



Friends
of
Belair National Park
Volunteers working for Conservation

Established 1985
Friends group of the decade 2004
Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998



NEWSLETTER 1, MARCH, 2007

**The date for the April Meeting has been changed to 31st March.
This is because the 1st Saturday in April is Easter Saturday.**

12.30pm for a barbecue.

Please bring plate of salad or sweet slice to share, and \$2.50 donation for meat. Tea, coffee, cordial and water available. If you have never been to a meeting before, this is a chance to meet other Friends and find out what we do in Belair Park in our different ways. Any enquiries, ask any committee member (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

A general meeting will follow the barbecue

A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

For those of you who don't know me, let me introduce myself. My name is Michael Cerchez. Cerchez is a strange name. Not really if you happen to be in Romania. I am not a Romanian by birth or nationality. My father was, before he became German by Nationality and my mother was German. I was born in Germany and came to Australia 56 years ago, and I am now an Australian.

I am married to Peggy. We have 3 grown up children and 7 grandchildren. In my previous life I was a teacher, of history, geography and the social sciences. I've been retired for 4 years now.

I live at Crafers West, not far from the top end of the Park. I've been a member of Friends of Belair National Park since 1989 but have kept a fairly low profile in the past, due to work commitments. I've been on the committee for a number of years and have previously been vice president for a number of years. Last year I was also Newsletter Editor. This year so far I'm still Newsletter Editor.

Some pleas.

Friends of Belair National Park has 90 plus members. We need some more people to share the work of keeping this group functioning. Please join the committee. Please volunteer to do some of the tasks, which need doing to keep us a viable organisation. There's been a statement from Dene Cordes and Brian Dubois about "Going it alone". The February meeting nominated me as the official spokesperson for Friends of Belair National Park, and I will try and convey our official policy on matters. There are bound to be some contentious issues coming up with the current Park redevelopment.

Let's make this a great year together for Belair National Park and its Friends group. Remember the Park does not belong to us but we belong to the Park.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK – 2006.

The past twelve months has been a successful year for the Friends many activities, with the number of hours recorded for work totaling more than 3,700. Many thanks to Eric Cole and his weeding teams, and to all those members who contributed to these work hours, and to those who helped in other ways.

Special thanks to Toni Nicholson for cleaning the Volunteer Centre before each booking. Other volunteer groups and we used it 69 times in 2006. Thanks to Carol Parrott and Shirley Callaghan for organising the afternoon teas and to Beth Pitman for the delicious birthday cake in December. To Pam Tamblyn, our librarian, and to Shirley Alford who organises the walks, and to Ralph Foster and Jenny Skinner for their botanical help. Thanks also to Mike Cerchez, newsletter editor, Ann Ross as his substitute, and to those who sent in contributions. Thanks to all members of the committee, especially to our two vice-presidents, Mike Cerchez and Jim Trueman, for deputising, and to those who represented Friends of Belair on other committees and events. Thanks also to Mike for organising the new banner and the new uniform shirts.

Special thanks to our liaison ranger, Leah Egan, for attending activities, and for feedback and help with our work.

We welcomed 9 new members during the year, and one of the old members, Doug Riley, was granted life membership in recognition of his great work. Eight members received awards for 10 years service at the birthday party in December. These 10-year veterans are John Edwards, Barry and Ruth Palmer, Ron Tamblyn, Keith and Di Vickery, Barbara Warburton, and Betty Wise.

Pam and Ron Tamblyn were awarded the 2006 Rotary Club of Glen Osmond Volunteers of the Year, at a dinner at the Belair Country Club in May.

Our education continued with courses in First Aid, Brushcutting, and Bush Regeneration and Bush Revegetation workshops.

Special events included the Southern Hills Forum 2006 at Echunga in late October, which we co-hosted with other local Friends groups, the free guided walk in memory of Professor Sir John Cleland on 8th October, and the 121st birthday party of Belair National Park, which we hosted in December. The Friends guided several walks for outside groups. We also took part in the Blackwood Christmas Pageant.



District Ranger James Crocker invited Friends of Southern Lofty to a thank you BBQ at Old Noarlunga in December, which was enjoyed by the Friends, but short on Rangers who unluckily were fighting fires that day.



As mentioned in our 2005 annual report, there was interest to get walking access to the Sequoia avenue near the eastern boundary. The good news is that there is now a walking track between Saddle Hill Road and upper Minno Creek by the avenue, and the RSL is supporting the plan to connect the WW1 memorial (the cherry plantation) with the WW2 memorial (the sequoias) by another walking track. Other development plans in the Park are for a new entrance, and the Friends are represented on the new discussion committee by President Brian DuBois. A special meeting of the Friends was called to discuss the new concept plan for Playford Lake verges and to formalise our views.

This year our ongoing activities have included weeding (always), propagation and revegetation, herbariums, photography, historic sites, significant trees register, guided walks, the historic maze, publicity, clerical, website, and so on. Any member with a particular interest would be welcomed to contribute to Friends of Belair in their special way.

