



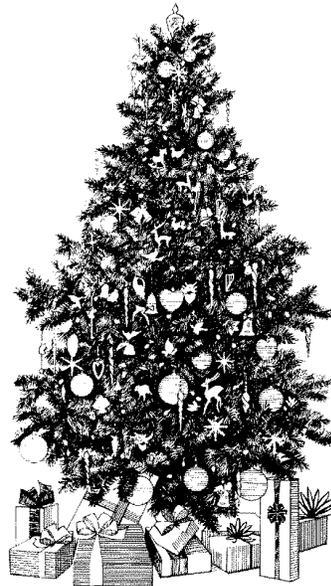
Friends  
of  
*Belair National Park*  
Volunteers working for Conservation  
Established 1985  
Friends group of the decade 2004



Best Newsletter 1996 - Friends Group of the year 1998

NEWSLETTER 4 DECEMBER 2006

**SEASONS GREETINGS, MERRY CHRISTMAS  
ALL THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR**



**From the committee of Friends of Belair National Park**

**Friends of Belair National Park will celebrate the 115<sup>th</sup> birthday of Belair National Park, and the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of the Friends, at the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, in Belair National Park on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 6 pm.**

**Please bring a large plate of finger food to share (savouries, sandwiches, cakes, fruit, etc) BYO drinks. Tea and coffee provided.**

**Mrs. Beth Pitman has, once again, volunteered to provide the birthday cake. Thank you, Beth.**

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

A special general meeting has been called for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at 1pm, at Playford Lake, to discuss the concept plan for revegetation of the lake verges as part of the second stage of the upgrade of the entrance precinct. *A map of the concept is included in this newsletter.*

## **CHRISTMAS BARBECUE.**

James Crocker, District Ranger, Southern Lofty District invites with pleasure Friends of Belair National Park to a Christmas Barbeque to thank all the Friends of Southern Lofty District parks for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Venue: Institute Hall, Market Square, Papapinda Road, Old Noarlunga.

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Time: From 5.00pm.

\*\* Please BYO Chair \*\*

RSVP to Gayle/Louise on tel: 8278 0011 by Wednesday 29 November 2006. Please advise of any special dietary requirements.

(If you have already advised Jill Salvi that you will be attending, your reply has been included in a group response to Gayle. If not make sure you ring Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec and advise that you only found out about the event after the RSVP date.)

## **EDITORIAL**

It's been a busy few months since the last newsletter. Firstly, I thank Anne Ross for producing the September Newsletter during my absence in Queensland.

We had a very good trip to Queensland. However we were glad to return to South Australia, where the pace is slower and saner with regards to development. Queensland, beautiful one day, overdeveloped the next! We were there during the State election and the water crisis. The beautiful Mary Valley is to be dammed, creating a shallow dam, which may never fill up and will lose a lot of its water through evaporation. At Rainbow Beach part of the sand hill above the town is being carved into to build a high rise apartment block. Coastal development is creeping up the coast all the way to 1770. Australians are moving to Queensland and loving it to death.

The Cleland Walks were held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October with approximately 25 on each

walk. Luckily the day was one of the mild ones that week making walking a pleasure.



The weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> was a very busy one for Friends of Belair. One group set up and looked after a display at the State Flora Nursery 120 birthday celebration and another group of members attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Friends forum at Echunga. Both events were a great success.



Many members attended the public meeting concerning the new park entrance and saw that many local residents are concerned about what is happening to Belair National Park. It's a pity that the concern does not extend to wanting to do something in the Park in the way of helping look after it.

### **DISCLAIMER**

*The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of The Friends of Belair National Park but rather those of individual contributors to the newsletter.*

### **ROYAL WATER LILY REVISITED**

By Ralph Foster

Despite all the fuss at the Adelaide Botanical Garden, (Schomburgk Pavilion etc) the Royal Waterlily (*Victoria amazonica*) was NOT discovered by Richard Schomburgk, the second director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden and his brother Robert in 1837.

Thaddaeus Haenke (1761-1817), a botanist, doctor and mineralogist from Bohemia had discovered it 36 years earlier in 1801.

