



friends of the flinders ranges national park

June – July 2010

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

Patron – Mrs Elizabeth Jamieson

NEWSLETTER

Friday 25-6-2010 at Oraparinna

By dinner on Friday night Helen and Vince, Peter, Julie, Frank, Tony, Athol, Marge and Ron, had rapidly become accustomed to the warmth of the lounge due to the burning redgum in the big heater. Just as well as ice formed on all the cars overnight, actually every night. A pleasant meal was enjoyed.

Saturday witnessed the usual procession of high clearance 4x4s out to Guide Hut where the “kitchen” floor area was filled with fine creek sand/loam ready for paving stones. Steven drove three of us in the Park’s truck back to a creek about halfway back to Oraparinna where there was a good supply of suitable pavers lying in the bed of the creek. We loaded the truck and returned to Guide Hut, nursing sore spots from the pounding of the truck over the rutted road and creek crossings. Athol then got to work laying the stones as we unloaded them. He did a great job – well done Athol. While this was happening Vince, Ron, and Frank moved piles of sandy gravel around the outside walls to cover the “C” channel under each wall. Vince won the “wheelbarrow pusher’s” award for his valiant efforts to deepen Moodlatanna Creek and have the ground completely level all around the hut. Well done Vince! While Athol worked doubled up inside the hut, the rest of us were entertained by the sweet song of a chain-saw wielded by Steven when he, with a little help from Tony, cut up and loaded a stack of timber from the front of the hut on to the truck. One big bundle to go! Oh, and the bonfire which is ready to be burnt before summer I presume. After all this a bunch of weary people made their way back to Oraparinna for our usual BBQ.

Sunday was fine and cold (-1) so we drove out to Aroona to inspect the watering system around the trees and shrubs dotted around the camp-ground. It was great to see that a majority of the plants has survived the summer and are flourishing with this year’s rain. The pipes are covered in places either by soil or by bushes so it was impossible, at that time, to find leaks, breakages or blockages. The well from which the water gravitates has been empty for some time due to the drought so there was no pressure to put through the pipes to check them. During that week Steven and Graham had cleared out the bottom of the well and were rebuilding the covers which overlie the top. The well is actually steadily beginning to refill thanks to, hopefully, a rising water table. We again clambered through the bush along that same ridge that houses the well to check on the five or so ruins that lie hidden from view, the other well and various soaks.

We then drove through Brachina Gorge, the road having been returned to some sense of civility, to Teamsters where we had lunch in the sun, protected from the biting, freezing wind which was all too continuous over the weekend. This very pleasant break was followed by a survey of the area where many trees and shrubs have been planted by the Toyota 4x4 Club in recent weeks and a watering system needs to be in place before the warmer weather starts again. This done we headed for home, being careful to check out the “yellow feet” on the way. It was ironic to pass a group of people with binoculars examining the western end of the fenced area and quite possibly not seeing any, while there was one just inside the fence a few metres from the road at the eastern end. Peter’s photograph graphically captured the beauty of this little fella. It was also typical of rainfall patterns as that part of the Brachina Geological Trail immediately east of the Slippery Dip was very wet with water lying on the road and a good deal of mud in patches. This continued for a kilometre or three but then the road was suddenly as dry as a bone.

As the afternoon was still fairly young half the group drove out along the Bunkers Road to find the Mt. Billy Creek Hut and yards, + the spring in Mt. Billy Creek which are located a couple of kilometres from the eastern end of the old airstrip. This was followed by an “unfunny” drive back through the hills while looking straight into the setting sun.

Monday left Frank and Tony at Oraparinna while the others returned home, probably via the Quandong Café! F & T then went out into the Park to chase up some of the less accessible heritage sites which required a good deal of walking over rough ground. In two days they visited, noted and photographed Borelinna, Arawappa and Panta Huts, Titree Well, Panta Well and Tank as well as following that section of the Tommy Gunyah track which is part of the cycle track. Oh yeah!!! They also went back to Slaty Creek on the Pantapinna Track and located, further downstream, a great supply of suitable pavers. (see below)

July Meeting: Oraparinna Friday 16th – Monday 19th 2010

Programme:

Arrive Friday, discussion session after tea.

Saturday – 9 a.m. to Slaty Creek to collect pavers for the Guide Hut floor; Guide Hut – selection of stone for floors from the original pile outside the back door; - clean up the back and northern side areas so that Steven can eventually mow it; -

4-00 p.m. to Oraparinna.

Pruning of trees at Wilpena

BBQ tea; Review of data base project.

Sunday – 9 a.m. to Teamsters' Camp Ground to lay water pipes for the watering of the new trees and shrubs and connect to tank; – lunch;

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

4-00 p.m. to Oraparinna

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

In Memory: Geoff Pollard has kindly sent an article from the Nature Foundation newsletter re Brian Powell AM.

We will post this on the web-site separately from this newsletter.

Future Meetings:

July - 3 rd Weekend Friday 16 - Monday 19 th	Oraparinna Shearers' Quarters
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 19 th	Ditto
Nov - 3 rd Weekend Friday 19 th – Monday 22 nd	Ditto

CONTACTS:

President:

Tony Bott

triciab@adam.com.au

Vice President:

Vince Monterola

vhmon@bigpond.com

Secretary:

Helen Monterola

vhmon@bigpond.com

Treasurer:

Tricia Bott

triciab@adam.com.au

PO Box 2032 South Plympton 5038

Liaison Ranger:

Nicola Trebilcock

Nicola.Trebilcock@sa.gov.au

Reminders:

Annual subscriptions for the year 2010 are due - **\$20 per family.**

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 intending to attend July week-end please reserve your room by ringing Tony Bott by Monday 12th July.