



Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Association Inc  
PO Box 376, Campbelltown SA 5074

## NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2013

### TWELFTH YEAR

We have just completed twelve years of operation and are about to have another Annual General Meeting. This Newsletter is not just a progress report – we have serious matters to resolve, so please read carefully, consider and ACT.

### MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

The AGMs of the last two years have had a quorum by only one or two proxies.

Folks – this cannot go on – decisions cannot be made, and the workload on “the few” is not sustainable if progress is to be made!

The foresight, generosity and support of the “Magnificent 100” is recognised, respected and indeed honoured in the establishment of the Association and the Reserve. However, some are getting old, and some seem to have sat back after having done their good deed – please understand that we have to have at least demonstrated interest if not full active participation.

To deal with those who have lost interest, the Constitution was amended at last year’s AGM (please read on website), so that those memberships that appear to be “inactive” can be processed with respect and fairness to all to achieve a workable level of participation.

So, please respond to the Notice of AGM and save our Membership Secretary the task of checking if you are still alive.

Constitution changes also included the addition of two positions to the Committee – we welcome Alex McDonald (ex DEH) and Shane Fantinel (very active community person).

### CAERNARVON TRACK (SKYTREK is no more)

The SKYTREK operation by Willow Springs through the Reserve has ceased as a result of their rejection of a fee determined by independent professional valuation. Existing tracks in the south eastern portion of the Reserve have been linked up with new tracks. We now have totally internal 4WD access to that area for conservation management and fire control purposes as well as an Association operated 4WD self-drive tour circumnavigating the Reserve. named “**CAERNARVON TRACK**”.

Access control changes have been installed and use the **new keying system** as distributed at the 2012 AGM. More detail and **new keys** will be available at the AGM for those who have not yet collected them.

### THE INFRASTRUCTURE

The facilities building is complete with all mod cons, including (limited) solar power, BBQs, water, toilets and showers. We now have a 4WD utility and a trailer for task use. Standard conditions of booking and usage apply – see website.

The rainwater tank is full and accommodation bookings are quite high at popular times – so book early, especially if you want a roof over your head.

The Committee only asks that users take care of everything provided.

When using the UHF radio on channel 4 in “Duplex” mode, please remember that the whole district hears you.

A bird trough has been installed by the Drummonds to encourage local bird life.

The infrastructure is about to be greatly expanded as the SIBELCO Barites Mine operation has ceased and some of the facilities will revert to the Association for our use. This is likely to include three houses, sheds and workshop which will need refurbishment but present huge potential for the future. Negotiations are under way.

### THE WALLABIES

The Bounceback helicopter survey will take place again next year and all seems well, with a family group taking up residence around Minnitinni Creek near the camp site. Numbers are steadily rising across the Flinders Ranges and that is heartening

### REVEGETATION

Our two revegetation patches near 15 Mile Bore are still benefitting from rain and regular kangaroo and rabbit control. More seedlings have been planted with the hope of a not too hot and dry summer.

All offers of assistance will be most welcome.

### THE “yellowfoot” WEBSITE

We are indebted to Charlie Onody for maintaining the website [www.yellowfoot.org](http://www.yellowfoot.org) which is our window to you and the world – please look at it, especially if you are contemplating a visit.

The Committee seeks information and suggestions from all visitors.

### RESERVE BOUNDARIES

The land exchange between Willow Springs and the FRNP is apparently happening, but after 23 years of waiting we are not holding our breath – just hoping.

## ANNUAL REPORTING

YFRWPA Inc received financial support from the Natural Heritage Trust (Commonwealth Government) for the purchase and establishment of the Bunkers Conservation Reserve. All these things come with strings attached, ours being a Financial Agreement for 999 years (now only 987 remaining), which requires annual reporting and review of the Management Plan to confirm that our primary objective and function remain as preserving the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies and their environment.

## FERALS AND PESTS

During the past year only 48 goats have been reported to have been put down by members and an unknown number (tally for BCR was mixed with other FRNP areas) were shot by the DEH helicopter. The Reserve resident population is now thought to be minimal.

Rabbits are being seen in small numbers - fill in any rabbit holes you see when you visit.

The fox baiting program has been carried out in parallel with the DEWNR Flinders Ranges NP. With DEWNR six monthly aerial baiting extended to the Reserve while government funding is available, we only have to do ground baiting transects twice a year.

The Bunkers CR is part of the SA Arid Lands NRM organised dog control "Biteback" program.

Again, many thanks to the dedicated assistance from Marcus Agaciak, Alex McDonald and Peter Knapp who have been doing the walking transects.

We have applied for a Destruction Permit for 50 Euros specifically to control those within or adjacent to the revegetation areas - please be aware of the requirement for SSAA-H&C "roo" accreditation before shooting kangaroos.

Sheep spotting will be much easier with access to the southern areas via the new track system.

## OTHER INTERESTS

Access to the Reserve has continued by the Flinders University Speleological Society, which applies its expertise in locating, checking condition and reporting on the state of local caves.

Wally Klau from Birds Australia and member John Drummond have visited the Reserve again this year to maintain and extend a Birds List.

DEH and the Friends Of Parks Walking Trails Support Group have now moved the "Wilkawillina Hike" Little Bunkers Trailhead to Wirrealpa Road.

A University of Adelaide geology Honours student is continuing a geological study within the reserve.

A less than welcome development is the issue of a Mining Exploration Licence EL4810 over the western area of the Reserve by the SA Government. Even though it is for "low impact" exploration - it covers the Loves Mine Range and Loves Rock where we have a small number of YFRWs. One can only hope that nothing is found.

DEWNR is planning a reintroduction of Quolls and Possums in FRNP over the next few years. If that succeeds, we may have the overflow.

## THE HELPERS

The Association is almost totally dependent on volunteer (member and non-member) effort to fulfil its obligations and to achieve its objectives. Please note that these are to operate a conservation reserve for the specific purpose of **preservation of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby** and the environment, not just for recreation.

Without the Committee members and special input of Jacqui and Kym Groves, Alex McDonald, Charlie Onody, Brian Whittenbury, John and Paul Drummond, Marcus Agaciak, Jim Kennelly, Bob Temby and others who have put in a lot of effort, the YFRWPA and the Reserve would not be progressing - again, many thanks to them all!

## THE FUTURE

As usual, members' constructive suggestions are welcome - especially if help is offered.

Once again, if for any reason you would be happy to transfer or donate your membership to the Association or another interested individual - please advise the Secretary.

## FINANCES

Our Treasurer and the Committee are under stress as the cost of the Caernarvon Track has blown out to the point where a levy on members is likely to be set at the AGM.

Remember that donations to the "YFRWPA Bunkers Block Project" are tax deductible.

## VISITING

Please remember that there are a number of conditions and rules to visiting the Reserve:

1 - Please book visit with the Secretary (James) before going.

2 - Please make yourselves familiar with visiting conditions/rules (see website).

3 - Please ensure that you look out for other vehicles when driving, and maintain UHF radio communication while at the Reserve.

4 - Please look in the filing cabinet for copies of information, and do complete and return the report forms to YFRWPA.

5 - Please note: **New keys are essential to enter and travel around the Reserve and will be available at the AGM.**

Please attend the AGM!

*Kaz Herbst*  
Vice President