



friends of the flinders ranges national park

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

Patron: Dr Victor Gostin

NEWSLETTER

APRIL – MAY 2011

Greetings Friends:

Welcome Dr Gostin

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr Victor Gostin as the new **Patron** of Friends of the Flinders National Park. Dr Gostin is the (Retired) Assoc Professor – Sedimentology - the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences – Discipline of Geology and Geophysics. Dr Gostin has had a love of the Flinders Ranges from his youth since enjoying a camping trip from Melbourne. In 1970 he was appointed Lecturer in Geology at University of Adelaide. His recognition of the Acraman asteroidal impact ejecta within the Bunyeroo Formation resulted in his having a minor planet (asteroid) named 3640 Gostin by the famous US GEOSCIENTIST Gene Shoemaker. We look forward to Dr Gostin taking an interest in the work of the Friends and hope that he may be able to take part in our activities when able.

April Weekend Report:

This weekend coincided with the Autumn Events which Athol organises for visiting holiday makers during the school holidays. This is done on behalf of our Friends Group. Athol and family stayed at Wilpena for the three weeks during which time Athol pointed out the wonders of the night sky through his telescope to groups at both Wilpena and Rawnsley Park, especially when there was no cloud cover! Peter also was involved in the Events, presenting a beautiful visual history of the Flinders and its major sites. This was held in the amphitheatre behind the shopping complex at Wilpena. Tony led tag-along tours labelled "Where have all the teamsters gone?" through the Park and on to Blinman on the Friday and then again on Monday. On Friday he was ably kept under control by Friends Jan and Julie who went to Oraparinna a day early so they could join the tour.

Friday evening saw Margaret and Frank, Terrie and Trevor arrive, while Saturday started with the trip out to Guide Hut joined by Rebecca, the Admin Officer for the Park. With no fuss we all dived into our various jobs, for Trevor and Tony, the grouting of the floors inside the hut, with Margaret doing the polishing after us and Frank, Rebecca, Jan, Julie and Terrie collecting the stone and laying the remainder of the paths around the outside of the hut. With so much bending and kneeling, morning tea, lunch and a quicker trip back to Oraparinna after the jobs were as complete as possible, were really welcomed by all.

As the second room in the Hut had not been finished the day before, Trevor and Terrie volunteered to go back on Sunday to finish the job. Frank, Margaret and Tony worked on entering information into the data base in the morning and then, with Julie we all went out to Yanyanna Hut to check out what needed to be done to restore the yards and have lunch there as well. It was hoped that T and T would meet us out there after they had finished at Guide Hut. While we waited for them we counted the number of rails we would need to replace in the yards and then wandered around enjoying the beautiful short walk down along the creeks beyond the hut. Meanwhile, Jan had returned to Kadina for health reasons. We hope that she has completely recovered. On our return to Oraparinna there was no sign of T and T so Frank

and Tony drove out to find them in case they had been delayed for some reason. They weren't on the track, nor at Guide Hut but we did stop in there to see the floor. Well done T and T for a great job well finished. The highlight of the day was yet to come as on the return along the rifle range road a large flock of what seemed like crows or ravens flew up from the ground not far in front of the car. They were in fact wedgies, about 30 of them, rising up and flying around us and then dispersing to a safer distance on the nearby hills. It was an amazing sight, and no, we did not have time to film them! We often see singles or pairs in the Park but never in numbers like that. After that excitement it was with relief that we found T and T safely back at Oraparinna.

Monday morning was clean up time, Tony having left earlier for Wilpena to pick up his tag-along tour group for the day. As no one had booked in for Tuesday he was able to go home a day early!

MAY 20-28:

IMPORTANT : The "2011 Activities Schedule" listed the May week as May 21/28. **Please note that it is now scheduled as a normal Friends week-end i.e. Friday 20 May until Monday 23rd with an extension at Oraparinna for those able to stay the week, or part thereof, until Saturday 28th May with an AM departure**

Friday 20th May

Arrive Oraparinna pm.

Saturday 21st May

There are various activities depending on weather, numbers attending, heritage approval etc.

1. Drive to Appealinna Mine and start clearing the dirt and plastic from the roof of the dug-out.
2. Appealinna Ruins – covering the floor of the Cook's/blacksmith's hut with sand and re-laying the stone floor ready for interpretation sign.
3. Entering information on to the data base at Oraparinna.
4. Appealinna Dug-out – re-alignment of fence to give greater access to the hut for the removal of timbers etc.
5. Meeting 7.30 pm at Oraparinna, following barbecue tea.

Sunday 22nd May

Activities 1-4 as for Saturday

Monday 23rd May

1. Assist Steven to collect pine logs to replace old ones in dug-out roof
2. Small group to Guide Hut to start grouting the outside paving.
3. Appealinna Ruins – complete floor of hut; work on top side of garden wall

Tuesday 24th May

1. Dug-out roofing
2. Safety fences around Appealinna Mine
3. Entering information on data base
4. Afternoon tea at Wild Lime Café at Blinman

Wednesday 25th May

Activities 1-3 As for Tuesday

Thursday 26th May

1. Appealinna Mine fences and Dug-out
2. Guide Hut paving

Friday 27th May

- 1 Complete tasks started during the week.
- 2 PM – Check and record the details of the Monterola Hut via Slippery Dip.

Saturday 28th May

1. Clean up rooms at Oraparinna
2. Wilpena Homestead – check fruit trees and determine which need replacing in June.
3. Drive to Quorn for Quandong Café coffee break.

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Friends intending to attend May week-end and/or additional nights please reserve your room by phone or email to Tony Bott by Monday 16th May

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.



Guide Hut almost complete and ready for Official opening in September?