Southern Lofty District

Volunteer Newsletter

Winter 2008

Compiled by Donna Ferschl

Staff Matters

Tim Fuhlbohm
Tim will be taking long service leave from 14 July until 22 August. Donna Ferschl will be filling Tim’s position while he is away.

Danielle Garvey
Danielle has started in the position of Business Manager at Cleland Wildlife Park. Farewell to Toby Syme, who has been acting in the position for the past 18 months.

Seasonal Fire Crew
The seasonal fire crew finished working with us on the 30 June. Thank you to the seasonal crew members for all their hard work.

Stories from the District

World Environment Day
DEH employees across the State were out in force on Thursday, 5 June in celebration of World Environment Day. Here’s a snapshot of a couple of the celebrations Southern Lofty District were involved in.

Approx 40 students from Belair Primary School participated (year 6 & 7), with teacher Andy Coleman in a walking classroom and tree planting event in Belair National Park. Ron Tamblyn and Jenny Skinner, from the Friends of Belair National Park, assisted students on the day, along with Ranger Leah Egan. Ron propagated the trees, Eucalyptus microcarpa, from seed. Together Friends of Parks, DEH Rangers and Belair school students planted around 120 trees north of Playford Lake (an area where the school has previously undertaken revegetation). Students undertook a brief pre and post survey of the event, which indicated they enjoyed the day and learnt something new. Everyone had their shoes/boots cleaned - Phytophthora hygiene.

More than 1,600 primary school students paid a visit to the Adelaide Botanic Garden to take part in the exciting annual Quiz Trail. Comprising 16 ‘show and tell’ stations, the interactive trail had the kids enthralled as they visited each post around the garden, collecting answers to a series of questions to solve the quiz. Rangers from Adelaide Region, including Southern Lofty Ranger Donna Ferschl, attended delivering a presentation on ‘Koalas, Living with our Wildlife’. The kids really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and speak to Rangers while learning about koalas in the urban environment. Some school groups were lucky enough to meet Steven and Wilbur – two hand raised koalas from Cleland Wildlife Park.

Friends of Sturt Gorge Recreation Park, along with Ranger Jen Pitman, planted 200 tube stock of local provenance in the Park on World Environment Day. The species planted were supplied by Our Patch Officer, Marty Kreig, and will add value to an area of grey box woodland where the Friends and contract workers have removed many woody weeds.
Planning a Shared Future
The Friends of Onkaparinga Parks and Rangers Bryn Troath and Nalini Klopp recently met to begin a joint planning process for the Onkaparinga River National and Recreation Parks. The process helps to combine the Friends’ vision and interest in the Park with the various departmental priorities and management plans.

The process will result in a five year plan which identifies what will be achieved in the Park, who will be responsible for the identified actions and the resources required. This longer-term plan will then be used by both the Friends and the Ranger to develop short-term work plans.

Although an already strong and open relationship exists between Bryn and the Friends, during the initial meeting many issues were identified and discussed that normally would not be raised. It brought about a greater clarity and understanding for all in sharing a joint vision for the Park. The process readily identified the Park priorities which enabled the Friends and DEH to address them in partnership. Both Bryn and the group are looking forward to the next stage of the process.

Due to the positive response to the process it is hoped that over time all volunteers and their Liaison Rangers will be able to use a similar process to strengthen their working relationships.

Ranger of the Year and Volunteers of the Parks Award Night
The Rotary Club of Glen Osmond held its Annual Parks Award Night on Monday 5 May at the Belair Country Club. This year’s Volunteer winners were Mr Dean and Mrs Beverley Overton from Friends of Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park on Kangaroo Island. The Ranger of the Year was Craig Nixon, District Ranger for the Gawler Ranges.

Several Southern Lofty District volunteers also received honourable mentions for their contributions over the year, including Eric Cole from the Friends of Belair National Park, and Kathryn, Trudie and Tony from the Friends of Cleland Wildlife Park. Well done to everyone and thank you to the Rotary Club of Gen Osmond for again taking the time to recognise the important and valuable contributions made by both volunteers and staff to the care of our Parks and heritage.

Tree Planting Days
It is a busy time of year for tree planting as the following examples demonstrate:

**Friends of Blackwood Forest** - planted 300 trees as part of the Million Trees Project with the Urban Forest Biodiversity Unit. The day also celebrated a 100 years since the land was first developed as an experimental Orchard in 1908. Local provenance species were planted along Minno Creek and East West Creek, adding to previous weed control and plantings along both Creek lines.

**Friends of O’Halloran Hill Recreation Park** have held several tree planting days with local schools and community groups.

Twenty two **Flinders University School of Nursing** administrative staff planted the remainder of the trees grown by Ron Tamblyn from the Friends of Belair NP, and blitzed a large number of boneseed and olive seedling. For many it was their first experience in the Park environment and most enjoyed learning about the plants and animals they saw.

Friends of **Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park** also held a community planting day in June, with around 15 attending.

