



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

## NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2012

### ELEVEN YEARS OF SUCCESS

We have just completed eleven years of operation and are about to have another Annual General Meeting. 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, please be there at least in spirit, and **PLEASE!, PLEASE!, PLEASE! SEND IN YOUR PROXIES** so that we have a quorum.

### THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Folks – the facilities building is complete and in use, providing two bedrooms - one with two double bunks, and the other with two (stackable) single beds and a spare mattress. The electrical supply has been upgraded, but is still of limited capacity 12V (DC) power, 240V (AC) power and lighting – so please leave your electric frypans, kettles and toasters at home. The rainwater tank is full and further levelling and paving of the BBQ area in front of the building has been done.

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.

Do remember to bring your kindling and firewood for water heaters and BBQs as firewood gathering within the Reserve and the National Park is not permitted as it provides mulch for plants and cover for animals. If using the UHF radio base on channel 4 in “Duplex” mode, please remember that the whole district hears you. The facilities now include a Mitsubishi 4WD utility thanks to Brian Whittenbury’s contacts and efforts – much appreciation to Brian.

### THE WALLABIES

The Bounceback helicopter survey has taken place this year - observations of numbers and locations seem to indicate that the population has increased from 21 to 50 at one site, and remains at 0 at the other site on Bunkers Range, and from 0 to 3 and 0 to 2 at two sites on Loves Mine Range since the 2008 survey. It should be noted that only about 25% of actual animals are sighted (i.e. “Lee correction factor” is about 4). General observations indicate that animals are spreading from the original “colony” areas – even close to Campsite area.

### REVEGETATION

Our two revegetation patches near 15 Mile Bore are still benefitting from rain and regular roo and rabbit control. There is some experimentation with “automatic” watering systems which you may note in passing. All offers of assistance will be most welcome.

### 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 Reserve. All these things come with strings attached, ours being a Financial Agreement for 999 years (now only 988 remaining). This requires annual reporting and review of the Management Plan to confirm that our primary objective remains as preserving the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies in accordance with IUCN Category IV requirements.

## **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.

## **THE SKYTREK**

The SKYTREK operation by Willow Springs owners has ceased as a result of their rejection of a fee determined by independent professional valuation. Expressions of interest will be sought from alternative operators as soon as a route (preferably totally within the Reserve) is established. For the time being YFRWPA is losing that income stream.

A track route to the SE part of the Reserve has been marked and partially cleared as far as Moxan Hut. A route of a linking track from Mt Caernarvon to provide complete circumnavigation of the property has been outlined but requires ATLA (Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association) Heritage Committee clearance. This is being sought (at some expense). The “pro bono” help from our solicitor, Kate Bickford of McDonald Steed McGrath Lawyers, is greatly appreciated.

More detail will be supplied at the AGM.

## **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 20 years ago) between DEH and Willow Springs. There has been some progress on this issue by DEWNR but no resolution (had been forecast for before the end of last year). This will be discussed further at the AGM.

## **FERALS AND PESTS**

During the past year only 21 goats have been reported to have been put down by members. About 100 (tally for BCR was mixed with other FRNP areas) were shot by the DEH helicopter. The total is a gradually reducing number, a process of attrition, with no known “resident” population within the Reserve.

Rabbits are being seen in higher numbers, so bring your .22 and fill in any rabbit holes you see when you visit.

The fox baiting program has been carried out every three months in parallel with the DEWNR Flinders Ranges NP. Aerial baiting has been extended to the Reserve twice a year. While government funding for this remains available, we only have to bait every six months.

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

Again, many thanks to the dedicated assistance from Tom Brauer, Alex McDonald (now a member) and Peter Knapp who have been doing the walking transects.

We have a Destruction Permit for 50 Euros, specifically those within or adjacent to the revegetation areas. Please be aware of the requirement for SSAA-H&C “roo” accreditation before shooting kangaroos. With the plentiful feed, euro numbers are increasing and culling may become necessary.

A cat trap has been purchased – anyone visiting may use it. Numbers of sheep have also been sighted, and their (legal) removal is being pursued.

## 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.

A University of Adelaide geology Honours student is still undertaking a geological study. He reports that we have stromatolites on the east side of the Little Bunkers.

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

DEWNR and the Friends Of Parks Walking Trails Support Group have been given approval to rationalise the "Wilkawillina Hike" Little Bunkers Trailhead (i.e. move to Wirrealpa Road) last year. We understand that action is imminent.

An additional "dish" is to be installed at the GRN base on Mt Caernarvon for commercial communications.

## 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 not just for recreation.

Without the Committee members and special input of Jacqui and Kym Groves, Alex McDonald, Tom Brauer, Charlie Onody, Brian Whittenbury, John and Paul Drummond, Marcus Agaciak, Jim Kennelly and others who have put in a lot of effort, the YFRWPA and the Reserve would not be progressing as well as it is. Again, many thanks to them all!

Once again, I must appeal to members that the issue of "more hands" is becoming necessary as some of us are reaching our "use by" date – so please consider and 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 are welcome - especially if help is offered.

Further land acquisition is possible by expanding the YFRWPA or establishing a separate group – Umberatana Station has been on the market, but there appeared to be little interest.

Once again, if for any reason you would be happy to transfer or donate your membership to the Association or another interested individual – it will be valued **generou\$ly**. Please let the Committee know as we have a waiting list.

## DONATIONS

A reminder, that donations to the "YFRWPA Bunkers Block Project" are tax deductible.

Please remember our "cause" – adequate funds always help.

## VISITING

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

- 1 – Please book your visit with the Committee 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 complete and return the report forms to YFRWPA.

Hoping to see you at the AGM.

*Kaz Herbst*  
Vice President

## **STOP PRESS**

A new master key lock system has been installed in the BCR. The old locks will soon be removed and the old member keys will no longer provide access to the property or facilities. The new keys are of the security type and not able to be copied.

New keys must be signed for by the member or a representative on his/her behalf. **Keys will be issued to members at the AGM** so make sure you attend and collect your new key in order to maintain access to the Reserve.

Those not attending the AGM will need to make arrangements with Kym Groves to obtain their keys. Kym is contactable by email via a link on the Association website [www.yellowfoot.org](http://www.yellowfoot.org)

Jim Kennelly  
Secretary