



# The Friends of Belair Park

Volunteers working for Conservation  
Established 1985

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1995

1995: FRIENDS OF BELAIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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President Ron Pitman. Vice President Mike Cercez. Secretary Lareen Newman. Treasurer Joyce Underdown. Committee members: Beth Pitman, Peter Sutton, Doug Riley, Daphne Johncock. Newsletter Editor Lareen Newman.

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1994

Daphne Johncock

As usual the group has had its ups and downs over the past year. Unfortunately we have lost Ray Nash and the Burley family from our ranks. Their expertise and support has been missed and I thank them for their years of service. We welcomed a number of new members during the year and hope that they found comradeship and satisfaction with the Friends of Belair NP. Monthly meetings were brief and were followed by a speaker or easy weeding and other tasks in the vicinity of the Information Centre. Guest speakers Dene Cordes on Tromso, Enid Robertson on People, Parks and Perseverance, and Janine on Belair and her work, were all well received.

The average attendance at our monthly working bees has been 10, with many of the same people working individually during the week. The total hours in the Work Diary for 1994 was 860. A great deal was achieved along the Government Farm walking track, but unfortunately the weeds and olives keep growing. The new method of 'frilling' and poisoning olives is certainly easier than chainsawing and dragging the limbs away, but a lot of seedlings have regenerated under the dead trees. The Blackwood Guides joined us for our second planting day at Pines Oval. Brownies and Guides, their parents, the Friends and Tim Fuhlbohm, had a noisy but enjoyable morning planting, watering, staking and mulching. The Park staff have erected protective fencing so we are anticipating a mini-forest in a couple of years. I hope the Guides will join us again in 1995.

The hunt for *Monadenia bracteata* continues. Ray Nash is often seen pacing through the trees clutching a screw driver and plastic bag! A number of people have worked regularly between Upper Sturt Rd, Sir Edwin Avenue and the Belair railway station, choosing times suitable to themselves. They have removed a large quantity and variety of exotic plants. John Hemer received a DENR award certificate for his persistence over the past three years. Joyce Underdown and Ray Nash have continued their fight against "the aliens". Other members have taken on individual projects, such as checking perimeter fences, walking trails

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**1995 ACTIVITY CALENDAR IS ATTACHED**

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and heritage sites, monitoring plants, collecting seed and computer listing. Jill Salvi, a new member, is trying her hand at growing an assortment of plants from seed. Lynda Knight and the Tuesday walkers continued to collect rubbish, pull boneseed and generally observe the park. Displays on "Friends of Parks", "Friends of Belair NP" and "Conservation" were erected and attended at 5 conservation/environment days and one display to advertise the Professor Cleland Walk was put up at the Blackwood Library. Unfortunately, the Cleland Walk was poorly attended this year, possibly because it clashed with a footie final and school holidays.

This year our annual trip to the South East included some Simpson Desert and Onkaparinga Friends. We met Peter Macrow, DENR, the Park ranger and Friends of Butchers Gap at Mt Scott CP and bashed our way through the scrub looking for mallee fowl nests. None were found in the grid but Vicki Natt showed us a small nest on the way back to the camping area. Next day Simpson Desert Friends almost fell over a mallee fowl feeding in Jip Jip CP. A great weekend meeting new people, hearing about other Friends' projects and enjoying the bush. The exercise will be repeated in 1995. Five of our members attended an exceedingly well run, interesting and enjoyable Friends Forum at Hawker, hosted by the Friends of Simpson Desert. One Simpson Desert family came from Sydney to participate. That's dedication!

Tradition was changed this year for our Birthday Tea. A low key picnic was arranged at Pines Oval for Belair Friends and Staff. 24 members attended but a bushfire in Sturt Gorge kept the staff away. Jenny Launer, a volunteer working on bandicoot habitat in Melville Gully, was our guest speaker. A pleasant and friendly relaxing evening. Looking back over the past year I feel we have achieved a great deal by way of physical work in the Park and also in the understanding of the management of the Park, thanks to the efforts and patience of Janine, Tim and other staff. Thank you to all members for supporting me and the committee for the benefit of our Park. May we go on to bigger and better things in 1995.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 4TH FEBRUARY 1995



The Annual General Meeting was attended by 17 members. After the President and Treasurer gave their reports for 1994, the proposed amendments to the Constitution were debated and some further amendments were made. An important change was made to the group's name, from Friends of Belair Park to Friends of Belair National Park. New office bearers and committee members were then elected, as given at the head of this newsletter.

#### WORK PLAN FOR 1995 - GROUP BRAINSTORMING SESSION



After the AGM members enjoyed tea and biscuits. Our liaison ranger, Janine Kraehenbuhl, then joined us and commended us on our work in 1994. A vote of thanks was extended to Janine for her support during the year. Janine then explained that the NPWS was keen to include the work of Friends Groups more in park management plans. She commented that boneseed and a few particular areas had been the main focus of FOB activities for sometime, while other areas, activities and member interests had perhaps been neglected. The aim of the session was to recognise hidden interests and skills of individual members and to ensure that group activities targeted members' interests as well as using the group's skills in the most productive way to help the Park.

