



ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH

Official Bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

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HOLIDAY WEATHER

The team which attended our meeting at Oraparinna in May could be forgiven for thinking they were holidaying. The weather was wonderful – sunny, warm, hardly a breeze. However that did not prevent another remarkable list of achievements by the end of the week. Notable was the 4 tonne of ash removed from fire pits around all the campgrounds. Other tasks included final tree removal from Aroona well 2, disposed of almost 300 cactus, weed spraying, maintenance around Ora. Quarters, fence repair, removal of tree guards, attack on native tobacco plants --- we slept well each night.

Frank took more photographs for our data base. Bob worked on the visitor app. day and night. Holiday? Maybe a working holiday.

JUNE/JULY MEETING

Committee member Margaret Williams will be Commander-in-Chief of our next meeting. Tasks on the project list include repairs to the historic wood and iron hut along Jones Camp track, wall crack repairs at Hills Homestead, removal of irrigation tubes at Wilpena, and removal of cash boxes from self-registration bays. And there is sure to be a few small tasks. If you plan to attend be sure to email Margaret at frankwil5023@gmail.com. and book a room. And if you plan to be there but intend taking your van or camper, let her know so that she includes you in her planning.

The dates are – June 29 to July 5. Hope you can make it.

PARK SIGNAGE

Park signage is a subject we discuss often. It is probably because we spend so much time in the park and often speak with visitors that we have a good idea of where signage is needed and what it should say.

Recently an Adelaide firm was granted the contract to prepare new signage to be installed throughout the park. Workshops are being planned to gather ideas about the content of these signs. We have asked to be included as participants on one or more of the workshops. If you are interested in representing our group at a workshop, give Margaret a call and let her know so that she can inform Tom.

NAIDOC

A NAIDOC event will be held in the park on Wednesday July 5. We are welcome to attend. As it is the day we ‘break camp’ after our project week, members already in the park might like to participate.

When full details about the event are known we will email them to you.

It would be good for us to be represented.

CAUGHT SHORT

There would be few members unable to list the location of every toilet in the park. Even so, some occasionally find them a little too far away for comfort.

Maybe the installation of three new toilets in the park will help. These will be located at Sacred Canyon, Wilpena Woolshed and Wilpena Airstrip. It is planned to have all of them in place by June 30.

DID YOU KNOW?

Not every member would know that we enjoy charitable status. That means when people make a monetary gift it is tax deductible. We haven’t really used that option to our advantage, but it is worth keeping in mind if we need to raise funds for a major project.

The sole downside of this desirable status is the annual return required by the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission. The

website through which returns are lodged must be the most unwieldy, unfriendly site imaginable. Still, if that is the price for enjoying a financial benefit, we'll keep reporting each year.

MAGNETIC SIGNS

All who spend time moving around the park to perform tasks know the value of letting visitors know who we are. One of the best ways to achieve recognition is the use of "Volunteer" car door magnets.

We have a problem.

Last year, and this, we have enjoyed an influx of new members, the biggest percentage of whom are attending project weeks in the park. We have no door signs to give them. DEWNR Volunteer Support Branch has none available (in fact we purchased the last of their stock almost 3 years ago).

We are assured by our good friend Pam Smith that new signs are being designed and produced. When this will happen has yet to be advised.

So, if you have volunteer door signs and don't expect to attend project weeks in the future, **please donate these signs back to us.**

You can either drop them at the Secretary's home, or email her and she will call at your home to collect them.

Your support in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

VISITOR APP.

Bob Geary, now in his second year of membership, continues beavering away on a visitor app. to be made available to the public late this year. If you are one of the members who generously offered to assist Bob in some way, stand by for a call from him very soon. He has almost completed the first of a number of trips. This will be used to trial the suitability of systems and processes he is using. It will then be our turn to begin contributing as photographers, writers, editors, recorders, speakers, grid referencers, and who knows what else.

If you want to be involved in this exciting project, it is not too late. Send Bob a message on bobgeary@bigpond.com and tell him what you are able to do.

DO WHAT WE CAN

The 13 members at Oraparinna in May participated in an informal but meaningful discussion one night after dinner.

It gave us the opportunity to consider the nature of activities in which we participate each time we attend Oraparinna. The suggestion had been made that because of the average age of our membership, some of the physical tasks we are given are beyond our capability.

Just as park management has a duty of care for all who undertake duties in the park, so we too have a responsibility for our own health and wellbeing and that of our fellow members. It was in that spirit that the discussion was conducted.

The consensus was that we each do no more than we are comfortable about doing and that we each respect another's decision to refrain from any particular task.

Members also confirmed their strong preference for tackling a wide range of projects in the park and a readiness to work as an autonomous team without the need of constant staff presence. "Maintain the status quo" said one member and that just about sums it up.

District Ranger Alan Harbour agrees with our concept that we are an extension of the park staff, capable of undertaking countless projects, but not at all costs. He agrees that where machinery can be used to eliminate the need for strenuous work or heavy lifting it will be provided.

When we are working in the park we each do what we can. Our safety record is good and we plan to keep it that way.

"OUR" BOARD MEMBER

Earlier this month the Friends of Parks Inc. AGM was held at Morialta Conservation Park. An impressive array of reports presented at the meeting indicated the hard work by the volunteers on the Board.

FoI-FRNP member Don Ransom OAM, who has served two terms on the board was re-elected for a third term. We wish him well and know that he will make an excellent contribution to board deliberations.