



Friends of Belair National Park

volunteers working for Conservation
Established 1985



Patron: Dr. David C. Paton AM

Quarterly Newsletter June 2015

President's Report

The much vaunted three year plan is now complete and ratified by the committee. Strictly this is not a three year document but one which sets out our plan and philosophy for bushcare for the foreseeable future. It would be more accurate to describe it as our Bushcare Master Plan and it will be available on the website. We'll take a couple of months to get our breath back and then start working on similar documents to cover our involvement in History and Heritage and in Community activities (such as walks, corporate days, school visits etc.).

Our first ARTC weeding session for the year went well in the planning and logistics stages but failed in execution. This was nobody's fault. It just tipped it down with rain. We are now in the process of arranging a new date.

James McGregor has kindly made available to us a smartphone app which enables geo-located mapping of features such as weeding locations, indigenous species locations etc. The bushcare groups are trialling this at the moment. We are much indebted to him for this tool. It will be invaluable in providing coordinated records of hours worked, species present and both before and after photos.

Two of the more exciting speakers recently were Jeff Coombe and his colleague Rudi who gave a presentation on Snake Awareness. The room would have made a great spectator event. Anyone looking in through the window would have been treated to the sight of 40 of us sitting in chairs arranged around the walls with snakes loose on the floor in the middle of the room All very safe but is certainly raised a few adrenalin levels.

Mark Pedlar

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The friends of Belair National Park extend a warm welcome the following new members:-

Beverley Allen

Tristan O'Brien

Jody Moate

Sam Duluk

Lucy Travers

A Dedication for you

I urge you to trudge not through life leaving ugly gashes,
to tiptoe not through life leaving half-formed impressions,
but to tread gently, lovingly and purposefully, leaving graceful heart prints.

-Ms Unity Dow, High Court Judge (Botswana)

Submitted by Vaike Aldridge

BELAIR OPEN DAY held on Sunday 3rd May 2015.

Belair National Park advertised free entry for the open day, and the beautiful autumn weather brought large crowds to enjoy the many activities and displays, mainly based at Gums Oval, State Flora and Old Government House, with the Adventure Playground extremely popular as usual.

Local Friends of Parks groups had information booths on Gums Oval and conducted activities throughout the day. The Raine family guided three tours for more than 60 walkers on behalf of the Friends of Belair National Park, while others from our group handed out information about our activities, illustrated by a "floral arrangement" of various weeds we are tackling, and a large display of photographs. Kiddies coloured-in pictures to hang on display and were rewarded with an origami frog.

Grey Box Day was included in the Open Day, and there were many displays and activities by groups such as Natural Resource Management and DEWNR, CFS, Orienteers, Horse SA. Some exciting activities were orienteering, bird spotting, water sampling, and shooting targets from fire hoses. DEWNR is considering making this an annual event, and as 2016 is the 125th anniversary of the National Park at Belair, there will probably be an even bigger event next year.

Thanks and congratulations to all those who came along to help.

Jill Salvi.

In this Issue

President's report	1
Welcome New Members	1
Dedication	1
Belair Open Day	2
Smile of the week	2
Memorial Walk	3
The Bush	4
Apple Cake	5
The Parks in SA	6
The Playful Magpie	7
Olive Control	8
Membership	10
Flash Backs	10
General Information	11/12

SMILE OF THE WEEK

Money..

It can buy a house, But not a home.

It can buy a clock, But not time.

It can buy you a position, But not respect.

It can buy you a bed, But not sleep.

It can buy you a book, But not knowledge.

It can buy you medicine But not health.

It can buy you blood, But not life.

So you see money isn't everything and it often causes pain and suffering. I tell you this because I am your friend and, as your friend, I want to take away your pain and suffering!!!

So...

Send me all your money and I will suffer for you! After all, what are friends for?



The Friends of Belair National Park

Annual Sir John Cleland Memorial Walks

Two Free Guided walks will be held on Sunday 13 September 2015

- 1 “Family Friendly Stroll” through a delightful floral area of Belair National Park, commencing at 10.00 am for two hours.
- 2 A “Perimeter Hike” (about 15 kms) around the boundary of Belair National Park, commencing at 9.00 am and finishing around 3.00 pm.



