

THE FRIENDS OF BELAIR PARK.

NEWSLETTER June 1992.

New Executive Elected Unopposed.

At the Annual Genral Meeting held on March the 7th 1992, the following members were elected unopposed to the various positions as follows.

President	Barry Burley.	Vice-President	Joy Hargreaves.
Secretary	Lareen Newman.	Treasurer	Jocye Underdown.

Committee Members,

Ron Pitman, Beth Pitman, Marianne Burley, Beverley MacClean.
Editor of Newsletter, Ray. Nash (Patron).

Subscriptions for the period 1-1-93 to 31-12-93 will remain the same as for the current year. For those members who have not paid the current years subscription, they are now due as from January the 1st, please contact Jocye Underdown.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

At our last Working Bee, we carried out an inspection of the areas planted last year. Our success rate has been remarkably high, with minimal replacements required. Some of our plants now exceed two metres high, with the remainder looking very healthy.

Our intention now is to experiment with direct seeding techniques, similar to those used by the Woods and Forests Dept. earlier this year. Terry will demonstrate at 12-00 noon, prior to the next meeting.

Our propogation programme has exceeded all my expectations and we should beable to place about 2,000 plants this year, with help from the Blackwood Scouts.

The felling of pines still continues to dominate the public view of Belair. As a group, we must try to disregard this, and focus on our current planting programme. Perhaps the public could be informed of our plan!

Attempts are in progress to have Pterostylis cucullata (the large dark coloured Green-hood orchid) removed from the threatened list and placed on the endangered species list. Belair is perhaps the last real stronghold for this important plant. Ray. is working with botanist Rick Davies to ensure that this happens.

We have finally been given permission to use the store at the southern end of the main oval pavilion. A steel cabinet will be obtained and a key will be available from the office.

Funds ear marked for the purchase of a toolshed will be used for other purchases - perhaps some more tools. I will advise when I have had discussions with the N.P.W.S. management, they need to oversea our spending of the original grant.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS.

MARCH MEETING.

This meeting was held before the Annual General Meeting. After, a number of members were involved in planting out seedlings into tubes. Many of these seedlings were then taken home by members who are acting as minders.

APRIL MEETING.

See special report by L. Newman below.

MAY MEETING.

After the meeting a number of members went to the area west of the Soccer Ground and pulled Boneseed, while a few including Committee members examined areas planted out in 1991 and also removed many Bonseed plants in doing so.

FRIENDS OF UPPER SOUTH EAST VISIT FRIENDS OF BELIAR PARK.

Report by Lareen Newman.

Instead of a formal meeting on Saturday the 4th of April the members of the Friends of Belair entertained the Friends of the Upper South-East. Approximately nine Friends drove up from the South-East, arriving about 10-30 am where they met about a dozen and a half Friends of Belair (FOB) at the Information Centre to start with morning tea. Dene and Dianne Cordes popped in to say hello over tea, and Terry Gregory surprised a few lucky members with a Koala that had been handed in sick and which was convalescing in his office before being taken up to Cleland. As it was quite a hot day, the group then set off in the cars up to Government Farm Oval, where Ray. Nash, our Patron, explained the boneseed problem and the Friends' attempts to clear it from Belair. After a leisurely walk around the area discussing weeding, planting and other aspects of the two groups, it was almost time for lunch, so everyone headed for the Karka Picnic Area where a very delicious array of food miraculously appeared on the card tables spread beneath the shady ash trees. During lunch forbidding clouds could be seen fast approaching. Luckily most of the food had already been consumed as drops of rain from the April showers began to drip through the leafy canopy. However, soon showers increased and covers were hurriedly thrown over the tables as most Friends took refuge beneath the trees, some well-prepared folks pulling out umbrellas. After the rain it was time to walk off the lunch with a guided tour by Ray., up into a less-visited northern part of the park. Despite some more showers in the afternoon the discovery of a few orchids brightened up the day. By around 4 pm it was time to part, having spent a very interesting day together sharing the experience of being Friends.

The Koala. Editor's comment.

The koala mentioned in the above report had been found in the Blackwood shopping centre and on examination at Cleland was found to be dehydrated and soon recovered after a drink of water and a feed of gum leaves.

UPPER SOUTH-EAST FRIENDS ENJOY BELAIR PARK VISIT.

