



Friends  
of  
*Belair National Park*  
Volunteers working for Conservation  
Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

**Quarterly Newsletter for December  
2015**



## President's Report Dec 2015

Since the last newsletter I have to admit to having spent September AWOL in UK. However, during this time the committee discussed the remaining areas of the Master Plan and all that really remains is to put measurable outcomes onto the Community Involvement and Heritage portions.

The Hon. Mr Ian Hunter MLC Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation replied to my letter about our concerns that there may be no budget funding in his department for maintenance of Heritage structures. He assures us of the Department's commitment to retaining those buildings and listed several for which there is provision in the 2015/6 budget. These include the heritage arbour on creek road, replacement of posts and lattice work and re-painting of the Main Pavilion.

Shortly after this, DEWNR also kindly found us 80+ litres of Weedmaster Duo (glyphosate). I claim absolutely no credit for this, thank you Jen Pitman.

We have also moved into the beginnings of more varied herbicide use in some of the problem situations. We have sprayed an area of periwinkle in VMU 12 with glyphosate and will watch its demise. The job is only 10 days old at the moment. We have also run our first test of the triclopyr/Biosafe oil treatment of woody weeds/basal bark. Barb and I have treated both olive and Pittosporum in VMU 28 – watch this space

Mark Pedlar

### In this issue

President's Report .....	2
Driving safely .....	2
Situations vacant .....	3
Welcome new members .....	3
Happy birthday .....	3
A. G. M. notice .....	4
Fund raising .....	4
Memorial Walk report .....	5
Extra eyes .....	5
The Library report .....	6
Fire ban days .....	6
From the editor .....	7
Thank you .....	8
Excerpt .....	9
Working start times .....	9
General information .....	10/11

## **Driving Safely in the Park**

### ***A message from our liaison ranger, Jen Pitman.***

Recently one of the Friends of Belair had a vehicle accident on the Exit Road. It was at low speed but damaged the car considerably. I completed an incident report for this and have been asked to complete an action related to the report.

I am to 'remind staff and volunteers not to drive if they are feeling tired or fatigued', and

'remind staff and volunteers to obey speed limits, pay attention to surroundings and signs and drive to conditions in Belair National Park'.

I am not sure if excessive speed was involved but fatigue was an issue."

## **SITUATIONS VACANT**

**MINUTE SECRETARY:** Jill needs help, and if we don't give it we'll lose her. And no-one wants that to happen. So we are looking for a Minute Secretary. You don't need to contribute, or be actually on the committee, just be there and take the Minutes, and send them to the Secretary for distribution. We can take two people for this job – one for the Committee Meetings (CURRENTLY third Monday of the month at 3pm) and the General Meeting – usually the first Saturday of the month immediately after the guest speaker – around 2.30pm.

**PUBLICITY OFFICER:** A great job – can be done in your own time and at your own pace. This is going to be particularly important for 2016 which is the Belair Park's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Primarily, this person will be given information on activities – Monthly Guided walks, Guest Speakers etc, and be asked to send the information to various publications such as Messenger Press, Mitcham Quarterly News, Blackwood Times etc.. They will also need to ensure that this information goes to our Web Master, to DEWNR for inclusion in their social media and sent to our Face Book manager. There will almost certainly be other areas of advertising as time goes by. YOU WILL PROBABLY HAVE SOME MORE IDEAS. All you need is your computer, and the deadline dates – and a bit of enthusiasm.

Please send your application(s) to the Secretary at **friendsofbelair-park@msn.com**, or talk to Jill Salvi at the next general meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Welcome to new members**

A warm welcome is extended to our new members

Beverley Bennet

Jill & Bruce Cole

Wendy McInnes

### **Happy Birthday to Belair National Park – 124 years old, and Happy Birthday to Friends of Belair National Park – 30 years old.**



*On 19<sup>th</sup> December 1891 Belair National Park was proclaimed – the first national park in South Australia and the second one in Australia.*

*Join us all at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully in Belair National Park*

*at 6 pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015*

*to celebrate while we share a light meal together. Please bring a large plate of finger food to share. Tea and coffee will be provided but BYO drinks.*

*Come along to enjoy a very happy occasion and make welcome other volunteers and Friends from other Parks, and Park rangers and staff. Even if you have not come to a Friends of Belair function before, come to our birthday to meet us.*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of the Friends of Belair National Park will be held on Saturday February 6th 2016 at 1.00pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair National Park.

As members must be financial to stand for office at the AGM, or to vote, and as annual subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, please pay your subscriptions before the AGM, at the December 2015 meeting, or before the AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

OR pay directly to our bank, as per the information elsewhere in this newsletter.  
OR send you cheque with your details to Friends of Belair National Park, PO Box 2, Belair SA 5052.

