

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2002

THE CAMPSITE

The good news is that we have flushing toilets operational at the site and members may therefore camp from now on. Unfortunately, the showers are lined, but floor drains, floor tiling and plumbing are still to be done. One can, of course use the normal standby of hanging the solar shower from a tree – although it is a bit cool and breezy this time of the year.

Earth works have been completed but require some rain to settle the soil and prevent rather a bad dust problem at times. It is windy at times, so be prepared and secure your tent well.

If your family requires full * * * * * rating, there is local accommodation available from Hawker to Blinman, and includes Willow Springs Station – for charges and booking, telephone 86480016.

For working bees accommodation at Oraparinna is generally made available by NPWSA.

VISITING THE BUNKERS CONSERVATION RESERVE

Members are invited to visit the Reserve, but please, PLEASE, **PLEASE!** understand and follow the conditions of entry! – there are very good reasons for all of them.

Copies of the following are enclosed for your information:

- "YOUR MEMBERSHIP KEY"/ "VISITING THE BUNKERS CONSERVATION RESERVE",
- "YFRWPA - CAMPING",
- "YFRWPA – SHOOTING",
- "BUNKERS CONSERVATION RESERVE – REPORT SHEET", and
- a map

Please follow the Outback Rule of leaving gates, locks, etc as you find them, and leave markers, such as star droppers where they are. They (usually) have a purpose, e.g. photo point marker.

THE "SKYTREK"

Although members are free to drive along the few tracks within the Reserve (at their own risk), there are some conditions resulting from the operation of the Skytrek Tour, which must be clearly understood.

The Skytrek Tour is a commercial self-drive 4WD "trek", operated by Brendan and Carmel Reynolds from Willow Springs Station. Under a Licence Agreement with this Association, they can authorise their clients to drive through the Reserve along the agreed Skytrek route between 10am and 5.30pm.

The operation of the Skytrek provides a significant income, not only for Willow Springs Station, but also for this Association, and is therefore for our mutual benefit. For reasons of safety and "customer relations", members are required to give priority and travel anti-clockwise along the Skytrek route between 10am and 5.30pm. Please consider the obvious commercial implications to our neighbour, Willow Springs Station and restrict the use of the Skytrek route (especially Mt Caernarvon) to members with immediate family and carefully limited number of accompanying friends. If you wish to enter Willow Springs Station, or to do the Skytrek Tour, you must, of course, seek their permission and comply with their conditions.

THE AGM

Notice of the AGM should appear with this Newsletter, and I would like to encourage all of you to attend. We do need a quorum and we are happy to fill in gaps, answer questions or receive constructive comments and suggestions.

Membership certificates and keys will be available (saves us postage and losses).

If you would like to “get involved” – please nominate for a Committee position, or just indicate that you have the time and the inclination. The skills range required is very broad (fox baiting, bird spotting, exploring, mapping, any building related skill, track repair, planting), so everyone is welcome, and there is a great opening for a PR/Fundraiser person.

“THANKYOU”S !

The care, control and management of the Reserve carries the responsibilities associated with the establishment, development and maintenance of a conservation project, which are detailed in the Management Plan.

We are not in the “coasting” stage yet (will we ever be?), requiring a lot of effort, patience and understanding from the Committee – especially our Secretary Jim Kennelly. Others who have given their time recently, include Mal Gray, Richard Rashleigh, Jim and Jan Ayliffe, Brian Faulds, Mark Spencer, Jason Wells, Harry Erdmann and Len Williamson – many thanks to you all!

There is much more to be done and “many hands make light work”, so please let the Committee know if, and when you can help out.

I would also like to thank the Committee for subsidising my registration costs at the recent Nature Conservation On Private Land, National Forum 2002 – Partnerships and Planning, in Adelaide. My attendance was inspiring and informative, establishing contacts in sharing ideas, practicalities, etc, with Government, and bodies such as National Trust SA, Australian

Wildlife Conservancy, Australian Bush Heritage Fund, SA Farmers Federation, Nature Foundation SA, Trust for Nature, Earth Sanctuaries, as well as individuals with interests and involvement similar to our Association. The effort and success of the SSAA and our Association was well known and appreciated. Should anyone like to have more information, please contact me.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Aside from the campsite and water supply progress, in the last 12 months we have:

- carried out 4 fox baitings,
- shot 93 goats (during baiting and working bees),
- arranged a fencing survey,
- found subsidy funding for the replacement of some 16km of fencing,
- reviewed the Management Plan,
- carried out wildlife survey transects,
- arranged access control system (keys, padlocks, chains, access guidelines, etc)
- first (benchmark) Vegetation Survey by Adelaide University students with Dr P Gell,
- established photo point system.
- developed operational guidelines.

YOUR CONTACTS

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