



ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH

Official Bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Issue: 1

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NEWS AT LAST

Information is the lifeblood of any organisation. However since the February AGM our Group has been silent save for the various DEWNR messages forwarded by our Secretary.

Having been informed by our President that the response to his request for members to take on the role of editing our bulletin has been underwhelming, I have decided to offer my services. "Who are you?" I hear you ask. Viewers of BBC's motoring program, Top Gear, would be familiar with "The Stig", a mystery racing driver whose identity is unknown. So, call me "The Pen". Any photo or story you want to send me can be via the Secretary. Meanwhile enjoy reading about our people and their activities.

EMBRACING A NAME CHANGE

The SA Government has a policy to dual name National Parks throughout the State. We have been aware of a number of Arid Lands parks where local aboriginal names have been included. Then in March the Co-management Board agreed to accept the suggested 'Ikara' to be included in our park name. Ikara is an Adnyamathanha word meaning 'meeting place', and reflects the traditional name for Wilpena Pound.

The name change will be progressively seen in new signage around the park and in various items where our Group name is displayed.

FIRST AID TRAINING

We want to maintain the enviable safety record of the Group. The committee has recognised that we have insufficient numbers of qualified first aiders to ensure there is always at least one present with every team that works on a project in the park. To boost the current 5 first aiders, committee decided to offer first aid training to all members who regularly attend meetings at Oraparinna.

Three providers are available at a range of locations around the State. If there are sufficient numbers of Adelaide members we will try to arrange attending the same course. Members in country locations can attend a course at their nearest St. John Centre.

The course 'Provide First Aid' is available in both 1 day and 2 day options. Course content of both is identical. The main difference is that students attending the 1 day session are required to complete pre-course work, mainly theory, before attending the 1 day which is mainly practical.

It would be ideal if every active member of our Group was qualified in first aid.

Please contact the Secretary to advise your interest in attending a course in 'Provide First Aid' this year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It is always exciting to welcome new members to our Group. This month, there are five people to introduce.

Bob Geary and Harry Deans joined in time to attend the May meeting and from all reports, both men made an excellent contribution to the wide range of work tackled by the team.

Recently joined members are John Tucker from NSW, and Robert and Mariella Hocking, who are no strangers to volunteering for conservation projects in the Flinders Ranges. For the past few years, they have both been active members of a team working to eradicate wheel cactus from nearby Gum Creek Station.

All members extend a warm Flinders welcome to Bob Harry, John, Robert and Mariella and look forward to getting to know them.

FAREWELL TO OUR VP

Sadly we say goodbye to Tim and Margaret Tyler as they prepare to leave Wilpena Resort to take up a new role in Western Australia.

Tim's roles in tourism within nearby resorts have not always enabled him to spend the time he would prefer with the Group. However whenever he has been with us in the field or at meetings, his presence and contribution have been much appreciated. His knowledge of local fauna and flora have helped educate a number of members. Both Tim and Margaret have made a tremendous commitment to advancing tourism in the Flinders Ranges while at Rawnsley Park and Wilpena Resort. We wish them well in their new venture and look forward to seeing them back in the Flinders someday.

SA RANGER ASSOCIATION

July 31 was World Ranger Day and the SA Ranger Association celebrated by telling their neighbours something about themselves.

The Association formed 4 years ago to promote the Ranger profession and foster networking and development. Members fundraise and support the "Thin Green Line Foundation" which supports Rangers who are killed or injured in the line of duty around the world.

Friends of Parks Groups have been invited to join the Association as Affiliate Members. Besides supporting the Association objectives, our membership would entitle us to their newsletters, details of events and networking opportunities. Affiliate Membership subscription is \$10 per year. The General Meeting at Oraparinna in August will be asked to consider whether to join the SA Ranger Association.

MODIFIED LOGO

The recent name change of our Group required a new or modified logo. A graphic designer was asked to add the extra word without changing the essence of our logo. The result is included in the banner of this bulletin.

The committee will now be using this logo to have banners and plaques produced for use around the park. The first of these will be a banner to display when we are working in the park to inform the public who we are.

CHANGE OF DETAIL

The Secretary has recently updated membership information. Please remember to inform her whenever you change any of your details, particularly email address, phone number, vehicle registration, postal address.

COMING EVENTS

September 5: The President has been invited to attend the Co-management Board meeting at Wilpena to report on the activities of our Group.

October 6-12: Our scheduled project week at Oraparinna when our major project will be chimney stabilisation at Mount Billy Creek Shepherd's hut. Other tasks will include noxious plant control and small asset maintenance in park.

October 14-16: FOP Inc. Forum, Onkaparinga

November 17-22: Our scheduled project week at Oraparinna when our major project will be the sanding and oiling of timber assets (picnic sets and similar), and general in-park maintenance. Also our year end function.

PARK STAFF

Newer members may be interested to know who are the members of DEWNR staff they may see around.

Ranger in Charge.....Alan Harbour
Senior Ranger.....Tom McIntosh
Senior Ranger –
Adnyamathanha.....Arthur Coulthard
Maintenance Team Leader.....Steve Jennings
Admin. Officer.....Tanya McKenzie
Senior Ranger Bounceback.....Dylan Koerner
Ranger Bounceback.....Darren McKenzie

SITUATION VACANT

With the departure of Tim Tyler our Group is in need of a Vice President.

Although this is an important committee position, don't be put off by imagining a heavy load of extra work.

The basic duties are to provide support to the President and to deputise in his absence. Any delegated responsibilities are negotiable and take account of available time and talents of the VP.

Please consider offering yourself for this position, at least until the AGM in February.

Give Vince a call (0447 331 300) to discuss your interest in this important position.

VALE KEITH CROSSMAN

In the evening of Saturday August 6, 2016 our Friends Group lost one of its finest members with the death of Keith Crossman. For more than a year, Keith had fought an aggressive cancer, a battle he sadly could not win. Keith, and his late wife Kaye, was a founding member and early Secretary of our Group. Born and raised on the family property on Warcowie Road, north of Hawker, Keith was an incredible asset to our young Group. Not only did he share his love and knowledge of the Flinders Ranges, he shared his knowledge and skills of the construction techniques used by the pioneering families. Fences, bush buildings and other construction undertaken by Friends in our first decade all bear witness to old style authenticity achieved under Keith's guidance.

While Keith will be missed by all who knew him, the legacy of his contribution to Flinders Ranges National Park will continue forever. Farewell old friend from us all.