Details of meeting places, what to bring and suitable clothing and footwear for each walk will be advised when booking

As places will be limited on each walk, and to ensure enjoyment for everyone and assist the organisers, bookings are essential.

For bookings (will open on 24 August 2015), and for further enquiries telephone Alan or Barb on 8278 2370.

For updates, please see [www.Facebook/FOBNP](https://www.facebook.com/FOBNP) from the last week in August 2015.

This says a lot about how we have changed the environment.

An old woodcutter once told us that when the sun went down, the bush came alive with the animals of the night. The noises of fossicking animals as they came out of their shelters to feed were distinctive as each species made their own particular sounds as they moved, browsed and hunted through the bush.

The Rufus Bettong ("I dunno 'bout that name, we called him a Rat Kangaroo") would arrive at the outskirts of the meagre glow of the camp fire with a thump and a growl, bolt upright, his glistening white fur highlighted by the firelight. He would survey the camp carefully before hopping forward to look for scraps of food. The visit was routine and only lasted a few minutes before he was gone hopping and growling into the darkness.

The quoll ("Y'know, the native cat") was another scavenging visitor. Light and silent this beautiful spotted native with a hoppity lope would simply appear where the chop bones were thrown nightly. Shy but unafraid the Eastern Quoll main diet was insects and fruits.

The old wood cutter didn't have a name for the Long-nosed Potoroo but he recognised my photo and muttered something about thinking it was just a "Rat"! The Long-nosed Potoroo he remembered was always an early visitor to his camp, and once as he was walking away from the track, he disturbed one from an invisible nest under a thick blackboy. The nest was lined with soft grasses and inside was a snug hollow just the size of the animal.

He asked me about an animal he never saw but which he knew by its sound as a "squeaker". When I showed him a photo (of an Eastern Brush-tailed Bettong) he remembered seeing them flee in terror from their homes as he felled giant blackbutts. He knew all about Bandicoots, one had made its home in a hollow log close to his camp and was often around the camp area in the day time. He wasn't very complimentary about Bandicoots, believing them to be little better than rats!

The old bushman had never had a dog, and the animals which lived around his camp and learnt to enjoy his leftovers had accepted him as part of the scenery but he told me stories of what other dogs had hunted and brought into woodcutters camps. Yellow-bellied Gliders, Lace Monitors, Possums and Wallabies were all part of a dogs diet in lonely isolated woodcutters camp in the Blue Mountains.

Every ten days or so the Woodcutter would catch a lift into the nearest town on the back of the huge dray. Sitting atop the fruits of his labours he would see in the early morning glimpses of Pademelons and other wallabies grazing in the clearings through the mist.

One night on the lonely walk back to camp he told how he encountered a Tiger Quoll (Tiger Cat) with a back full of young, wobbling to keep her balance as she moved her clinging brood across the track in front of the him.

He had a hatred of cats and told stories of their colonisation of hollows and homes once reserved for native animals and remembered the night a fox first visited the camp to scavenge for chop bones instead of a quoll, and he struggled to explain how the effect these two predators had made

to the world he had lived in for 20 or so years. After a while he summed it all up by saying the coming of the fox and the cat had been just like an invasion, after which the bush just went quiet,

I took the old man for a drive in the mountains for him to show me of some of the places he had known as a young man. We stopped at an isolated look-out in the Wollomby National Park and I helped him out of the car. To my astonishment he looked at the forest surrounding us and shook his head,

He muttered, "It was never like this. The undergrowth, you can't walk through it, look how thick it is! In my day I could walk barefoot through the forest, there were grasses on the floor and tall, tall trees, none of this scrub! And where are all the big trees, these are not worth cutting down!"
Proo Geddes

Submitted by Lorna McIntyre.

Ed's note:- There was a picture of an Eastern Quoll but I was unable to retrieve it from the document

Resi's German Apple Cake

3 eggs

1 cup sugar

125 g butter or margarine

3/4 cup plain flour

1/4 cup milk

2 apples

2 teaspoons icing sugar

Preheat oven to 180 degrees.

