



friends of the flinders ranges national park

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

ABN 98 085 789 903

Patron: Dr Victor Gostin

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2011

Report on September Meeting, 16th – 19th at Oraparinna

This proved to be one of our most productive and strenuous working bees probably since the heady days of the early Guide Hut project. The work actually started with members of the Toyota Land Cruiser Club arriving the previous Saturday prepared to plant the 900 trees and shrubs which had been donated to the Park. At first they were side-tracked to Aroona to check out the watering system and the vegetation around the camp-ground. On Monday they began work on planting trees in the islands around the car-park in front of the Wilpena shop and the area between the shop and Wilpena Creek. By Thursday they had run into massive problems with the semi-retired watering system which no longer serviced all of the areas to be included in the plantings. On Thursday too, Frank, Terri, Trevor and Tony arrived at Oraparinna to join the others for dinner.

Friday saw the tree planting continuing at Wilpena while Frank led Terri, Trevor and Tony on a scenic march up and down thousands of hills and creeks, or so it seemed, to find the Appealinna Extended Mine which had recently shown up on Google Earth as a black hole on top of a steep hill quite some distance from where we had vainly tried to locate it some time ago. As a bonus we also discovered a track which led to the mine from apparently nowhere as well as a grave surrounded by neatly laid large stones. It was surmised that a child had been buried there or perhaps a cross-breed dog! Added to this excitement was the fact that we had to wade through masses of flowering onion weed plants which covered most of the hills. Back to Oraparinna for lunch and then out to the Aroona road to find a stockyard which again had thoughtfully turned up on Google Earth; and yes, we did find it and took all the necessary notes for the data base. By evening the Cruiser Club members had left Oraparinna and more of our members arrived.- Malcolm and Fay, Peter M., Julie, Andrew and Kathryn, Ron and Marge, Florence and Dean - Helen and Vince had been at Oraparinna since the previous Saturday with the Cruiser Club. With our Liaison-Ranger, Sarah, working with us at various times, that made a roll up of 17. Great effort and thanks to all.

Saturday. Three groups set out early because of the big jobs to be tackled. Frank, Fay and Malcolm drove out to Guide Hut and completed the work there that took them until mid-afternoon. Ron, Marge, Julie, Peter and Tony went to the Wilpena Homestead to clean out around the trees and roses, fertilize and water in each and replace the wire mesh tree guards from around some of the roses which were now being choked by the wire. The guards were flattened and joined to form a metre high fence along the middle row of roses. The remainder of the group went to the Wilpena store area to continue the tree-planting. Work finished near 5.00 pm and after the drive back to Oraparinna we all enjoyed a rest and happy hour. What had made it more difficult during the day was the temperature of 34-35°. We still slept rather well during the night - probably because the meeting went for 30 minutes longer than expected due to much positive discussion and planning for the Guide Hut opening in November. Could be that everyone was exhausted!

Sunday – work continued at the Homestead and the Store with Fay, Malcolm and Frank joining in at the Homestead.

It is the statistics that will demonstrate how effective our efforts were over the whole week but especially during our weekend. Thanks to Vince for the info.

Trees planted = 657 – at Teamsters, Aroona, Wilpena Store and Oraparinna Shearers' Quarters.

Plus – 800 metres of dripper lines repaired; 200 tree guards replaced; timers replaced; rabbit proof fencing erected; land scaping; water supply restored; bush trimming; and the work at the Homestead already mentioned.

It was a tired group who drove back to Oraparinna on another hot day but that seemed only to make the later happy hour even happier and companionable. Thanks again to everyone for a very successful weekend. Special thanks to Vince for all the organization and running around that made the tree planting, during the week and weekend so successful.

Monday had us cleaning up and some of us heading back to Quorn after dawdling on the way to carry out various tasks before finally heading home.

Programme for OCTOBER 14th- 17th Oraparinna

Friday evening – arrive at Oraparinna for tea followed by discussion/report time on projects, conferences, meetings

Saturday – 9am Data collection at Enorama, Trezona Creek, Trezona track and camp ground.

Lunch at Trezona camp ground;

2pm revisit Dingly Dell and collect all the information from around that site. This needs a lot of careful work done on it over and above all that has been collected already.

7pm barbecue at Oraparinna

8 pm review data base material and draw up lists of future sites to be covered

Sunday 9am – Slippery Dip to Lubra Waters walking track. Through Brachina Gorge to the western boundary and then follow Illina Creek to the Gorge. Lunch in the gorge. Note – Illina Creek is one of the most spectacular sites in the Park with an incredible diversity of plants and scenery along with water worn and polished rock bars of Archaeocyatha. This walk should prove to be one of the highlights of the year.

Monday - Clean up and drive to Quorn for quandong pie et al.

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Friends intending to attend October week-end please reserve your room by phone or email to Tony Bott by Monday 10th October.

Reminders:

Annual subscriptions for the year 2011 are overdue - \$20 per family if you want to be financial for AGM..

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 available for purchase from the Treasurer- \$10 each.