



# ORAPARINNA TELEGRAPH

Official Bulletin of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Issue: 9

October, 2017

## IT MUST BE SPRING

Not only are plants and animals of the Flinders Ranges showing signs of Spring having arrived, so too is our OT Editor. Seems he took a holiday a couple of months back then failed to return. Until Now.

So much has happened in that time, starting with the excellent contributions made in July under the careful direction of Margaret Williams. A major task completed by the team was the removal of cash boxes from registration bays. Visitors intending to camp in the park now are required to pre-book a site on line before arriving.

Among the projects undertaken in the last couple of months have been further repairs to Hills Homestead, repairs to Jones Camp Hut, installation of fire place covers at various huts, and painting of timber surfaces on huts.

Weed poisoning, cactus culling and feral plant removal have all continued along with general tidying around buildings visited by tourists.

An impressive contribution to the park we all love to be in.

## WINE AND DINE

Previous issues of OT reported the closures of firstly, the Hawker and then the Blinman, hotels.

Both have now re-opened under new owners.

## TOURISM AWARDS

On November 10 the 2017 Tourism Awards will be presented at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Among the tourism operators from the Flinders Ranges and Outback who have been nominate for an award is Wilpena Pound Resort. We wish them success.

The RAA People's Choice Tourism Award provides an opportunity for you to vote for Wilpena or any other nominee.

Visit [www.satourismaards](http://www.satourismaards), scroll to RAA Peoples Choice – Vote Now.

Other local nominees include Chinta Air Tours,

Blinman Heritage Mine and Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens.

## RECENT TRAINING GRADUATES

The range of skills among our members is vast and it is always pleasing to see the knowledge exchange between us.

And still we continue learning. Recently the following members completed training:

Buzz Meakes                      Heritage Conservation

Geoff Henderson                Chainsaw Operator

Norbert de Rozario              Chainsaw Operator

Geoff Henderson

Front End Loader Operator

Vince Monterola

Front End Loader Operator

As further training courses become available and training needs are identified, members will be invited to participate.

## VISITOR APP.

*Discover the Ikara-Flinders Ranges* is a free downloadable app. that will become available to the public in mid November for both Apple and Android users. The brainchild of member Bob Geary, the app. complements the publications by Tony Bott and others to improve the experience of visitors to the park. While Bob has been the driving power and major contributor to development of the app. he graciously acknowledges the assistance of 17 members who have provided input in a variety of ways. However Bob's contribution is remarkable. He has given over 800 hours of his time to this outstanding project, not to mention his extensive IT knowledge and ability. The app. will provide three distinct sections to assist visitors. Tours will suggest locations of interest and provide navigation details to help get them there.

Guides will help visitors identify and name flora and fauna they might see during their movement around the park. Complimentary vouchers will provide information about ser-

vices provided by some local tourist operators. When launched during our November meeting in the park, the app. will be ready to use. It is designed to enable more tours, guides and tourist services to be added and a few of these are already in various stages of preparation.

For visitors to benefit from the app. they need to know it exists. We need your help in that. Please use the internet, Facebook and any other medium you have to tell people that from mid November they can download *Discover Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park* app. And it is a free download.

#### **LOOKING DRY**

Members who can't regularly visit the Flinders often ask how the park is looking. Mid October it was very dry. Whereas grasses this time last year were 40 cm. or more high, right now there is a just a hint of dry grass in patches, barely enough for survival of kangaroos.

As we were all departing after the October meeting, rain was falling. Up to 15 mm. was expected on the day. While that would clean and green the trees and encourage a few struggling salvation janes, it won't fill the rainwater tanks. We can but hope for more.

#### **DON'T GET LOST**

Can you read a map? Do you know how to use a GPS? If you answered 'no' to either question, perhaps you would like to attend a one day training course offered by Friends of Parks Inc. The course is offered on both December 7 and December 8 from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at CFS Training Centre, Brukunga. You will gain the knowledge and skills required to read and interpret maps. And you will learn how to operate a GPS receiver to assist with navigation and collection of field data.

Interested? Contact Secretary Helen ([vhmon@bigpond.com](mailto:vhmon@bigpond.com)) for an enrolment form.

#### **COME-BACK KID**

Athol Jackson was welcomed back to the park in August, after an absence of 18 months due to a health concern. He has picked up where he left off as a source of early history about the Friends group and its activities. Anthea and Carl Hudson returned with him and quickly became enmeshed in group activities.

#### **PARK TRACKS**

Fire track inspection provides an excellent opportunity to become familiar with unknown corners of the park. All 39 fire tracks were inspected by members this month in preparation for the approaching fire danger period. Only a few tracks were considered to provide a rough ride, and others were narrowed by tree and shrub growth. While none were considered to be hazardous to the progress of fire trucks, locations were noted where removal of large rocks or fallen trees would eliminate slow points.

A status report on tracks, and water points has been given to Senior Ranger Tom McIntosh.

#### **HAVE AN OPINION ON KANGAROOS?**

If you have definite opinions about kangaroos, the Senior Ecologist in DEWNR would like to hear them. Together with University of Adelaide folk he is surveying the views of the SA community relating to kangaroos and the management of kangaroo populations. (Interesting to notice how the kangaroo population of the FR varies seasonally.)

If you would like to help the study and share your views, complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NNT6W9C>

#### **NEW MEMBER**

In August we welcomed new member Kevin Kirchner to Oraparinna. Kevin is also a member of Friends of Anstey Hill Recreation Park and we look forward to him sharing skills he has gained with that group.

#### **EQUIPMENT PURCHASES**

Earlier this year we were successful in gaining a DEWNR grant towards training and equipment for conservation of heritage stone structures. Member Buzz Meakes has completed Heritage Stone Masonry training, and a second member will undergo training in the new year. We are now in the process of working with park staff to prioritise which tools and equipment to purchase before the year end. We have received favourable comments about the stone work we completed this year. However this renewed focus on heritage conservation will ensure our skills continue improving on future projects.