



## **FRIENDS of VULKATHUNHA-GAMMON RANGES NATIONAL PARK**

**NEWSLETTER – No.1**

**SPRING 2015**

**A BRIEF BACKGROUND** – In November 2001 the Friends of Gammon Ranges was formed at a meeting convened by the National Parks & Wildlife SA at which I became the Treasurer of the group. The group lapsed after a year or so. In 2013 it received a bequest from the Estate C Warren Bonython. In October 2014 I met Lindsay Brown (Ranger at Balcanoona) and Arthur Coulthard at Balcanoona. At that meeting it was decided to re-form the group. In March 2015 a public meeting was held at which over 30 people attended and another similar number indicated their interest for the group to be re-formed. Graeme Oats.

### **MEETING – HOLDEN STREET THEATRE HINDMARSH – 27 MARCH 2015**

The public meeting was attended by over 30 people from varying backgrounds, including 4WD, Walking and other Friends Groups, Senior Ranger Lindsay Brown, Tony Magor - Arid Lands Port Augusta, Brendan Godfrey – Community Engagement Officer Port Augusta, and former members of DEWNR. Dene Cordes PSM agreed to be the Friends Patron. Several people agreed to meet again and form a Steering Committee until such time as an Annual General Meeting is held.

### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Steering Committee comprises, Graeme Oats (Chair and Treasurer), Ray Hickman (Secretary), Craig Baulderstone, David Mussared, Matthew Pearson, Tim Newbery, Joe Stelmann and Bob Setton. The committee met on 24<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The significant outcomes from those meetings are detailed below.

### **FINANCIAL**

Cheque signatories at Bank SA were amended, the Bonython Bequest was transferred to a 12 month term deposit expiring May 2016 accruing 2.65% pa in lieu of 0.01% in the group's cheque account. An annual subscription fee of \$10.00 was agreed and that the group's year is from 1 July to 30 June. \* **See page two regarding payments.**

### **WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK**

Members of the committee undertook the development of a website and Facebook page. The website is currently being developed on a private server. It is hoped that we will soon be able to put this on a public server.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Vulkathunha-Gammon-Ranges-National-Park/768759336575053>

### **ORIENTATION VISIT – BALCANOONA**

At the March public meeting Senior Ranger Lindsay Brown invited a representative group of the Friends to visit the Park. This visit will take place over the long weekend on 2-5 October. Several committee members will be attending. A report of this visit will be circulated later in the year.

**AIMS & MISSION STATEMENT** - The committee has prepared an Aims & Mission Statement:

**AIMS OF FRIENDS OF VULKATHUNHA-GAMMON RANGES NATIONAL PARK**

*The Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park are a group of volunteers whose aim is to support the management of the park's intrinsic biodiversity values and its diverse cultural heritage by: -*

- *providing support to the park and to the region's DEWNR staff.*
- *liaising closely with the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board.*
- *providing support for the protection and preservation of the park's natural and historic values.*
- *seeking funds for projects that will benefit the management of the park.*
- *undertaking specific projects approved by the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board that will help maintain the park's qualities.*
- *learning and better understanding traditional and cultural values of this region to: prevent creating negative impacts to 'Country' and better guide our activities.*
- *liaising and knowledge sharing with traditional and cultural owners of this land and neighbouring communities.*
- *providing opportunities and enjoyment for group members whilst supporting V-GRNP's future directions.*

**V-GRNP CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD**

At the August meeting Joe Stelmann presented a "Briefing paper to V-GRNP Co- Management Board." This paper was sent to the Co-Management Board for their 27 August meeting at Balcanoona which meeting has been cancelled and will now take place in Hawker on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. It is hoped that some of us will be able to be present at the December meeting of the Co-Management Board at Hawker, as a meet and greet and to put faces to names.

**Dene D Cordes PSM – Our Patron.**

Dene spent 40 years (1968-2008) in the service of the SA Environment Department. He was appointed the first Community Liaison Officer and helped set up the National Parks Foundation. Dene was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship enabling him to research in USA & Canada. This research helped him to expand the Friends of Parks network and set up the first Australian Campground Hosts scheme. Dene is Past President and Life Member of the Churchill Fellows Association.

Dene instigated the National Parks Heritage Committee of which he is the current President, and also was the inaugural President of Friends of Nature Foundation of SA.

In 1990 Dene was awarded the Public Service medal for his service to National Parks Community Support in SA Parks.

As the Chairman of the inaugural meeting of the Friends of Gammon Ranges in November 2001, Dene is most eminently qualified to be our Patron.

**\*SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions can be paid either by cheque payable to "Friends of Gammon Ranges National Park" and posted to 20 Hillridge Drive Belair SA 5052 or by EFT direct to our bank account. Details are Bank SA BSB 105 078 Acc No. 053063140. Please include your last name in the bank reference and email to Graeme Oats that you have made a payment. [gdoats@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gdoats@bigpond.net.au)

**PREPARED BY Graeme Oats August 2015.**