



Friends of Belair National Park

volunteers working for Conservation

Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2016

From the Editor,

In these present days of cold, wet and windy weather I would like to give a very big thanks to our intrepid members of the weeding group. They help look after the care and maintenance of the park, doing much more than simply pulling weeds. They work assiduously throughout the year in hot weather as well as cold. They are a constant source of inspiration for all of us.

I would also like to thank those who have contributed photos for the newsletter and also to our webmaster Chris Lightowler. If you have good photos of the park, do not hesitate to email them to Chris at seow@live.com with a note if possible as to where the photo was taken. He will be most appreciative. See Friends of Belair National Park. <http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark/index.html>

Or check out our Friends' Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/fobnp>

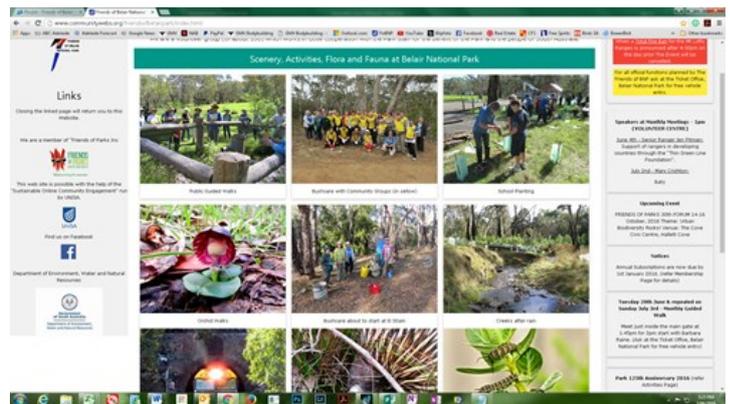
You can also find a recent story about the Park from SA Life Channel 7 here: <http://www.salife7.com.au/adelaide-hills/places/parks/belair-national-park-celebrates-125-years>

Contents

President's Report	Page 2
Letter to the Editor	Page 3
Stop Press	Page 3
Newsletter Deadline	Page 3
Bush Care Report	Page 4
Belair Poem	Page 5
Park By-Laws 1892	Page 6
New Park Signs	
Old Road to the Gullies	Page 7
Echo tunnel	Page 8
Sniffer Dogs	Page 9
Situations Vacant	Page 9
Membership Payments and activities info	Page 10

Chris Lightowler does an amazing job on the web site and here is a recent Screenshot of part of the site's home page.

The Friends of Belair National Park would like to extend to Ross Handsaker our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the work he has put in on his adopted block since 1999. That is an extraordinary amount of dedication over many years.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

TONY & VIRGINIA DYSON, LAUREN HEDDLE, EVE ROBINSON, NATALIE LEWIS, MATTHEW O'REILLY & AGNIESZKA SZREMSKA, ALLISON PAWELSKI, JOHN COATES, JOSIE KIRK, RORY BARNES, JOHN GRANGER & FAMILY, TREVOR & MARG SPURR

Total Fire Ban Days

There are no activities held by the Friends in Belair National Park if there is a Total Fire Ban in the Mount Lofty Ranges on that day. (see weather forecast from 4.30pm previous day). (We look to be fairly safe over winter!)

Since the last newsletter was issued DEWNR has launched the 125th Birthday Celebrations of the Park.

On 13th March members of the "Friends" accompanied by DEWNR staff, our state MP The Right Honourable Sam Duluk, and Liberal Federal hopeful, Nicolle Flint attended the official launch at Old Government House.



At the suggestion of a long term member, Jill Salvi, the "Friends" arranged a 22 seater bus to provide visitors to the park with trips around some of the areas only normally accessible on foot. The eastern half of the park, once served by the long closed railway station at Long Gully, has a series of excellent bitumen/gravel roads but several are gated most of the time. As a result families with small children and those less physically able rarely get to see many areas.

The bus made 5 tours between 10am and 3 pm. Nearly 100 people who otherwise would not have been able to see more of the

park.

