



# **friends of the flinders ranges national park**

[www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au](http://www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au)

Patron – Mrs Elizabeth Jamieson

## **NEWSLETTER –AUGUST - SEPTEMBER**

**Friday 20.8.2010 - at changed venue – Wilpena Shearers' Quarters.**

Because so few members could attend this weekend, the venue was moved to Wilpena, especially as the rooms were available and we intended to work in the homestead garden anyway. So it was for the evening meal that Athol, Peter, Julie, Ron, Marge and Tony sat down in the peace and quiet of the Shearers' Quarters. A good night's sleep followed made all the nicer by the drop in the temperature outside and the effectiveness of the heaters inside.

**Saturday 21/8**

As promised during the night we awoke to find the cars covered in ice, which stayed around until we were ready to start work on the gardens. Some of the fruit trees had overgrown their netting protection which therefore needed to be taken down and expanded to allow the trees to grow outwards and in one particular case, upwards as well. The ground was fortunately soft enough after so much rain that the droppers came out easily, i.e. backs were broken or tendons torn. We were about to knock them back into the ground a metre or so further out from each tree when Peter suggested that it would be a lot simpler to have one fence around the whole lot thus allowing growth and access to pick the fruit, weed the immediate area and prune wherever necessary. We all agreed as did our Liaison Ranger, Nicola, who was working with us all day, so we rolled out the new fencing wire, got more droppers and started erecting the new rectangular enclosure for the row of trees closest to and parallel to the outside fence. Despite driving back to the Quarters for morning tea, lunch and even afternoon tea, we completed the task before dusk so now a two metre high fence protects those trees from the kangaroos although at the moment they have so much feed everywhere that they can be more selective and roam further afield. (See photograph below). Unfortunately we had to do all this work without the willing hands of Marge and Ron who found when he was ready for breakfast that he had left his medication at home on the kitchen table. This necessitated a quick trip back to Whyalla and an end to their weekend in the Flinders. Sad, but health comes first, particularly at our ages! A quiet but enjoyable barbecue completed the day's events.

**Sunday 22/8**

Rain was forecast but Athol had brought his equipment for cutting the doors out at Guide Hut so we divided our tasks so that Peter and Julie continued the work in the garden while Athol and Tony went out to the Hut where the bottom of each door was cut off to allow for the stone flooring. Task completed in 30 minutes and we were on our way back to Wilpena. It was a very pleasant drive both ways with only one or two dicey spots on the road, mainly creek crossings. The weather stayed quite pleasant although cold to start with clouds rolling in, as forecast after lunch.

Back in the garden we removed the fence from around the most hemmed in of the trees in the second row and replaced it with a much larger one. The intention is however to replace that next time with another long rectangular fence to protect the whole row as we had done on Saturday. The roses in the mesh enclosure were pruned although, sadly, only two or three are still alive. Julie also cleaned up parts of the garden and Steve mowed much of the "lawn" area and was ready to put the whipper-snipper around the trees when the rain started. That took care of that as it rained almost continually, lightly, on into the night – and possibly for most of it.

Looking at what we achieved I think that the four of us along with Nicola and Steve can be well pleased with our efforts for the weekend. Thanks to all.

**Monday 23/8**

After cleaning the Quarters thoroughly Peter headed off for Quorn while Julie and Tony drove into Rawnsley Park to sell some of our tour guide books. Then we too followed Peter to Quorn for the mandatory quandong pie etc. Then it was back to Port Augusta to drop Julie off at her place and the long drive back to Adelaide, much of it through heavy rain, and, even worse, the spray from the numerous approaching road trains.

**Friends' Forum 19-23/8/2010 - WOOMERA.**

Graham Henley met us at the Quandong Café and gave a fairly glowing report on the Forum. The speakers were excellent and the tours on the Saturday well worth the effort. Unfortunately, some of tours on the Sunday were curtailed or cancelled due to the rain and muddy roads. Terrie and Trevor also attended the Forum.

\*\*\*\* Vince and Helen have also sent in a report which will be included on the website. \*\*\*\*

**September Meeting: Oraparinna Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> , 2010**

Programme:

**(Apologies from President and Treasurer - unable to attend due to family commitment.**

**Secretary and Vice-President – overseas.**

**Athol and family will be at Wilpena for the Spring Events as will Peter for part of the time. Hope all goes well!)**

**Arrive Friday** - dinner as usual.

**Saturday** – 9 a.m Guide Hut, weather and roads permitting to continue with the flooring.

Alternative, in case of Guide Hut being cut off by rain – Appealinna – floor of next hut

along from the main miners' building to be replaced; the insides of the buildings to be sprayed with Zero.

BBQ tea; work on data base project.

**Sunday** – 9 a.m. to Wilpena to replace the second row tree guards with the extended rectangular netting fence; pruning of the remaining roses. Oraparinna for tea.

**Monday** - 9-00 a.m. – clean Quarters; Drive to Quorn for morning tea at the Quandong Café.

**Future Meetings:**

Sept. – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Oraparinna Shearers' Quarters
Oct. - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 15 – Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ditto
Nov - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weekend Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ditto

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Friends intending to attend September week-end please reserve your room by ringing Tony Bott by Monday 13th September.



New rectangular fence around a number of trees in Wilpena Homestead Garden