Please do not try to pay your annual subscription at the birthday party on 19<sup>th</sup> December!!

### **Agenda for the Annual General Meeting at 1.00pm on Saturday 6th February 2016.**

1. Minutes of AGM of 2015.
2. Receive the Annual Report (s) for 2015.
3. Receive the audited Financial Statement for 2015
4. Appoint an Auditor for 2016.
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2016.

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

committee members.

Nominations can be received from the floor.

6. Set the subscription rates for 2016.

The committee recommends that the rate be as for 2015. \$10 single, \$15 family.

The AGM will be followed by afternoon tea and a general monthly meeting.

If there is a TOTAL FIRE BAN in the Mount Lofty Ranges on that day, the meeting will be postponed until the following month on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### **\*\* WE NEED YOUR FUND-RAISING IDEAS \*\***

**Like everyone, we need money to cover our on-going day-to-day costs. Plans are already under way to produce greeting cards for sale using images taken in the Park, and we are also investigating the production of printed tea towels for sale. Does anyone have any other ideas? Please email the secretary at [friendsofbelairpark@msn.com](mailto:friendsofbelairpark@msn.com).**

## **FoBNP Annual Prof Sir John Cleland Memorial Walk Report for Dec 2015 Newsletter**

This year two separate walks were organised for Sunday 13 September 2015; the first was a "Perimeter Hike" of 15 kms, starting at 9.00am; the second was a "Family Friendly Stroll" for two hours, starting at 10.00 am, and participants were requested to book in advance to ensure the walks were not over-subscribed.

The day was quite warm day, with 10 hikers for the Perimeter Hike, and 14 for the Family Friendly Stroll; while we could have had more people for each walk, the smaller numbers made for a good walk.

The Family Friendly Stroll was led by Barb together with Peter and Steven Raine. They were grateful to have James McGregor accompanying the group and he donated several copies of his Photo Sheet "Wildflowers of Belair National Park", which many people found invaluable. During the walk 3 koalas and 2 shingle-backed lizards were seen; also seen were sun orchids, blue squill, hibbertias, ha-keas and donkey orchids. An early spider orchid found on Moorowie Track delighted walkers. The walk was completed at leisurely pace and enjoyed by all and many photographs were taken.

The Perimeter Hike was led by Alan; most of the 10 hikers were either FoBNP members or current or previous locals who were familiar with most areas of the park. As the hike and the day progressed, the extra water available at Waverley Lodge and Upper Sturt Lodge was appreciated. We were all very ready for our slightly later than anticipated lunch at Upper Sturt Lodge – by this time it was quite a warm day! Along Lodge Track near Gate 6 we saw a good-sized Bearded Dragon which was a good photo opportunity for all. We returned to Gums Oval by 3.15pm, having hiked 14.8 kms in a walking time of four hours – an excellent effort by everyone.

We were surprised by the generous total of \$125.00 in the FoBNP Donations Box, so presumably everyone had enjoyed themselves! Those on the stroll also appreciated the use of the new portable P.A. system.

Alan and Barb Raine

2015 Prof Cleland Memorial Walk organisers

### **Extra eyes**

I would also welcome any input from people who regularly walk in the park who would like to advise me of any areas they spot which are in special need of attention from the active weeders.

Of course we can't do everything! But we do try to prioritise work where it is most needed and it is helpful to have as many eyes as possible on the lookout for problems arising in the good bush areas.

Barbara Raine Phone 8278 2370

## **The Library**

The stocktake and update of the library catalogue will be done in January and it will be helpful if all books currently out on loan are returned at the December meeting.

Books in the Library are available to all members. There are many who work in the Park, do not often attend the monthly meetings, and so do not have the opportunity to look through books on subjects which may be of interest, e.g. bush-care, weed identification and methods of control, local plants, etc. If anyone wishes to borrow such a book please ask

the leader of your working group to do so on your behalf.

The following books are additions during 2015, mostly thanks to very generous donations by members.

Frogs, Reptiles & Mammals. How to restore their habitat. A Guide to Urban Wildlife  
- by Chris Daniels

Flora of South Australia Vols. 1, 11, 111, & 1V by J M Black. 4th edition  
1986 !!!

Flora of Australia Vol. 35. Brunonniaceae, Goodeniaceae

Flora of Australia Vol. 54. Lichens, Lecanorales.

The Conservation of Major Plant associations in Sth.Australia by Richard J P Davies

The Ecology of the Forests and Woodlands of South Australia

Key to the families of flowering plants in Belair National Park (Dr. R C Foster –  
compiled for the plant identification classes in 2001)

Wildflowers of Australia by Thistle Y Harris

Gardens in my Year by Holly Kerr

Forsyth The Gold Escort Route – National Heritage Trail

All in The Line of Duty – Danger and Drudgery on the Gold Escort Route

Shirley Alford, librarian.

