



HOSTED BY:

SUPPORTED BY:



Government
of South Australia



23-25 AUGUST



Main Pavilion, Belair National Park
Club Marion, Sturt Road

MESSAGE FROM COMMITTEE

The Friends of Parks Inc. Forum returns in 2024, for the first in-person forum since 2018 in Belair National Park, the birthplace for National Parks in South Australia. This will be the 33rd Forum and is being co-hosted by the Friends of Belair National Park and the Friends of Old Government House.

The Forum is for Friends of Parks Inc. volunteers and National Parks and Wildlife Service staff and will be held over three days in Belair National Park and Club Marion Function Room at Marion. The three-day program will incorporate a diverse range of expert and informative speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions and tours. There will be plenty of time to catch up with old and new friends over a "cuppa". The event is fully catered, with dinners on the Friday and Saturday nights.

NEED HELP?

If you require assistance or have an enquiry during the Forum, please contact 0429 033 996, or enquire at the Registration Desk located at both the Main Pavilion at Belair National Park or Club Marion.

LANYARD

When you register, you will be presented with a lanyard. This is your entry ticket and indicates the sessions for which you are booked. Please wear it at all times. At the end of the Forum, please return your lanyard for future use.

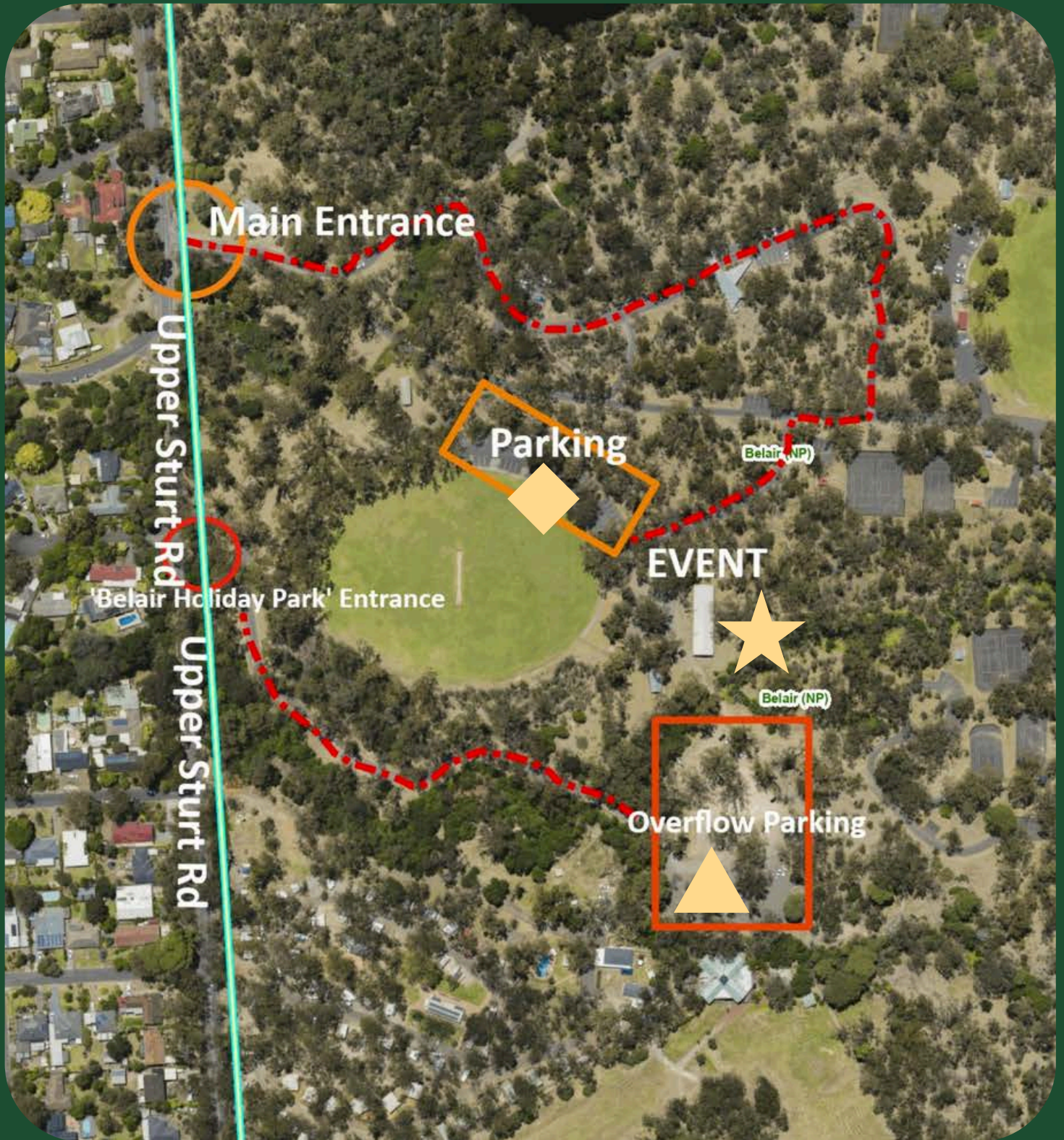
FORUM LOCATION

The Forum is being held across two different locations. Days one and three will take place in the Main Pavilion at Belair National Park. Day two will be held at Club Marion at 262 Sturt Road, Marion.

FORUM PARKING - CLUB MARION

Club Marion - There is ample onsite parking at Club Marion. If you are asked at the gate to pay for parking, please advise the attendants that you are attending the Friends of Parks Forum and therefore you do not need to pay.

FORUM PARKING - BELAIR NATIONAL PARK



KEY



= Suggested guest parking location



= VIP parking location



= Event Location (Main Pavillion)

Belair National Park - please park in the "Overflow Parking" Area

