



# **friends of the flinders ranges national park**

[www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au](http://www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au)

ABN 98 085 789 903

Patron: Dr Victor Gostin

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **JULY – AUGUST 2011**

#### **Greetings Friends:**

##### **July Report: -**

##### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July.**

Tricia and Tony arrived mid-afternoon to find new members Joylene and Phil Gibbons from Lucindale already on site with their caravan. The evening was spent talking about the South East and their family histories in South Australia.

##### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

With Ranger Tom we collected the new trees and shrubs and drove the short distance to the Dingly Dell Camp Ground where we proceeded to replace all the dead plants left after the previous years' plantings by the Toyota Land Cruiser Club. By mid-morning we were joined by Julie and Peter. The job finished there Peter returned to Orparinna to unpack his food while the rest of us drove out to the Trezona Camp Ground. Julie was concerned that Peter really wanted to come with us so she decided to drive back to base to collect him. This done we had lunch at the tables and then returned to the tree and shrub planting. All of this was to the accompaniment of a beautiful Flinders day, cloudless, warmish, so great after the weather we all had been experiencing everywhere over the past weeks. On Friday there had even been snow falling on St.Mary Peak although not enough to cover the ground, so Saturday was a real surprise, especially after the cars had been covered in ice until about 9am that morning. We spent the afternoon digging or pulling out horehound plants which were strangling the "good ones" and then replacing the dead lot. Due to the state of the roads, wet, muddy and rutted by school holiday traffic, we refrained from any other data collection in late afternoon and returned to Orparinna to drinks, nibbles and a welcome fire in the lounge.

A brief informal meeting before dinner was held to discuss Tom's suggestion that The Friends spend one week-end each year in the Homestead garden pruning and fertilizing and with general maintenance. It was also decided that the roses need to have the present wire guards removed and replaced with a long fence as has been done around the fruit trees. four new fruit trees and three new roses need to be planted at the September week-end. Peter also raised the question of the data base and expressed his anxiety about its completion and final use.

At dinner time we were joined by a helicopter crew of two and four researchers who had been counting "yellow foots" in the Park. We had spare rooms so it helped them and the Rangers to put them in those rooms. The evening got a bit noisy and crowded but Phil, who recited some entertaining poems to us while he stood warming himself in front of the fire, entertained us.

##### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

Clouds and wind did not stop us from driving out to the Appealinna Miner's Dug-out, first to show Rebecca (who had joined us from Admin). Joylene, Phil and Tricia, our handiwork from the earlier week's activities, and secondly to top up the soil and stones on the roof where gravity or crows had dislodged them. This was not a big job but a bit tricky around the doorway. Next we went over to the mine site and noted that more soil and rocks had fallen into the main shaft. We also could not find the fourth shaft, which we had located on a previous visit. Oops.

We then drove out to Trezona to plant a lot more trees and shrubs and to dig out the unwanted stuff as we had done the day before. This took until 3pm by which time the sky was white all round with drizzle. It had rained lightly during the day but we had not been deterred. Tom was hoping we would make it out to Aroona where he was cleaning the facilities. The weather said no although it did not end up raining heavily. Instead we went to Trezona Falls to show off our prized geological feature.

The day finished quietly as the other group had moved out in the morning so we had the quarters to ourselves.

##### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

We cleaned up quarters and drove south to our usual morning tea at Quorn in the Quandong Café.

**AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> - Programme for August week-end – Oraparinna** - Apologies from Tricia and Tony - they are unable to attend this week-end due to a family commitment.

**Friday 19 August** - Arrive pm: eats and drinks, dinner and a short discussion about the tasks for the weekend

**Saturday 20 August**

Tasks for the weekend – The doorways at Guide Hut need to be cemented and the floors brushed to get rid of rough sand and mortar. If all is well then the equipment still there could be returned to civilization.

Building the furniture for Guide Hut needs to be under way if the place is to be ready for the “official” opening now pencilled in for November.

Some of the group could go out to Teamsters Camp Ground to check the plantings there and replace any that have died.

Followed by Aroona Camp Ground.

**Sunday 21 August**

Ditto for Sunday.

**NB** It is exceptionally pleasing to report that Athol has recovered from his illnesses, is out of hospital and is also busily arranging the Spring Events.

Marge is back in Whyalla after her operation with the tumours removed. Now she and Ron have time to recover!

Trish has had the all clear from her specialist

Peter M is not having treatment but is Ok.

Jan is on new medication and is coping wonderfully well.

**CONTACTS:**

**President:**

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Room bookings to Tony by *Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August* please.

**Vice President:**

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**Reminders:**

Annual subscriptions for the year 2011 are due - **\$20 per family.**  
**Please advise any update to your email address.**

**Copies of the booklets** “*Exploring the Flinders – Flinders Ranges National Park Tours*” and “*Diary of an Artist*” are now available for distribution and sale to/by members for \$10 per copy.

Friends of Flinders Ranges **Badges** are now available for purchase from the Treasurer- \$10 each.

**Treasurer:**

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