By Editor.

From the reports received by a few members and on my own south east visit, the outing to Belair proved very successful and delightful to our visiting Friends. Several comments were made about the beauty of the location and scenery at our lunch time site. The lunch itself made a very good impression. Our walks also received some very excellent comments. I should like to thank and praise the efforts of the Ladies of the FOB for putting on such a wonderful spread, even though at least one person provided a very large plate of goodies but did not stay, please do next time.

TUESDAY WALKS REPORT.

By Lynda Knight.

The first walk for 1992, held in good weather, revealed a sprinkling of Parson's Bands orchids (Eriochilus cucullatus) near the blue tank (Moorowie and Lodge Track junction).

Our second walk was an "autumn walk"-following the main creek (Minno Creek) beyond the Railway Dam. The poplar trees were a gloriously yellow, but of special pleasure were the birds, particularly the sighting of a pair of Golden Whistlers. There were Blue wrens and Honey-eaters as well - and Kookaburras which joined us for afternoon tea.

The first walk in May was rather damp, but we were pleased to see the Banded Green-hood orchid (Pterostylis vittata) at its usual spot near the Upper Sturt Lodge. Parson's Band orchids were growing in profusion, plus the colourful heath and Flame heath. Tetratheca and Goodenia flowered here and there - plus some mosquito orchids (Acianthus exsertus) by the track side.

PATRON'S WALK REPORT.

By Beverley MacClean.

On Tuesday March 31st six people met our Patron Ray. Nash at the Soccer Ground, Shepards Hill Road. We made our way by cars to the end of Gorge Road, Bellview Heights to commence our walk of the Sturt Gorge Northern Ridge.

Ray. was on the lookout for a small white flowered plant called Drosera praefolia (Autumn Sundew). The plant was known to grow near the path that we were on and shortly one was found. We hadn't walked much further before several more flowering plants were found.

The walk continued along the ridge until we arrived at the gate to the Boulevard, Bellview Heights. Here the fire track was followed for several hundred metres to gain a good view of the gorge as it meandered towards Flinders Medical Centre, after which we heading back emu style along the same ridge.

Back at the cars, a cuppa and cakes finished the afternoon as always.

This walk took almost two hours in fine weather, although many ants along the way were busy building higher retaining walls around their nests.

PLANT REPORT FOR MAY.

By Marianne Burley.

To date 49 boxes of 13 species of plant seedlings have been propagated from park seed and farmed out to friends (Minders).

The species are :- Acacia melanoxyln, A. paradoxa, A. pycnanatha, A. rotundifolia. Allocasurina mulleriana. Bursaria spinosa. Dodanaea viscosa. Daviesia sps. Eucalyptus microcarpa, E. viminalis. Hakea rostrata. Hardenbergia violacea. Kennedia prostrata. Leptospermum sps.

22 seed trays still contain young seedlings and will be put into tubes in due course but may not be mature enough for this year's planting, namely Bursaria spinosa and Eucalyptus microcarpa. Any donations of Foam boxes or seed trays will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Marianne Burley, 2782782. If you need extra plants for those which have died or wish another box of plants, I am pleased to oblige.

Our planting days will be June 28th, 10 am to 4 pm and September 20th, 10 am to 4 pm. Friends with boxes of plants at least six (6) inches (150 mm) tall please bring to the first planting and the smaller will be kept until later. The first planting will be in a prepared area near the Upper Sturt Road, between the Main Gate and Belair Railway Station.

All of our plantings will follow the management plan and are made up of two associations - viz Eucalyptus camaldulensis and E. microcarpa. The key plantings are the Acacias with A. paradoxa being essential for bird habitat. These will be planted in large copses to maximise their effectiveness. In addition plantings in the area of the Long Gully Kiosk and the Workshop will be made up of E. viminalis and A. melanoxlyn.

Dean Launer has contracted the Woodes and Forest Dpt. to undertake propagation of the more difficult species - Busaria spinosa and Grevillea lavendulacea to name two. These should be ready for our ~~August~~ ^{September} planting.

COMING EVENTS.

FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK C. P.

This group is to hold the next two meetings at the Blackwood Primary School, Seymour Street (off Shepards Hill Rd.), in the Multipurpose Room, commencing at 7-30 p.m.