PROGRAM

Friday, 23 August




Main Pavilion, Belair
National Park

4:00pm - 5:30pm	Registration and Networking Exhibition Opens
5:30pm - 6:00pm	Welcome to Country - Clifty ' Tangku Munaitya' Wilson, Kuma Kaaru Forum Welcome - Tony Magor, NPWS Manager, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
6:00pm - 8:30pm	Welcome Dinner - two course dinner with catering by Plenty Catering Co. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. BYO alcohol available to all Forum attendees.



PROGRAM

Saturday, 24 August
 Club Marion, Sturt Road

8:00am - 9:00am	<i>Registration, Networking, Tea and Coffee</i>	
9:00am - 9:30am	Forum Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement of Country• Hon Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier• Ben Bruce, CE, Dept for Environment & Water• Duncan MacKenzie OAM, President, Friends of Parks Inc.• Jason Irving, A/Executive Director NPWS, Dept for Environment and Water	MC, Tony Magor and special guests
9:30am - 10:30am	Friendraising - How to find more friends	Friends of Belair
10:30am - 11:00am	<i>Morning Tea, Networking</i>	
11:00am - 11:30am	Engaging Youth with Friends of Parks	Jason Tyndall - Nature Play SA and Friends of Scott Creek
11:30am-12:00pm	Engaging with First Nations People	Mark Koolmatrie, Ngarrindjeri Elder and Owner Kool Tours
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Q & A Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jason Tyndall• Mark Koolmatrie• Stuart Paul, NPWS Director, Regional Operations	Facilitated by Helen Donovan, A/Manager Volunteer Programs Unit
12:30pm - 1:30pm	<i>Lunch, Networking</i>	
1:30pm - 2:30pm	WORKSHOP SESSION 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where do my citizen science records go? Unravel the mysteries of biological data flows.• Friends Success Stories.	Helen Owens, Scientific Officer-Biological Data, Dept for Environment and Water Andy McKinnon, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc. & Amanda Parker, NPWS Coordinator - Volunteer Ranger Program
2:30pm - 3:00pm	<i>Afternoon Tea, Networking</i>	

PROGRAM

continued....