It was rediscovered in 1820 by the French botanist Aimé Jaques Alexandre Bonpland (1773-1858) near the junction of the Parana and Paraguay rivers. The third person to "discover" the lily was the German botanist Eduard Friedrich Poeppig (1798-1868) in the

Igaripes river, a tributary of the Amazon in 1832, and it was he who published the description of the plant under the name *Euryale amazonica* Poeppig in 1833. The Schomburgks are therefore fourth on the list of "discoverers" of the Royal water lily. The genus *Victoria* was erected by John Lindley (1799-1865) when it was discovered that the Royal Water Lily was NOT in the genus *Nymphaea* as proposed by Schomburgk: nor was it in the genus *Euryale* as proposed by Poeppig. *Euryale* is confined to China, North India and Japan. It was Lindley who published the now rejected name *Victoria regia* Lindl., a name however under which it still flourished in the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden as late as 1988. Lindley was Assistant Librarian to Banks and first Professor of Botany at the University of London (1829-1860). It was his Report to Treasury and Parliament that saved the Royal Garden at Kew from destruction in 1838. James DeCarl Sowerby (1787-1871) transferred Poeppig's specific name *amazonica* to give the presently accepted name *Victoria amazonica* (Poeppig) Sowerby, the name that caused so much indignation amongst the Victorians.

As well, it was NOT from the seeds sent to Kew by the Schomburgks that the plants were raised that gave rise to the famous race of 1839 between the Duke of Northumberland and the Duke of Devonshire to get the Royal Water Lily to flower: Schomburgk's seeds proved non-viable. Thomas Bridges (1807-1865) gathered the first viable seed to reach Kew from the Moxos Province of Bolivia.

Even though Richard Schomburgk was in charge, Adelaide Botanical garden was NOT the first in Australia to flower the Royal Water Lily. Melbourne flowered it in 1867. Adelaide had to wait until 1868.

There are two species of *Victoria*, *V. amazonica* and *V. cruziana*. *V. cruziana* Orbigny was named after General Andres de Santa Cruz, (the creator of the Peru-Bolivian Confederation in 1836 that gave rise to the war with Chile) ,by Alcide Charles Victor Marie Dessalines d'Orbigny (1802-1857) a French naturalist who collected widely in South America.

The two species can be distinguished as follows

*V. amazonica* -Origin Guyana,Amazonia ,Temperature for seed germination 30° ,Hight of upturned rim of leaf 15 cm ,Leaf undersurface scarcely hairy ,Outer sepals prickly to the tip

*V. cruziana* -Origin N,Argentina,Paraguay,Bolivia, Temperature for seed germination 20° ,Hight of upturned rim of leaf 20cm ,Leaf undersurface densely hairy,Outer sepals prickly only at the base

Because it germinates at the lower temperature, *V.cruziana* is the species usually grown in botanical gardens in temperate areas. In the wild both species are perennials but in temperate regions seeds are collected each year and the plants are treated as annuals. The flowers open white late in the afternoon but turn pink the following day. The interior of the flower is 11° above the ambient temperature and this warmth and the strong scent attract beetles which are trapped 24 hours until the flower re-opens the following afternoon. They then escape, coated with pollen. While inside the flower the beetles feed on special starch-filled appendages on the female parts of the flowers.

Horticulturalists have recently produced a range of hybrids between the two species of which 'Longwood Hybrid' is the best known

For beautiful pictures see [http://www.victoria-adventure.org/our\\_adventure/1999\\_adventure\\_the\\_hybrid.html](http://www.victoria-adventure.org/our_adventure/1999_adventure_the_hybrid.html)

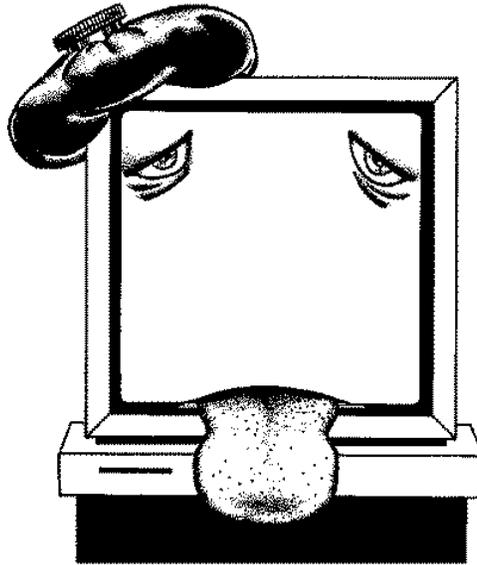
## THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANDMA

