



friends of the flinders ranges national park

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

NEWSLETTER –DECEMBER 2010

OBITUARY

It is with a great deal of sadness and regret that we have to report the death of our Patron, Elizabeth Jamieson, last month. Having grown up on Wilpena Station she maintained her keen interest throughout her life in Wilpena and the National Park. In particular, she was an enthusiastic follower and supporter of all of the Friends' activities and was a valuable source of first hand information about the Hunt family and their time on the Wilpena Station. Her donations, material and financial, over the years were greatly appreciated by Friends and the Park staff. Her courage, determination and serenity through her long illness have been an inspiration to us all.

Friday – 19TH November - Oraparinna

By dinnertime there were so many cars and caravans around the Shearers' Quarters that passing motorists may well have thought that a pop concert was about to start. It was really pleasing to see so many Friends attending and to be part of the general camaraderie throughout the evening, despite having to sit through a meeting! Never mind, that was over in quick time so as not to cut into socialising time. As all the rooms at Oraparinna were being used by our members, Tricia and Tony, Fay and Malcolm drove back through the hordes of kangaroos on the road, well, six or so, to sleep in the Wilpena Quarters. Helen, Vince, Margaret, Frank, Terrie, Trevor, Marge, Ron, Athol, Peter, Peter, Julie, Jan, Helen, Barry, Annemiek and Henk stayed at Oraparinna.

Saturday – 20th November – In the Park

By 8.45am all had assembled to start the working day. Four groups had sorted themselves out on the previous evening so in quick order, Frank led his team off to Aroona to collect and check data base information, Peter took his Dutch friends away to see the Park, Julie muscled the "Wills" crowd off to Appealinna to spray weeds inside the cottages, while Athol showed the rest of us the way out to Guide Hut via our slaty creek where we stopped en route to collect suitable slabs for the floors and load the trailer we had borrowed from Oraparinna. Thanks to Senior Ranger Tom for arranging that and Trevor for towing it around. Out there the slabs were quickly unloaded so the coffee would not get cold waiting for us. Athol, Vince and Trevor were then inside laying the slabs which they continued until the floors were covered. Malcolm and Tony lent their support when and where they thought appropriate. There was not much room for numbers of men scrabbling around in the dirt in those two rooms! Meanwhile the ladies had cleared the outside of the hut and later we started putting out the slabs outside ready for laying them properly in 2011. Lunch was taken under the trees wherever there was shade due to the heat and the continual fly past of

millions of locusts from the north. Only gusts of strong wind seemed to send them nose-diving to the ground, however, momentarily. We were all glad to be heading for Oraparinna again and the expectation of an exciting Xmas party. Fortunately, the meat, bread and onions, supplied by the Park's staff, had been brought up from Wilpena in the morning and the fruit, supplied by the Friends, was being efficiently and delicately cut up into fruit salad by Henk and his helpers. Then Tom arrived from Blinman with the salads and everything was "go" for our Xmas party. With so many helping hands it was no time before we were shovelling away so many culinary delights, not to overlook, of course, Marge's excellent Xmas pudding and the cheeses, dips and other goodies already spread around. Am I trying to advertise our great evening? Yes! Same next year hopefully so why not plan to come along? We all slept well, even those who had again to watch for the roos on the way back to Wilpena..

Sunday – 21st November – In the Park

The day started later with Frank and Tony showing the group the data base as it stands at the moment. Projecting it on the wall enabled all to see the structure and the sort of information included and in what form. It was a good session because it is a project that involves all the Friends and is certainly not restricted to Frank and Tony. Getting all the data on to the computer in 2011 will be a major project.

After an early lunch we all went out in groups again mainly to collect data and also to check out trees and watering systems in various places in the Park. Frank's group went along the Bunyeroo Track to Yanyanna and other sites while Tony's drove out along the Elatina Track to the old eating house where a number of new sites of interest were found. A closer examination of the famous mulberry tree also made us all envious as there were thousands of mulberries just forming. There were also some frogs in the springs. This group then went back to Youngoona to get down to the creek and walk along to see the impact of a number of floods this year. It is true to say that there is a completely new profile along and across the creek all the way from the confluence with the Oraparinna Creek to the Gorge some kilometre or more away. Needless to say, the old waterhole which had been visited by so many tourists, and animals, no longer exists, nor do some of the gum trees et al. The streams of running water are, however, a new welcome addition. After Trevor's group had loaded the trailer with sand and dropped it off at Appealinna by the cottage where we have been repairing the floor, they joined Vince in Brachina etc checking out the trees which have been planted this year.

Scribe of the Month award must go to Barry whose patient and long suffering efforts with Frank's group, especially at Aroona, have left us with reams of neatly written notes and left him with writers' cramp. Thanks Barry.

After all had returned to Oraparinna and dinner was completed – especially the left overs from the previous night- we all sat outside on the patio while Margaret and Jan played music on the key-board as they had also done on the previous evenings. Thankyou Margaret and Jan. It was a great evening to finish off what had been a very busy and rewarding weekend. Thanks everyone.

Monday – 22nd November – Home time

After breakfast and clean up it was time for at least some of us to drive_down to Quorn for our regular coffee and Quandong pie, or equivalent, and then to

continue on to Adelaide or Kadina or Gold Coast or Melrose or Holland or even Morgan, Whyalla or Port Augusta.

Annual General Meeting – 19th February 2011 at Findon Community Centre, 222 Findon Road Findon at 7-30 p.m.

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Another note from the President –

Christmas Greetings to all Members and we look forward to your continued support and attendance at meetings and working bees in 2011.

A sincere thank you for all the work that has been achieved in 2010 especially at Guide Hut.