Grant Applications
The **DEH Volunteer Support Grants** 2008/09 are nearly closed for the year. I hope all Friends Groups and DEH volunteers have discussed your project ideas with your Liaison Ranger and submitted a grant application. The closing date for these grants is 25 July 08, however our Regional Conservator, Laurie Haegi, will need to have received your application by 18 July to ensure they receive regional endorsement and make it to the Volunteer Support Unit by the closing date 25 July 2008. Notification of successful grants is expected in early September.
**Fungal Foray**
The Adelaide Fungal Studies Group has been running Fungal Forays throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges again this year. Ranger Jen Pitman joined the group in Belair National Park on the 17th May. There was a small group on the day, but many fungi were found near Gums Oval, Walnut Paddock, Long Gully and at the Sheoak Road prescribed burn site. *Pyronema omphalodes* was found amongst the ashes in the burn site, a fungi that only emerges after fire (see photo).

A total of 23 fungi were collected and identified, the records from the day were sent to Fungimap to be recorded onto the data base. Following the Fungi Foray an interesting Fungus, *Cortinarius spp.*, was photographed in Scott Creek (see photo).

There are no more Fungal Forays programmed in the Southern Lofty District this year, but those interested can contact Jen for dates of future forays in 2008, or further information on the Adelaide Fungal Studies Group. There are countless fungi, many very interesting, so have a look around your Park.

**Muraltia Heisteria**
*Muraltia heisteria* is an extremely invasive weed, able to infiltrate into intact bushland with relative ease. It occurs in the Northern Lofty District at present, around Norton Summit, but it is important to be aware of the species so we may be able to identify any new populations in our Parks. There is a risk of the seed being spread by water, carried on boots or clothing, or from garden waste dumping.

If you think you have found Muralita, collect a sample and speak with your Liaison Ranger or contact the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre for technical advice.

**Rust Fungus Workshops**
The Asparagus Weeds Working Group, supported by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, will be holding **FREE** community Bridal Creeper Rust Fungus Workshops for landowners and community groups within the NRM board region. If you have a Bridal Creeper problem, then this workshop is for you. Workshops will be held on Wednesday 23 July, 10 – 11:30am in Victor Harbor, Thursday 24 July, 10 – 11:30am in Belair National Park and Wednesday 30 July, 1 – 2:30pm in Gumeracha. To book your place please contact the AWWG Project Officer, Susan Lawrie on (08)8389 6166 or 0438 885 165 or email susan.Lawrie@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au.

**Working Safely**
**In Safe Hands**
In Safe Hands training is now complete. Thank you to all who participated. For those who were unable to attend, please contact your Liaison Ranger for a copy of the notes.

**First Aid Training**
Thank you to all those who participated in Emergency First Aid training on Monday 30 June, conducted by St John’s. Another training day will be held on Saturday 2 August. If you would like to book onto this course please contact Nalini on 8130 9064.
Reminder – Safety Equipment for Loan
The District has spare personal first aid kits. If you would like to borrow one for leading walks or for individuals working outside normal working bee times, please phone Nalini 8130 9064 / 0407 719 130.

The District now also has 7 high visibility vests for loan to volunteers. If you will be working near a road, in a heavily vegetated area or on railway land please phone Nalini to organise the loan of the orange high visibility vests. If you require the vests on an on-going basis your Liaison Ranger can assist your group gain access to grant funding to purchase vests for regular use.

In addition, the District now has spare safety spectacles, goggles, and gloves. If you would like to borrow any of this equipment, please phone Nalini.

What’s Happening in the Parks

Youth Conservation Corp
The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) have been busy in Belair National Park, spending two days in the Park on the 20th and 27th of May. They had a team of around 6 people, who worked on trail trimming along the Waterfall Hike Trail and hand pulling broom.

The team also spent a day in Sturt Gorge RP, on the 3 June, hand pulling boneseed in an area off of Bushland Drive, located in the northern section of the Park.

Autumn Fox Control Program
The Autumn Fox Baiting Program is complete and results have been collated. The program ran for six weeks in Cudlee Creek Conservation Park, Scott Creek Conservation Park, Belair National Park, Mark Oliphant Conservation Park and Onkaparinga River National Park, with special thanks going to the Friends of Onkaparinga River for their help baiting Hardy’s Scrub. The baiting program is designed to reduce predation on native mammals and reduce the spread of weeds by foxes. Records of small mammals (bandicoots), ground birds and goanna activity may be related to a reduction in foxes, so forward any sightings to your Liaison Ranger. The next fox baiting program will be in spring 2008.

Goat Control Program, Onkaparinga Gorge Conservation Park
A program to remove feral goats from Onkaparinga River National Park has been undertaken successfully. Fifty-five feral goats were removed from the Park during the program, which was undertaken on Tuesday 29 April by the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) in partnership with the Heritage and Conservation Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association and the Friends of Onkaparinga Parks.

DEH Senior Ranger Bryn Troath said the success of the program was a great achievement.

“This is the first time we have undertaken a program like this in Onkaparinga River National Park,” Mr Troath said. “Removing so many feral goats will go a long way towards helping to conserve native and regenerating vegetation in the Park. “The Heritage and Conservation Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association has been assisting with feral animal control programs on South Australian Parks and reserves for the past decade. “Members of the Sporting Shooters Association undergo thorough training and follow set procedures to ensure that feral animal control programs are undertaken in a safe and professional manner.

