. There are videos and an abundance of information about weed control on many web sites, but for some of us it is not always easy to find – we still need books.

The annual stocktake has been done and the catalogue reprinted by Aileen Ferris so it now includes 2014 acquisitions. It is thanks to Aileen instigating the category and numbering system that books are easier to find, and stocktaking did not take very long. Thank you for all you do Aileen.

Shirley Alford

Librarian.

New Members

The following members have joined us during the last three months.

We give them a warm welcome and hope their time with us is enjoyable and productive.

Barbara Hart	Lower Mitcham
Ian and Petrea Graham	Hawthorndene
Hayley Prentice	Happy Valley
Melissa Reilly	Coromandel Valley
Mandy Fogarty & Lenny Welsford	Blackwood 5051

Bumper Stickers

The committee is considering purchasing 100 bumper stickers for “Friend of Belair National Park” or similar wording . However, as they will cost \$3.00 each, we need a firm commitment of at least 40 to 50 members, or about half of our membership to make it a viable purchase not a white elephant.

Would you commit .

If so please let a committee member know what you think.

History & Heritage

Annual report 2014

Two meetings were held during the year. This is a new sub-committee to investigate what records are available, both for the Friends of Belair and the Park to assemble in an indexed and easily accessible manner.

What do we have.

Photo collections:-

Collections which include photos of events, people, sites, flora and fauna. Flora includes photos of plants and time photography of weeding sites.

Printed Matter:-

Minutes and newsletters of the Friends from 1985.

Financial papers, field notes for weeding and the significant trees project .

Collection of maps

Two significant books

“The Park at Belair” by Dene Crodes.

“The National Park of South Australia” (1909)

General files stored in the Volunteer Centre.

Tasks currently being undertaken.

Photo data base.

Searching “Trove” .

Checking heritage listing of houses in Belair Park.

Digitising handwritten documents.

Binding loose leaf documents.

Checking Park records.

Checking where the time capsule (Belair Primary School) is in VMU 8

Special project by Ron & Pam Tamblyn on “Sites & Structures in Belair National Park”.

Establishing if the Commissioners’ Shack can be restored and protected from white ants, and for the possibility of storing or displaying the past uniforms of the Park staff.

Brian DuBois (Chair)

Vale

Michael Vaughan 1942-2015.

Michael worked on a Bush for Life site on Sheoak Road outside the Park fence for many years and in 2008 he joined the Friends of Belair National Park so that he could enlarge this work inside the fence removing blackberry and broom. He continued working in VMU 29 until December 2013.

Michael died in January this year. He had Motor Neurone Disease.

A very large number of people attended his funeral and paid tribute to his many interests in the community. Barbara Warburton attended and represented Friends of Belair, although she had also worked with Michael with Trees for Life and at the Law Courts.

We will miss Michael and the work that he did in this beautiful area of Belair National Park.

Auditors Report to the Members of Friends of Belair National Park

Scope

We have audited the attached financial statements of Friends of Belair Park for the year ended 31 December 2014. The Association's Treasurer is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained herein. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Friends of Belair Park.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Association's Committee accountability requirements. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members of the Friends of Belair Park.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) so as to present a view of the Friends of Belair Park which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of Friends of Belair Park present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the financial position as at 31 December 2014 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed

Geoffrey David Hattam

12th January 2015

Altitude Advisory Pty Ltd

39 Charles Street

NORWOOD,

Friends of Belair National Park

1st January 2014 to 31st December

Balance Sheet

Assets	Opening Balance	Movement	Closing Balance
Friends of BNP Cheque Acct	\$911.87	\$688.39	\$1,600.26
Fixed Term Deposit	\$5,889.60	-\$324.44	\$5,565.16
Total Assets	\$6,801.47	\$363.95	\$7,165.42
Liabilities			
Restoration of Minno Creek in the Dianella Precinct	\$357.48	-\$357.48	
Carol Ann Marr Project	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,357.48	-\$357.48	\$1,000.00
Net Assets	\$5,443.99	\$721.43	\$6,165.42
Represented by equity			
Funds of Belair NP Funds C/fwd	\$5,443.99	\$721.43	\$6,165.42
Total Equity	\$5,443.99	\$721.43	\$6,165.42

Profit and Loss Statement

Income	Amount
2014 Membership Fees	\$477.50
2015 Membership Fees	\$525.00
Donations	\$1,989.20
Merchandise(sale of)	\$10.00
Interest on term deposit	\$175.56
Balance retained on Dianella project	\$1.35
Recycling	\$1.30
Cheque Acct Interest	\$1.22
Total Income	\$3,181.13
Expenditure	
1st Aid	\$143.46
Postage/telephone	\$167.25
Tools/keys	\$985.48
Donations/flowers	\$415.00
Stationery	\$184.03
Ink Cartridges	\$200.19
Volunteer Centre Supplies	\$71.99
Gifts for Speakers	\$237.30
Membership Fees	\$10.00
Stall Hire at Wayville	\$45.00
Total Expenses	\$2,459.70
Movement	\$721.43

Financial Report to the AGM of The Friends of Belair National Park 7th February 2015

Copies of the audited report are available for anyone who wishes to see it or to have a copy for themselves.