Grease and line with baking paper a 9" round cake pan or spring-form tin.

Separate the eggs. Beat the whites until they form soft peaks. Add the milk to the yolks.

Cream the butter or margarine with the sugar. Add the egg yolks and milk and beat in well.

Sift the flour and add to the creamed mix. This makes a fairly stiff batter.

Then gently stir in the beaten egg whites.

Pour the batter into the prepared cake pan.

Peel, core and quarter the apples. Holding each quarter in your hand, slice the apple thinly across but not quite all the way through.

Place the apple quarters lightly on top of the batter - do not press in, the batter will rise around them during baking.

Bake at 180 degrees for about 30 - 40 minutes, until the cake is golden on top and springs back when touched with your finger.

When cooled remove carefully from the pan, peel off the paper and place on a plate. Dust the top with icing sugar. Serve on its own, or with cream or icecream.

Submitted by Barbara Raine

(if you would like to see more non environmental articles please let me know.)

The Parks In South Australia

Here in South Australia, we are incredibly fortunate to have such beautiful and unspoilt natural space. We have more than 300 national parks across the state, covering close to 20 per cent of the State.

Since coming to Government in 2002, Labor has focussed on growing our State's public reserves, including extending protected areas on private lands.

As a result, South Australia's public and private protected land area is now equivalent in size to the State of Victoria, and the highest percentage of any Australian mainland jurisdiction.

Getting more people into parks in the Adelaide metro area

Around ten percent of our national parks are located adjacent the metropolitan area making them easily accessible to Adelaide's residents.

There's a huge diversity of experiences in our parks: walking and cycling trails, natural beauty and cultural heritage, and amazing wildlife.

We want more South Australians and tourists to visit, enjoy and learn to love our beautiful open spaces. That's why in March 2014, the South Australian Government committed to investing \$10.4 million in three exciting projects in our metropolitan parks.

This investment will go towards improving existing amenities and providing additional facilities in our great parks in the Northern and Southern suburbs, and turning the Mount Lofty Ranges into an international tourism destination.

We want our residents to have a say in how this money should be spent and how our parks should be improved. We want to hear about your ideas and suggestions.

A number of roundtable discussions have already been held but there will be many opportunities for local residents and lovers of parks to get involved.

There will be online surveys available, and we have already received a good online response about turning the Mount Lofty Ranges into an international Mountain Bike destination.

You can provide your feedback at www.environment.sa.gov.au/haveyoursay.

Entries close 15 June 2015 and if you provide your feedback, you will go in the draw to win one of two Parks Passes for a year that will give you and your family free access to South Australian Government Parks, including free camping.

We will also be organising a number of discovery days in selected parks with organised activities such as riding with a ranger, mountain biking, kayaking, orienteering, geocaching, bird watching, guided walks, geology presentations, natural treasure hunts and touch tables. You can find more information on these initiative, as well as ways to get involved here <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/land/our-parks/engaging-people-parks>

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

During the 2014 election, Labor committed \$1.67 million to establish the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary to deliver great environmental and recreational benefits.

When complete, the Sanctuary will run along the Gulf St Vincent coastline. In the first stage around 60km of coastal land between Barker Inlet and Parham will be turned into a conservation area.

This particular section of coast is an important part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, where, at the peak of the migration season in summer, more than 25,000 birds gather,

Cont...

...cont.

with many coming from places as far away as Alaska and northern Asia.

Not only will the Bird Sanctuary help protect migratory shorebirds, but it will also attract visitors and tourists.

We want to work with the local community to ensure that the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is designed to maximise conservation, as well as use and enjoyment.

Around 60 people attended the first information forum in December 2014, but there will be many opportunities for the community to get involved.