Several "Friends" members manned a stall at the pick-up/drop-off point with maps and other information about the park in general.

At the same time, Carol Parrott, Mary Cole and many others provided tea and cakes for a gold coin donation at the Volunteer Centre in Long Gully where there was a poster display of Belair Historical and Heritage data and photographs.



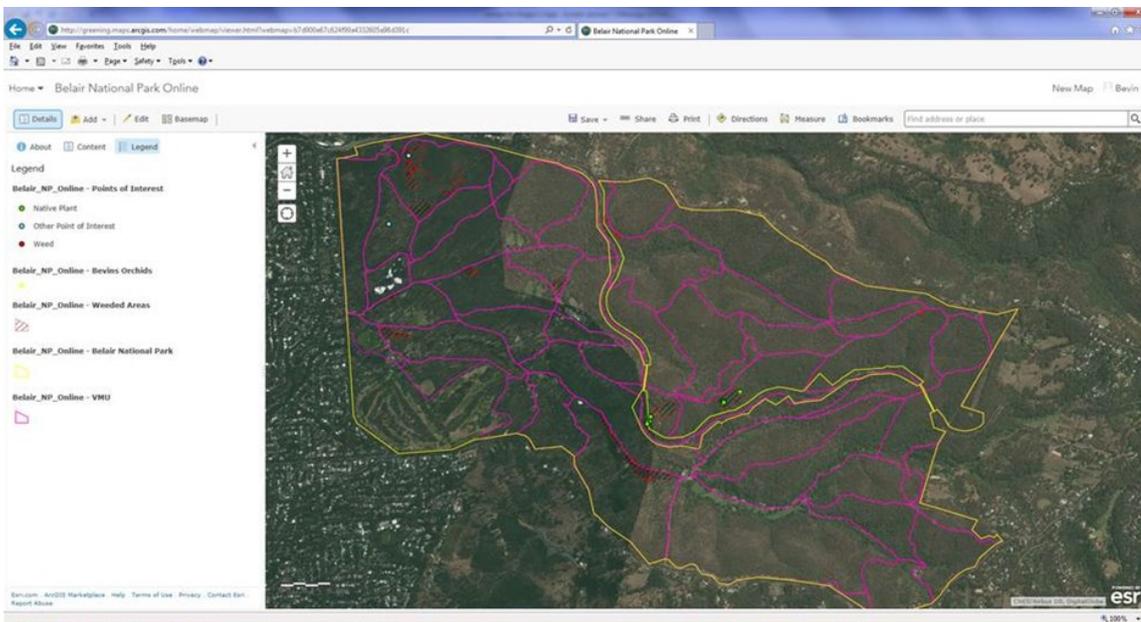
Further events are planned for the rest of the year. These include a series of guided walks during History Month featuring items and structures of historical significance. More walks are planned for the Belair Open Day in September when Belair National Park is "Park of the Month".



The group manned a stall during Grey Box Day and again opened the Volunteer Centre to visitors. These events have enabled us to add both members and bushcarers to our numbers. Needless to say more bushcarers are always welcome.

On the subject of bushcare, we now have 4-5 months experience of Basal Bark treatments on a series of species. Ash, Poplar and Olive appear to respond well. Pittosporum seems to be very resistant. Growth next spring will be the real test of all. We are beginning also to develop

useful data of weeded areas using James McGregor's app – Collector. James has kindly agreed to add to the weed species accommodated in the app and to add year specific layers for the data collected.



This screen dump shows VMUs in pink, Weeded areas as red hatched patches and noted orchid locations as green dots. We have yet to be in a position to record all activities.

Letter to the Editor:

Sir,

There is currently a process going on, to save the condemned three former Ranger Cottages in Belair National Park. This campaign is being led by the Friends of Belair, the National Parks Heritage Committee, and the National Parks Social Club. There is to be a meeting at the Volunteer Centre on Wednesday, 15th June, at 3.30 p.m. This will be attended by at least three delegates from the above groups, although anyone else who feels interested is very welcome to attend.

