

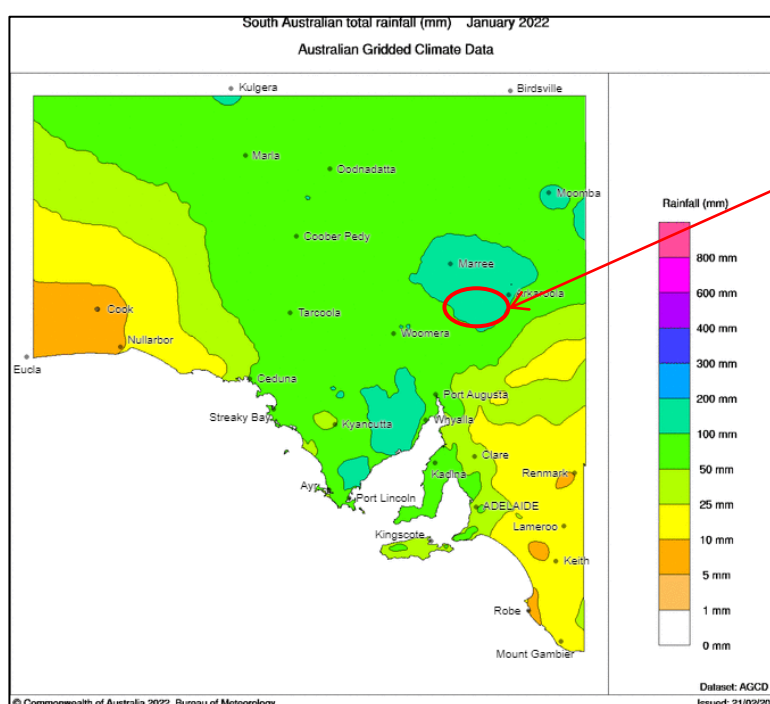


RAINFALL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN JANUARY 2022

- The map below courtesy of the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) outlines rainfall totals across the state for January 2022.
- Many parts of South Australia received many times the average for January.
- There are 4 rainfall gauges within the V-GRNP in the Arcoona Creek catchment with telemetry equipment that enables data to be streamed in real time to the BOM.
- One such rain gauge is almost 15 kilometres due north of Oocaboolina Outstation on the Plateau.
- The Plateau gauge received approximately 124mm during January, nearly 3.5 times its long term average for January.
- Most rain fell over a 48 hour period on 21-22 January.
- High localised falls lasting less than an hour were recorded later in January.

Acknowledgement: - the above information was extracted from a report by Graham Blair in the Scientific Expedition Group's March 2022 SEGments. Full article can be accessed at:-

<https://www.scientificexpeditiongroup.org/publications/>



THE GREEN CARPET OF THE VULKATHUNHA – GAMMON RANGES

The following pages show the remarkable recovery of the vegetation in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park following substantial rains during January 2022.

Highest rainfalls in January all recorded by the Bureau of Meteorology at Arkaroola have been, 1972 - 148mm, 1974 - 363mm, 1984 - 306mm, 2015 -184mm. January 2022 – 172mm.

Top – 19th May 2018. **Bottom** - 13th February 2022





Looking NW from the
SQ BBQ



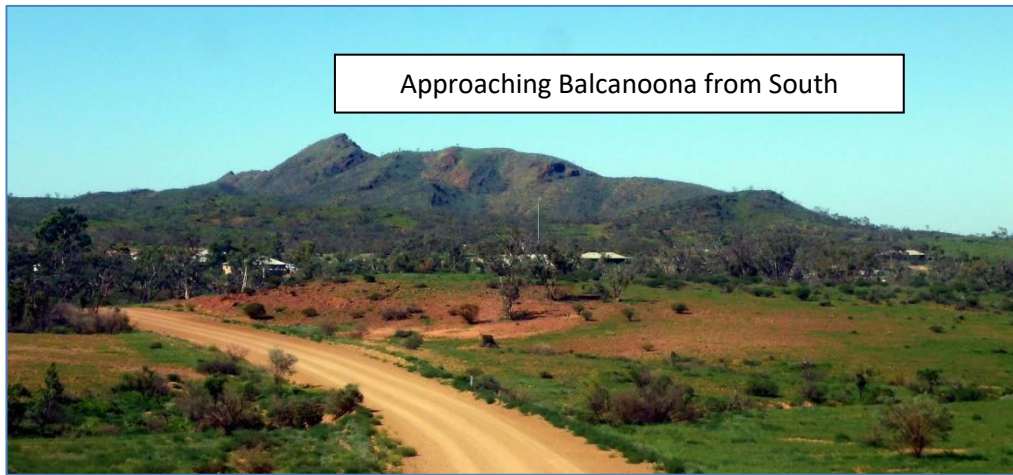
Balcanoona Homestead & Environs



NE towards staff houses at Balcanoona



Peach Springs Creek crossing Copley Road



FUEL GRANT

The Friends have been successful in obtaining a grant of \$4,000.00 for fuel subsidy from the Federal Government for distribution to vehicle providers ("the provider") who participate in any of the five Friends working bees in the Park during 2022.