For more information on the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary visit the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Natural Resources website at <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adalaidentloftyranges/plants-and-animals/adelaide-bird-sanctuary>

Nature Observations

by Steven Katsineris

The Playful Magpie

We have a number of magpies that visit our garden in Hurstbridge. They walk placidly around the yard feeding or sing in their full melodious carolling voice. We also have a pair of magpies that are almost permanent residents, having taken over our yard, the nature strip and nearby area as their territory. The other magpies that visit our yard are possibly the offspring of the pair, from previous years, as they seem to associate without any problems. The pair feed, roost and nest in our yard year round, usually having two or three young each time.

They are very interesting birds to watch, especially when they have a family around, as both the adult pair and particularly the young magpies are very playful. We have often observed the immature magpies wrestling each other on the ground and even funnier many times on our children's trampoline.

Other times they wrestle, splash or play about in the children's plastic paddling pool. Sometimes we have also seen them playing together or individually with a piece of string or a stick, or dive-bombing each other in a playful way.

One day I watched one of the adult magpies for ten minutes playing with the children's totem tennis. It would peck at the tennis ball with its' beak and when the ball swung around it would run around the totem peaking at it again and again so the ball kept swinging around. I wondered if the magpie had learnt this from observing the children playing this game or had discovered it by accident. I certainly know it was a delightful experience to see.



Submitted by Lorna McIntyre

OLIVE CONTROL WORKSHOP USING BASAL BARK TECHNIQUE

On the 17th April 2015 Alan and Barb Raine attended a workshop run by David Hughes AMLR NRM at Gawler. Results of a "blind" trial for cost efficiency conducted 18 months ago was given. The trial used a total of 28 olive trees of approx. 3 metres height at Craighburn Farm. 14 trees were treated by the drill and fill method, and 14 were treated with the basal bark treatment. 2 operators were used for each method.

The basal bark treatment used 35ml Triclopyr/1L Biosafe oil, with a sprayer knapsack.

The drill and fill treatment used Glyphosate360 at 30%, using a 12mm drill bit to make 3 rows of holes 20mm apart around the base of each tree.

It was reported that all the trees remain totally dead at the end of 18 months, with monitoring being continued.

While the costs of the chemical used in the trial were about the same, if the costs of labour are taken into account there was a huge saving using basal bark technique. This is because it is so much quicker to use the basal bark method.(3.5 hours for the basal bark method compared to 44.5 hours to drill and fill.)

Hugh Mayo (from Dow Chemicals) gave information about Triclopyr (Garlon).

Garlon contains triclopyr 600g/1L. It is oil soluble, contains water emulsifier, and was used in the trial with Biosafe oil. Garlon is a Group I Herbicide which disrupts normal growth, and it was reported that it:

- converts rapidly once in soil or water
- Is not volatile and no hazard to off target plants
- has low solubility in water

Triclopyr results in:

- Slow measured death target plant
- Rapid translocation through plant
- Plant death is slow (6 – 12 months)
- Significant loss from leaf surfaces is unlikely
- 90% is absorbed into leaf after 12 hours
- Less than 1% is lost by volatility after 48 hours
- Degrades rapidly and residues reaching soil remain in surface layers (therefore leaves should not be moved from site).

Biosafe is a canola-based product and is safer than diesel (or biodiesel)

Triclopyr is degraded by soil, sunlight and micro-organisms. It has a short life in soil (2-5 weeks), quicker in warm moist soils. There have been no reported movement of residues in soil. As it is bound to vegetation and organic matter, with negligible potential for runoff even on steep slopes, and in water rapidly converts to acid and is broken down in sunlight and micro-organisms, there is little risk of surface runoff.

Garlon 600 can be foliar applied for control of a range of noxious and woody weeds, and is a safe no residue option. Basal bark treatment has also been used effectively for cotoneaster, young ash, dog rose and rhamnus, as well as olives.

Participants in this workshop were given a demonstration (by Greg Donovan of Donovan's

Cont...

...cont

EarthCare) of the basal bark treatment technique. It was noted that the method is much quicker as it does not involve getting down on the ground to drill trees. The operator can stand and drizzle the chemical around the trunk and stems, thus OH&S hazards are reduced. Female volunteers could utilise the technique as easily as males. Thoroughness in completely coating the bark around the whole circumference, and from sufficient height (approx thigh height) is essential.