Brian DuBois – President 2006



115th Birthday of Belair National Park.

The Friends of Belair National Park hosted the celebrations for the 115th birthday of the Belair Park and their own 121st birthday on the evening of 19th December 2006 at the Volunteer Centre in the Park. About 60 Friends and supporters enjoyed a casual meal together. Mrs. Beth Pitman had once again made a delicious birthday cake, which was cut by liaison ranger Leah Egan and Dene Cordes.

Certificates of attendance from Trees for Life were presented to those who had attended workshops on Bush Regeneration, or Revegetation Planning and Maintenance, or both. Eight people had completed 10 years membership with the Friends of Belair and they were given hearty thanks, certificates of appreciation, and 10-year badges. These 10-year veterans are John Edwards, Barry and Ruth Palmer, Ron Tamblyn, Keith and Di Vickery, Barbara Warburton, and Betty Wise.



Special thanks were given to Doug Riley, who has decided to retire for health reasons. For years, Doug has volunteered many hours every week combating olives in Belair Park. His trials with different poisons, and drilling and frilling, have greatly expanded our knowledge of how to actually kill these trees. Doug's skills with woodworking have given us a beautiful lectern of olive wood, a lovely clock and pens as gifts for our speakers. Because of his valuable contributions over the years, Doug has been made a lifetime member and was

presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Annual Report on Working Bees 2006

We commenced the year working mainly on olive in VMU 26 adjacent Queen's Jubilee Drive. There is still much more to be done in this unit.

Then we tackled an infestation of boneseed in the northern end of VMU25. This was near the water tank along the Tilti Track for those who may be familiar with the area. A sector of VMU 16 had been burnt along the Lodge track and the aftermath was showing a profusion of boneseed seedlings so we joined with those "dam ladies" to remove them before they grew too big. Some thought we were too early but recent surveys have shown little regrowth.

At about the end of summer we moved into VMU 27 bordered by Queen's Jubilee Drive, the Tilti Track and the railway. This was a mass of boneseed, broom, olive and pittosporum.

VMU 29, along Sheok Road, is a unit, which we have never completed. The broom infestation is massive and I must say a bit off-putting. We have worked each end of this block before and we did follow up work in the eastern end pulling regrowth boneseed and broom and small olives. The small olives seem to be everywhere and must be spread by birds and animals. Often there is a proliferation under a large tree, obviously where the birds have been perching. They certainly have their favourite trees.

Late in the year we returned to VMU 23 for follow up work, mainly boneseed young olive and a patch of broom. We were requested to leave part of this unit due to the likelihood of damage to threatened plant species.

For the first time we went into the southern end of VMU 31. This is nestled between the northern side of Queen's Jubilee Drive and the Tilti Track. We removed masses of broom up to head high but we left a couple of patches where birds were nesting. The boneseed was some of the biggest we have seen for some time. In places the terrain was very steep as can be observed from the track. When the ground became too hard to handle the broom we reverted to VMU 27 which is where we are currently working. It is a mass of boneseed mainly about hip high.

VMU 27 is bordered on the southern side by the railway and the railway property is quite wide. It contains masses of boneseed, which is a source of infestation into the park. We wrote to the railway authorities for permission to enter their property with a view to removing the weeds but were refused. Since they said it is the responsibility of their contractors to remove the weeds we wrote again offering to meet with their representative to travel the track and survey the problem. It is over 2 months since we wrote but as yet, no response. Watch this space.

This report is all about the men as the ladies have reported separately and earlier however between us we have contributed 1438 hours on our regular working bees throughout the year. I know much work has been done in addition by those who have adopted blocks. A great effort and thank you to all who have contributed.

Eric Cole
WORKING BEE COORDINATOR

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TREASURER'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
3RD FEBRUARY 2007

We have had a quiet year financially. Our General Account remains much the same as at the end of 2005, i.e. \$7660.72.

Membership is stable at 99 and generated \$772.50 in fees.

We received donations of \$888.80 being \$473.80 for use of the Volunteer Centre, \$300 for our participation in Forum 2006 and \$115 sundry donations.

Our original term deposit of \$5000 has compounded to \$5453.28, interest received in 2006 being \$202.15.

The only grant received was \$1000 to cover cost of repairs to the Volunteer Centre.

Total balance in the bank as at 31.12.06 was \$9548.11.

Betty Wise
Treasurer 2006

EXTRACTS FROM THE ADDRESS BY LEAH EGAN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 3RD FEBRUARY 2007.

Staff Updates.

Janine Kraehenbuehl has been acting as District Ranger at Northern Lofty since August, Leah is Acting Senior Ranger at Southern Lofty and Jen Pitman is Acting Ranger in Leah's position. There are several new ticket staff.

Vermin Control.

Currently fox baiting, and removal progresses with the toll so far at 206 rabbits, 37 hares and 4 foxes.