Funds will be distributed upon the completion of all working bees. It is not a full refund for fuel purchased for the working bees, but a subsidy that will be equally distributed based on the number of working bees in which the provider has participated. An example would be that over the five visits there could be 40 vehicles used. Each provider would receive \$100.00 per visit.

The provider will be required to submit to the Treasurer after each visit their receipts for **all fuel purchased either during the trip and immediately upon return home.** The Treasurer will record the visits and distribute the funds accordingly.

FRIENDS GIFT FUND

In Newsletter No. 20 we reported that the Friends had received notification that it has been registered on the Register of Environmental Organisations as a Charity. Donations to the Fund of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.

Funds can be either deposited by direct credit to the Fund's bank account or by posting a cheque payable to the **Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Gift Fund** to the Treasurer C/- 2/17 Waite Street Blackwood SA 5051.

The Gift Fund's bank details are: -

Account Name: - Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park – Gift Fund

BSB 105 078 Account No. 066 435 640

THINGS THAT HAPPENED AT THE AGM.

Committee: -

President – Martin Caon, **Vice-President** – Nicki de Preu,
Secretary/Treasurer – Graeme Oats, **Committee** – Peta Conor, Kirsty Jolly

All these nominees were elected unopposed. Two positions on the committee remain vacant.

Public Officer – Henry Pecanek

Patron – Dene Cordes



Guest Speaker
Neville Bonney

The committee welcomes any member to fill the two vacancies. The Committee meetings are held in the evenings quarterly at the conveniently and centrally located home at Parkside of Peta Conor on a Thursday, however that day can be changed if mutually agreed.

Motions – Bylaws: -

Two motions were presented to the members regarding bylaws, each were successful, the first unanimously and the second by 18 votes for to 11 against including proxies.

These motions were: -

Motion 1: *That a discounted membership fee of \$10 is offered to the spouse or partner of a member.*

Motion 2: *That a member who joins the FoVGRNP between January the first and the date of the AGM in March of the same year, be eligible to vote at that AGM.*

Motion No. 1 now provides each of the two adults living at the same address upon payment of \$30.00 membership fee a vote at an AGM, whereas in the past the one payment of \$20.00 by the adults at the same address allowed only one vote for the two adults. Paying an individual membership also ensures that each of two spouses is unambiguously covered by the DEW Insurance.

Motion No. 2 the purpose of this motion was to make it clear that any person who pays a membership fee subsequent to the end of a financial year, but before the AGM of that year is entitled to a vote at that AGM.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Just a gentle reminder, if you have not yet paid your membership fee for 2022 then please do so, especially if you are intending to participate in the April trip to Balcanoona/Weetootla.

Bank details BSB 105 078 Acc. No. 053 063 140 – this is NOT the same as the Gift Fund.

BALCANOONA – RE-VEGETATION PROJECT

Experience had shown that the rate of flow in the irrigation system needed to be increased to properly service the plantings. In February Roger & Graeme replaced the tap system with larger (25mm) taps connecting to a five system manifold.

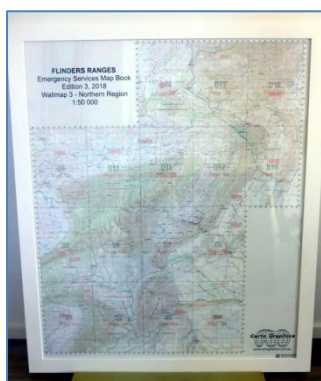
We were also aware the salts in the water had been building up in the drippers. The end plugs in most of Area 1 have been replaced with taps when turned opened will flush out most of the salts.

The program for 2022 will include: - Checking and maintain existing plantings in all areas, installing 13 mm end taps in Areas 1, 2, 3 (west) and Carpark/Office Areas, 25 mm headers to be trenched/covered with soil, replace and consolidate plantings in Open Areas 1 and 2 and collect seed for further propagation.



PARK MAP

For many years a map of the VGRNP hung on the south wall of the Ranger's Office subject to rain and weathering. The print had faded to such an extent that it was not possible to see the features of the Park. Last year the Friends committee approved the purchase of a new map which the Department has recently paid to have framed. We will take it to the Park this year to be hung on the north wall of the Office out of the weather and visible to visitors.



FLICKR

In September 2020 member, Chris Kirby set up a Flickr account for the Friends group to record birds, vegetation, fish, scenery and our projects at the three locations, and any special event that occurs. It's a digital photographic record of the Park.

Here is the link - <https://www.flickr.com/groups/14710340@N24/>

WORKING BEES – 2022

BALCANOONA RE-VEGETATION

Thursday 7th to Thursday 14th April

Friday 17th to Friday 24th June

Friday 19th to Friday 26th August

OOCABOOLINA RESTORATION

Sunday 22nd to Saturday 28th May

Sunday 24th to Saturday 30th July

WEETOOTLA SPRINGS MONITORING

Thursday 7th to Thursday 14th April

Friday 19th to Friday 26th August

The working bees in red are combined groups.

For the record, and to be sure that we comply with Covid requirements, please don't attend Balcanoona or Oocaboolina if you are feeling unwell, are isolating or awaiting the results of a PCR Covid test.