We will form a sub-group, called "The Belair Houses Group". We will elect leaders and start working on our fight for heritage. Already, an excellent submission has been sent to DEWNR, and we hope for some encouraging news on the subject.

I can relate some history, as follows:-

From 1891 to 1966, the Belair National Park (known as The National Park) was run by a Board of Commissioners (voluntarily). In 1966 the National Parks Commission was appointed by the Government – also voluntary people of note -. In 1972 the National Parks and Wildlife Service was gazetted by the State Government, and the Commissioners were dumped, without any thanks for 80 years of voluntary management. At the same time, Belair Park was demoted and gazetted as a Recreation Park.

The Friends of Belair and the National Parks Heritage Committee lobbied very strongly for the Park to be re-named as a National Park, because of its heritage and history. On the 100th anniversary of the park, on 19.12.1991, Minister Susan Lenehan, M.P. came to the park and made an announcement that it will again be named **Belair National Park, because of its heritage and social history**. It would otherwise not have qualified.

Now, we have the despair of seeing the fabric of cultural, social, and heritage values being desecrated, with the proposed demolition of three houses. Architecturally grand, they are not. But cogs in the chain of social history and culture of the park – they are rich heritage assets. I appeal to all the Friends of Belair to get fully behind the fight to save the three houses. In doing so, we fight to save the classification as a National Park forever.

Dene Cordes Life Member, F.O.B May 25th 2016

Membership renewal for The Friends of Belair National Park becomes due on the 1st January each year. Membership fees remain the same. \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.

Payment can be made at a monthly meeting, or by sending cash or a cheque with your contact details to FBNP PO Box 2 Belair 5052

or by making an electronic transfer of funds to our account. Bank SA: BSB 105-078: Acct Number 306250940: Acct Name Friends of Belair Park. Then advise the treasurer of your payment by emailing acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au

Thanks to those who have already paid.

STOP PRESS: A report just in from the ABC about the Olibel Project—read more here.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-03/rare-bandicoot-revegetation-effort-adelaide-hills/7476616>

The Newsletter

The official publication date is the first Saturday of March, June, September and December, ready for the general meeting on that day. Cut off day for September newsletter contributions is Friday 19th August. Please send ideas, reports or articles to wayne@gmv.com.au

Bush Care Report *by Barb Raine*

I am very pleased to report that the size of our active working group is increasing and the hours we put in are also increasing. In April the ladies worked 162 hours, taking the total for the group for April to 210 hours when we include the 48 hours contributed by the men, which must be a record. Of course this does not include the many hours put in by individuals, like adopt-a-block people, and the hours worked on olive control by Ross and Spencer. Given that the more extreme weather we have experienced has meant several sessions in other months have had to be cancelled, this increase is remarkable and very good for bush care in the Park!

The volunteers worked a combined total of 161.5 hours in May - - two sessions were missed because of inclement weather.

In April we have worked in some sections of VMU 9, to clear these good areas before native orchids start to appear. Some parts of this VMU are very challenging as rhamnus is rampant, and some areas need to be sprayed. We would like to prepare this area for a prescribed burn which we believe is needed but not scheduled as yet. In cooperation with Tim Fuhlbohm, the Weed Management Officer, we assisted in a recently prescribed burn area VMU 52, removing African Daisy, blackberry, broom and boneseed. Most recently we have been working along Valley road, revisiting broom there.

Throughout May our focus has been mainly on Montpellier Broom. We have worked on VMUs 21, 22 and 28 removing broom from along the edge of Valley Rd. We removed a thick patch of broom from behind the Volunteer Centre on VMU 20. Starting from Station Gully Track, we worked back towards the Volunteer Centre taking broom from both sides of Saddle Hill Rd. On the 20th of May we had a big group from Treasury Wines Estate (27 people) and we worked from near the top of the Long Gully steps removing broom, and achieved our goal of clearing that large area, though we need to return to tackle a few olives and dog rose that is starting there. The Saturday weeding group went to VMU 31, on the western side of Queen's Jubilee Drive, following up the work we did there on broom last year, and we are currently continuing to work here and in VMU 28 removing broom.