At the meeting to be held on Thursday June 11th, Joan Paton will talk on Birds.

The meeting on Thursday July the 9th will have Margret Davies as the speaker, subject Frogs.

All our members are welcome to attend and parents of the school's students will be attending.

F. O. B. P. EVENTS.

JUNE

- 6th General Meeting
Mystery speaker (who ?)
- 9th & 23rd Tuesday walks.
- 28th Habitat Planting Day
- 30th Patron's walk
Meet at the bottom of
Ackland's Hill, 2 pm.

AUGUST

- 1st General meeting
Guest speaker (Butterflies)
- 7th to 9th Friends Forum Whyalla.
- 11th & 25th Tuesday Walks.

JULY

- 4th General meeting
Weed removal.
- 14th & 28th Tuesday walks.
- 31st Patron's walk
Meet at the bottom of
Ackland's Hill, 10 am.
Bring lunch if you wish.

SEPTEMBER

- 5th General meeting
Working Bee .
- 8th & 22nd Tuesday walks.
- 27th Cleland Walk.
- 29th Patron's walk
Info later.
- ~~30th~~ Planting Day.

OCTOBER VISIT TO SOUTH EAST.

Version 1.

A group visit is being planned for the October long weekend (Sat 10th - Monday 12th), when we will once again be venturing down to the South-East. The Saturday night will be spent at the Keith caravan park (for which numbers will be needed by the July FOB meeting at the latest - please tell Lareen) and the Sunday night at Daphne's house at Robe. Daphne will be making the "sightseeing arrangements" and this is sure to be yet another extremely enjoyable weekend.

Version 2.

The Upper South - East Friends have got wind of the above trip and have suggested that instead of going all over the lower south east we spend the long weekend in October with them and other groups visiting and exploring Ngarkat C.P. complex. This will mean that our cars will have to be left somewhere and all will travel via four wheel drive vehicles (provided) and we have to camp out.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

PATRON TALK. By Ray. Nash, alias the Editor.

I am supposed to have my say in this part - but as I have been typing for what seems like a few days now on getting this newsletter loaded into my little computer, then editing (hope I have caught all the errors) I think it may be best that I keep my peace for at least this time and allow my finger tips to grow out again. There have been several small items that have been deleted from this issue, my appologies to Daphne as she has found a small poem about Bel-Air (National Park). Below is my report on my first south east visit. I am thinking of making a visit to the Monarto C.P in late August or early September it will be during the week or a Sunday, any one interested?

REPORT ON VISIT TO MT. MONSTER C.P., April 3rd to 5th.
By Ray. Nash.

I arrived at the meeting point just out of Keith at about 11-15 pm on Sunday the 3rd of April, taking 3 hours 20 mins approx to cover the 230 Km from home.

John Westover arrived at 11-30 am and after leaving a message for other members of the Upper South-East Parks group we proceeded to the parking area at Mt Monster C.P. While preparing to eat lunch John Samuel-White arrived.

The afternoon walk started by entering the tall Beckea and Mellaluca brush to the south of the car park and we then moved around the western side of the peak keeping below the rocky area. At a point a little to south of due west of the peak our samll group moved up onto the rocky area and headed to a large rocky out crop south west of the peak where a rare mint plant was shown to me.

From this outcrop we then made out way down to the base of the rocks again and followed these in and easterly direction south of the peak untill the other two members were left behind by myself where upon I followed my nose and moved up amongst the rocks to another prominence. Here another colony of the rare mint bush was found much to the delight of J. S-W. As it was now well into late afternoon our group then made its way back to the cars and headed into Keith where my car was left at Hartley Randell's home. J. S-W. took me to his residence at Boardertown to spend the night.

However it was well past midnight before I was able to excuse myself and get to bed and sleep.

Plants of interest seen during the afternoon were, leaves of *Lyperanthus nigricans*, many, sometimes in groups at other times scattered but mostly below the rocks; *Eriochilus cucullatus*, still flowring strongly and almost in all areas visited; *Acianthus excertus*, just starting to flower and mostly about the rocks; possible two species of *Pterostylis*, one probably *Pt. mutica* at base of rocks and another upon rocks; a number of *Thelymitra* leaves were seen and these could include more than one species; a small colony of *Cyrostylis robusta* leaves were seen on one of the rocky areas; *Drosera planchonii* was prominent mostly amongst rocky places while *D. whittakerii* occoured in more open less rocky sites. Three ferns were seen, one prominet in open and scrubby sites while the other two were confined to bolders. Besides the above many other small plants were seen which I cannot name.

