



friends of the flinders ranges national park

www.friendsofflindersranges.org.au

ABN 98 085 789 903

Patron: Dr Victor Gostin

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2011

August Friends' Weekend

Ron and Marge Harman must have thought they had mistaken the date for our August Weekend. By 9.00 p.m. Friday they were the only members at Oraparinna. They had already decided that if no others arrived they would relocate to Wilpena first thing in the morning and spend the day tending the Homestead Garden.

However it was not too much later when they heard the arrival of two more members, Vince and Helen. Greetings were exchanged, a quick catch up chat on who had done what in the months since seeing each other, then off to bed.

Saturday morning brought cloudy but otherwise reasonable weather. Our four troopers set off for Guide Hut to carry out minor remaining tasks. Ron and Vince paved the two external doorways while Marge and Helen scraped excess grouting cement from flagstones on the floor. Mid morning our quartet was joined by the temporary Ranger replacing Nicola while on Maternity Leave, Sarah Frank. Sarah helped with floor cleaning then loaded tools and materials into the ute for return to Wilpena.

Ron and Vince refilled the joints between the external path stones because it had been reduced a little by wind and rain. Ron who had earlier said that he wouldn't be able to do too much because of a recent illness was found with a wheelbarrow in the creek bed loading gravelly sand for the job!

By the end of the day Guide Hut looked a million dollars; clean, nothing stored inside, no equipment or materials left outside.

It was a tired but satisfied foursome who returned to Oraparinna and stoked the fire for a well earned rest. Well, bodies were rested. Vocal chords and ear drums were well used until way past the usual bedtime. A most pleasant night was enjoyed by all.

Sunday provided perfect Flinders weather. Ron and Marge needed to arrive home in the afternoon so spent the morning in Wilpena garden tidying up. Vince and Helen headed out to Teamsters campground with a box of assorted trees and a few tools. Dead trees were replaced in the "new" planting section and extra trees were planted in the "original" planted section. Tom had particularly requested the latter in an attempt to make that area look less like a eucalypt forest.

Tree guards were repaired, new plants were watered and water dams were made or repaired on all trees, young and established. A total of 28 trees were planted.

A busy, enjoyable and successful weekend. Had more members been present we would have replaced dead trees at Aroona too.

A Celebration

Ron and Marge had come to celebrate. After dinner on Saturday night they provided a cake they had brought to share with Friends. They were keen to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary with us.

Marge was excited about the greetings she and Ron had received from the Queen and the Governor General on the occasion of their Diamond Anniversary.

We congratulated them, toasted their health and enjoyed a happy night with them.



Ron and Marge Harman proudly show their Diamond Anniversary message from the Queen

A New Member

Our newest member is somewhat unique in many ways and we welcome her to our team. Yvonne O'Donovan is a young Irish woman with an Australian Working Holiday Visa. She has been employed at Wilpena Resort in recent months and has fallen in love with the Flinders Ranges. So much does she love being in Australia that she plans to seek another 12 months Working Holiday Visa. However she recently learned there is a pre-requisite. She must first have been involved for at least 3 months in voluntary regional conservation work. Such opportunity is not easy to find far from the big cities, but Yvonne tracked us down via the website. She contacted Secretary Helen who went to see her during the August working weekend.

Yvonne has become a Friends member. Each of her days off, and most afternoons after work for 3 months, Yvonne will be planting trees around Wilpena, tending plants in the Homestead Garden and tackling other tasks we are asked to do as Friends.

She may not be working alone at times either. Parks Admin. Guru Rebecca, also a member of our Group, has agreed to be Yvonne's point of contact with the Group and has said she will probably join Yvonne in planting trees from time to time.

Welcome the New Ranger

Sarah Frank is no stranger to many of our members. She spent 6 months at the Park 18 months or so back. Now she has re-joined the Flinders Ranges team for 6 months while Nicola is on Maternity Leave. Sarah loves the Flinders Ranges and thoroughly enjoys the Park. She is keen to get out into the Park and hopes to work with us on most of our weekends, even if she is not rostered to work. We welcome her back and look forward to a happy and productive association with her.



Ranger Sarah Franks checks tube stock before planting at Teamsters Campground

September Working Weekend

Please make every effort to attend our September weekend on 16-18 September. Darren and Tom had an unexpected windfall of 900 trees. These are now at Wilpena ready to be planted around the Visitor Centre and other deserving places. They need to be planted before the weather warms up and before the tubers become root-bound.

Let's turn up in force in September and plant, plant, plant. All hands on deck, and all hands happily dirty at the end of both days.

Avoid disappointment by phoning Tony now to book a room for the September weekend.

Guide Hut Opening

All members who have worked on the rebuilding of Guide Hut will want to be at the official opening on Sunday November 20.

Don't be put off by the word "official". This will be a light and enjoyable event primarily for members and our supporters. There will be more photographs than speeches!

Of course on Saturday night we will enjoy our annual Christmas party so it is a weekend not to miss. Be sure to put these events in your diary and plan to be there.

Reminder

With so much to be done before the end of the year and with the beautiful weather likely we can expect our next three Friends' weekends will be very popular with members. It would be good to have most beds in each room filled with members come to lend a hand.

Be sure to contact Tony and let him know if you need a room or plan to bring a van.

If Tony knows who will be there each month he is better able to plan our activities.



These emu chicks kept us amused around the Shearers' Quarters in August

Thank you to Vince for preparing the content of this month's Newsletter.- T&T

Program 16-19.9.2011

Saturday – Wilpena Homestead – tree planting, rose pruning, tree fertilization. Completion of floor cleaning at Guide Hut. Meeting at night at Oraparinna after the usual bbq dinner.

Sunday – Tree planting at Wilpena, Teamsters/Aroona etc depending on people power

Monday – Morning tea at Quorn Quandong Cafe

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Room bookings to Tony by *Monday 12th September*
please.

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