



friends of the flinders ranges national park

November-December 2009

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

Patron – Elizabeth Jamieson

NEWSLETTER

November 27-30 at Oraparinna

We were fortunate and perhaps unlucky too that our meeting this month was a week later than usual – fortunate that we did not get washed out in the flooded creeks and heavy rain of the previous week and unlucky that we did not get to see so many creeks flowing for the first time in many years – especially over our water fall on “Trezona Creek”, the photograph of which, taken by our Liaison Ranger, was truly amazing. It was into this surprising landscape that we arrived on the Friday night – Frank, Margaret, Peter, Tricia, Tony and son Michael, Athol and Julie. After sharing our views of water lying along the roads, pools in the hollows, flood debris over the main road, washouts in the new bitumen, water holes remaining in creeks after a week, we also sadly noted that the heat of preceding weeks had dried out the ground cover that had been so lush a few weeks before and put many gum trees along the creeks in jeopardy. Nevertheless, dinner was a happy experience as was the general discussion that followed.

Saturday raised a problem as far as the programme was concerned as we were not sure which roads we were going to be able to use. Our Liaison Ranger soon sorted that out and so the morning was spent filling in the work sheets on the pastoral heritage sites ready for the information to be typed onto our new lap-top computer, recently bought by the Friends Group for the data base project. We also now have an external hard drive and scanner as well. An early lunch was followed by a drive on the bitumen to Dedman's where we checked out the hut, both new and old, the dunny, windmill, stockyards and water tank. A walk along the creek between high steep banks assured us that the recent flood through there had been quite substantial judging by the height of the debris trapped along the banks and the scouring of the stream bed. While the rapids were now empty of water, a waterfall from the north had left a substantial pool at its base some metres deep. It was strange to come face to face with a large stretch of water at the turnoff to Dedman's more so because it looked at first as though it might stop our progress completely. Bravely, Margaret led off in the Land Cruiser and found that the water was not so deep and the bottom, not deep mud. While all this was unfolding, Frank and Athol ventured east on the Guide Hut track looking for another track which was purported to lead directly to another shepherd's hut, or something similar. They found the track but no signs of any hut. Helen and Vince arrived during the afternoon.

Before tea on Saturday night a brief business meeting was held one item being the acceptance of Elizabeth Jamieson as our Patron. For those who are not aware, she is the daughter of George and Betty Hunt owners of Wilpena Station until 1984 and a generous supporter of the Friends activities in the Park. She has also contributed much heritage material now in the Ranger Headquarters. It is hoped that her son Andrew when he returns from Melbourne will become an active member of the Friends.

We then enjoyed the barbecue tea prepared by the Park Staff as a thankyou to the Friends for our efforts during the year. They provided copious amounts of meat, bread, salads and drinks, while Marge brought along her usual Christmas pudding and the Friends cut up two huge bowls of the most delicious fruit salad. Cream was readily available. Between 20 and 30 eager eaters sat down to a great meal. Thankyou Park staff! And thankyou Julie for once again laying out an amazing array of chews and nibbles over the weekend. Ok, I know we all did but I think we can agree that the aforesaid Julie surpassed us all. During the hours we were in the kitchen-dining-lounge areas, Margaret kept us entertained with pleasant music on her electronic keyboard.

Following the dinner Tony thanked the Staff for the food and cooking and the Friends for their support and considerable work during 2009. Then Darren, District Ranger (et al), thanked the Friends for their efforts. A demonstration of the data base by Iann Dunks from DEH, Port Augusta, gave a view of what we are aiming to produce, although the programmes to use and the general 'computergook' were not made clear to most of us, so there was considerable dissatisfaction among the Friends before the evening ended, albeit on a happy note.

Sunday was fine and just itching for the four Land Cruisers to set out on what turned out to be an exciting and worthwhile day in the Aroona-Brachina area. Nicola, our Liaison Ranger led the way over and around

the many water borne obstacles, gullies and of course the almost non-existent road through Brachina. We did see yellow footed rock wallabies at the landslide however, only after we had measured the Aroona buildings and had a delightful lunch at Teamsters' Camp-Ground in Brachina Gorge. Back at the "ranch" we had a healthy tea of leftovers, including the fruit salad, and then we looked at Peter's data base mock-up and were impressed with all the work he had put into it over the year or more. Frank then showed what he had done using Microsoft Access which followed more closely the template that Iann had provided Tony with at the beginning of the year. After much discussion it was finally decided to go with Frank's mock-up especially after Peter said that Frank's was the more practical option.

Monday morning allowed us time to do our usual clean up, Tricia and Tony time to get back to Wilpena to sort out next year's dates for weekends at Oraparinna, and return equipment to the Shearers' Quarters cupboards. The other members made their way via various venues to eventually meet at the Quondong Café in Quorn for morning tea – lunch.

CURRENT BOOKINGS FOR 2010

Saturday February 20 – Findon Community Centre 222 Findon Road Findon (same as 2009)	Annual General Meeting: 7-30 p.m. Please bring a plate to share
March – 4th Weekend Friday 26 – Tue 30 th	Oraparinna Shearers Quarters – (Subject to xxi if 35°+ heat Pt Augusta Thursday forecast.)
April – 3 rd Weekend Friday 16 – Monday 19 th	Oraparinna Shearers Quarters.
May – 4th Weekend Friday 21 May – Monday 24 th	Ditto
June – 4th Weekend Friday 25 – Monday 28 th	Ditto
July - 3 rd Weekend Friday 16 - Monday 19 th	Ditto
Aug. – 3 rd Weekend Friday 20 – Tuesday 24 th	Ditto
Sept. – 3 rd Weekend Friday 17 th – Monday 20 th	Ditto
Oct. - 3 rd Weekend Friday 15 – Monday 18 th	Ditto
Nov - 3 rd Weekend Friday 19 th – Monday 22 nd	Ditto

Christmas Greetings to all members. Your Committee wishes you all a Happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming members to our meetings in 2010 and especially at the Annual General Meeting.

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Reminder:
*No weekend meetings in December or January;
Annual General Meeting third Saturday evening
in February – See programme above*