Saturday, 24 August



Club Marion, Sturt Road

3:00pm - 4:00pm	<p>WORKSHOP SESSION 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureMaps for Data Discovery and Mapping Snake Awareness 	Lilian Mackintosh, Biodiversity Systems Officer, Dept for Environment and Water Geoff Coombe OAM, Living with Wildlife
4:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Break in Program</i>	
6:00pm - 6:30pm	<p>2024 FRIENDS OF PARKS AWARDS DINNER</p> <p>Official Welcome</p>	MC, Tony Magor
	<i>Entree</i>	
7:00pm - 7:30pm	Guest Speaker	Yvette Eglinton, NPWS Coordinator Access for All
7:30pm - 8:15pm	<i>Main Course</i>	
8:15pm - 8:45pm	2024 Friends of Parks Awards Presentation	
8:45pm - 9:15pm	<i>Dessert followed by coffee and tea</i>	
9:30pm	Event concludes	



PROGRAM



Sunday, 25 August

Main Pavilion, Belair
National Park

8:00am - 9:00am	Morning cuppa Exhibition opens	Main Pavilion
9:00am - 9:15am	Welcome and Instructions	
9:15am - 10:45am	WORKSHOP SESSION 3 - EXCURSIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of Belair National Park Tour• Fire Ecology and Prescribed Burning Tour• Guided Walk: How to Tell Your Parks Story• Soils, Plants, Water and Atmosphere – Learning a little about a lot!	Bus tour departing from Main Pavilion Pete Raine, Bushcare Coordinator, Committee Member and a Walk Leader Bus tour departing from Main Pavilion Ian Tanner, Fire Management Walking tour departing from Main Pavilion Jason Tyndall, CEO Volunteer Centre (bus leaving from Main Pavilion) Professor Wayne Meyer, Adjunct Professor
10:45am - 11:15am	<i>Morning Tea</i>	Main Pavilion
11:15am - 12:45pm	WORKSHOP SESSION 4 - EXCURSIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Government House Tour• Bush Buddies• What is Your Nature Story? Guided Art, Writing and Interpretive Activities to Capture Your Personal Nature Connection• The Dialectical Koala: Towards a Resolution of a Conservation Dilemma in South Australia• Fire Ecology and Prescribed Burning Tour	Bus tour departing from Main Pavilion Tina Gallasch, Secretary Main Pavilion Walking tour departing from Main Pavilion Jessica Wilson, Coordinator Parks Nature Education Volunteer Centre (bus leaving from Main Pavilion) Julian Beaman, Research Associate Bus tour departing from Main Pavilion Ian Tanner, Fire Management
12:45pm - 2:00pm	<i>Lunch, Networking</i>	Main Pavilion
2:00pm	Forum close	

GUEST SPEAKERS



JASON TYNDALL, CEO, Nature Play SA

Jason has been integral to Nature Play SA since its inception, driving the nature play movement in South Australia. He has a background in conservation management, community development and education and is dedicated to fostering relationships between communities and the natural environment to support wellbeing. In 2021 Jason was awarded a certificate of commendation for education and engagement as part of the inaugural Pelzer Prize. Jason is a storyteller, and loves listening to the stories and wisdom of Aboriginal peoples as he connects with Country. He is passionate about conservation and spending time outdoors with his two girls. Jason is also a member of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park and has been for over 20 years.

MARK KOOLMATRIE, Ngarrindjeri Elder, Kool Tours

Mark is the owner of the award-winning Kool Tours, offering Aboriginal tourism experiences in The Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. Mark is a Ngarrindjeri elder, Director of the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, former Chairperson of State Aboriginal Heritage and won the 2021 KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award. He is passionate about cultural heritage and education and has been a cultural leader for over 40 years.



YVETTE EGLINTON, Coordinator Access for All, DEW

Yvie works for the Department for Environment and Water as Coordinator Access For All. Yvie's role is to ensure that national parks are accessible to all people. Part of this role has been to assist in developing programs and strategies to ensure that national parks can be accessed by people with disabilities. Yvie is passionate about using her experience to advocate for the rights of people with disability and ensuring that the world around us is accessible and inclusive to all people.

FORUM SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

HELEN OWENS, Scientific Officer-Biological Data, DEW

Helen has thirty years' experience working with the DEW biological survey programs and biological data management at a state and national scale. Early in her career, Helen also worked with the SA Museum, mining companies and the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (NCSSA). Helen has a keen interest in mammals and herpetofauna and a long-term voluntary involvement with Citizen science groups like NCSSA, SA Herpetology Group and the Scientific Expedition Group.