### **Total fire ban days**

*There are no activities held by the Friends in Belair National Park if there is a Total Fire Ban in the Mount Lofty Ranges on that day. (see weather forecast from 4.30pm previous day).*

*There are no working bees if the forecast temperature is 35 degrees or over.*

## **From the editor.**

This is my last newsletter for the Friends.

After 20 years of serving on the committee I have decided not to stand for election at the next A.G.M.

Wayne Gallasch will be the new editor. His email 'wayne.gmv.com.au.'

Below are some of the changes which have occurred in the last 20 years.

When I joined the Friends there was only one official working bee. If I remember correctly it was on the third Sunday of the month.

There were a few who worked on areas, but there were no VMU numbered areas like we have now nor did workers restrict themselves to one area. The VMU system was a project carried by our then Ranger Stuart Paul and our member (the late Eric Cole). It was intended for Park use but we felt it was a good opportunity to adopt a system which the Rangers and Friends could use to simplify block references.

With a standard reference system in place the Adopt a Block program was started.

Meetings were held in the old office. Eighteen or more constituted a huge meeting with twelve members a good meeting.

There were speakers who spoke after the general meeting.

After we moved to our new premises, the Volunteer Centre, there was an occasion when the speaker needed to be in Mount Gambier that night. This was when we started having the speaker first. It made us aware that our meetings were of variable length and it was unfair to the speakers to start their talk at an indefinite time.

The barbecue was introduced after our move and has been a feature ever since.

Over a couple of years our attendances grew and it was not uncommon to have 30 or more. A situation which is exceeded these days with the speaker sessions, unfortunately not the general meetings.

Working bee hours also increased over a couple of years with the introduction of regular working bees on Tuesday and Friday and the adopt a block program from about 800 hours per annum to between 3000 and 4000 hours per annum.

It was also during the late 90s that a concerted effort was begun on the olives with new techniques evolving. Our first member to concentrate on the olives was the late Doug Riley who also made our lectern (from an olive tree) and pens which were given to the speakers. The source was mainly from weeds but some from trees. I have a bone seed pen.

It was in 2003 that the web site was started. It was revamped in 2011. At this

Cont....

...cont

time the significant trees project was loaded onto the website and, in subsequent years, four newsletters became available for perusal . It is now looked after by Chris Lightowler. His email `seow@live.com`.

The Newsletter itself has evolved during this time from black and white hard copy, done for many years by Anne Ross, and is now full colour, most of it read from the internet with some colour hard copies for those who prefer hard copy or have no access to the internet and for handouts during events including weeding.

Equipment for display with talks was introduced early in the new century with an overhead projector and a large screen with its own support ( awkward to erect and put away ) until we now have a built in screen and a laptop commuter.

It has been an interesting 20 years which in the main I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Brian DuBois

Retiring editor

### **Thank you – Betty Wise**

A very big THANK YOU to Betty Wise, who has handed in her tools after more than 20 years bush-caring in BNP. Betty has worked all over the Park, three days a week in the early days, and has cared for three "Adopt-a-blocks" until very recently. An enormous amount has been achieved in this time, especially in VMUs 8, 10, 11 and 18, due to her efforts, as Betty's photo-points records show. We are keen to maintain these areas in as good a state as possible, so if anyone is interested in taking on responsibility for an area please let me know.

### **Thank you - wonderful weeders.**

For 2015 up to the quarter ending September we have contributed 2315 hours – that is 179 hours more than in the same period in 2014. This is despite having lost several weeding sessions due to the weather.

It is wonderful that the size of our Bushcare group has increased, and sometimes 15 or 16 people are turning up to work! This is the reason our meeting place for working bees has changed to the first car park at Gums Oval, because there are not enough car spaces available at the entry office.

Barbara Raine

## **Excerpt from past minutes**

General Meeting FOBP 12-11-87.

1. Present 17 by way of introduction each one gave their names.
2. Apologies Lynda Knight and Peter Brinkworth.
3. Minutes were read and accepted.
4. Business arising from minutes.
  - a) A further meeting was held with (H.R.) Mr Hanson and Dene Cordes and the subcommittee reporting said that Friends Groups were being asked to assist in every possible way with the upkeep of facilities otherwise these would wind down. The comment was made that the more we do the more will be expected to do e.g. as an example NP & WS is dispensing with the person paid to look after Old Government House. Dangali Conservation Park was mentioned as another instance of the penny pinching approach. The meeting was informed by the chairman that there is an act before the State Parliament to amend this NP & WS Act of 1972.
  - B) Further to an education centre at the Park – it was suggested Melville house could be investigated as a possibility.

I feel we owe our members in the past from not taking on this request.

