

FRIENDS of VULKATHUNHA-GAMMON RANGES NATIONAL PARK



NEWSLETTER – No.2

AUTUMN 2016

THE COMMITTEE

Since the first Newsletter the Committee has met on 2 occasions. Unfortunately Joe Stelmann (photo) has had to resign due to many other commitments. So, thanks Joe for your most valuable contributions. Joe accompanied the writer on a trip to Hawker last October to meet the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-Management Board. Joe was able to provide valuable insight into the hierarchy of DEWNR and with personal introductions to both Departmental staff and Community members.



FINANCIAL & MEMBERSHIP

Since the first Newsletter our financial membership has grown to 19 Members and we have also received donations to the value of \$140.00. In recent months we have paid a subscription to Friends of Parks and for the hire of a meeting room at Fullarton Park Community Centre. The Committee members reside from McLaren Vale in the south to Modbury in the north. It has been difficult to locate a meeting place that is central.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Committee member Ray Hickman has been able to edit and produce a website from his personal server and is now available for all to visit. Please feel free to visit the site and we welcome suggestions as to the content and format: - <http://www.rayh.id.au/vulkathunha/> (← This website is now retired. The new website is: <https://friendsofgammons.org.au/>)

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

ORIENTATION VISIT – BALCANOONA

At the March 2015 public meeting Senior Ranger Lindsay Brown invited a representative group of the Friends to visit the Park. Lindsay provided accommodation at Balcanoona for Committee members, Ray Hickman, Tim Newbery and Bob Setton over the very hot long weekend in October. Lindsay drove them over vast areas of the Park. The group came up with a wish list of ideas and projects.

V-GRNP CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

The August meeting of Parks Co-Management Board was cancelled. The Board met in October at Hawker at which both Joe Stelmann & I were their guests. During the meeting we were given the opportunity to meet all the members of the Board and let them know that our group had reformed and that was looking forward to working with them in the future. Community Elder, Cliff Coulthard welcomed us and extended an invitation to visit their Community.

FIRE IN THE PARK

In Early December 2015 a bush fire started by lightning raged through the Park, commencing somewhere NE of Nepabunna and continuing northwards towards the Plateau, Four Winds Hill, and Prow Point and over the range into Mainwater Pound before finally burning itself out.

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WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PARK DURING 2015 BY DEWNR

Senior Ranger, Lindsay Brown recently provided us with an update of events. He reports that much has been achieved on a limited budget and 2.5 full time positions. Here are just a few of the major projects completed last year:

- ✓ Restoration works on Grindell's Hut, Old Balcanoona Homestead & the Shearing Shed and yards.
- ✓ Upgraded Italowie camp ground and installed a toilet, upgrade of Grindell's Hut campground.
- ✓ Supported projects by Central Hills 4WD Club, Walking Trails Support Group, Scientific Expedition Group and Correctional Services Work Camp.
- ✓ New sign installations throughout the Park, repainted Nudlamutna Hut.

AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Senior Ranger Lindsay Brown has submitted to the Department (DEWNR) a proposed works list on behalf of the Friends group, which if approved will then go to the Co-Management Board's next meeting, which includes, but not limited to:

- ✓ Information board or panels at Lake Frome, Old Balcanoona Homestead and Idninha Outstation.
- ✓ Homestead Hill and Echo Bend Walk
- ✓ Heritage and Information boards at Old Illinawortina, Grindells and Bolla Bollana Trails

Committee man – Ray Hickman is a member of the Adelaide Bush Walkers Inc. (ABW). ABW members are regular visitors to the Park. Ray has presented to them a proposal to undertake opportunistic sightings of flora and fauna at sites which are remote and not regularly visited. These observations will contribute to knowledge of changes occurring in the biodiversity of the Park.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's hard to believe that we are already talking about an AGM, time has flown. The AGM will again be held at the Holden Street Theatre "Studio Room" 34 Holden Street, Hindmarsh on Friday 6th May at 7.30 pm. Please put this date in your diary and come along and support us.

JOIN US – membership is \$10.00 per financial year (July- June) – pay now and get extra 3 months membership until 30 June 2017. Payments can be made direct to our bank account: BSB 105 078 Acc No. 053063140 by posting your cheque direct to 20 Hillridge Dr, Belair SA 5052. If paying online please include your name and send a confirming email to gdoats@bigpond.net.au



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Mt John Roberts

FRIENDS of VULKATHUNHA-GAMMON RANGES NATIONAL PARK

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BY Graeme Oats March 2016.