The computer swallowed grandma.  
Yes, honestly it's true.  
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,  
The thought just makes me squirm.  
She must have caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet,  
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves  
My searches to refine  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found 'online'.



So, if inside your 'Inbox',  
My Grandma you should see,  
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her  
And send her back to me!

Author Unknown

## SANDALWOOD BY Judy Jeffery

I am researching the history of South Australia's sandalwood industry, covering the period 1925 to 1940.

I am not a botanist, but I am interested in the plant itself as well as its value as an export. *Santalum spicatum* is sometimes referred to as Western Australian Sandalwood, although it grew quite prolifically in north west SA. It was heavily harvested between 1925 and 1940 and exported to China for use in incense, joss sticks, etc.

In the first week in September this year I took a trip across to Ceduna to speak to people involved with growing sandalwood, and to photograph trees.

First I interviewed an elderly lady in Port Augusta, whose father was a 'sandalwood puller' around 1930. She was a child at the time, but could remember well the tree trunks being cleaned for export in their back yard.

Next I stayed in Kimba for two nights, visiting Sue and John Grund (Friends of Kimba Parks, to which I belong) who have been growing sandalwood on their farm for the last 10 years, along with barley and wheat crops, which were not doing well this year. They showed me the host plants they are using (*Santalum* is parasitic), and generously drove me miles into Lake Gilles Conservation Park, an area which would have been harvested for sandalwood years ago. There was a wonderful array of different *Dodonae* bushes and other flowering shrubs. And sure enough there were some sandalwood trees growing mostly on granite ridges. They are very gnarled old trees; some may have been there before 1925, and a few might have grown since. They take many years to mature enough to harvest the wood. I took lots of photos.

My next stop was to see Allan Lowe at Ceduna, who grows mostly quandongs (*Santalum acuminatum*), and a few sandalwood. He is experimenting with drip irrigation, but has not had much luck with quandong or sandalwood fruit this dry year.

The kernels of sandalwood nuts can be eaten, and they are being produced for nuts in WA and, and by Graham Herde at Nectarbrook near Port Augusta. The Western Australians produce sandalwood oil at various plantations.

On the way home I spent a couple of hours at the gorgeous Arid Lands Botanic Gardens at Port Augusta, where several types of *Santalum* are growing.

Now it's back to the archives.

*Just a thought.*

*A committee keeps the minutes and wastes the hours*

#### **Report: Volunteer Management Unit (VMU) 20 Railway Dam Area 2006**

We have spent **327 hours** working in the Dam Area, January to October 2006 inclusive.

#### **Revegetation Area – Western End**

10 boxes of tube stock have been planted both sides of the creek adjacent to 2005 plantings of Danthonia, Senecio, Australian Hollyhock, Silky Tea Tree, Kangaroo grass.

The 2005 plantings are thriving, as are sedges planted in 2000. Some remnant *Acaena* and *Geranium* are spreading. Some of our plantings were lost in the big flood last November.

#### **Weed Management**

We are now dealing with regrowth Blackberry, Thistles, Salvation Jane etc., which at one time covered the area.

Spraying and grubbing to remove large infestations of exotic sedge along the creek from the dam wall to Walnut Paddock seems to have been successful.

Ongoing control by cutting, swabbing and hand pulling **before** flowering of Arum Lily, Artichoke Thistles, Blackberry, Nightshade, African Daisy and Verbena, has been very beneficial. Scabious is an ongoing problem on edge of the dam wall path and roadside.

We have hand pulled or poisoned over 20 different species of weeds. A large percentage of annual grasses have been slashed or removed, before flowering.

