

THE FRIENDS OF BELAIR PARK.

NEWSLETTER September 1992.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS.

JUNE 6th General Meeting.

The mystery speaker displayed various slides etc, no report from anyone on this event. P.S. As the mystery speaker was the Editor, I cannot make any comment.

JULY 4th General Meeting.

After the meeting a small group planted out a few seedlings as replacements in part of 1991's planting area, while the rest of the members concentrated their efforts on Boneseed removal at the lower end of Bradey's Gully.

AUGUST 1st General Meeting.

The speaker for this afternoon was Mr Bob Fisher, he discussed the Butterflies of South Australia with slides of these magnificent creatures, a very interesting and informative talk. Mr. Fisher is the author of a book on S.A. butterflies.

TUESDAY WALKS REPORT.

By Lynda Knight.

Our walks on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month have been held in moderately fine weather, with an average attendance of about eight "Friends". We are always glad when we have unexpected members join our rambles! Recently, we have set off to find Helmet Orchids - *Corybas diemenicus* (used to be known as *C. dilatatus*, has had a revision of name. Ed.Com.) and the Gnat Orchid - *Cyrtostylis robusta*. The Greenhoods are flowering in great profusion, adjacent to the Upper Sturt Lodge. We expect the next few walks will reveal more wonderful flowers of all species.

PATRON'S WALK COMMENTS.

By Lynda Knight.

Dear Ray.,

I should like to thank you very sincerely, for organising the "Patrons Walk" in Hardy's Scrub, on 31st of July. It was a great pleasure, and I was doubly pleased to see the "Mayfly" orchid - not to mention the birds.

FRIEND'S FORUM, WHYALLA, REPORT..

By Lyn Coombe.

Friends of Parks Forum, held at Whyalla 7 - 9th August 1992. Approximately 225 Friends and N.P.W.S. Staff attended.

The entire event was very well organised, with the venues of excellent quality, especially the Middleback Theatre.

The theme of the forum was "People and Parks in Arid lands".

Guest Speakers were:-

Dr Marg Friedel, Principal Research Scientist, C.S.I.R.O. Centre for Arid Zone Research, who gave us a national perspective with her informative talk.

Dr Sue Barker, Manager of Resource Management, from the Dept. of Environment and Planning, spoke on a state perspective.

Ms Megan Leavis, Senior Lecturer, Environmental Science and Rangeland Management, University of S. A., Roseworthy Campus, talked of her work - especially within the Whyalla Conservation Park.

The discussion groups were very stimulating, with groups reporting on the following topics.

1. Feral Animals - Eradication and Control.
2. Image of Conservation.
3. Training and use of volunteers.
4. Roadside clearing.
5. Bushfires and burning in parks.
6. 4WD Drivers - Users or Abusers?
7. Planting Strategies.
8. Park Fees.
9. Biological Diversity.
10. Weed control in parks.
11. Should there be restrictions on the Recreational use of National and Conservation parks?

Whole group discussions took place bringing us up to date on :-

1. Funding a representative to the World Wilderness Congress (defeated).
2. Use of a standard "Friends of Parks symbol" to display at the entrance to all parks under the care of a "Friends" group (carried).
3. An update in Incorporation.
4. Discussion of assistance available for the production of brochures.
5. An offer of an association between National Mutual and the Friends of Parks Groups (defeated).
6. Imported used motor vehicle tyres (referred to individuals to act upon).

The entire forum was enjoyable socially and very thought provoking. My own impression was that we become aware of ways we can be more scientific in our activities and skills held by friends groups members, so that we do not duplicate experiments in plant propagation, planting techniques and/or any other activity which groups may be able to help each other on saving time/resources or money by exchanging our information. How to set this up is something which needs to be addressed. We already have Ray. Nash's skill, sharing his knowledge of plants with other groups, which is benefitting many.

The forum was attended by Friends of Belair members, Ron & Beth Pitman, Kath. Norman, John Hemer, Joyce Underdown and Lyn Coombe.

I am sure I speak for them all when I suggest we would be happy to tell you in more detail of the events which took place at the forum, if you would like to know.

The next forum is in September 1993 at the Telowie Gorge.

Thank you Lyn for the above volunteered report. I have had very good reports from two other F.o.B.P. members, one from the Upper South-east Friends and a member of the staff at Belair I.C. Those of us that did not go obviously missed out on another excellent country run forum. Editor' comment.

