

NEWSLETTER – September 2001

AGM

Yes, the time has come around again for an evening get-together to report, consider, and make a few decisions for the future.

Our Secretary Jim, will cover all the procedural formalities in the Notice of AGM included in this mail-out, while I will attempt to report on as much of what has happened and what is proposed for the future. Hopefully this will give you some time to think and provide feedback at the AGM.

Fencing

Since the settlement of the purchase of the property in March, replacement of fencing has commenced. In the interval between bulldozing the old and installing the new, some sheep have returned but should be removed soon.

Camping Facility

A camping facility site has been selected and a water line run from Pinnacle Bore tank to the site. Six campsites have been pegged out for the time being.

Two double toilet blocks have been purchased from NPW-SA. These are proposed to be converted from "long drop" to WC operation, with one toilet in each block being turned into a shower cubicle. It is hoped that NPW-SA will assist with transportation and earthmoving but volunteer plumbing and carpentering would \$\$\$\$\$save a lot. Until the Facility is completed, camping is not allowed, so this is a high priority.

Association Logo

The Association has adopted the logo included in the letterhead above which was designed to symbolise mountain ranges and the footprint of the yellow footed rock wallaby.

Member Access

It is proposed to issue each member with a membership numbered key to provide Membership ID and access through all controlled (padlocked) access points.

Access rules are being developed but are proposed to follow these directions:

- Public access only by Skytrek, as Member guest or Committee authorised volunteer for research/study/task or guest.
- Day only visits not to involve access fees.
- Overnight stays to require fees at the following weekly rates:
 - Members & family \$10/pers
 - Guests \$20/pers
 - Children under 13 - Committee authorised
 - Volunteers, researchers, students, workers, guests, etc. – free
- Fires only at provided facilities, and campers must bring your own wood.
- You visit and stay at your own risk – the Bunkers Conservation Reserve is in a remote and rugged area – YOU must take care!
- Shooting only with prior arrangement – specific rules to apply.

Skytrek users have priority between 10am and 5pm – see "Skytrek".

Opening Ceremony

The Committee is under some pressure to have one soon (is there an election in the air?) – and we are quite keen too. Reserve signage is on order, so it may be quite near. Invitations will be posted to all Members.

Skytrek

The Committee has signed an Agreement with Willow Springs Station to operate the Skytrek 4WD tours. This will provide controlled public access to the Reserve and hopefully the Association with sufficient income not to make financial calls on the Members.

The successful operation of the Skytrek is therefore of great importance to the Association, and to ensure safety and order, all Skytrek route traffic must travel anticlockwise between 10am and 5pm. If you are trapped, you will have to take one of the Reserve exits.

Volunteers

A number of tasks have to be performed in the management of the Reserve, and can not be carried out just by the Committee. These include:

- Wildlife surveys – annual transect walking to monitor kangaroo (red, euro, grey & wallaby), goats, sheep numbers;
- Fox baiting (walk/drive 3 or 4 times a year) – 6 to 8 November is the last for this year;
- Photopoints - set points annually;
- Fencing repairs and clearing old fence lines and equipment;
- Trailblazing – finding new points of interest/tracks;
- Revegetation – observation, monitoring, planting, seed collection, weed location and control, etc;
- Pest control – rabbit warren location and destruction, spotlighting; and
- Facilities establishment and maintenance.

Even if you do not have much expertise, but have the inclination and the time, please let the Committee know. You are needed and the NPW-SA is generous in providing accommodation until we have our own.

Goats

About 40 have been put down this year, but the numbers are low and a special cull does not appear to be warranted. The ones that have been shot, were found in small groups while baiting, exploring sites or repairing tracks.

Sanctuary Status

The Department of Environment and Heritage have suggested that the Association apply for such status as it will gain some kudos and assistance in law enforcement. Recreational hunting is not permitted in Sanctuaries, but pest control is expected to be carried out.

Reserve Boundary

There is some confusion about the location of a small section of the boundary between the Reserve and the National Park in the Tommy Gunyah Bore area. This is in the process of being clarified with NPW-SA.

Kaz Herbst – Vice President.

LATE NEWS

Planning is in process for the installation of the toilets and septic system to commence on Monday 17 September. Assistance from persons who could take part in a working bee on any days during that week would be greatly appreciated. Any persons available should contact Kaz Herbst (tel 8339 3507) to make final arrangements including the booking of accommodation.