We held the Bush Carers annual meeting on 6th May. 17 active Weeders attended, and we were pleased to learn from presentations from Bevin Scholz (on record keeping for bush care), Mark Pedlar (on basal bark treatment and results), and Jen Pitman (on various BNP issues).

I was fortunate to be able to do a site inspection with Tim Fuhlbohm on Tuesday 17th. He was keen to show me areas which will need followup into next year, and I will incorporate these areas into planning. These areas include VMU 33 from the corner of QJ Drive and Tilti Track where there is small boneseed and broom in good bluegum woodland, with a good understory which contains some clover glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*) and blue devil (*Eryngium ovinum*). We can work on the upper level from the top of the track on the southern edge. Further on, in VMU 31 where we have been pulling small broom, Tim showed us a plant rare in BNP, a hybrid of *Olearia passerinoides*, which we have marked and will protect. We visited VMU 41 off Ballast Pit Track, where Tim reports also finding clover glycine, and wants the group to visit in 2017 to weed out small boneseed and broom. Tim warns that the Erica treated there may return and we need to watch out for it. We then went to Melville Gully to the main valley junction on the western side. Some areas are very weedy and can be left, but above Ampitheatre Rock there is an area worth protecting because it contains, as well as clover glycine, some rare *Haloragis brownii* in a soak area there. I will add it to our 2017 plan. Tim would also like us to revisit the area above Upper Waterfall, where we did some work on boneseed last year.

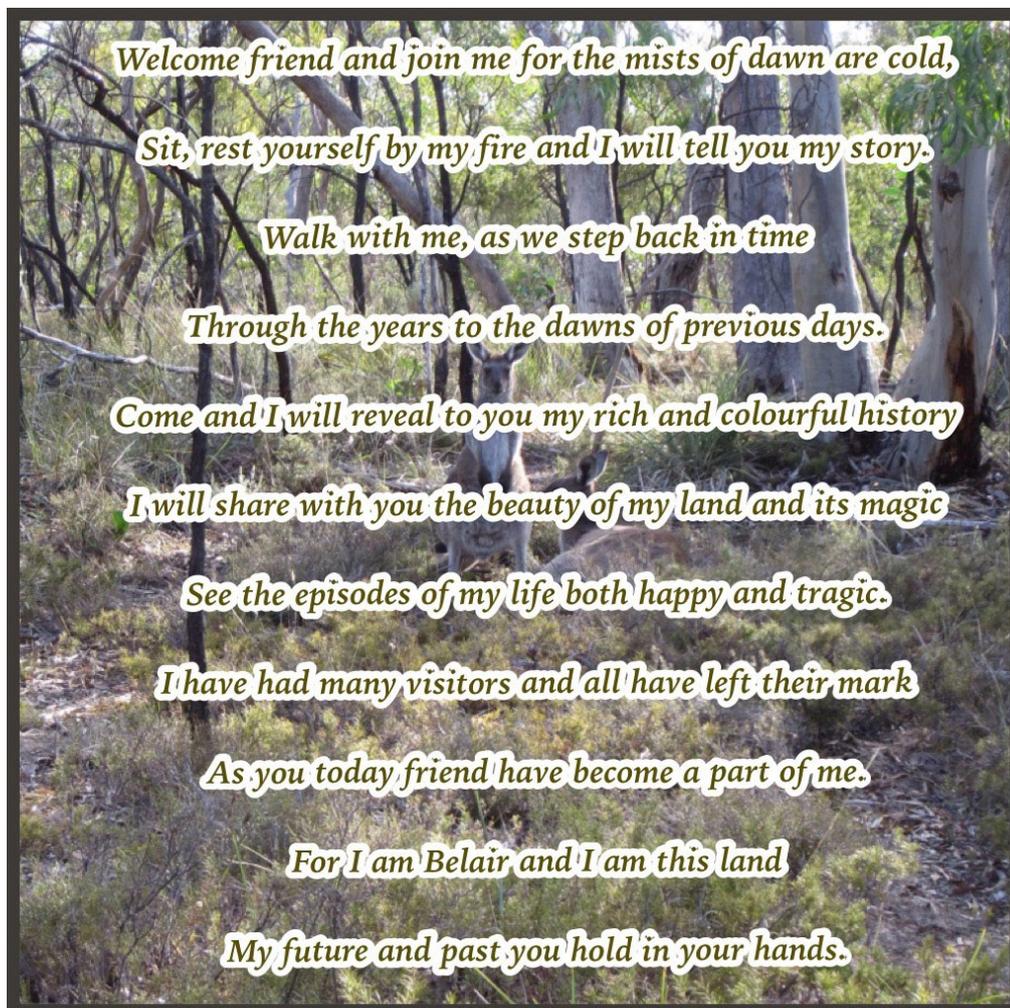
Bevin Scholz and I also went on a significant plants site inspection on Tuesday 31st with Tim Jury and Jen Pitman, and are planning to bring a small group to carefully weed two *Pterostylis cucullata* sites in the near future as a result of this and our discussion with Tim and Jen.