## **Other areas worked by us during 2006**

- VMU 18 Cut and swab Elms outside State Flora fence on Echo Track
- VMU 17 General weeding
- VMU 12 Pines oval Road, south of walking trail – general weeding, mostly broom
- VMU 16 Removal of regrowth of boneseed after the burn
- VMU 20 Helped spread rust on Bridal Creeper

## **Education**

Over the year we have endeavoured to further our knowledge, a number of us having attended

- 1 First aid course
- 2 Bush Regeneration workshops
- 1 Slasher course

## **Plan for 2007**

1. Continue control of broadleaf weeds annual grasses, and removal of material from the site to reduce added nutrients in the soil.

2. Plan where to plant the following, which have been donated by the park:

30 *Grevillea lavandulacea*, 40 *Hibbertia exutiacies*, 170 *Dianella revoluta* (black-anther flax-lily), 20 *Hibbertia sericea*

3. Revisit VMU 17

*We would appreciate any suggestions, comments and advice you can give us.*

**On behalf of the Volunteers concerned,**

Mary Cole.

*“Sometimes you earn more doing the jobs that pay nothing”*

## **ETHICAL SHOPPING**

**“Irony officially died when Henry Kissinger was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but it twitches back to life with alarming frequency.”**

*This is how Ian Nixon (no relation to Kissinger’s former boss), who designed this magazine, reacted to my discovery that you can actually get ‘ethical’ bullets. In fact, British arms manufacturer BAE Systems are not just providing the world with lead free eco-bullets (because ‘lead used in ammunition can harm the environment and pose a risk to people’). They are in fact developing a whole range of green munitions, from quieter warheads (to reduce noise pollution), smoke free hand grenades, and armoured vehicles with hybrid engines. You couldn’t make this stuff up...*

*There’s a certain twisted logic to it. As BAE’s Director of Corporate Social Responsibility explains: ‘Weapons are going to be used and when they are, we try to make them as safe for the user as possible, to limit the collateral damage and impact as*

*little as possible on the environment.' The problem, of course, is you can make your weapons as ethical as you like; but there still designed to kill people.*

*There's nothing wrong with trying to minimise the negative impacts of your behaviour on the planet – we all have a responsibility to do that. But if something exists to cause death and destruction, the fact that it's been painted a friendly shade of green doesn't make it ok.*

*Shopping ethically is important. But it has very real limitations. There are no magic bullets, and if we don't face up to this, our planet's going to bite the dust in a hail of environmentally friendly fire.*

**Jess Worth, Editor "New Internationalist"**

*(Article supplied by Shirley Alford)*

## **VALLEYS OF STONE**

**Pam Tamblyn**

In 2002 Ron and I were approached to assist some students from the Cultural Studies faculty at Flinders University to research potential heritage tourist trails in Belair National Park as part of their course work. Little did we realize that this would lead not only to a profound re-interpretation of Belair's known heritage sites, but also to the proof of others suspected to be important and the discovery of even more, unidentified until then.

Our investigations were part of a wide-ranging study instigated by the Archaeology, Cultural Studies and Geography Departments of Flinders University - the Hills Face Zone Cultural Heritage Project, which covered public and private land throughout Adelaide's Hills Face. The resultant analysis of the data collected during the HFZCHP was to reveal that Adelaide has one of the best preserved heritage and archaeological landscapes in the world of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century European expansion and colonization. The progress of this project is the subject of the recently released book, *Valleys of Stone: The Archaeology and History of Adelaide's Hills Face*, edited by Pam Smith, F. Donald Pate and Robert Martin, with chapters contributed by several other authors.

*Valleys of Stone* describes many sites from Willunga in the south to Tea Tree Gully in the north, their history and significance in colonial times, remaining evidence, both documentary and archaeological, and pictorial records, including paintings, sketches, photographs and maps. Some sites are on private land, but many are in the national, conservation and recreation parks on the extremities of the metropolitan area. The study of Belair National Park revealed some very interesting history and archaeology, the archaeological focus being on the railway camps of the 1880s which were within the boundaries of the Government Farm (later the Park). Ron was instrumental in bringing to light some important archaeological evidence about the railway camps which had lain undisturbed for over a century.