Members present divided into groups of six. Each person gave one major reason why they were interested in Belair Park, and the main skills they had which could be useful in the park (eg public relations, weedpulling). Groups were also invited to write down practical ways in which park staff could help FOB

more. Each group then selected two main projects they would like FOB to undertake in 1995 (one for the group and one for individuals). These ideas were used as the basis for planning the activity calendar for 1995.

The main projects suggested for the whole group were:

- \* Continued maintenance work on our project footpath.
- \* Organising a celebration of 1995 as the 10th anniversary of the Friends of Belair, probably by making the Cleland Walk a major event.
- \* Undertaking a publicity campaign and a membership drive.
- \* Selecting other sites in the park to focus work on.



The main projects suggested for individuals or small groups were:

- \* Maintaining areas already worked previously.
- \* Maintaining signs in the park while walking (eg touching up paint)
- \* Historical projects.
- \* Regular photo records of work and projects perhaps with photo points
- \* Weed mapping.
- \* Seed collecting.

Suggested ways for park staff to help more included: providing ongoing updates on the District Plan, giving advice on future work at specific sites, helping dispose of weeds pulled, suggesting major projects of value in the park and organising training in weeding, poisoning and plant identification.

#### WORKING BEE CONTENT THIS YEAR

There is a list of what we should be doing at Sunday group working bees up to and including July on the reverse of the attached 1995 calendar. The expected content for August onwards will be given in the June newsletter.

#### BICYCLE SA IN BELAIR - SUNDAY JUNE 4TH (WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY)



As last year, World Environment Day will be celebrated with an organised day in Belair Park. As part of this, Bicycle SA has organised with the rangers to hold a special tour along firetracks, as well as short "encouragement rides" nearer the main activities. Bicycle SA contacted FOB to ask whether we would like to be involved in educating their riders, either by joining the ride and sharing information en route about Belair, the flora and fauna, and the work of FOB, or by meeting up with them at a suitable point (or two) for short talks/walks. If you would like to share your knowledge and enthusiasm about the Park on this day, please let one of the committee know soon.

#### FRIENDS FORUM 1995 - FRIDAY 25TH TO SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST



Friends of Innes NP are hosting this year's Friends Forum. Their focus is *A Coastal Park*. The programme includes a Talk on Shipwrecks (State Heritage Branch), a Night Walk, Speakers on Underwater Animal Life (SA Museum) and Managing Coastal Heathland (University of SA), and a Wine Tasting! Forum Programme, Registration Form and Accommodation Guide available from Lareen. **PLEASE SEND YOUR OWN FORMS OFF.** Friends of Innes are organising a raffle to subsidise the registration fees. Forum costs will be higher this year as they are hiring a marquee and other equipment so that numbers attending do not have to be restricted. (Innes is at the tip of Yorke Peninsula in an area with limited facilities). Before the FOB AGM it was moved that FOB purchase 5 tickets at \$5 each to support this raffle. If we win, lots will be drawn to determine which FOB member wins the prize (draw is on February 28th).

## GROUP WORKING BEES REPORT

After the December meeting several friends went with Janine to see how to conduct a weed transect between the road to Old Govt House and our Footpath. We were pleasantly surprised at the almost total lack of weeds and how well the native bush looks in this area. A small grove of *Hakea laurina* was spotted, which provided the subject of the February working bee, when ten members helped drag the trees out to block off tracks after Doug had chainsawed them. Neville Houlahan (ranger) stopped by and gave us some welcome encouragement.

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REMINDER: SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1995 ARE NOW DUE - HAVE YOU PAID YET?  
SEE JOYCE UNDERDOWN OR POST TO HER AT 11 JOHN AVENUE, GLENALTA 5052

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## COLOURED POSTS IN THE PARK

Have you noticed strange coloured posts appearing around the Park and wondered what they were for? Well, they are part of a colour-coded system of markers used to indicate various aspects of management. The colour(s) may be painted on one side of a marker post to indicate that an activity occurred or an important site lies to that side of the marker. The colours indicate:

White:	Developments	Red:	Pest Plant Management
Green:	Direct Seeding;	Yellow:	Tubestock
White&Black:	Interpretation		
White&Red:	Survey Site Peg		
Dark Blue:	Endangered or Rare Species - KEEP OUT!		
Light Blue:	Department of Lands Survey Peg		

## NEWS IN BRIEF



IN THE JUNE NEWSLETTER ... Daphne's account of her expedition to Arckaringa, and an article by YOU? (Give to Lareen at May meeting or May working bee).

BONESEED TIP MOTH We are hoping to have someone come and talk to us some time this year about this moth, what it is like, what it does, etc.

AMENDED FRIENDS OF PARKS INC CONSTITUTION available from Lareen (Secretary) for perusal. For clarification, the Friends of Parks Inc Board deals with legal and structural aspects of the Incorporated Body, while the NPWS Community Liaison Branch manages the Friends of Parks scheme. THE NPWS FRIENDS AND SUPPORT GROUPS TERMS OF REFERENCE (30/10/94) and the NPWS COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME GUIDELINES (5/9/94) are also available for perusal.

## CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING Report by Daphne Johncock

The Sturt District Consultative Committee invited Belair Friends to send a representative to their February 17th meeting. I was made welcome and listened with great interest to the proceedings. Terry Gregory's report covered recent happenings in Sturt District, from permits for camel treks in Hardy's Scrub, to the disastrous bushfires. I was asked to summarise the activities of FOB and answered a few questions. The meeting also discussed several conservation matters and organised the 1995 program. A representative from another Sturt District Friends Group will be invited to attend the next meeting. I hope they find it as interesting and informative as I did.



USEFUL NUMBERS: President Ron Pitman 276 9260; Secretary Lareen Newman 278 8649; Treasurer Joyce Underdown 278 1987; Park Office 278 5477; Tuesday Walks Enquiries: Lynda Knight 278 2623; Working Bees: Doug Riley 278 3685.

# FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

## 1995 CALENDAR

### MARCH 1995

Sat 4th General Meeting 1pm  
Sun 19th Working Bee 10am  
\* No Tuesday walks this month\*

### APRIL 1995

\*Working bee change for Easter\*  
Sat 1st General Meeting 1pm  
Sun 9th\* Working Bee 10am  
Tue 11th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Tue 25th Tuesday Walk 2pm

### MAY 1995

Sat 6th General Meeting 1pm  
Tue 9th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Sat 13th (Mallee Fowl Nest  
to (Count, Mt Scott +  
Sun 15th (F.O. Butchers Gap  
Sun 21st Working Bee 10am  
Tue 23rd Tuesday Walk 2pm

### JUNE 1995

Sat 3rd General Meeting 1pm  
Sun 4th World Environment Day  
FOB supporting Bicycle  
SA events in the Park  
Tue 13th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Sun 18th Working Bee 10am  
Tue 27th Tuesday Walk 2pm

### JULY 1995

Sat 1st General Meeting 1pm  
Guest Speaker 2pm  
"Environmental History  
of the Willunga Basin  
1830s to 1990s" by  
Lareen Newman  
Tue 11th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Sun 16th Working Bee 10am  
Tue 25th Tuesday Walk 2pm

### NOTES

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD IN Belair National Park Information Centre.

SUNDAY GROUP WORKING BEES meet Information Centre to start at 10am **SHARP**. Enquiries: Doug Riley 278 3685.

OTHER WORKING BEES arranged by individuals or small groups. Ask for details.

### AUGUST 1995

Sat 5th General Meeting 1pm  
Tue 8th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Sun 20th Working Bee 10am  
Tue 22nd Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Fri 25th- (State Friends Forum at  
Sun 27th (Innes National Park

### SEPTEMBER 1995

Sat 2nd NO MEETING  
Sun 3rd Prof Cleland Walk in  
Belair Nat. Park 10am  
Tue 12th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Sun 17th Working Bee 10am  
Tue 26th Tuesday Walk 2pm

### OCTOBER 1995

Sat 7th General Meeting 1pm  
Tue 10th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Sun 22nd Working Bee 10am  
Tue 24th Tuesday Walk 2pm

### NOVEMBER 1995

Sat 4th General Meeting 1pm  
Tue 14th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Sun 19th Working Bee 10am  
Tue 28th Tuesday Walk 2pm

### DECEMBER 1995

\*No group working bee this month\*

Sat 2nd General Meeting 1pm  
Tue 12th Tuesday Walk 2pm  
Tue 19th 10th Birthday Tea  
Next Tuesday Walk April 1996

### JANUARY 1996

No meetings or activities

### FEBRUARY 1996

Sat 3rd AGM 1pm

TUESDAY WALKS START FROM "Two-hour" Car Park near Information Centre and last approx 2 hours. Enquiries: Lynda Knight 278 2623.

FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO JOIN Friends of Belair: call Ron Pitman (President) 276 9260 or Lareen Newman (Secretary) 278 8649.

## WORKING BEES 1995

In the last few years the Friends have mainly concentrated their efforts in the North-West part of the Park. This area has the highest conservation value in regional terms because its vegetation associations are neither widespread nor common through the Mt Lofty Ranges. This year we will finish off our major project working either side of the footpath to Govt Farm Oval (which we began 2 years ago) and then be able to start a new area south of Lodge Track.

- 19th Mar      Boneseed removal Govt Farm Oval. Weed transects Queen's Jubilee Drive north to Workanda Creek checking for remaining large olives/hakea to chainsaw and pulling small weeds.
- 9th Apr      NOTE CHANGE OF WEEK DUE TO EASTER  
Spread old boneseed from heaps along footpath.  
Remove boneseed near Govt Farm Oval, top end of footpath.
- 21st May      Continue transects as March, pull boneseed Govt Farm Oval.
- 18th Jun      Check and weed between Workanda Creek and Pines Oval Road.
- 16th Jul      Reweed and remove *Acacia longifolia* along Valley Road.
- 20th Aug      Possible direct seeding - further details later.
- 17th Sep      Start on Lodge Track area - details later.
- 22nd Oct      Hunt for *Monadenia bracteata* various sites.
- 19th Nov      Continue Lodge Track - further details later.