A small group of Weeders are willing to do "fiddly" hands and knees bulb weeding with Jen Pitman, and this will be scheduled in August.

We have received some very useful supplies of gloves and dabbers from Volunteer Support Ranger Kat Hill, which will be put to immediate service.

We welcome more new Weeders to our group. We are delighted to be joined by Allison Pawelski, Tin French and Tony Dyson. We have also been joined by three very keen young people who have come on every opportunity available, through school / uni holidays and to Saturday weeding sessions, Natalie Lewis, Elise Culver and Lauren Heddle—wonderful to welcome these young ones to the group! And Lorelei Skoblyk is able to work regularly with us again. Welcome to all!

Thank you once again to all our wonderful volunteers who put so much work into caring for our beautiful National Park.



Some of us have been having a bit of a clean out in the deep dark depths of various cupboards, and have come across some treasures. We have no idea who wrote the above poem, so if anyone has any clues, please let us know.

We also found a facsimile of the original Park By-Laws, and they are reprinted on the next page. It's interesting how many of them are in place today—and still relevant.

NOW AVAILABLE



A SELECTION OF 12 GORGEOUS CARDS,

Complete with envelopes.
All images taken in the park

All photos very generously
donated by Bevin Scholz,
Jenny Skinner and Tina Gal-
lasch.



Retail
\$5.00 ea
(Friends'
Price
\$2.50
each)



SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

NATIONAL PARK BY-LAWS

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, December 1st, 1892.

[Estimated cost of printing (650), 10s. 11d.]

NATIONAL PARK BY-LAWS.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, November 16TH, 1892

THE following by-laws, made by "The Commissioners of the National Park," with the approval of His Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, are published for general information.

