



#### RECENT EVENTS.

##### 1 Cleland Walk.

This event of the 25th of October was very successful, with 60 people attending. Twenty Dollars were recieved from dontations and badge sales. The walk was completed in a little less time than planned for, taking about five and a half hours with three minor rest stops and a longer one for lunch. It is being considered that in 1988 the walk will be in the reverse direction of that taken this year. Even though many preparations were made for people tiring and accidents only one person needed first aid. This person suffered several severe stings from an Inch Ant at lunch time. A further person suffered an ant sting while decending the Foote's Hill area but needed no first aid.

##### 2 Friends of Parks Forum.

On September the 18th and 19th, there was a Friends of Parks Forum held at Black Hill. This was an opportunity for representatives of more than 20 Friends groups to come together and learn more about parks and each other. Two groups, Friends of Butcher's Gap and Black Hill / Morialta spoke at length about their activities.

Friends of Belair Park and the South Australian National Parks Association have been invited to visit the Friends of Butcher's Gap at their park down in the South East on the second weekend in September 1988 ( 9th to 11 th ). Some interest was shown about the progress and future development of Junior Rangers. As this is currently running in Belair, F.O.B.P. have been asked to become involved and to report on it at the next years Forum ( 1988 ).

#### COMING EVENTS.

##### 1 Next Meetings.

The November general meeting will be on the 12th. This will be a talk on how to influence park management. There will also be a report on the Friends of Parks Forum.

Project meeting on Thursday the 26th of November will be "What we have learnt from the Cleland Walk" .

Sunday Activity meeting on the 29th of November will be Soliya pulling or rubbish collecting along one of the creeks, depending on weather conditions and soil hardness, all willing helpers needed.

The December general meeting on Thursday the 10th will be our Annual General Meeting, we will be looking for at least two new committee members for 1988. Following the A.G.M. a "Memb Night" will be held, every one is urged to bring along pictures and slides of the F.O.B.P. group. Also two or three members will be asked to give a little talk, especially if there are not enough pictures or slides.

The Activity meetings for December will be held on Saturday the 12th and 19th, These will be held in the mornings and will consist of cutting pine trees will be sold for Christmas trees.

On the afternoon of the 19th, starting at 4-45 p.m., a very special Picnic Tea will be held at the Adventure Playground to celebrate Belair Park's 96th Birthday, as well as our own. This is a Bring Your Own Food and Drink celebration. The actual party time to start at 5-45 p.m. to be followed by a short walk/talk on the history of Belair. If you intend to do cooking or wish to heat up food, PLEASE bring your own gas heater. No open fires are allowed in the Park at this time of the year. Bring along all your relatives, friends and neighbours, there is no excuse for not attending as this is a Saturday not a weekday evening as in the past.

There will be no meetings etc in January as most people will be off enjoying themselves else where.

General Meeting for February the 11th will be a talk and slide show entitled "Parks of Western Australia", by Paul Reece. This should be a very interesting evening so please arrange to attend.

Project meeting for February the 25th will be "The Role of F.O.B.P. in community education about Parkes".

Sunday Activity for February the <sup>28th</sup>~~21st~~ will be decided during February.

2 Meeting Dates for the rest of this year and 1988 are as follows:-

GEN Meeting	PROJECT Meeting	SUNDAY Activity
November 12	November 26	November 29
December 10	Special Activity meeting Sat. 19th December.	
January	no meetings.	
February 11	February 25	February 28
March 10	March 24	March 27
April 14	April 28	May 1
May 12	May 26	May 29
June 9	June 23	June 26
July 14	July 28	July 31
August 11	August 25	August 28
September 8	September 22	September 25
October 13	October 27	October 30
November 10	November 24	November 27
December 8	Birthday Party Monday December 19th.	