FRIENDS SUCCESS STORIES

NPWS Coordinator Volunteer Ranger Program

After a 20-year career in wildlife management at Cleland Wildlife Park, Amanda combined her passion for conservation and community education with her interest in volunteering. She has coordinated multiple volunteer programs for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, connecting the community with opportunities in environmental conservation, sustainable living and wildlife appreciation.

FRIENDS SUCCESS STORIES

ANDY MCKINNON, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.

Andy has been a member of the Friends of Onkaparinga Park for 23 years in multiple roles including Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer and working bee coordinator. The Friends group has a history of weed control and revegetation projects across both the Onkaparinga River National and Recreation Parks. Weed control in the Onkaparinga Parks is ongoing as much of the area has been previously cleared and used for farming. Prior to joining the Friends group, Andy worked for Telstra for 37 years.



LILIAN MACKINTOSH, Biodiversity Systems Officer, DEW

Lily helps manage the Biological Databases of South Australia (BDBSA), South Australia's flora and fauna database. Drawing on her experience in collecting plant, invertebrate and soil data across Australia, she is now driven by a desire to bridge the gap between field data collection and effective data management to support conservation efforts.

FORUM SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

GEOFF COOMBE OAM, Living with Wildlife

Geoff Coombe has had an interest in snakes since the mid-1960s. He was one of the founding committee members of the Herpetology Group of the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia in 1971. He has empirical knowledge of venomous snakes in field situations and in captive husbandry, whilst involved in the Herp Group and when working for the SA National Parks and Wildlife Service. In June 2023 his contribution to the wider community has been recognised by being awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia.



PETER RAINE, Friends of Belair National Park

Pete has been a member of the Friends of Belair National Park for over 10 years. He is a Bushcare Coordinator, Committee Member and a Walk Leader for the monthly guided walks.

Pete enjoys learning about, and volunteering in Belair National Park.

IAN TANNER, Manager Fire AMLR, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Ian Tanner is a recognised leader and practitioner of fire management in South Australia. As part of this role, Ian leads an extensive fire management program for the high-risk Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) Region, where DEW plans and conducts between 35 and 50 burns annually. Ian also provides a leadership role to a team of 17 full-time fire management staff and 70 project fire fighters in the AMLR Region and fire planning and suppression in the state more broadly.



WAYNE S. MEYER, Adjunct Professor, University of Adelaide

Wayne is Adjunct Professor of Natural Resource Science, as well as chair of the Foundation for a Rabbit Free Australia, the Brownhill Creek Association and Friends of Brownhill Creek. He is a Fellow at the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology. Throughout his research career Wayne has directed the Landscapes Futures Program through the University of Adelaide, initiated the lower Murray Landscape Futures Program and Envisioning Landscape Futures Project and was the founding CEO of the CRC for Irrigation Futures.

FORUM SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

JESSICA WILSON, Coordinator Parks Nature Education,
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Jessica works across South Australia's national parks and marine parks enabling visitors to connect and learn in nature. With a passion about providing accessible experiences with a focus on environmental interpretation, Jessica leads immersive activities connecting families to nature. To further her interest in the interlacing of nature and personal growth Jessica is 'trying to finish' her Diploma of Counselling.



JULIAN BEAMAN, Research Associate, Flinders University

Julian is an evolutionary ecologist currently working as a Research Associate at Flinders University. Overall, his research aims to understand how differences in the physiology and behaviour of animals is caused by evolutionary and ecological processes. Julian strives to apply a scientific understanding of extinction and adaptation to assist in the conservation of species and ecological communities in the face of rapid environmental change. He is currently working on a multidisciplinary project to develop practical tools to support the genetic rescue of inbred marsupial populations, with a particular focus on koalas.

In addition to the speakers above, you'll also enjoy engaging panel discussions such as "Friendraising!" and "Bush Buddies," educational tours, and much more!



FORUM SPONSORS



Arborgreen



Contact details

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