Weed Control

The work of the Friends is appreciated, especially as the budget is small. Bridal Creeper has been sprayed on VMUs 16, 18, 23 & 24. Needle Grass is in the vicinity of Minno Creek and being a small new infestation is being monitored. DCS has done some work along Valley Road.

Fire Season.

Southern Lofty manages prescribed burns across the area. There is a large commitment to fires in the district, region and state, and rangers have served at the fires in Onkaparinga, Mt. Bold, Ngarkat, South East, Danggali, Gluepot and the West. With commitment to fires, other programs come to a halt.

Facilities.

Resources are limited for the maintaining of facilities. Problems include ongoing vandalism (smashed toilet bowls). Weather conditions have been difficult with the dry winter and hot summer for the preservation of vegetation and wildlife. Bore water is being used in the Park.

The Interpretive Plans are progressing, with orientation sign shelters at strategic junctions of trails. The Heritage & Recreation zones show early land use, Government Farm, the hills railway, plantings from home and they encourage social enjoyment. Conservation zones are havens for local species, linking ecosystems of the MLR with protection from outside pressures, and encouraging the theme of Healthy Parks Healthy People.

Thanks were extended to the Friends for their dedication and support

Leah liaising with the "Dam Ladies" about the ongoing revegetation of Minno Creek, below the Railway Dam



ORANGE CARDS

PLEASE ONLY RETAIN YOURS WHILE YOU ARE AN ACTIVE MEMBER.
THE GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE CARDS. PLEASE RETURN YOUR
CARD TO A COMMITTEE MEMBER WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED IT.

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www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2007

PRESIDENT Mike Cerchez 8339 6801
VICE PRESIDENT Jim Trueman 8278 9359
SECRETARY Jill Salvi 8278 6736 4 Colton Rd BLACKWOOD SA
5051
TREASURER Carol Parrott 8278 6783
COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Eric Cole, Brian DuBois, Faye Loffler, Barry
Palmer, Ron Tamblyn.

VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
GUIDED WALKS	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
LIBRARIAN	Pam Tamblyn	8278 6593
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Mike Cerchez	8339 6801
WORKING BEES	Eric Cole	8278 3816
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8278 6593

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to extend a warm welcome to several new members joining the group this year. They are, Isabel and Robin Storer, Mark Sullivan, and Spencer Trowse. We hope that you will enjoy being a part of the group and participating in the many and various activities on our calendar.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO LES LOFFLER FOR THE NEW NAME TAG CABINET WHICH HE MADE. THIS WILL MAKE ORGANISATION OF NAME TAGS MUCH EASIER

DENE CORDES TO RETIRE

Dene is hoping to finish work on the 30th March 2007. He has spent the last 25 years working to make Friends Group viable organisations. He will be greatly missed for his dedication to the cause of Friends Groups. **A Special Thank You, Dene**, from the Friends of Belair National Park

CALENDAR 2007

General Meetings on the first Saturday of the month. 1.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park. Visitors welcome.

NB the date for the April Meeting has been changed to 31st March.

Barbecues – Meetings of 31st March and 3rd November are at 12.30pm for a barbecue. Please bring plate of salad or sweet slice to share, and \$2.50 donation for meat.

Working Bees on Tuesdays and Fridays, meet outside the Information Centre, Belair National Park

Before 8.00 am Daylight Saving Time, or 8.30 am in the winter.

NO WORKING BEE IF THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN.

Enquiries Eric 8278 3816

Guided Walks are from April to December, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons. Meet outside the Information Centre, Belair National Park at 2.00 pm. All welcome. Enquiries Shirley 8278 1525.

SPECIAL EVENTS

August -Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th. 23rd Annual Forum of Friends of Parks – Port Lincoln.

Hosted by Southern Eyre Parks Friends. Enquiries to Jill 8278 6736

December -Wednesday 19th Belair Park 116th Birthday and Friends 22nd Birthday.

23rd FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM 3rd to 5th August 2007

This year the Forum will be hosted by Southern Eyre Parks Friends at Port Lincoln. The theme is “Catastrophe or Sustainability”. For transport, coaches will be hired from Adelaide and can pick up en-route. Excursions will involve visits to Coffin Bay National Park, Lincoln National Park, Wanilla Conservation Park, local sites – Seahorse Farm, Koppio Smithy Village, Arts Studios, Maritime Museum. Four excellent Speakers will address us on matters relating to the theme.

Those members who have attended previous forums usually have a very interesting time, and early notices of this one make it appear a good one. The venue will be the Racing Club, beginning with a Barbecue on Friday night, the big Dinner and presentations to Friends on Saturday night, and Sunday breakfast. Forum business with discussions and speakers will be on Saturday and Sunday mornings, with excursions arranged for the afternoons. August is the whale-watch season, so if you are planning to go, you need to get moving. Contact the Port Lincoln Travel Centre to reserve your accommodation. Tell them it is for the Friends of Parks conference. Ph. 8683 3544, or 1300 788 378.

Contact Jill for more information, 8278 6736. Registration kits will be out very soon.

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of the articles and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Friends of Belair National Park.