

The Friends of Belair Park

Volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1994

President Daphne Johncock. Secretary Beth Pitman. Treasurer Joyce Underdown.
Vice-presidents Ron Pitman and Lareen Newman.
Committee members Mike Cerchez and Marianne Burley. Patron and Editor Ray. Nash.

The Friends of Belair Park are involved in the following activities.

Monthly meetings, often with an interesting speaker. Walks, Bar-B-Qs, Exhibitions etc.
Pest plant control, seed collecting, growing and planting seedlings.
Rubbish collection and reporting on fences etc.

The Presidents Report

Greetings from Eyre Peninsula! I have called on Lyndal and Pia; both were pleased to see me and hear about Belair. They have the same problems on the west Coast as we have in Sturt and most other areas - not enough staff or money to do what needs doing, but they do their best! They send their regards to Friends and Belair Park Staff.

My real reason to visit the West Coast was to watch the whales at the Head of the Bight. I spent about ten hours over two days and they were wonderful.

I will return home via the Eyre Highway and make a detour and spend some time in the Gawler Ranges, visiting some more Conservation Parks.

Thank You.

My thanks to the people who attended the Sunday Working bees. With an average of ten people, a real impression is being made on the olives and boneseed along the walking trail. On the first Pines Oval planting day the trees were planted, mulched, watered, staked and guards placed on most. We all went home pleased with the morning's work! Thank you also to the "quiet achievers" who work on their own during the week, weeding plants, removing boneseed, sollya, blackberry, olives and other pest plants in various areas of the park.

If anyone else would like to work mid week on your own or with a group please phone me 278 1314 or

Ray. Nash 278 5694. I would like to see a mid week working bee on a regular basis but need to know who is interested and which day is suitable. *Daphne*

Ranger Report

by Terry Gregory, Manager Sturt District.

It is obvious that the Friends of Belair have some extremely enthusiastic members participating in numerous working bees in the park.

All the plaques in Belair have been weeded, a report on the boundary fence has been completed and out staff will undertake the necessary repairs. Planting days have been organised with Janine and olives, bridal creeper, Sollya (Ray's favourite plant) and Monadenia still keep raising their ugly heads.

You will have noticed that our roads have been crack sealed to help reduce deterioration and a contract will be let early in 1995 to resurface some of the roads. An amount of \$100,000 has been allotted for this program.

A new shelter shed with barbeque facilities has been installed at Pines Oval Picnic area 2 and the Information Office has had a major upgrade.

I thank your group for their past work and hope that the enthusiasm shown by members will continue.

SUNDAY WORKING BEES REPORTS

JUNE: About 8 friends worked along the project footpath pulling various weeds eg. broom, olives and boneseed. We were most pleased that Ranger Tim Fuhlbohm was able to join us.

JULY: 11 people enjoyed 3 hours working in the sunshine at this bee. Half the group worked on olives on the creek near Toadlet Swamp, while the others carefully removed boneseed on the north side of the footpath, up near Government Farm Oval. Mosquito orchids and a greenhood were seen in this area.

Lareen N.

AUGUST: 21st. Only seven Friends attended with as many parents as children from the Blackwood Guides group to participate in planting near Pines Oval. The youngsters really enjoyed the event and all but a few small plants were placed. We could quite easily see these Guides helping again. *Ray. N.*

NEW METHOD OF TACKLING OLIVES.

The park (and therefore the FOB) now have a new method of tackling olives, by chipping the bark round the stem, near to the ground, and swabbing the wound with poison. The benefits of this are that the poison is caught by the chipped bark and slowly penetrates into that part of the tree between the bark and wood, does not dry out so quickly resulting in better penetration and a saving in materials and time. Also light does not suddenly penetrate a previously dark area of the ground and more cover is left for birds. The downside is that the dying trees can become unsightly but the visual effect of heaps of cut and dead material are worse with added fire hazard.

Lareen N. and Ray. N.



TUESDAY WALKS REPORT

Those people who choose to walk in the park on the second and fourth Tuesdays, have enjoyed a variety of walks. The group varies between six and ten - sometimes more.

Most days the weather has been fine, although occasionally we have been glad to take shelter for our cups of tea etc.

The heath (*Epacris impressa*) has been very beautiful this year near Upper Sturt Lodge. We have also been pleased to find the early native orchids, *Pterostylis sanguinea* - the Banded Brown-hood and *Ptr. nutans*, the Nodding Green-hood along with *Corybas diemenicus*, a Helmet Orchid.

On our walks, litter is collected and many, many pest weeds are pulled.

We should always be pleased to have more people to join our walks. *Lynda K.*

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY IN THE PARK

Sunday June 5th was rather wet, but it did not stop a good turnout at this park event. Friends of Belair had a stand with a display in one of the marquees on Blue Gums Oval. With such bad weather it is not surprising that most of the public gave our planting a miss! Only 2 keen people joined a small group of Friends to put in 100 plants just south of the Western Entrance.

According to Daphne, some plants have been eaten by rabbits already, but the paradoxa (how surprising!)

seem to be doing OK. *Lareen N.*



GUEST SPEAKER - AUGUST MEETING

Enid Robertson came and gave a talk and slide show on personalities of the past and present with the emphasis on People, Parks and Persistence. She illustrated how people have achieved through persistent effort. The Patron thanked Enid for the F. O. B. by presenting her with a pen handcrafted locally from olive wood. *Lareen N.*