Do you know:

- what an 1880 railway camp water soak now looks like?
- why the problem of feral vegetation arose?
- where a piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century macadamized road is?
- when and where wheat and potatoes were grown?
- why the State Flora Nursery has such a long, continuous history?
- how central Minno Creek looked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

and lastly

- how murder and mayhem was the order of the day in the 1880s?

These questions are answered in the chapter on Belair – *For Public Purposes: the Government Farm and Belair National Park 1840-1920*. Just to get you going here is an excerpt about the murder on the railway:

### *A Fatal Affray*

*The parties to a "fatal affray" at the 17 mile railway camp on the Government Farm during the construction of the Nairne railway, in that "wild and romantic place among the hills" (Frearson's Weekly: 6 November 1880), were two navvies - a Catholic Irish labourer William Bell, the victim, and his compatriot, but an Orangeman, woodcutter William Walshe, the perpetrator. The inquest into Bell's murder was reported very graphically in the daily press. After a trip to the Crafers Inn the previous Saturday both men were "in liquor", as Walshe claimed in his defence, and argued over religion, flinging insults at each other like "bloody turncoat", "bloody liar" and "to hell with Pope and Popery", the fight escalating until Bell was stabbed with a butcher's knife, lying nearby. He was reported to have been "suffering fearful agony" as "one of his eyes was cut, ... his lower lip appeared to have been bitten off ... and some of the bowels protruded from the abdomen" (Advertiser: 2 November 1880). He lingered for some hours, discovered at the point of death when the others in the camp began to sober up the next morning. After his trial Walshe was found guilty of wilful murder.*

As to the site where this incident took place, the answer is in the book, so, happy reading if you wish to pursue this and other stories further. The Friends library now has a copy of *Valleys of Stone* and there is an order form attached to this issue of the newsletter if you would like your own copy of the book.

### **CALENDAR**

#### **DECEMBER 2006**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 1pm General Meeting  
Speaker David Mussared on the  
Valley of the Bandicoots.  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm at Vol. Centre  
Belair Park 115<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
and Friends 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
see invitation in this issue.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm Guided Walk

#### **JANUARY 2007**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2007 1 pm.  
Special Meeting to discuss concept plan  
of vegetation around Playford Lake.  
**Meet at Playford Lake 1pm.**

#### **February 2007**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm Annual General Meeting,  
including election of officers.  
At Volunteer Centre, Long Gully, Belair  
National Park.

**FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK. ABN 38 093 387 757**  
**PO Box 2 Belair SA 5052**  
**Email [friendsofbelairpark@msn.com](mailto:friendsofbelairpark@msn.com). Website**  
**[www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark](http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofbelairpark)**

#### **OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2006**

PRESIDENT	Brian DuBois	8278 4275
VICE PRESIDENTS	Jim Trueman	8278 9359 and Mike Cerchez 8339 6801
SECRETARY	Jill Salvi	8278 6736 4 Colton Rd BLACKWOOD SA 5051
TREASURER	Betty Wise	8278 3805
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.	Eric Cole, Barry Palmer, Ron Tamblyn, Faye Loffler	

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

***WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE COMMITTEE. NEW OFFICE BEARERS ARE NEEDED ESPECIALLY A SECRETARY AND A TREASURER. IT'S YOUR GROUP. IT WON'T RUN WITHOUT YOU.***

**Procedure for working in the Park**

- ❖ Advise the Park office of where you will be working or guiding walks
- ❖ Take a first aid kit
- ❖ Recommended to work in pairs
- ❖ Take the mobile phone if available
- ❖ In case of sickness or accident
  - Do not ring 000, but notify the Park office to call the ambulance.
  - Fill in the relevant incident form at the office.
- ❖ Return the phone and advise the Park when you leave.
- ❖ **DO NOT WORK ON MOUNT LOFTY RANGES FIRE BAN DAYS.**

**We welcome new member Wendy Duffy and hope you enjoy your membership with us.**  
*If you wish to join one of our working bees please contact Eric Cole 8278 2816, or you may like to come to a general meeting - first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. (not January)*

**Subs are now due for 2007, unchanged at \$10 single / \$15 a family**