“I’d like to thank the Friends of Onkaparinga Parks, who ensured the program went smoothly by managing the gates while the Park was closed to the public,” Mr Troath said.

Wrap up of Prescribed Burns/ Fire Season
During the 07/08 season, fire crews in the district attended
17 wildfires in the district totalling 246 hectares. Not all of this was in Parks.
18 wildfires outside of the district including Kangaroo Island, Ngakat Conservation Park and the Gawler Ranges
5 prescribed burns in the district
8 prescribed burns outside of the district

Pre-season preparation included 908 kilometres of slashing, being about 180 hectares in area.
Once again, thank you to all crew members. Hope to see you next season.
Weed Risk Assessment and Mapping in Prescribed Burn Sites
Over the last few months Ranger Justin Williams has been working on a weed risk assessment and mapping project within prescribed burn sites of Southern Lofty District. Weed maps and assessments have been completed for over 10 burn sites within Cleland Conservation Park, Scott Creek Conservation Park, Belair National Park and Sturt Gorge Recreation Park. This information will be used to prioritise and direct weed management and resource allocation in the future. If you would like to see the maps for your Park please contact your Liaison Ranger. Below are two examples.

Heart Foundation Walks in Parks 2008
DEH’s Healthy Parks Healthy People unit has joined with the Heart Foundation to deliver the 2008 Walks in the Parks program. Come along and participate in free recreational walks led by Heart Foundation Walking volunteer walk organizers or Friends of Parks volunteers. Enjoy yourself in the natural environment and discover the physical, social, mental and spiritual benefits of visiting national Parks. These 1-2 hour walks cater for a variety of ages and fitness levels. All walks commence at 9:30am so please arrive by 9:15am.

Two walks have already occurred in the Southern Lofty District. On Sunday the 20th of April over 80 walkers enjoyed a beautiful morning at Onkaparinga Recreation Park with the first of the Parks Walks for 2008. Four groups of walkers led by the Friends of Onkaparinga Parks enjoyed the unique environment of Onkaparinga, the birdlife, the wetlands (currently dry) and Murray even spotted some Kangaroos!

On Sunday the 15th of June the Friends of Belair led a free community walk as part of the Heart Foundation’s Parks Walks program. About 30 people enjoyed a beautiful day walking from the main oval to the volunteer centre, the playground and around the lake. Participants enjoyed a 90 minute walk or had the option of a shorter 60 minute walk.

If you missed out on all the fun at Onkaparinga Estuary and Belair National Park, never fear it’s not too late. Please come along on October 19 at Sturt Gorge Recreation Park.

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>July 20</td>
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<td>August 17</td>
<td>Salisbury</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>Sturt Gorge Recreation Park, led by Friends of Sturt Gorge</td>
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<td>November 16</td>
<td>Morialta Conservation Park, Led by Friends of Blackhill and Morialta</td>
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For more information:
- Healthy Parks Healthy People [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au)
Great Ideas and Events

Cleland Memorial Walk in Belair National Park

Friends of Belair National Park

invite you to take part in their annual FREE

Prof. Cleland Memorial Walk


The walk begins at Government Farm Oval 1, 9.45am for the morning or full day walk, or 1.45pm for the afternoon only walk. BYO lunch/ snacks, water, comfortable shoes, sunscreen and hat

Come and learn about the flora, fauna and history of the Park or just come for an enjoyable walk.

For further information, ring Shirley on 82781525 or Jenny on 82788986.

Professor Sir John Cleland, (1878-1971), was Chairman of the Commissioners of the National Park from 1936 till 1956. During this period, he undertook the self-imposed task of inspecting the Park on foot, during the period between Christmas and New Year's Day. The Commissioners visited the Park twice a year to inspect the "improvements", but Cleland at this time set out to walk its boundaries. His purpose was to assess weeds, fire breaks, fencing and anything else that came to his attention, so that he could advise Park staff more specifically as to how they could best discharge their duties. It is this action of his that the Friends of Belair National Park commemorate with the annual Professor Cleland Walk.

Share your ideas and up-coming events

If you have any great ideas or information you would like to share with the rest of the volunteers in the Southern Lofty District, why not let Nalini know and she can include them in the next newsletter.

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Information of Interest

Implications of Climate Change for Australia's National Reserve System - A Preliminary Assessment

This report investigates the possible future impacts of climate change on Australia's system of formally protected conservation areas, the National Reserve System (NRS), and the consequences of these impacts for the development and management of the reserve system. It has been prepared by CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems for Parks Australia (now in the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts) and the Australian Greenhouse Office (now the Department of Climate Change) to help them scope further analyses and appropriate responses. The report summarises information about the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity, provides an estimate of which impacts might be more important in different regions, and discusses key implications for conservation policy, management of protected areas and the strategic framework used to develop the NRS. The implications for the reserve system were compiled through extensive consultations with experts, NGOs, conservation policy developers and reserve managers.


SEE YOU AT THE FRIENDS FORUM!