On the journey to Mt.Monster next day, Monday the 4th, J. S-W. drove along a wondefull road lined with magnificent Eucalypts. At Mt Monster we were met by J. Westover and Hartly Randell and our first aim was to visit the new site of the rare plant found on the 3rd. On approaching this outcrop a small group of Fringed Hare orchids were found on an adjoining prominence. After examining the various rocky faces about this site our group moved down to the lower and sandy country south of the peak and headed in an easterly direction untill it was estimated that we were on the property of Mrs Ellis, where upon a northly route was chosen, which eventaully became a westerly journey through mostly very natural bush land and at times brush scrub. The road into the park was reached at a point almost

immediately north of the peak and on reaching the cars lunch was had. Plants of interest seen during the morning walk were; *Leporella fimbriata*, upon a rocky prominence, unusual as this plant generally prefers sandy sites; *Acianthus exsertus* amongst rocks and out on flat country; *Lyperanthus nigricans*, leaves and scattered; a small group of *Pterostylis vittata*; two sites with one each of finished flowering pygmy *Prasophyllum* sps; *Eriochilus cucullatus* in many areas but not as thick on flat land as amongst the rocks; *Thelymitra*, a few odd leaves. Both *Drosera planchonii* and colonies of *D. whittakerii* were present at various sites.

The afternoon was spent exploring the quarry area and water reserve, both not as yet part of the Conservation Park. As it had been reported that the rare mint plant had been seen along the edge of the quarry and effort was made to find this plant. Again on a rocky outcrop plants of this species were found. Here too were *Acianthus exsertus*, a few odd *Eriochilus* plants, some *Thelymitra* leaves and plants of both *Drosera planchonii* and *D. whittakerii*.

Shortly after moving from the site above and into the brush scrub to the north, a number of orchids were found viz *Pt. vittata*, a *Pt. rosette* (*rufa* type) and a small group of pygmy *Prasophyllum* sps. A short distance away a leaf of a *Caladenia* sps was pointed out to me, this may have been *C. carnea* or *C. deformis*. As in other areas *Eriochilus cucullatus* was present but in minimal numbers.

As the party moved east more sightings were made of the *Lyp. nigricans* leaves, a few *Eriochilus cucullatus* and odd *Aci. exsertus* plants. At one site one leaf of *Glossodia major* was observed. The water reserve is mostly covered with brush and has occasional *Eucalyptus* trees with groups of both *Banksia ovata* and *B. marginata*. There are also many other plants scattered through this area including four species of *Hakea*, one seemingly unnamed. This plant has the habit of *H. muellerana* but the leaves and fruiting bodies are not unlike *H. rugosa*, the major difference being the much more robust plant and the two prominent angled ridges on the fruiting bodies. So far I have not been able to identify this plant. One of the aims of this part of our exploring was to try and find an old chinese well. After spending some time searching we failed to find any sign of this old artifact.

On returning to the cars we transferred my gear into John W's ute and having farewelled J.S-W. those left returned to Keith, where I spent the night at Hartley Randell's home.

On Tuesday the 4th, J.W., H. R. and myself went to the Kelvin Powrie reserve via Hartley's vehicle. Here an examination was made of this bush land and two small colonies of *Pt. vittata* and many odd scattered leaves of *Lyp. nigricans* were seen. One only *Drosera* was seen this being *D. planchonii*. Much of this reserve is covered by very low shrubs with a few groups of *Eucalypts*. Here too were numbers of *Banksia ovata* (with some interesting colour forms in the flowers) and *B. marginata*. Over the area were noted many small scattered plants of the Bridal Creeper. Rabbits seem to have a strong hold in this land as well, with, in one area may skeletal remains.

About noon we returned to Hartley's home where a very nice lunch was prepared for us. After lunch I made my return to Blackwood via my car, after a very interesting and enjoyable three days with excellent companions. I should like to thank both Moira Samuel-White and Melva Randell for their hospitality on my stay at their homes.

---oo ALL REPORTS ARE TO BE IN BY 15TH OF AUGUST FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER oo---