All evening meetings to start at 7-45 am, unless indicated, in the Belair Park Information Centre, enter the Park via the Western entrance. Of the Upper Sturt Road, the gate will be unlocked at 7-30 pm, if coming later than 7-43 pm, please latch the gate after you. Project meetings will be held at the home of Ron and Beth Pitman, 10 Lowan Ave., Glenalta and start at 7-30 pm. Sunday Project meetings will start from the Information Centre at 10-00 am. Generally the Sunday meetings are held on the following Sunday after the Project meeting unless stated otherwise in subsequent Newsletters.

## 2 Mid-week meeting.

These walks are scheduled for November 10th, and 24th.

December 8th, and 22nd.

Then there will no walks till

April, unless one is especially asked for.

See the February Newsletter for 1988 dates.

Come along and explore the park with Lynda Knight and Ray. Nash. Contact Lynda ( tel # 2782623 ) or Ray. ( tel # 2785694 ) for further information.

## 3 Belair Birthday.

Do not forget December the 19th this year - a Saturday. We will be inviting Friends of Parks groupes to celebrate Belair's 96th birthday with us. It should be a big occasion. Please plan to attend -- keep the afternoon and early evening free.

## 4 Membership.

Subscriptions fall due in January ( fees run from January to December, and so 1988's are almost due ). Pay at one of the meetings or contact the Treasurer, Paul Reece ( tel # 3730548 ).

## Belair Nature Notes.

Have you seen a Koala in the Park yet? Several members have reported seeing this animal lately. To observe the Koala one must raise the eyes to the trees and scan the trunks and boughs. From the reports these creatures are frequenting the lower area of the Park more than before, is this due to the new fences which are keeping dogs out?

Summer is almost upon us, or after the recent heat wave, summer is here. Many of the small native plants that we have seen will now be gone and are being replaced by others. Amongst the Orchids one should keep an eye open for such plants as: the Horned Orchid ( Orthoceras strictum ); a small late flowered Green Hood Orchid ( Pterostylis biseta ) not too many of these will be seen this year; several of the Sun Orchids will be flowering till early December; and later about Christmas the Hyacinth Orchid ( Dipodium punctatum ) will start to flower up in the areas like that to be found near the Waverly Lodge. Besides the above other small interesting plants will also come into bloom, how many can you find?

## FAUNA

One of the primary reasons for originally securing the Belair Park as a public area was for the purpose of providing sanctuaries for the fauna and flora of the area. The nature lovers of the 1890s recognised that areas of virgin scrub provided shelter, food and breeding areas for native animals and that these animals were not likely to adapt themselves to altered environments. With this in mind the Board of Commissioners of National Park decided that while the park should provide recreation and sports grounds for the public, some areas should also be maintained in a natural or virgin state. Despite these good intentions, ninety years of public recreation, creeping urbanisation and continued habitat destruction in surrounding areas has taken its toll on the region's wildlife.

However, because it remains one of the few relatively undisturbed areas in the Mount Lofty Ranges, the park area, despite being depleted in variety of species, must still be regarded as one of the region's key areas for providing habitat for native animals.

## Mammals

The region naturally contains a poor mammal fauna both in variety of species and density of populations.

Finlayson (1953) reports that at the time of settlement, twenty-six mammal species occurred in the Mount Lofty Ranges between South Para River and the south coast of Fleurieu Peninsula. By 1953 this number was reduced to eighteen. Many of these are nocturnal, and all are obscure in their modes of life. Recent observations and records of sightings of mammals suggest that there are now twelve native species occurring within the park. These include the Short-beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), the Yellow-footed Antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*), the Common Ringtail and Common Brush-Tail Possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus* and *Trichosurus vulpecula*), the Western Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*), the Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*), Bush Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*) and at least two species of bats (*Eptesicus pumilus* and *Tadarida australis*). The populations of Red Kangaroos (*Macropus rufus*) and Koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) which now occur in the park are not native to the area and probably result from deliberate introduction from the former native fauna enclosure which was established in 1958 and maintained until 1972 when most of its occupants were released into the park.

In addition to the native mammals there is also a wide variety of introduced species including foxes, cats, wandering domestic dogs, rabbits, hares, rats and mice.