



Friends of the flinders ranges national park Inc.

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

ABN 98 085 789 903

Patron: Dr Victor Gostin

NEWSLETTER MAY – JUNE/JULY–2015

REPORT ON MEETING - Thu 7TH May to Wed 13 May

Thursday – Buzz, Colleen, Terrie, Trevor, Margaret, Frank, Shirley, Geoff and Tony had arrived safely and all sat down to a communal happy hour followed by dinner and a fairly early retirement.

Friday – We all worked at Appealinna on completing the work on the kitchen and fire place, spraying in and around the buildings, and enjoying lunch under the gums.

The afternoon was taken up with half the group looking for cactus plants, the other half going to Willow Springs to demonstrate the data base and to discuss with Michelle how and when she would like her group and ours to start mutually cooperating in shared projects.

To date she had not had any response about the submission her group had lodged earlier in the year.

Saturday – Buzz and Colleen had to leave but the rest of the group drove to Aroona where some went looking for cactus while most of the time we spent cleaning cottage 2 on the mound springs - the ruins with the massive walls. This was cleared of debris and we also cleared anything likely to be dangerous to walkers along the track. The afternoon was spent injecting cactus along the Brachina road and out to Etina Creek where the rabbits have re-established a massive burrow system, the creek was barely flowing and there were two cactus plants on the western bank above the great rock bar which we could not attempt to reach.

Sunday – The group drove to Yanyanna where the dead and infirm rails were removed from the yards and that area sprayed. Morning tea, away from the light rain, was enjoyed in the Yanyanna Hut. From there it was down the big hill to the Bunyeroo and along the Wilcolo Track to Wilpena. There appeared to be few cacti in this area.

Lunch in the shearers' quarters was followed by the beautiful drive out to Jones' Camp to measure up for the job of restoration next month. It was interesting to note the quoll encampments along the road and the massive growth of vegetation, mostly native pines at the Cadby settlement.

Monday –The group drove out to Wilkawillina to see first hand the country which will be set aside as an indigenous hunting ground, as well as the site of a well established walking trail. Despite our misgivings about this project, there would appear to be plenty of space for both activities. Policing them could be a major problem. Nevertheless we continued to Bennett Springs and then back across the Pantapina Plain to the main road north of Oraparinna. The only cactus plants we saw were speedily destroyed. It was noted that there appears to be a plague of kangaroos in this area as we saw literally hundreds of them throughout the drive –a truly beautiful sight although slightly nerve-wracking for the drivers as the animals hopped across the road from all directions. Many were larger than the usual size we see around the main road and Oraparinna.

Tuesday – We cleaned up as much as we could and set out on our return journeys pleased at what we had achieved and seen over the six days.

PROGRAMME – Thu 25 June – Wed 01 July.

Appealinna – Main car park development; maintenance of tracks and path across the creek; erection of picnic tables in lower “former” carpark;

“50 Short Walks” – text to be completed along with any comments on flora and fauna around each site; visit those sites not visited in March/ April/May - add items of interest to the text.

Communicate with Michelle Reynolds and FRTOA along with the Hidden Treasures Development Group for any further developments.

Aroona – clear the rock debris around the third cottage along the mound springs track.

Jones’ Camp – cleaning out the floor; re-building the roof and walls where necessary. This may take two days and is dependent on the weather although the track to that site is in fairly good condition due probably to its being used by the “quoll trackers”.

Check the trail boxes for brochures in line with the agreement which was made with Rob and Sue Marshall in May, whereby the Friends will keep a supply of brochures for each of the trails and visit them occasionally to restock them.

Data base – continued survey of flora and fauna particularly in areas open to the public.

Photographs, scat collection, quoll location, feral plants as usual.

Flora-feral warfare – cactus, prickly pear, wild tobacco etc.

Erect the picnic tables at Teamsters, Trezona, Dingly Dell and Wood Duck Dam, assuming they have arrived from Mobilong by then.

(Please note that we still have no internet connection. This newsletter is being posted to active members and we will forward a copy to the remainder as soon as we are back on-line)

Those members requiring accommodation at Oraparinna should ring Tony by Friday 19th June on the telephone numbers listed below.

CONTACTS:

President: Tony Bott
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Publicity Officer: Vince Monterola

Fifth member of the Executive (as required by the Constitution) , Assistant Secretary and Safety Officer: Margaret Williams :

A reminder that the annual subscription of \$20 per family is due and payable to the Treasurer together with any amended e-mail address.

Meeting Dates for the year are as follows:- Please note that there are only 6 meetings of one week in length in 2015 – attend for as long or as short as possible.

Thu 13th Aug – Wed 19th Aug inc.

Thu 08th October – Wed 14th Oct inc

(Note : The Oct and Nov meeting may be changed to accommodate assisting marshalling duties for the Flinders Bike Race dates of Sat Oct 24th –Mon Oct 26th)

Thu Nov 19th - Wed 25th Nov inc.