

FRIENDS OF BELAIR PARK NEWSLETTER 10, August 1988

THE FRIENDS OF BELAIR PARK

The Friends group exists to provide opportunities for people, young and old, to be involved in supporting the work of Park Rangers and others in maintaining the park. Because Belair is the oldest national park in South Australia it has historical and social values associated with it in addition to those related to the natural environment. All these aspects are of interest to the Friends, and for those who wish to know more about the park itself, (or the values associated with it,) there are **General Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday** night of the month in the Belair Information Centre at 7.45pm.

For those people who wish to be engaged in particular **work projects** these are generally held on the **Sunday following the 4th Thursday starting at 10am** from the Belair Information Centre. There is a **Planning Meeting** to which all members may attend if they wish, on the **4th Thursday at 7.30pm** at the home of Ron and Beth Pitman. If you want to join in, you will be most welcome.

For further information read the various notices below, and contact any member of the Executive:

John Hunwick	President	276 6885
Ron Pitman	Secretary	278 2760
Paul Reece	Treasurer	373 0548

with members Barry and Marianne Burley, Beverley McClean and Paul Hallam.

RECENT EVENTS

Street Stall

The Friends of Belair Park have held three stalls. The last one was immensely successful, thanks particularly to Ray Nash, Ron Pitman, and Paul Reece for their selling abilities as well as their contributions to the stall. A special thank you must go to Beverley, Barry and Marianne for their untiring support and to ALL who contributed and donated goods to sell. At the urgings of Ray in particular we were set the target of \$200 - which was more than exceeded with a return of **\$264 !!** Some of this went to support the ST.O.P. Campaign and the remainder has been used to support the work of the Friends Group.

You will be delighted to know that the ST.O.P. Campaign has been successful in maintaining staffing numbers for the NPWS. All in all, this undertaking has been extremely successful, and has contributed immeasurably to improving the relations between park staff and volunteers. ~~Yea~~ **WELL DONE** to all who worked and supported this activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SEMINAR

At a most interesting seminar to discuss the present Government's handling of national parks in the way of staffing and development proposals late in July, there was much discussion and surprising agreement on a number of issues among the hundred or so environmentalists present. The overwhelming majority supported the notion of more staff and the location of major developments outside our national parks. The Shadow Minister of Environment and Planning Ms. Jennifer Cashmore, in addition to announcing that a Liberal Government would amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act to give greater primacy to the conservation and preservation role of parks, said:

"Friends of Parks would be provided with improved information, training, equipment and increased recognition through expansion to the Community Liaison Section of the Service. Friends of Parks would become a formally funded, recognised and integrated voluntary service, directed towards restoration of the natural environment in the parks."

"We believe that the environmental integrity of our parks, and the purpose for which they were established, are best served by ensuring that human activity within park boundaries is limited to pursuits which are essentially in harmony with nature and its protection."

If you would like further details then contact her on 332 3658. If fuller details of that seminar become available then you can find out through this Newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

Next meetings

The next General Meeting will be on August 11th with an illustrated talk on Morton National Park by Paul Reece. People interested in native orchids will find this a most interesting meeting.

The next Planning Meeting will be held on August 25th at the Pitman's residence. The activity for the following Sunday (August 28th) will be finalised before then - so meet at the Belair Information Centre at 10am and see what develops.

It is hoped that the September meeting will have Joan Paton to talk to us a little about her father, Professor Cleland, as preparation for the Prof. Cleland Walk in October. The General Meeting in October will be devoted to finalising preparations for the Cleland Walk.

The meeting dates for the rest of this year - 1988 are as follows:

General Meetings August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, (Heritage Agreements?) and December 8 (Xmas Party - slides etc.)

Planning Meetings August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24,

Sunday Activity August 28, September 25, (Cleland Walk prep.) October 24 - Cleland Walk, November 27. (and Xmas tree collecting in December 17).