COMING EVENTS.

SEPTEMBER

5th General meeting 1 pm.,
Working Bee after.
8th Patron's walk,
Hardy's Scrub,
Meet 1-30 pm bottom
of Ackland's Hill.
13th Planting Day.
22th & 29th Tuesday walks 2 pm.
27th Cleland Walk.

OCTOBER

3rd to 5th. South-east trip.
10th General Meeting 1 pm.,
Working Bee after.
13th and 27th Tuesday walk 2 pm.

NOVEMBER

7th. Lunch and Outside Meeting
(Venue to be announced).
10th and 24th Tuesday Walk 2 pm.
15th Dead Line for material for
Next Newsletter.

DECEMBER

5th General Meeting 1 pm, Info C. and Working Bee (seed collecting ?
8th and 22nd Tuesday Walk 2 pm.
19th Belair's Birthday Party 5 pm.

PATRON'S WALK, Tuesday 8th September.

This afternoon walk is a requested return visit to Hardy's Scrub, first to see the Red Beaks Orchid in flower, we hope. Beside this it will allow members who did not attend the previous Friday walk to come along and enjoy this area. We meet at the bottom of Acland's Hill (at the Church) at 1-30 p.m.

CLELAND WALK, 27th September

The walk starts at 9-30 am. Please try to get to the starting point, the Information Centre, about 9-20 am. Now again, PLEASE COME. Do not think "Ho its just the FOBs, they can do with out me." YOU are as important as the rest of us FOBs. Don't come alone, bring a friend or numbers of friends, neighbours or even relatives. So long as you get others involved, it does not matter. Lets see you there on Sunday the 27th. at 9-30 am.
The walk this year is not following the perimeter like it has in the past but will cut in and out of the park. We should see plenty of flowers. There will also be places where, if you are feeling weary, then you can easily walk back to the start (or finish) during the first part of the walk. So if you do not wish to do the long walk come along for an hour or so and make a shorter walk, you will enjoy that.

SOUTH EAST TRIP, 3rd to 5th October.

We have not been able to hire the cabins at Keith, our secretary is trying for alternative accomodation at Boardertown or Padthaway. Failing these places then we may have a fast trip to Mt.Monster and then a quick run to Robe. More details at the September meeting.

TREE PLANTING DAY, Sunday 13th of October.

Again we are to plant out another area near the Belair railway station with our own and some purchased plants. Meet at the information Centre at 10-00 am complete with gloves and other equipment. Bring a friend.

First I shall talk in the guise of the editor. As you will see from the above there are several reports missing, these never turned up, not even four days late. I think those who say they will make such reports could have found some time to write up a short note. This time would be quite short when one considers the time it takes to type all the above information, edit, then print and assemble this newsletter. This is your little publication and one way you can have your say, if you wish.

Having got that off my chest I will now do some constructive talk, I hope. Now is the time of the year when one will see many plants flowering in the park and about Christmas time we will again be looking for seed. I have been thinking about this and have come to the conclusion that we know so little about our plants, especially when they flower, the time it takes for seed to ripen and how to collect this seed.

What I am now going to suggest is that members adopt a plant or several plants, each a different species. It does not matter if several members adopt the same species. Now what is needed is for the adopted plant/s to be studied for flowering time, how long a single flower stays open, how long does the species flower for, how much seed is set on each plant and how long does the seed take to ripen? Having found out this information, this last matter is most important, how long have we to collect the ripe seed? Some plants have very short ripe times eg the pods are green today but tomorrow the seed has gone. Is there a way that we can tell when a closed capsual is ready to pick?

Please have a think about it and then get out into the park and do some adopting and watching. By the way no need to watch any orchid or sundew, I have a very good idea on how long and when with these plants.

As the President indicated when he suggested the Patron has an article in the newsletter, that the Patron should be critical etc of the groups activities, then I am now going to ask, "When are we going to use the chain saw and get some olives cut and poisoned? Also from what I have heard about "things said" at the Forum, I kind of get the feeling that we are being left behind in our field activities. Some members are doing their bit but are we all?

NOTICE TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS, HAVE YOUR REPORTS OR ARTICLES
IN BY THE 15TH OF NOVEMBER 1992 and help make your
Newsletter interesting.

Views expressed in articles above are not necessary those of the group or the Editor.