By command,

JNO W. DOWNER, Chief Secretary

1. No person shall remove the soil under or about any tree, shrub, fern, or other plant, or cut, destroy, damage, or remove, any tree, shrub, plant, flower, fern, or other property of the Commissioners in the National Park.
 2. No person shall write, paint, or cut names, letters, or marks, or affix bills on the trees, rocks, gates, fences, or other property of the Commissioners, or otherwise deface the same.
 3. No person shall throw or discharge in the park any stone or other missile to the danger of any person or animal, or roll stones down any of the hills in the park.
 4. No person shall light a fire in the park, or leave there in any glass bottles, broken glass, china, paper, or other litter, except in places set apart by the Commissioners.
 5. No person shall foul or pollute any water in any creek, well, dam, or reservoir in the park, or take or destroy any fish in any such water.
 6. No person shall kill, pursue, worry, illtreat, or take any animal in any part of the park, or wilfully displace, disturb, injure, destroy, or take any bird's nest or eggs. Nor shall any person enter the park with, or use, spread, or set therein any snare, net, engine, instrument, or other means for taking, injuring, or destroying any animal.
 7. No dog shall be permitted to enter the park unless such dog shall be under the proper control of its owner, and be effectually restrained from causing annoyance to any person, or from pursuing, worrying, or disturbing any animal therein; and all dogs found in the park not under the immediate control of their owners may be destroyed.
 8. No person shall, without the consent of the Commissioners, carry, Use, or discharge any firearm in the park.
 9. No person shall sell, offer, or expose for sale any article or thing within the park without first obtaining the consent of the Commissioners
 10. No booth, tent, or other structure shall be erected within the park without the consent of the Commissioners.
 11. No person shall, in any part of the park, wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt, or annoy any other person in the proper use of the park, or wilfully obstruct or insult any park-keeper or other servant of the Commissioners.
 12. Any person behaving in a disorderly or indecent manner, or using obscene language, or creating a disturbance in the park, shall be liable to be removed therefrom and to be prosecuted for such misbehavior.
 13. All stock found in the park, unless duly licensed by the Commissioners, will be impounded; and all goats, pigs and poultry found trespassing in the park may be destroyed.
 14. The hours of admission to the park shall be from sunrise to sunset, but may be extended by permission of the Commissioners
 15. Vehicular traffic within the park shall be confined to the roads and reserves appointed for the purpose.
 16. Any person committing a breach of any of these by-laws shall, for every such offence, be liable to a penalty of not exceeding £5, and, in addition to such penalty, shall be liable to pay the amount of any damage caused by him.
- Visitors to the park are requested to assist the Commissioners in enforcing strict compliance with the above by-laws.

By command,

J. H. HOWE, Commissioner
of Crown Lands. Approved in Executive
Council,

KINTORE, Governor.

E. T SMITH, Chairman of Commissioners.

W. H. SANDERS, Secretary

(L.S.)

2 NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNS IN THE PARK.

As a part of the process of having our 2 new signs designed and printed we are required to consult with "interested parties". The documents included here show the elements of the written history of the sites and some illustrative ideas.

They aren't finished designs --- DEWNR will undertake this process on our behalf and submit their ideas for our approval in due course.

If you have any comments about any of the elements please forward them to the Friends by email (friendsofbelairpark@msn.com)

Consideration will be given to all comments before handing over to the DEWNR design team.

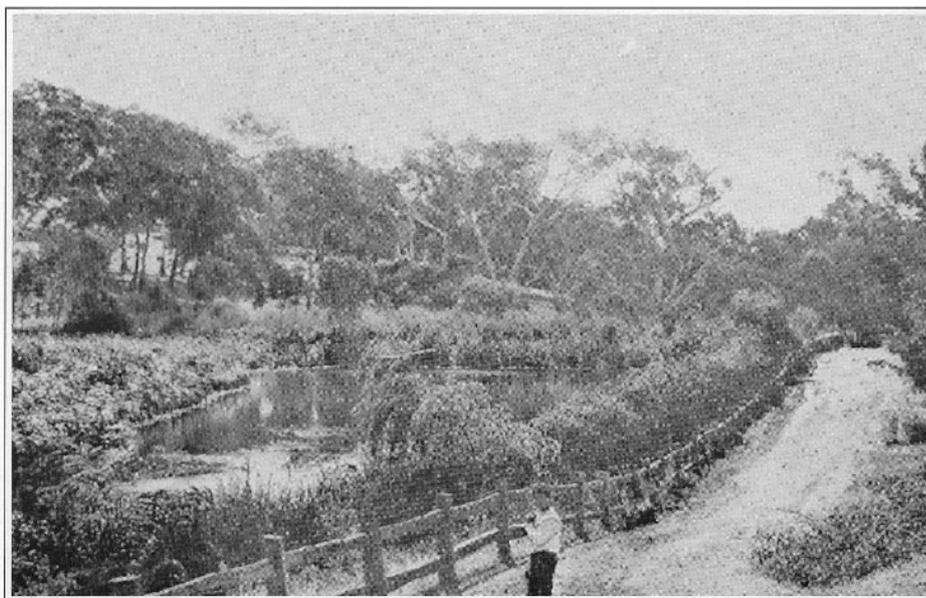
Design # 1 - Old Road to the Gullies

THE OLD ROAD TO THE GULLIES

This old track ran along the northern side of Minno Creek from the heart of the Government Farm (now Belair National Park) to a ford (still used) further east near the Joseph Fisher Ground.

