



Issue: 10

ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH

Official Bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

December, 2017

ANOTHER YEAR DOWN

Who can believe that another year has almost ended?

It is almost as difficult to believe how much we packed into this past year. Each member of our Friends' group can be proud of the further contribution made to our special park. Out of sight but not forgotten is the corps of members who are unable to tackle projects in the park during the year. Having them on the team provides encouragement and support to those who are able to work in the park. It is together that achievements are made.

Already plans are underway for activities in 2018. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and beyond.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Be sure to mark your diary, calendar, phone or fridge door with the date of our AGM. And note the *new venue*.

The AGM will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Friday February 16, 2018.

It will be held in the Parkview Room, Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton. That is about 3 km south of the city.

These details will be provided with the Agenda early in the new year.

Meanwhile consider what role you will take on our Committee. Let's fill the vacancies.

NEW SIGNAGE FOR AROONA

Action to renew signage around the Aroona precinct continues building momentum. All existing signs will be replaced and a number of additional signs will be provided.

Our members have twice been invited to review draft wording for the proposed signs. Much of the current historical information is being retained and reworded, including some minor corrections where required.

The main difference between current and new signage is the inclusion of an Adnyamathana perspective on the land as well as information

about pioneering exploits of early European settlers.

We can expect signs to be ready for installation in the first half of 2018. They will certainly be popular with visitors to the area.

VISITOR APP LAUNCH

On November 19 around 40 people helped to launch the visitor app. *Discover the Flinders Ranges*.

The brainchild of member Bob Geary, the app. occupied more than 1000 volunteer hours of our members. While the time was shared among 17 members, you may not know that over 800 of those hours were contributed by Bob alone.

The launch event in the Wilpena Woolshed was a very pleasant occasion. Little was needed to improve the ambiance of the Woolshed so a few colourful signs and photographs, tables and chairs, food and drinks, transformed the woolshed into an Aladdin's Cave.

After Bob displayed the working of the app. DEWNR Manager Parks & Co-management, Tony Magor, officially launched it.

Over half those attending the launch were local tourism operators. The feedback from them was most encouraging. While many said they expect to see a growth in their business, all agreed the app. would be a hit with visitors. Hopefully you have viewed the app. already. Do your family and friends a favour by mentioning it to them. Let them know they can download for free to any smart phone or tablet, both Apple and Android. Tell them to go to Apple Store or Google Play and search for *Visit the Flinders Ranges*.

GRANT EXTENSION

You might recall that in April we successfully applied for a DEWNR Grant of \$4,500 towards our work in stabilising stone structures in the park.

It was expected we would utilise the grant monies by the end of this calendar year. However lack of opportunity for members to attend stone masonry training have not enabled that. One member attended a mid-year course. The only course offered in the last few months included 3 of the 5 days on painting rather than stonework so we chose not to take it. The next stone masonry course is expected in the first quarter of 2018. Three members have expressed interest in participating.

Meanwhile we have asked DEWNR management to allow us to carry over unspent monies to 2018.

KEEPING UP WITH THE QUOLLS

If you are interested in a report on how the reintroduced quolls and possums are getting on, check out the website

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2016/04/reintroduction-possums-quolls>

It is great to see the quolls becoming so well established so soon.

TRAINING

A number of members undertook training courses during the year. These included:

- 2 chainsaw operators
- 1 stonemasonry
- 2 low loader operators
- 2 map reading/GPS operation

Already we have expressions of interest from members wanting to participate in training during 2018. These include:

- 2 chainsaw operators
- 3 stonemasonry

The President is keen to hear from members interested in other training of benefit to our group.

DRONE APPLICATION

If it is at all technical in nature you can be sure Life Member Athol Jackson has one so it was no surprise to learn that he has a drone.

When members were taking photos to suit the tours included on the app. Athol offered the use of his drone to take photographs with added interest of height and angles. However DEWNR policy requires drone operators to obtain approval before flying in a park. Advice

given indicated we would not obtain approval. The situation changed during a chat at the app launch where we were advised to submit a written application for approval to use a drone for specific purposes. An application has been submitted for the purpose of taking photographs to benefit Friends and DEWNR projects, and for searching for feral plants in terrain posing difficult accessibility. If approval is given to use the drone, every cactus, tobacco plant and castor oil plant in the park can fear for their lives.

2018 SCHEDULE

The Shearer's Quarters at Oraparinna has been booked for the following periods in 2018 for our activity weeks. Early in January the President and Senior Ranger will meet to finalise projects and assign them to specific weeks.

- 16 Feb – AGM at Fullarton Park
- 12/18 March – Oraparinna
- 3/9 May – Oraparinna
- 21/27 June – Oraparinna
- 9/15 August – Oraparinna
- 27Sept/3 Oct – Oraparinna
- 15/21 November – Oraparinna

FRIENDS FORUM

2018 is a Friends of Parks Forum year. All members of a Friends group are invited. The 2018 Forum will be held 14-16 September at Stenhouse Bay Hall in Innes National Park.

Registration is \$125 per person. This includes attendance at all sessions, and all meals.

For more information check FOP Inc. website.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN WILPENA POUND

Christmas day for early settlers in the Flinders Ranges would have differed little to any other day. While some living close to newly emerging towns may have gone to a church service or joined friends for a meal, for most it was probably just another day of toil.

For the Hill family at Wilpena Pound Christmas Day 1914 was a notable day.

The Hills had moved to Wilpena Pound in 1899 intent on wheat farming. They occupied a four roomed pug and pine house built in 1888 by August Helling.

Before beginning the back breaking work of

clearing land to farm, father and sons first needed to construct a road through a ravine into the Pound. That included a built up structure across a rock bar with a steep gradient into the creek.

By 1904, another year of drought, the Hills grew their first crop. Then in 1911 they built the stone house which still stands at the entrance to the pound.

Drought and the need to continually maintain their track into the Pound were constant companions of the family.

Christmas Day 1914 must have been eagerly anticipated by them all. They spent the day in Hawker. On Christmas Day the drought broke too.

When the Hills family returned to the pound they found the road washed away by a raging torrent. Plans to continue farming were washed away too that day.

The family carried away whatever furnishings and fittings they could salvage. Only H.E. Hill remained at the Pound, not leaving until the expiration of his lease in 1920.

Sadly, not a very merry Christmas.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

While the ageing Duke is not planning to visit us, some young folk chasing an Award he sponsors are considering it. The Duke of Edinburgh Awards leader contacted us to ask if he could include a day or two conservation work alongside our members next year. He would handle all the logistics and we would simply need to keep an eye on the young people working with us.

Most refreshing to see young people facing challenges and being involved in conservation.

THANKYOU

Thankyou for all you have contributed to Friends Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park in 2017.

May this Christmas be a wonderful time of peace and enjoyment for you and your family and may the new year be one of health and happiness for all.