Participants were also shown a huge olive tree with a trunk circumference about 5 metres and a height about 8-10 metres which had been treated with basal bark technique 3 years ago. The tree looked very dead, although there was a small feeble regrowth on one branch which indicated retreatment may be required. A chain saw was used to cut into the bole to demonstrate that the wood was dead. It was stated that a tree this size tests the limits of the method.

Advice from the workshop by David Hughes and Greg Donovan was that Triclopyr use requires no further training than we are given in our basic half day "Safe Use of Chemicals" course currently undertaken by the Friends' groups. PPE required is the same as we currently use for Glyphosate, ie chemical grade gloves, eye protection, long sleeves and long trousers. If spraying large trees working at a higher level a face mask may be needed. Operator confidence in the technique comes with experience.

Greg Donovan demonstrating spraying a small olive; note lower branches already removed for easy access for our demonstration. No triclopyr actually used, only water and dye for our demonstration; tree had already been treated, hence leaf litter on the ground. Tree about 4 metres tall.

Barb Raine

(from notes taken 17th April 2015 at a workshop run by David Hughes of AMLR NRM, Gawler Office)



Foot note to Report on Basal Bark treatment for Olives:

Further to this report, our Liaison Ranger Jen Pitman has agreed to obtain some Triclopyr and Biosafe oil. Selected members of the Friends of BNP will then conduct a trial using this method on Olive, Rhamnus and young Ash in VMUs 9 and 20. Watch this space!

Threatened Plant Action Group

Working bees with Threatened Plant Action Group on leafy greenhood sites.

Saturday June 13th 9.30am. Old court site, carpark opposite Joseph Fisher Pavilion.

Saturday October 10th 9.30am. Tank site, on Saddle Hill Rd.

Sites to be confirmed. Tim Jury, TPAG, 0488 686 209.

Membership Reminder

Unless you have already done so your membership renewal is now due:
Please refer to the back page of this newsletter for payment options.



The view from the Belair railway
station of the entrance to the
Park

circa 1928

Note the dense pine trees. No
longer in existence

Kids had to earn their keep in
those days. Helping dad collect
fares from passengers being trans-
ported to the Park at Belair.

Circa 1900



Passenger Trolley.

The new Adelaide Hills Face Zone Cultural Heritage project information was officially launched as a Smartphone App and www site on Friday 22 May 2015 by Mayor Glen Spear, at the City of Mitcham council office. This new app and updated www site results from the on-going work of Dr Pam Smith, of Flinders University with input from other staff, students and many volunteers.

The www site is:

https://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/archaeology/research-profile/current-projects/adelaide-hills-face-zone/adelaide-hills-face-zone_home.cfm

The App is free, and includes lots of information of heritage sites throughout the Adelaide Hills; many of the items are also included in the book "Valleys of Stones", which is now out of print, hence the app and www site are an even more valuable source of up to date information. Have fun and increase your knowledge by exploring the information included about Belair National Park!

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	Tina Gallasch	8178 0688
WORKING BEE COORDINATOR	Barbara Raine	8278 2370
WORKING BEES for Tuesday or Friday,	Barbara Raine	8278 2370
Sunday or Wednesday	Betty Wise	8278 3805

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 4th Tuesday of the month. No guided walks over summer.

Ask at the Park Ticket Office for your free entry, and meet in the car park there at the Office at 1.45 pm for a 2.00pm start

Dates are: June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd, October 27th and November 24th.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friends of Parks 30th 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 2015.

Details and date in this newsletter.

Birthday Party

Held on the 19th 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

2015

July 4th 1pm:- Eileen Harvey Wittunga: History of the Ashby Family.

August 1st 1pm:- Speaker to be advised

September 5th 1pm:- David Matthews: Finding my father

WORKING BEES.

Meet by Belair Park Ticket Office

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

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

Daylight Saving starts Sunday 4th October 2015 and ends on Sunday 3rd April 2016

Working Bees on other days, meet by arrangement.

For Mondays, phone Vaika on 8277 9596

For 3rd Saturday of each month at 9.00am phone 8278 2370

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.