All evening meetings to start at 7.45 pm in the Belair Information Centre. Enter via the Western Gate off Upper Sturt Road (unlocked at 7.30pm). If arriving late please close and leave latched but not locked.

Friends of Parks Forum

You are reminded that there is a "Friends of Parks" Forum on the weekend of August 20 and 21. This gathering will be held at Fort Glanville starting at 9.00am on the Saturday morning. A program is available, and there will be more time for discussion for those that do not wish to go on the St. Kilda Mangroves boardwalk. Contact Dene Cordes at NPWS if you wish to go and have not yet told him (216 7879).

Focus on National Parks

There is a very historic meeting to be held on National Parks on Sunday August 28th. This event, to celebrate the *ONE HUNDRED YEARS* of the national park concept in South Australia will be held at the Union Hall, University of Adelaide (North Terrace) commencing at 1pm. There will be a number of speakers and the opportunity for discussion - including ideas about the future of Belair. Your support for national parks and the Field Naturalists' Society by attending this meeting would be very much appreciated.

Friends of Butchers Gap

At the Forum last year the Friends of Butchers Gap (near Kingston in the S. E.) invited people from Adelaide to visit them and their park on the second weekend in September this year. Anyone interested in going for the two days is invited to mention it to John Hunwick and/or the Friends of Butchers Gap people at the Forum in August.

The Professor CLELAND WALK

The Cleland Walk is on again this year on Sunday October 23rd commencing at 9.30am from the Main Oval Pavilion. We intend to walk it in the opposite direction and invite you and all your friends to join us on what we hope will be a non-wet, sun shiny enjoyable occasion.

People, Parks And Preservation MAGAZINE

At a recent general meeting of the Friends, it was agreed to support the S.A. National Parks Assoc. *and* show our appreciation to our own members by including two issues of this magazine in the benefits of being a member of our Friends Group. These are in addition to the quarterly Newsletters. (A reminder that annual membership commences on or immediately after the Birthday of Belair Park on December 19th. Details of that annual event will be in the next Newsletter).

Main Oval Pavilion

The Friends have resolved to support the retention and restoration of this building but are not prepared to enter into an informal or formal lease agreement with the NPWS. As a group though we stand ready to assist any other group that decides to take on this responsibility.

BIRDS OF BELAIR - PART 2.(From the Draft Management Plan for Belair)

Haliastur sphenurus. Whistling Kite.

One record only of a single bird over Karka Oval in 1978.

Hieraaetus morphnoides. Little Eagle.

One record only of a single bird near Pines Oval in 1977.

Hirundapus caudacutus. White-throated Needletail.

Uncommon, flocks of these summer migrants have been seen occasionally.

Hirundo neoxena. Welcome Swallow.

Common, being most numerous in open areas and during spring and summer.

Lalage sueurii. White-winged Triller.

Rare. Recorded prior to 1933 and a subsequent record of a pair in open forest near Amphitheatre Rock in 1978.

Lathamus discolor. Swift Parrot.

Rare. Recorded prior to 1933; since then only one record of a flock of five between 1971 and 1974.

Lichenostomus chrysops. Yellow-faced Honeyeater.

Commonly seen in most parts of the park, becoming more numerous in winter.

Lichenostomus penicillatus. White-plumed Honeyeater.

Common in open parts of the park.

Malurus cyaneus. Superb Fairy-wren.

Common, especially in scrub thickets.

Manorina melanocephala. Noisy Miner.

Common, especially in open developed areas.

Megalurus gramineus. Little Grassbird.

Occasional records between 1948 and 1957, but none since.

Melanodryas cucullata. Hooded Robin.

Uncommon, recorded regularly prior to 1957 with sightings becoming less frequent in recent years.

Melithreptus brevirostris. Brown-headed Honeyeater.

Uncommon, usually sighted in the north-west of the park.

Melithreptus gularis. Black-chinned Honeyeater.

Recorded prior to 1933, with one subsequent sighting of a single bird between 1971 and 1974.