



friends of the flinders ranges national park

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2008

website: www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

discussion forum on GoogleGroups: [contact Frank to join](#)

A Very Successful Forum

The Forum was a great success, and a tribute to all those who helped in the planning and implementation of the event. There have been many messages of congratulations from those who attended the weekend. Darren and Vince have forwarded the following messages of appreciation.



From Darren Crawford

I wish to extend our thanks and our congratulations for the outstanding success that was the 24th Annual Friends of Parks Forum, "Footsteps in the Flinders". The positive feedback for the event has been fantastic and rumours have started that this forum has set the benchmark for future events. I can only say well done and I hope you all feel the stress and effort was worth it.

Whilst we have strived to make this event owned entirely by the Friends of Flinders (and rightly so) there is an element of association for the staff – that is, if the event wasn't a success, and we had no doubts that it was going to be, it would have reflected as such on the staff. The opposite couldn't have been truer and we thank you.

The format of the Forum with keynote speakers and information sessions in the morning and the variety of tours kept everyone energised and interested and was a brilliant way of getting the Friends out in Park. Feedback from these tours has been excellent – well done Tony, I know this was particularly stressful for you.

The Forum ran smoothly and was a credit to the team involved with every detail being covered. We extend our thanks to the Herculean efforts of Vince Monterola and the dedicated Forum organising committee. The helpful volunteers, who made sure we had food, ran the PA system, parked cars, registered delegates, acted as tour leaders, set up and pulled down marquees and undertook the plethora of other jobs that made the event an outstanding success. A note of appreciation should also go to the ever reliable Tom McIntosh for his valuable support.

While I know everyone is still breathing a sigh of relief from the forum, we are still hoping to get a lot achieved on the Guide Hut Project before we break for the summer and the team and I look forward to working with you all on this valuable project.

Thanks again and see you all soon.

Darren

From Vince

It's over. After living with the Forum preparation for more than 2 years we can now look back and agree it was a job well done. Those among us who had reservations about our Group's ability to host a Forum will now know that nothing is too difficult for a team working well together.

In addition to the feedback many of you received at the Forum we have received letters and emails and phone calls. All say much the same thing, delegates very much enjoyed the Forum and the Flinders, and we have set a new benchmark

for Forums in the future. Delegates liked the friendliness, the program, the tours, the marquee decor, the overall organisation, the meals, and the location.

Many people seem to have assessed the event from our position and have commented on the extensive range of things they realised we needed to purchase or hire, the intricate planning we needed to do, and the detail to which we needed to organise. They seemed surprised we could do it. That reflects directly on the incredible amount of work done by each of our members who accepted responsibility for a particular function either on the Committee or in a special role during the days of Forum.

Few of us can be aware of all the effort put in behind the scenes by some of our Flinders Friends. Because I was in constant contact with them all I can tell you that without their readiness to stick with the job, and their attention to making sure things were done just right, we could not have hosted such a successful Forum.

Every member of the Forum Committee has earned the highest commendation and all the gratitude we can express. And without the wonderful support of other Friends, some from Groups other than our own, our standard of hosting would have been less than we were able to offer over the weekend. These Friends rightly share the commendation and gratitude offered to Committee members.

Among the many highlights of Forum was the constant example of volunteers and staff achieving greater success when working together. No better example of a genuine on-Park working relationship could be expected than what Forum delegates witnessed at Wilpena.

Thank you all most sincerely for your contribution to our Forum. I trust you will agree that all of the frustrations, the tensions, the hard work and hours committed, were in the best interest of promoting the Park with which we each have such close affinity.

Vince



Arthur Coulthard who, with Jasmine Reschke of Mulga View Station, provided the musical entertainment

photos courtesy of Peter Venhoek

Weekend of 20-21 September

A number of people have indicated that they will be taking a break this month – for well-earned travel or recuperation. As this will be Gordon's last weekend working with us before he leaves Wilpena, a few of us will go up to help him put the roofing iron on Guide Hut. This will get the hut in a sufficiently secured condition to leave over the summer break. There will be no business meeting on the Saturday night – the previously arranged business will be deferred til the October meeting.

Please contact me if you are planning to go up for the 20-21 September weekend. I have arranged rooms at Oraparinna.

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