My thanks to Sarah Allen for completing the auditing process and to Hattam McCarthy Reeves for signing off the completed documents.

Since the group decided that it wasn't financially appropriate for us to subscribe to an online accounting system, but that electronically produced accounts are preferable for our accountants, this year I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn a little more about the use of spreadsheets to record our data. The resulting paperwork is clear & easy to manage.

This year we finalised our ongoing financial commitment to work in "Minno Creek in the Dianella Precinct" project by buying suitable plant species to revegetate the area. As a consequence our only remaining liability is the \$1000 donated to the group from Carol Ann Marr.

Earlier in the year there was a concern that our expenses were outstripping our income and therefore it may have been necessary to increase our membership fees. However on closer examination of the records we are able to cover our week to week running costs with a combination of membership fees and donations and it was decided to leave the membership fees unchanged.

For expenses beyond those needed to run the group we have several options:

- 1 use capital from our term investment account
- 2 apply for small grants (usually local council) for new and replacement tools
- 3 apply for large grants to enable us to engage contractors to carry out work in areas that are beyond the range of the friends working groups.

Clearly a combination of all three is likely to bring the best outcomes & so it would be very advantageous for us to have a volunteer undertake a primary role in grant applications.

As a result of the work of Jen Pitman we were successful in our application for an NRM grant this year and so have \$5000 to spend on contract work to tackle woody weeds, periwinkle and blackberry in several areas.

Total funds in hand at 31/12/2014 stand at \$7165.42 and this includes a liability of \$1000.

Memberships:

Membership numbers continue to slowly increase. From 2013—2014 we have increased from 108 to 119. This is pleasing knowing that many volunteer groups struggle to retain a viable membership level.



Reminder

Membership fees are now due.

Payment methods are outlined on the back page.

You must be a financial member to be an integral part of the Friends .



Carol Parrott —Treasurer

From the diary of one of our members

Yesterday had turned quite cold, and there was a sharp breeze blowing in the afternoon, and I am certain the conditions slowed down the metamorphosis of my Monarch.

Very first thing this morning I grabbed my camera and dashed into the back yard.

It wasn't much warmer, but when the sun did come out it became quite pleasant.

I swear to God the first ray of sun touched the chrysalis, and in front of my eyes, it started to open. I yelled for Wayne to come and have a look, not daring to take my eyes off it. (The neighbours must have wondered what was going on - I can be quite loud when the occasion demands).

And slowly at first, and then quite quickly the butterfly emerged. She looked like a crumpled Cinderella who had slept in her ball gown.

The wings started to stretch out as they filled with blood. She (and it is a she, not a he as I thought) stretched and preened her proboscis - I was startled to see it's in two pieces - perhaps it fuses in time.

And she just hung there, must have been for an hour or more. So I went inside after a time, popping back down to have a look every so often.

Finally she climbed to the top of the stem, stretching and opening and closing her wings as she went.

She took off, a mite too early perhaps, because, oh glory, she landed on my hand.

Scarcely daring to breath, I carried her to the butterfly bush, and gently transferred her to a flower. Waste of time, she went back onto a leaf. Eventually she took off on her maiden flight, still a bit squiffy, landing on the silver birch for a bit of a breather before flying off.

I've been kissed by a butterfly!



From the Editor.

When I was a young lad I was given a cardboard box with the lid modified with cellophane so that it could be seen through without disturbing the contents. Inside were several caterpillars and leaves for them to feed on.

I was able to watch the transformation from a very ugly hairy rapid leaf gorging creature to a beautiful delicate looking creature who (when they ate) was in a very delicate manner.

When we were young we were told the story of the ugly duckling. The duckling was never as ugly as a caterpillar nor as beautiful as a butterfly. The transformation was never as dramatic either.

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Postal Address:- PO Box 2 BELAIR SA 5052

Email:- friendsofbelairpark@msn.com

Website:- www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

Website & Newsletter:- bandoobs@gmail.com

Facebook:- www.facebook.com/fobnp

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2015

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, Chris Lightowler.	

FUNCTIONARIES

GUIDED WALKS	Bevan Scholz	8278 6411
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	Tina Gallasch	8178 0688
WORKING BEE COORDINATOR	Barbara Raine	8278 2370
WORKING BEES for Tuesday or Friday,	Barbara Raine	8278 2370

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

Normally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. No guided walks over summer.

Walks will resume on Tuesday 28th of April 2015.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Details of the next forum will be published when available.

Professor Cleland Memorial Walk

The Friends of Belair National Park, will be holding their annual Sir John Cleland Memorial for 2015. Details and date to be advised..

Birthday Party

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2014/15

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

2015

April 4th **12.30pm** – Barbecue Note the earlier start time.

May 2nd – Geoff Coombe “Snake awareness”

June 6th – Police Officer Frisby and Oscar

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 Barbara on 8278 2370

Daylight Saving ends Sunday 5th April 2015

Working Bees on other days, meet by arrangement.

For Mondays, phone Vaike on 8277 9596

For 3rd Saturday of each month at 9.00am phone 8278 2370

Membership Payments

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