



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

## NEWSLETTER 14 – NOVEMBER 2009

### YET ANOTHER YEAR

We are about to have another Annual General Meeting, so here is a brief report to those who are not able to attend, and for those who do come - a little advance information.

For those who cannot come, a reminder – **PLEASE send in your proxies** so that we have a quorum and do not have to do it all again.

### THE INFRASTRUCTURE

The facilities building is finished with the internal painting completed. The floor is sealed concrete, and vinyl sheeting is about to be laid in the two rooms.

There are two new double bunks and two single beds – all with mattresses - but bring your own pillows, linen and blankets.

Two pallets of pavers have been used to pave the veranda area at the same level as the building floor. As this produced a level difference with the “BBQ flat” immediately in front, a stone retaining wall has been built by Paul Drummond (thanks Paul!).

A rainwater tank has been installed and is full of rain water.

The second water heater has been connected – just remember to bring your kindling and please don't chop wood on the paving slabs – use the chopping blocks provided.

The Pinnacle windmill has been maintained, including new pump rods thanks to Kym Groves and friends.

### THE WALLABIES

The annual Bounceback helicopter survey again located a satisfactory number of wallabies in the Bunkers CR – how they manage to prosper is amazing, as the Minnitinni Springs are dry in spite of quite a reasonable rain (71mm) earlier this year.

### REVEGETATION

We have styles to provide access over fencing around our two revegetation patches near 15 Mile Bore, however due to almost total loss of our first planting of propagated plants, it is

recommended that access gates be now built to allow contour plough seeding. This process deposits seeds in shallow troughs, where the seeds will lay dormant until next rainfall.

The plants around the campsite area are progressing well – probably responding to being (occasionally) watered with rainwater. A few dead plants will have to be replaced.

### THE SKYTREK

The SKYTREK has been maintained and is in relatively good condition. The installation of a vehicle counter/scanner is now proposed to monitor how many (and who?) are actually using the track.

Members are reminded that the Skytrek operation provides an income not only to Willow Springs, but is also a financial mainstay of YFRWPA Inc – i.e. we the members do not have to cover ongoing costs of maintenance, management and development activities from our pockets.

Members are therefore expected to respect the Skytrek operation rules, and to encourage friends to do the full Skytrek Tour from Willow Springs and to use their tourist facilities whenever appropriate.

### THE “yellowfoot” WEBSITE

We are all indebted to Charlie Onody for maintaining the website [www.yellowfoot.org](http://www.yellowfoot.org) which is our window to you and the world.

### ANNUAL REPORTING

As members are aware, 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 991 remaining), which requires annual reporting and review of the Management Plan. I have done this as in previous years, and would again like to acknowledge the assistance of Alex McDonald in overseeing my efforts.

## **FERALS AND PESTS**

During the past year a total of 153 goats have been put down – with 97 of these by the DEH helicopter in the rather inaccessible SE corner of the Reserve. The total has been a gradually reducing number which is an indicator of our success.

A cleared track route to the SE part of the Reserve is being marked and will be cleared for 4WD access.

Rabbits are being seen but in reasonably stable numbers. Still - bring your .22 and fill in any rabbit holes you see when you visit.

The fox/dog baiting program has been carried out every three months in parallel with the DEH Flinders Ranges NP – and there is a possibility of one or two aerial baitings in 2010.

A new cat trap has been purchased, and if proven successful, more will be acquired.

Again, many thanks to the dedicated (non-members) assistance from Maxine McInnes, Tom Brauer, Stephan Junger and Alex McDonald who have been doing walking transects.

We have a Destruction Permit for 100 Euros – specifically those within or adjacent to the revegetation areas.

It appears that euro numbers are increasing and a cull may have to be considered.

## **OTHER INTERESTS**

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

Wally Klau from Birds Australia has visited the Reserve and with member John Drummond an extensive Birds List has been established.

## **THE HELPERS**

The Association is almost totally dependent on volunteer (member and non-member) effort to fulfil its obligations and to achieve its objectives.

Without the Committee members and special input of Maxine McInnes, Jacqui and Kym Groves, Alex McDonald, Tom Brauer, Charlie Onody, Bob Temby, John and Paul Drummond, Malcolm Strathearn, David Pearce, Harry Erdmann, Jim Kennelly and others who have quietly slipped in and “done their bit” – the YFRWPA and the Reserve would not be progressing as well as it is – again, many thanks to them all!

More hands will be welcome – so please let us know if you can help.

## **THE FUTURE**

As usual, a number of issues and projects are possible and the members' opinions of priorities and directions would be welcome.

The proposal for the improvement of access to the south-eastern portion of the Reserve is progressing slowly, and the marking of the route is nearly complete.

It is apparent that with unrelenting drought conditions, pastoral properties will be coming up for sale, and a group of existing and waiting YFRWPA members are very interested in acquiring more land for conservation purposes. A “Lands Group” has been formed - so please let us know of anyone sharing that interest.

Whether this is done by expanding the YFRWPA or establishing a separate group will need to be considered when an opportunity presents itself.

Once again, if for any reason you would be happy to transfer your membership to another interested individual – it will be valued generously. Please let the Committee know as we have a waiting list.

## **RESERVE BOUNDARIES**

You may be aware that the boundaries of the Reserve are not quite as was indicated to us at time of purchase negotiation due to the incomplete formalisation of a land exchange (over 18 years ago) between DEH and Willow Springs.

Unfortunately, there has been no progress on this issue by DEH and there appears to be a growing reluctance to resolve this past “bungle”. This leaves the YFRWPA with a dysfunctional situation on the “Block 101” boundary – which will be discussed further at the AGM.

## **VISITING**

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

1. Please book visit with the Committee before going.
2. Please make yourselves familiar with visiting conditions/rules (see website).
3. Please look in the filing cabinet for copies of information and report forms.

Hoping to see you at the AGM.

*Kaz Herbst*  
Vice President