



friends of the flinders ranges national park

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

Patron – Mrs Elizabeth Jamieson

NEWSLETTER – JULY-AUGUST

Friday 16.7.2010 at Oraparinna

This evening was the beginning of an amazing weekend as Helen, Vince, Frank, Neal, Terrie, Trevor, Athol, Peter and Tony welcomed Margaret, Ian, Vicky and Brian from the Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks Friends Group and shared nibbles, drinks and then dinner with them. Conversation was animated and interesting as we all got to know each other.

Saturday 17/7

Dawn had little impact on most but by 9am Steven and Rebecca (the new receptionist/academic/frog expert at Wilpena HQ) with the truck, and Senior Ranger Tom, had arrived so we all left via the Rifle Range Road for Slaty Creek and Guide Hut. At the creek, a fantastic communal effort enabled us to load the truck with suitable paving stones and then get safely to the Hut. Unloading took only a few minutes, so it seemed, but morning tea was quickly enjoyed by all.

While Athol selected pavers and laid them in the “kitchen” the rest of us cleared away the area at the back of the Hut by removing the earlier piles of stones, the tree branches, wire, and Ward’s Weed, raking the ground and then “managing” the dead trees still standing in the midst of the now remarkably level area. The largest of the trees which had substantial branches hanging ominously close to the Hut had to be trimmed but all the debris burnt well along with the nearby flood debris that too has been something of a fire hazard for quite some time. Some of the men took the truck down to the creek and shovelled in sand that was then spread around the back wall of the Hut as well as in the other room, ready for the paving stones. After all that, carried out at a furious pace, sixteen people sat down to a welcome lunch.

After this brief respite Steven cranked up the chain saw and cut up half the pile of logs that had been the walls of the Hut in its earlier existence. We loaded the wood on to the truck and piled the bark and smaller debris on to the nearby pile ready for burning in the near future.

Later in the afternoon, Peter watched over Athol as he continued to “play” pavers inside the Hut, Tom, Rebecca and Steven returned to Oraparinna with the wood, Frank led the “Lincs” (the Friends from Port Lincoln) back to the Bunkers Road to show them more of the Park while Vince, Helen, Terrie and Trevor drove over to Teamsters Camp Ground to help the Park staff put in a water pipe under the road ready for the work on Sunday.

Frank and Lincs arrived at the Appealinna Mine where Tony ran through the history, the safety issues and the problems of trying to locate two missing shafts in an area now covered with onion weed and horehound. A quick look at the miner’s dug out was followed by the short drive to the Appealinna site where Frank led a guided tour around Joe’s place and the miners’ cottages. After all this activity and with dark approaching we all returned to Oraparinna for the usual barbecue.

Even then the day was not about to give us a break because after clearing away the meal debris Peter showed us his computer collection of photographs on the Guide Hut restoration and highlights of the Park followed by Athol showing us five excellent short documentaries produced by an Aboriginal language school on their life and culture. Two of our Friends, Jan and Jamie, attended that school and the latter was involved in the filming. Well done!

Sunday 18/7

With little fuss we all managed to find our way to Teamsters on the western section of Brachina by about 9.30 and while the photographers went off following an “ hemu” and his 13 chickymus around the camp ground, the rest of us unwound the poly-pipe, cut it, joined it and fitted it under the wire tree guards around the dozens of trees that the Land Cruiser Club had planted a short time before. We were joined by Helen and Vince, Terrie and Trevor, who had been to two other camp sites to replace those trees which had not survived. They then did the same at Teamsters.

After morning tea we all joined in to fit the drippers, dig mounds around the trees, re-fix the tree guards. Lunch was leisurely but afterwards patience was the key word as it was time to turn the water on and check each dripper. What did Mr.Murphy say? - Won’t work! The answer was to replace the bigger drippers with smaller

ones thus enabling a more equitable flow of water through each pipe. "Eureka"! ! They all worked and every plant got a good drink before we left. On the way back through the Gorge, the yellow foots gave a happy, though limited parade, on their usual rock slide.

The rest of the afternoon was spent watching the black clouds which at times completely covered the sky, and fortunately left us alone, as we drove back to Wilpena along the Wilcolo Track to show off more of the Park to the "Lincs". Then back to Oraparinna for a shared dinner.

Monday 19/7

An early start saw the Quarters cleaned, caravans and camper trailers loaded and farewells made. Once again I must thank the "Lincs" for coming to our party and working so well with us to get more done over the weekend than we have achieved on many other such work week-ends. And to Neal on his first time out with us as a Friend, well done, and many thanks. Come again, and often!

August Meeting: Oraparinna Friday 20th – Tuesday 24th , 2010

Programme:

Arrive Friday, discussion session after tea – data base

Saturday – 9 a.m. to Guide Hut and the floor; selection of stone for outside from the original pile cleared away last month from the back of the Hut; - clean up the northern side area so that Steven can eventually mow it; -

To Wilpena Park HQ - to start re-arranging the tree guards and drippers to allow for current and future growth; pruning where necessary.

BBQ tea; work on data base project.

Sunday – 9 a.m. to Appealina to re-lay floor in the blacksmith/cook's cottage; continue with the garden wall re-building.

pm Completion of data base information for some of the sites such as Monela, Trezona, Youngoona. My.Emily mines

5-00 p.m. to Oraparinna

Monday - Wilpena HQ – continuing with tree guard extensions; data base collection. Dinner in Blinman?

Tuesday - 8-00 a.m. – clean Quarters; Drive to Quorn for morning tea at the Quandong Café.

Future Meetings:

Sept. – 3 rd Weekend Friday 17 th – Monday 20 th	Oraparinna Shearers' Quarters
Oct. - 3 rd Weekend Friday 15 – Monday 19 th	Ditto
Nov - 3 rd Weekend Friday 19 th – Monday 22 nd	Ditto

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Friends intending to attend August week-end please reserve your room by ringing Tony Bott by Monday 16th August.