During the building of the Nairne Railway across the Government Farm in 1882-1883, a camp for the railway navvies was made below the line "at the 15 mile mark from Adelaide" (*The Advertiser 11 January 1882*) close by on the northern bank of the creek. The camp disappeared when, in 1883 the Railway Dam was constructed as a reservoir of water for the steam trains, and the valley was flooded. A few railway relics have been found in the vicinity above the track.

Until 1895 the track was made completely of earth. The new "graveled road to the Gullies" (*Commissioners of the National Park June 1895*) was from the bridge below the Railway Dam, along the southern side of Minno Creek to the bridge at Long Gully, and known now as the Valley Road.



The Reservoir.

Photo Title: Old Track at Railway Dam Looking West.

Photo: *The Reservoir.* page 3 of *The National Park of South Australia* Issued by the Commissioners of the National Park.

Echo Tunnel showing the scope of the embankment



Lower Waterfall in full flow.



Photograph acknowledgement: (Bevin Scholz: Friends of Belair National Park Member)

ECHO TUNNEL

When the Naimie Railway was built through the Government Farm (now Belair National Park) in 1882-1883, the line crossed a gully east of the Belair Railway Station.

“An embankment at the 14 mile camp was considered of immense extent, containing 63,000 cubic yards of earth, its maximum height being 79 feet. The culvert beneath it, which let Workanda Creek pass under the line, was made of concrete.” (*The Overland Railway* by *W. H. Callaghan*). This culvert is now known as “Echo Tunnel”.

Visitors using the path leading from the Belair Railway Station to the Park's two waterfalls can still use this tunnel when the creek is low. The Lower Waterfall can most easily be gained on foot via this path, able to “carry one, or two at a squeeze” (*The Register 21 September 1901*). It was also reported that “good fun may be obtained from the wonderful echoes at the tunnel” (*ibid.*). The Lower Waterfall was a popular destination, remembered by visitors as “one of the prettiest picnic grounds that Nature could provide”





A report from Adrienne Francis of the ABC explains how highly trained sniffer dogs have been successfully used for the first time in Australia to detect a noxious weed that poses a threat to the environment and agriculture.

The two "botanist puppies" and their expert handlers have located hundreds of orange and mouse ear hawkweed plants in Kosciuszko National Park.

The noxious weed was imported from Europe for horticulture, and has since been banned from sale due to its invasive nature. "The dogs have been trained to differentiate one plant from another, kind of like a botanist," said weed management officer and dog handler Hillary Cherry. "They have called them botanist puppies, because they can say that is definitely hawkweed".

"We were doing an evaluation the other day and running through dense scrub and the dog turned quickly, ran back put her nose underneath a big thick patch of scrub and found a ... patch of hawkweed seedlings. We never would have been able to find them. Their ability is so strong and powerful it blows us away every time."

About 200 square metres of the weed is known to exist across nine extremely remote alpine locations within Kosciuszko National Park. The weed was first found in Tasmania, and is believed to have also spread to the Victorian Alps.

As part of the overall weed control program, hundreds of volunteers comb the park on foot in small groups looking for hawkweed. The dogs and their handlers follow the human teams on foot to root out anything they miss.

