



# ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH

Official Bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

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## JOB DONE

Having managed the safety and technical obstacles presented by the Mount Billy Creek chimney, stabilisation of that historic edifice was completed last month. Expect it to continue serving as a monument to pioneering pastoralists for at least a further century.



High temperatures dictated what other jobs were tackled during November. Most of the timber picnic tables and seats were sanded and oiled, new leaflets were delivered to all walking trail heads, weeds were sprayed at Appealinna, Guide Hut and Hills Homestead was cleaned, plus minor maintenance and cactus spotting.



and enjoyable.

The 2016 year-end dinner (BBQ) in Oraparinna dining room on Saturday night was both delicious and

## GAMMON VISITORS

Graeme Oates and Ray Hickman, President and Secretary of Vulkathana-Gammon Ranges NP Friends joined us for a couple of days in November. They are finalising plans for projects expected to begin in 2017 and District Ranger Alan Harbour was keen for them to see how we operate.

Graeme and Ray were enthusiastic observers as they travelled the park with us and glimpsed some of the projects we have tackled in past years. As programs are finalised there is every possibility that our two groups might get together at times.

We wish them future success in "their" park.

## CONGRATULATIONS MICHELLE

The Reynolds family of Willow Springs Station (home of SkyTrek) are long term Friends. Daughter Michelle has been managing the tourism division of the family business since returning home after completing studies in Adelaide a few years back.

Chosen in October as South Australian finalist for the Australian Regional Tourist Network Young Tourism Award, Michelle attended the national annual convention in Queensland recently. Finalists from every State and Territory were there to make a final presentation to the convention and learn who would become the national winner.



At the Gala Dinner of the convention Michelle Reynolds was named Australia's Young Tourism Professional for 2016.

Michelle received an impressive array of prizes and was appointed to a national tourism board. As a tourism ambassador, she will attend events throughout Australia during 2017.

We join in congratulating Michelle and wishing her continued success in her chosen career.

## ARID LANDS PLAN

We are encouraged by Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board including us among their partners. The board is currently consulting a wide range of communities and organisations as they prepare a new approach to natural resource management for arid lands. This will result in a 10 year strategic plan for the sustainable management of plants, animals, soil and water.

We are invited to participate in the process. Last month our President attended a community meeting and raised questions about management

of competing community values, and the proposed involvement of volunteers and the level of support they could expect.

To read the draft plan and associated documents, go to [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Did you mark your diary for Friends AGM, 7.30 p.m. Friday February 17, 2017? We've not found a suitable *central* location, so the AGM will again be held at the Findon Community Centre.

Our Guest Speaker will be District Ranger Alan Harbour. Alan will share with us his vision for the park in the next decade.

Please understand the need to have a suitable candidate to fill all committee positions. All positions become vacant at the AGM so we need to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Member.

Time now to sound out members willing to stand, and to let the Secretary know if you are prepared to take on a position.

- AGM – Friday February 17, 2017, 7.30 p.m.
- Findon Community Centre, 222 Findon Road, Findon

### FLINDERS RANGES WALKS APP

Sue and Rob Marshall are well known and highly respected for their excellent work in providing walking trails, trail markers, maps and leaflets in national parks.



Now the latest service from this tireless duo is an app. designed to complement the leaflets that they

provide for walks in I-FRNP. Currently only available on Android/Google Play the app. can be downloaded from Play Store. Enjoy your walk.

### DISCOVER I-FRNP APP.

Members attending last month's General Meeting were introduced to the concept of an app\* to be developed by our group for use by visitors to the park.

We envisage the app. providing information to help visitors plan to make best use of their time doing the things of most interest to them. It will

include campground information, details about fauna, flora and geology, maps of the park and surrounding areas, links to our publications on "50 Short Walks" and "Exploring the Flinders", suggestions for tours and activities, a link to the new Flinders Ranges Walks app. and more.

District Ranger Alan Harbour and Senior Ranger Tom McIntosh are enthusiastic about having an app. for the park and are keen to provide assistance in its development.

We will project manage the development through member Bob Geary who has extensive IT experience and is prepared to devote the necessary time to provide a professional result.

Despite a lot of preparatory work having been done by Bob to provide the information required for us to make an objective assessment of our ability to undertake such a project, there is still need to fine tune a business plan, including financial considerations, and to ensure opportunities for members to be involved.

A memo will be provided to members to outline the range of tasks to be done and asking them to indicate which are of particular interest to them.

We hope there will be tasks in this project that members unable to visit the park, will enjoy doing.

Members last month voted to proceed with development of the app. so planning and preparatory work will continue. At the AGM Bob will provide a detailed briefing to members and we will outline plans to ensure the project is cost neutral to the group.

*\*app. is an abbreviation for application. An app. is a computer program designed for a particular purpose and can be downloaded onto a mobile phone or other mobile device.*

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Our acting Treasurer reminds us that subscriptions for 2017 are due in January. Subscription per family remains \$20. Payment can be made by electronic transfer to our account:

- ANZ Bank
- BSB 015-660
- Account No. 4555-66772

Include your name as payee reference.

Alternatively, mail a cheque to A/Treasurer, Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park, PO Box 166, Aldgate, SA, 5154.

Members who joined and paid a subscription in the last 2 months are not required to pay the \$20 subscription renewal.

### WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome Ray Hickman to our team. Ray who lives at Modbury is a keen bushwalker with a particular passion for the Gammons. He is also a member of Friends of Vulkathana-GRNP.

### SIGNAGE

After delays for name change and logo redesign, we have finally taken delivery of signs we agreed to purchase many months ago.

Whenever we are active in the park where visitors are present we will proudly fly our colours. Who knows what benefits may flow.



### YEAR END

Can you believe that 2016 is soon to come to an end? While the year has been another successful one for us, it has also provided sad moments too. Keith Crossman passed away, and a number of Friend's stalwarts have not been able to attend the park because of ill health or long distance. They have been missed and certainly not forgotten.

To all who have supported FI-FRNP in any way during this past year we thank you most sincerely. We wish all members and their families a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a New Year of health and happiness.

