



ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH

Official Bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Issue: 5

February, 2017

Welcome to a new year of enjoyment in the Flinders. May 2017 be a year of health and happiness for us all. You would have seen the dates for our project-weeks in the park. Hopefully many of us can work a few of those dates into our busy calendar so that together we can complete the interesting line up of projects for the year.

Both the Green Army lads and Friends of Volkathana-Gammon Ranges National Park are keen to work with us during the year, but no indication of when or on what project has yet been decided.

The development of a park visitor app. will provide all members, including those who do not attend meetings at the park, with opportunities for involvement in new and interesting activities too.

2017 offers plenty of scope for us all to make our contributions to the park.

See you there.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Members attending the AGM on February 17 will hear a report from Don Ransom (our member and FOP Inc. Board member) about a new initiative of Friends of Parks Inc. The Board will offer two scholarships to Friends Groups keen to work on conservation projects with a school of their choice. This could present an opportunity for our group and the Flinders Ranges.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are encouraged to attend the AGM at 7.30 pm on Friday February 17 at the Findon Community Centre, 222 Findon Road, Findon.

Ranger-in-Charge-Ranges District, Alan Harbour, will be joining us and is keen to get to know our members. As guest speaker Alan will talk about future directions and innova-

tions for the park.

All members are asked to think about nominating suitable people for our committee. Throughout 2016 we operated with 2 unfilled positions which increased the workload of other committee members.

All positions become vacant on February 17. Please consider being available to fill one of them.

STONEMASONRY

Last year when considering a grant application, we discussed project priority needs with Liaison Ranger Tom McIntosh. Being aware of various stone structures in the park needing repair, rebuild, or stabilisation, Tom suggested a grant could go towards such work. Consequently we applied for funding to enable members to attend training, and for the purchase of tools and equipment. We were successful in receiving a \$4,500 DEWNR grant.

Dates of the next Heritage Stonemasonry training course are not yet confirmed, but indications are that it is likely to be in May. And there is a strong chance the course will be held in either our park or Volkathana-Gammon Ranges NP.

When course details are known, we will seek expressions of interest from members wanting to participate.

ON-LINE BOOKINGS

From July 1 this year people wanting to use a park campsite will be required to book on-line.

As staff prepare for the change there are some tasks we have been asked to do to help them.

Each campsite in every campground needs to be clearly identified. Site number tokens installed some years ago need to be checked then repaired or replaced. Cash boxes at current registration bays will no longer be needed so we will assist with their removal.

TRAINING

Apart from the Heritage Stonemasonry training mentioned above, we will look to provide other training options for members. Last year we sought training

places on Chainsaw Operator's courses. Our bid for that is still active and we expect TAFE to provide a course in the park in coming months.

DEWNR offer a variety of courses during the year. As details are received they will be emailed to all members.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Our subs. remain unchanged for 2017. The Constitution requires that we review the level of subs. at our AGM, so please give consideration to whether any alteration is warranted for 2018.

Speaking of subs. don't forget that 2017 subs. are due now. You can use EFT or post a cheque to the Acting Treasurer. Annual subscription is \$20.00.

EFT payment details are:

BSB: 015-660

Account Number: 4555-66772

Account Name: Friends of Flinders Ranges National Park

Remember to include your name in payment details so we know it is you who paid.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The 2017 project schedule has been emailed to members and included on our website. If you have not received a copy, please contact our Secretary (vhmon@bigpond.com or 8339 1311).

These annual schedules result from collaboration between our President and our Liaison Ranger. Staff identify and prioritise needs and we agree on projects which we have the ability and capacity to undertake safely and successfully.

For the benefit of newer members we will find time through the year to visit sites of historic and geological interest to preserve our collective knowledge of the park. We accept that our ability to complete each activity listed for one month depends upon the number of members attending. As we have found, by assigning various tasks to teams we do manage to accomplish quite a lot. Our objective continues to be one of enjoying being in the park while supporting staff in the conservation and preservation of its many assets.

SNIPPET OF HISTORY

(from notes from the late Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt of Wilpena Station).

Saint Mary's Peak (now Saint Mary) was given that name in 1856. The peak was often covered with a white dusting of virgin snow which gave an impression of saintliness.

In 1863 a survey party led by James Brooks erected a cairn of stones with a pole on the peak to serve as an observation post to be sighted from other hills. There is no record of survey sightings ever having been made from the peak.

It was in July 1880 S.W. Herbst and his assistant, Mr. Randell, and two other men, found it necessary to dismantle the post. They had climbed the peak in order to take star observations to determine true north in preparation for the survey of the northern boundary of County Hanson. They found it necessary to remove much of the cairn to find a suitable foundation for their theodolite.

Herbst and his three companions claim to be the first to have spent a night camped on the peak, 3,990 feet (1,216 metres) above sea level. They found it was a bitterly cold night with no shelter and nothing but a black void all around them.

Two days later they witnessed what they described as a strange anomaly on the plains to the west, a train of camels laden with wool from the north and bound for Hawker was raising a cloud of dust. Meanwhile St. Mary's Peak, a few miles east was covered with snow.