Situations Vacant

1. **Auditor** for the 2017 Financial Year. Pro bono. (That means you don't get paid!) We need a qualified accountant who can prepare an Audited Report from the figures that Carol Parrott produces. We have an Auditor for this financial year, but she has now resigned and we desperately need another to take her place. Contact Carol (acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au) if you can help out. The task isn't arduous, but it is necessary to comply with Government regulations.
2. **Speaker Co-ordinator:** Speakers are organised until the end of the year, but it won't be long before we have to plan for next year. Contact Tina Gallasch (friendsofbelairpark@msn.com) if you want to help out. The person who takes on this role needs to have computer access. Part of the job is also to organise publicity for the monthly meetings.
3. **Newsletter Editor:** Advance Notice. Sadly I won't be able to continue as Newsletter Editor next year. I've committed to 3 fairly lengthy overseas trips for our business, and there won't be the time to continue on as Editor. Anybody interested please let me know. wayne@gmv.com.au

FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Postal Address:- PO Box 2 BELAIR SA 5052

Email: friendsofbelairpark@msn.com

Website: www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

Newsletter: wayne@gmv.com.au

Webmaster: seow@live.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fobnp

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2016

PRESIDENT	Mark Pedlar	8278 1991	mnjpedlar@bigpond.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Mike Cerchez	8270 8870	cerchez@tpg.com.au
SECRETARY	Tina Gallasch	8178 0688	friendsofbelairpark@msn.com
TREASURER	Carol Parrott	8278 6783	acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.	Mary Cole, Chris Lightowler, Barbara Raine, Jim Trueman, Wayne Gallasch, Hayley Prentice		

CO-ORDINATORS

GUIDED WALKS for 2016	Barbara Raine	8278 2370	rainea@bettanet.com.au
LIBRARIAN	Shirley Alford	8278 1525	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Wayne Gallasch	8178 0688	wayne@gmv.com.au
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8393 9803	
VOL. CENTRE BOOKINGS	Tina Gallasch	81780688	friendsofbelairpark@msn.com
MEMBERSHIP	Carol Parrott	8278 6783	acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au
WEBSITE	Chris Lightowler	8270 4215	seow@live.com
SPEAKERS	Tina Gallasch	8178 0688	friendsofbelairpark@msn.com

BELAIR NATIONAL PARK (Put these numbers in your mobile)

Belair National Park Office 8278 5477

After hours Emergency 0427 556 676

FREE GUIDED WALKS April to November
Normally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. No guided walks over summer.

Ask at the Park Ticket Office for your free entry, and meet in the car park there at the Office at 1.45 pm for a 2.00pm start. Dates are: April 25th, May 23rd, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd, October 27th and November 24th.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Professor Cleland Memorial Walk

The Friends of Belair National Park, will be holding their annual Sir John Cleland Memorial for 2016

Details and date in this newsletter in September events.

Birthday Party

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2016

First Saturday of the month, 1 pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair NP. Speaker first, then the meeting. Visitors welcome

JULY

Saturday July 2nd 2016 1.00pm - Mary Crichton - Bats and their importance in the landscape.

AUGUST

Saturday August 6th 2016 1.00pm - Prof. David Paton - Grazing pressure on understorey shrubs by kangaroos and some of the consequences.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 3rd 2016 1.00pm - Danny Rorhach, Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group - The Olibel Project. An update on this ambitious project and where it is at in 2016.

(October- no Guest Speaker.)

WORKING BEES.

Meet by Belair Park Ticket Office
BEFORE 8.30am Tuesday and Friday mornings. For information phone Barbara on 8278 2370

rainea@bettanet.com.au

Working Bees on other days, meet by arrangement.

For 3rd Saturday of each month at 9.00am phone

8278 2370 rainea@bettanet.com.au

Membership Payments

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.

HOW TO PAY:

Pay the treasurer at a meeting

Forward payment and **your contact details to**

The Treasurer
Friends of Belair NP
PO Box 2, Belair 5052

Pay by internet use this account information **and email your contact information to**

acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au

Bank SA: BSB 105-078

A/c No:- 306250940

A/c Name:- Friends of Belair Park

A/c Ref:- your name (membership fees)

