

Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

NEWSLETTER No. 8 - NOVEMBER 2018



Annual General Meeting, 26 October, 2018

There were 23 individual and family members present when President, Martin Caon opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

2018-19 Committee

Prior to the meeting single nominations had been received for all positions, but that of Vice-President, for which there had been no nomination received and no one nominated for this position on the night. At the close of the meeting the committee membership was as follows

President: Martin Caon
Vice-President: Vacancy
Treasurer: Graeme Oats
Secretary: Ray Hickman
Committee member: Roger Mathers

Subsequent to the AGM Graeme Oats agreed to continue in the office of Vice President.

Incorporation: the previously-circulated **ordinary resolution** for the Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park to become an incorporated body was adopted. Prior to the meeting 17 proxy votes had been received with 16 in favor and one opposed. There were 20 votes cast in person with all these being in favor.

Constitutional changes: the previously circulated **special resolution** for a set of changes to be made to the constitution was adopted. For this resolution the number of votes in favor required for adoption was half the total membership of the group. At the

commencement of the meeting the number of individual and family memberships was 52 and so the number of votes in favor required for adoption of the changes was 27. There were 16 proxy votes in favor and another 20 votes in favor cast in person. There were no votes against.

As a result of these votes the necessary steps will be taken to incorporate, the committee elected on 26 October will hold office until 1 January 2020 and this will be the next date on which current membership will be due for renewal.

Guest speaker

Rebecca Richards, from the South Australian Museum spoke on the topic **‘Fifty thousand Years and counting: Stories of Adnyamathanha Connections to the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges’**

Rebecca described her family’s relationship to the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges and how, even after many years of the family living and working away from the area, it remained Country for her. This was a consequence of stories told by her father and the regular visits back to Country that her family made as she grew up. Asked at the conclusion of the talk what she saw as her future Rebecca replied saying she hoped that, through her role at the SA Museum and Ph.D study at Adelaide University, she could assist the younger generation of aboriginal people of the Northern Flinders ranges develop a good appreciation of how the long (50,000 year) history of their people living in the region could contribute to their own well-being today wherever the current necessities of life might take them.

Those present expressed their appreciation of Rebecca’s contribution to an enjoyable and productive evening for Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park.

After Rebecca spoke Martin invited Alan Harbour to speak about his role as Ranger-in-charge, Northern Flinders. Alan outlined a career that had taken him to many parts of Australia as a ranger before it brought him to his current base at Wilpena where he felt that he was now home. Alan was highly complimentary about the progress made by Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park over the last three years.

The meeting expressed its appreciation of Alan’s willingness to make the long trip to Adelaide to be at the meeting and his continuing support for the group.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. and people stayed on for a chat and light refreshments.

Latest reports on activities in 2018

To read the reports of the August Weetootla and Oocabolina trips click <https://friendsofgammons.org.au/trip-reports/> and scroll down to the 2018 reports.

In Newsletter No. 7 members were informed that Graeme Oats had succeeded with an application to have students from the University of South Australia produce a Video on the Friends group activities in the park. This video is now available for viewing and the link to it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4XN5mwMBWo>

Program for 2019

Later this month Committee members will be travelling to Pt Augusta to meet with Department of Environment and Water (DEW) staff to plan the visits and work

programs for next year. It is likely that there will be two visits each for the Weetootla monitoring and Oocaboolina Hut refurbishment.

In 2019 there will be a third project running at the Balcanoona Park Headquarters. This will involve repairing and extending plant irrigation lines, new plantings and installation of barriers to protect the growing plants against browsing by native and feral animals. This work, which was commenced during the August 2018 visit, will very likely be going on at the same time as the monitoring out near Weetootla and Nepouie springs. There will be scope for people to be involved with both activities if they wish.

Stays at Balcanoona in 2019 might be longer in duration than previously. So far the visits have been 5 days/4 nights, Adelaide to Adelaide. At the Pt Augusta meeting with DEW staff later this month we will be requesting accommodation at Balcanoona for 6/7 nights to make it easier for people to have an involvement. You will be able to be involved earlier or later in this longer period and/or be in the Park for longer with the option of doing your own thing on one or two days. This will require a bit more planning by trip leaders but should be workable.

Environmental Education Courses

Friends of Parks Inc. has advised us of the opportunity for members of Friends groups to enrol, at a subsidised cost, in a set of Environmental Education Courses that will run at Gluepot Reserve in the Riverland in 2019. The list of courses is:

Getting to Know Reptiles

An Introduction to Bird Banding

An Introduction to Macro Photography

Cathemeral Kids Campout

Painting Nature

An Introduction to Scientific Botanical Illustration

An Introduction to Birds and Bird Watching

An Introduction to Nature Photography

A Beginners Guide to Mallee Vegetation at Gluepot

If you are interested you can get details of the courses and the dates each will run by clicking [here](#).

Should you decide to register to attend the course at the subsidised cost there is a registration form that has to be completed and endorsed by the group. You should fill this out and e-mail it to Ray Hickman at raywen@bigpond.net.au who will endorse it

on behalf of Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. and send it back to you. The registration form can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).