

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2004

ANOTHER YEAR - ANOTHER AGM

Another year has just gone by, so please attend or at least send a proxy as if we do not have a quorum, a lot of time and effort will have gone to waste, and we will have to do it all again.

Rather than writing an Annual Report I have tried to keep members informed by Newsletters at times when progress could be reported. In view of the approaching AGM it seems time for another one.

It has been our third year and good progress has been made. Specific comments are as follows:

YF Rock Wallabies

From helicopter and ground observations the Yellow Footed Rock Wallabies seem to be tentatively doing their bit and multiplying – with sightings of up to five in the Minnitinni and “Pristine Gorge” areas.

As a result of responding to an ABC morning programme, we have established a possibility of releasing excess YFRWs from the Monarto Zoological Park in our Reserve. This will be subject to the Reserve's carrying capacity and especially subject to Department of Environment and Heritage apparent reservations about genetic issues which are not too clear at the moment, as a limited genetic pool is often quoted as a sign of decline.

FACILITIES

Yes! The new “rocket” water heater is in. Many thanks to our Secretary Jim Kennelly for all his carting and plumbing.

Please note that “the rocket” is only a modern “chip heater” and works with paper and/or woodchips or twigs, which must be brought with you – **local gathering of timber either in the Reserve or the National Park is a total NO-NO !**

The same applies to the newly installed BBQs – and, fires only in the fireboxes please.

Some kind people have brought wood off-cuts for those who run short or forget.

To keep things tidy we would like to use green “wheelie bin”s for storing wood chips, etc. These should be plentiful with the recent introduction of rubbish recycling systems so please donate any that you have in good condition – I have one, but we need at least another six.

Many thanks to Bob Temby and visiting volunteer Robert for completing the Pinnacle pump shed. This now stores of our on-site equipment (spade, crow-bar....) kindly donated by Kym Groves who also installed the 15 Mile Bore gate donated by a friend of Brian Whittenbury.

Paving around the Toilet/Showers has been nearly completed.

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FERAL PEST CONTROL

Another fox baiting was carried out over the 14-15 August weekend, with enough volunteers to allow some of us to down another 10 goats (of about 25 seen) and one dingo. The dingo was shot with some reluctance as it appeared to be pure bred, but as the Reserve is within the Dog fence and our neighbours run sheep, it had to be done. Many thanks to Roz, Paul and Greg, and especially to Tom, Alex and Robert who are not even members, who did the baiting.

The next baiting is due on 13-14 November 2004, so please volunteer your help – both driving and walking transects are available and accommodation is at Oraparinna.

GREENING THE BUNKERS

Tony Cathcart has prepared a very professional submission for NHT funding assistance for the establishment of two protected (mainly) mulga and mallee revegetation sites. We hope that the application will be successful, otherwise we will have to seek funding from other sources.

BOOKING

If you wish to visit the Bunkers CR – please advise Secretary Jim or myself so that we can make sure that a campsite is available. Please

remember to fill in and return a Report sheet after your visit (refer to last Newsletter).

For those who camp, please be aware that some visitors have reported rather strong winds from the Westerly direction at times, so it is suggested that you face your tents and vans East, ie facing the Pinnacle in case it blows.

THE BUILDING

The building is intended to provide basic storage, refuge/shelter and meeting and accommodation facilities. The location and appearance are intended to be as unobtrusive and as appropriate as possible.

A sketch plan and estimate of cost will be available for comment at the AGM.

THANKS

Many thanks to those on the Committee, and to those who have put effort into the project over the past year.

The fact that we have volunteers from outside the membership shows that involvement has its rewards, and I hope that more members join in next year.

Kaz Herbst – Vice President