



Friends of the flinders ranges national park Inc.

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

ABN 98 085 789 903

Patron: Dr Victor Gostin

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER –2015

REPORT ON MEETING - Thu 08 Oct – Wed 14 October - prepared by Vince Monterola

Many Hands

“Many hands make light work”, or so the saying goes. Chances are the 15 members who attended the October workout in the Park might want to alter that to “Many hands means more work”. Our achievements over the week would certainly support that.

For the first couple of days the entire team descended on Hills Homestead inside Wilpena Pound. While some white-washed internal walls, others repaired cracks and repointed joints on external walls. A few of the women excelled in colouring the mortar to give it an aged appearance. They achieved this by sloshing a muddy dose of water over the walls and each other. And it was successful. On succeeding days we split into teams, a small group doing finishing touches at Hills. Another small team sanded benches and tables in the Park before applying linseed oil to preserve the timber. Others sprayed weeds at Appealinna while some tidied paths and mended the wall there.

The team visited Guide Hut when it was learned that metre high grass surrounded it. It took a whipper snipper and 14 weed pullers an hour to clear the growth 4 metres from the hut. A grass fire in the area would certainly have threatened our pride and joy building.

Our friends in the Walking Trails Group had asked us to check and restock guide brochures at their trail heads around the Park. A couple of us tackled that for the first time and it will become a regular activity in our schedule.

Wilpena garden had been looking unkempt for a few months so a green-fingered team spent a couple of days there and soon had it spruced up. Provided water is kept up to the plants over summer, the garden should retain its attraction into the new year.

Athol Jackson, Ron Harman, Carl and Anthea Hudson, Peter and Roybn Trezise, Buzz and Colleen Meakes, Jan White, Don and Sue Ransom, Trevor and Terrie Coleman, and Vince and Helen Monterola certainly left their mark on the Park in October. Many jobs well done.

Facebook

Courtesy Tim Tyler, FFRNP now has a Facebook account.

You will find it by searching Facebook for Friends of Flinders Ranges National Park. (If that is not successful add “the” before Flinders as Tim may inadvertently have done that.)

Any members can now add comments or photos to official posts.

Currently Tim is our only moderator and he can make changes, delete comments, or post official posts. We will look to add a couple of joint moderators soon. They need to have their own Facebook account. Check our site out and let the Committee know your thoughts.

20 Year Anniversary

We will be celebrating our anniversary in conjunction with the AGM on February 19, 2016.

There will be no speaker at this AGM, so the meeting should take no more than 30 minutes. We will then roll back the carpets and celebrate our 20 year association with FFRNP. Invitations are being sent to long standing members and key staff members. And expect a couple of surprises on the night.

Finger food and drinks will be served after the AGM. The venue is again the Findon Community Hall on Findon Road.

Full details will be provided on invitations.

Spring Events

Accolades are once again well deserved by Athol Jackson and his able bodied assistants, Anthea and Carl Hudson. The trio committed four weeks in September/October to coordinate the Spring Events in the Park and present some of the activities for visitors. The time span was necessary to cover Victoria and South Australia school holidays. Athol again presented his very popular 'Night Sky' activity where visitors are introduced to wonders in the sky through his telescope.

Anthea and Carl launched activities for children which proved to be a real hit.

While these three members do the work, our Group reaps the benefits. Once again Athol has contributed over \$1,000 to our project funds from the entry fee to his, Anthea and Carl's events.

A sincere thankyou to each one of them.

Photo Reminder

Julie Owen has provided four excellent mobile units in which we can display 6 x 4 inch colour prints at the AGM/Anniversary Celebration.

Prints can be either landscape or portrait; pockets in the mobiles will accept both.

Before we can display photos we need to receive them. Please – look through your photos taken at any FFRNP activity at any time. We would love to have some photos from the 1990's when all of us looked younger. Send your photos to Secretary Helen – PO Box 166, Aldgate, 5154. If you can't arrange prints, send your photos to Helen electronically – vhmon@bigpond.com. Sooner rather than later.

It Pays To Advertise

When working at Hills Homestead last month, Don Ransom asked if we had a Friends sign that would tell all the passers-by who we were. Back at Oraparinna we fossicked through our store room, located our old sign, dusted it off and took it out to the job the next day.

The difference in the comments from Park visitors was amazing. People were very appreciative and complimentary of the work we were doing, and amazed that we were volunteers from far flung places.

We plan to purchase modern light weight signs and display them whenever we work in areas of the Park where visitors will see us. It will become a recruitment tool as well as advertising who we are.

More Changes At Oraparinna

Wardrobes, floor coverings and cabinets in Oraparinna bedrooms quickly became, well, part of the furniture. We appreciate them. There are now even more recent additions:

The kitchen is sporting a new microwave oven, courtesy of FFRNP, mounted on a floor unit that houses Friends Kitchenware. Power points were being installed in each bedroom as we were leaving last month, so we asked the electrician to add extras in the kitchen and lounge area too. (We offered to pay for those, but he advised he would add it to the invoice he sends to DEWNR.)

The BBQ was again unsafe so we reported it to staff. Advice has since been received to confirm the problem is fixed.

PROGRAMME FOR Thu 19 Nov – Wed 25 Nov

Not limited to but including:

Re-staining picnic tables and benches

Cactus removal (where safe to walk)

Removing vegetation adjacent to road and other signs

General park maintenance as requested by the Rangers.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Kaye Crossman, a former Secretary of the Friends of the Flinders Ranges National Park. Our sincere condolences are extended to Keith and family members.

Those members who can still come to the November working bee should ring Tony immediately on the telephone numbers listed below.

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A number of the workers present at the October working bee.

Photo courtesy of Janice White