There is also talk still of an education centre.

---

## **Working start times**

I would like to ask the active weeders if anyone is interested in having a later start time for the working bees.

For many years the times have been 8.30 am to 10.30 am in winter, and 8 am to 10 am in daylight saving time. This means travelling to the park in peak hour traffic. Parents / carers doing the school run are unable to come at these times. Certain younger members have also stated that they would prefer a later start time.

I would like us to at least consider making our working bees from 9 am to 11 am all year round. This is the time schedule already used for the Saturday Bushcare group. Obviously in summer this would take us into the hotter time of the day. But we do not work when the forecast temperature is 35 degrees or higher, and if the day heats up quickly with a 9 am start we may finish early, perhaps at 10 am, though it would of course mean losing an hour's weeding. In mid-winter, it may be lighter and a bit warmer at 9 am, a slight advantage. There may be an advantage too, in having a consistent start time throughout the year.

Barbara Raine

Phone 8278 2370

**Happy  
New  
Year!**

A festive New Year greeting featuring the words "Happy", "New", and "Year!" stacked vertically in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font with a blue drop shadow. The text is surrounded by colorful streamers in yellow, blue, and red, and scattered confetti in various colors (blue, red, yellow, pink) on a white background.

## **FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK**

Postal Address:- PO Box 2 BELAIR SA 5052

Email:- friendsofbelairpark@msn.com

Website:- www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark

**Website & Newsletter:- bandoobs@gmail.com**

Facebook:- www.facebook.com/fobnp

### **OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2015**

PRESIDENT	Mark Pedlar	8278 1991
VICE PRESIDENT	Mike Cerchez	8270 8870
SECRETARY	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
TREASURER	Carol Parrott	8278 6783
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.	Mary Cole, Brian DuBois, Barry Palmer, Barbara Raine, Jim Trueman.	

### **FUNCTIONARIES**

GUIDED WALKS	Bevin Scholz	8278 6411
LIBRARIAN	Shirley Alford	8278 1525
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Brian & Noeline DuBois	8270 4215 bandoobs@gmail.com
SIGNIFICANT TREES	Ron Tamblyn	8393 9803
VOLUNTEER CENTRE BOOKINGS	Jill Salvi	8278 6736
MEMBERSHIP	Carol Parrott	8278 6783
WEBSITE	Brian DuBois	8270 4215 bandoobs@gmail.com
SPEAKERS	Volunteer needed	
WORKING BEE COORDINATOR	Barbara Raine	8278 2370
WORKING BEES for Tuesday or Friday,	Barbara Raine	8278 2370

### **BELAIR NATIONAL PARK**

Belair National Park Office 8278 5477

After hours Emergency 0427 556 676

Put these numbers in your mobile.

### **FREE GUIDED WALKS April to November**

Normally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. No guided walks over summer.

Ask at the Park Ticket Office for your free entry, and meet in the Gums Oval just pass the ticket office at 1.45 pm for a 2.00pm start

Dates will be advised in the new year

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Friends of Parks 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum to be held in 2016.**

Details of the next forum will be published when available.

### **Professor Cleland Memorial Walk**

The Friends of Belair National Park, will be holding their annual Sir John Cleland Memorial for 2016.

Details and date to be announced.

### **Birthday Party**

Held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December to celebrate the birthday of Belair National Park.

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS 2014/15**

Usually (**not always**) on the first Saturday of the month.

1 pm at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair NP.

Usually with an interesting speaker first, then the meeting.

Visitors welcome

### **2016**

January no meeting

February 6th 1pm:- Annual General Meeting

March 5<sup>th</sup> 1pm:- Rebecca & Mark Thomas—Gondwana Landscapes

## **WORKING BEES.**

Meet in Gums Oval car park – just past the Belair ticket office.

Tuesday and Friday mornings. For information phone Barbara on 8278 2370

BEFORE 8.30am Standard daylight time or BEFORE 8am Daylight saving time

**Daylight Saving ends on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9.00am.

Working Bees on other days, meet by arrangement.

For Mondays, phone Vaike on 8277 9596

## **Membership Payments**

- 1) Pay the treasurer at a meeting
- 2) Forward payment and **your contact details to**  
The Treasurer  
Friends of Belair NP  
PO Box 2, Belair 5052
- 3) Pay by internet use the following account information **and email your contact information to**  
acmeparrott@picknowl.com.au  
Bank SA  
BSB 105-078  
Acc No:- 306250940  
Acc Name:- Friends of Belair Park  
Acc Ref:- your name (membership fees)

Annual renewal is \$10 a single, \$15 for a family regardless of when it is paid.

If joining after 30th June, your first half year is discounted to half price, so please pay \$5 for single, or \$7.50 for joint membership.

