

Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

NEWSLETTER No. 5 - DECEMBER 2017



This newsletter brings Friends and Supporters of the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park up to date with some developments which have occurred since the last newsletter was published in August. These developments, which are described in more detail below, are:

- Outcomes of the AGM held on 27 October 2017
- Future communication arrangements
- Arrangements for activities in 2018
- Success with a grant application

Annual General Meeting 2017

The Annual General Meeting of Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park was held on Friday 27 October in the Parkview Room at Fullarton Park Community Centre on the corner of Fullarton Road and Fisher Street at 7.30 p.m.

Eighteen people were in attendance when President Graeme Oats opened the meeting. Graeme handed over the Chairman's role to Joe Stelmann who presided for the remainder of the meeting.

The people elected to the committee for 2017-18 were:

- Martin Caon, President
- Graeme Oats, Vice-President
- Graeme Oats, Treasurer
- Ray Hickman, Secretary
- Roger Mathers, Joe Stelmann, Committee members

The previously circulated proposal that: **"the constitution of Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park be used as the model for a constitution for Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park, taking account of similarities and differences between the two groups, and with the resulting draft constitution then being considered for approval at a general meeting of Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park to be held no later than 28 February 2018."** was carried- 14 Votes in favour, none against.

This development has been communicated to the financial members of the group along with an invitation for them to offer comments/advice to the Committee as it develops the draft constitution that will be considered for adoption at a General Meeting on 23rd February 2018.

Notice of this meeting will be sent to financial members during January 2018.

At the conclusion of formal proceedings Joe introduced the guest speaker, Dr Robert Henzell, who gave a talk on Feral Goat control. This was well-received by all present.

After Dr Henzell's presentation most people stayed on for conversation and light refreshments which finished off a very positive evening for Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park.

Communication with members and other interested people

During the nearly three years since the group was revived at a public meeting held on 27th March 2015 financial members and other people with an interest in the group's affairs have not been distinguished from one another as communications have gone out from the Committee.

It was resolved at the Committee Meeting of 9 November 2017 that, from now on, a list of financial members will be maintained separately from a list of people who are not current financial members but are people who the Committee believes want to be kept informed about the group's activities. The intention here is to ensure that the Committee and everyone receiving communications from it, always know who is eligible to vote at General Meetings, participate in activities carried out in the Park and nominate for positions on the Committee. We hope that people will be prepared to become financial members but we still value our ability to contact other people.

Maintaining an accurate list of financial members will help ensure that the group's affairs are run properly. An additional advantage is that where people participate in the group's activities in the Park, there will be no doubt about them being covered by the insurance arrangements that apply due to our affiliation with Friends of Parks Inc.

The notice that you received advising you of the availability of this newsletter would have referred to you as either being a current financial member or as having been sent 'For your interest'. A current financial member is a person who has paid the \$10 fee for the current financial year (1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018). If the notice was 'For your interest' it means that you either have not previously been a financial member or have not renewed membership for this year. But, in either case, please be assured that we are keen to maintain contact with anyone having an interest in the Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park.

Activities in the Park in 2018

Refurbishment of Oocaboolina Outstation

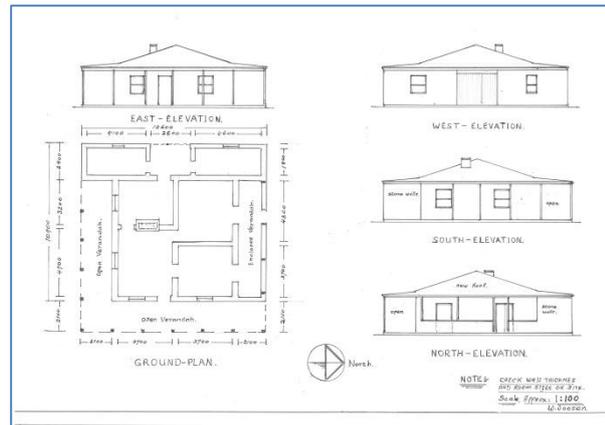
This project aims to restore a structurally sound building, which currently has no working internal facilities, to a condition where it will be suitable for use by a variety of groups including our own friends group.

Some of the work involved will require trade skills in order to ensure that the building is safe for people to occupy. But there is other work that can be done by experienced people without formal trade qualifications, and then there is work that any enthusiastic person will be able to do. The contribution that Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park makes to this project is going to depend on the mix of skills, experience and enthusiasm that its members possess and are willing to devote to the project.

In 2018 the group's practical involvement with the project will begin with these tasks which have been approved by park authorities:

1. Clearing of gutters and the installation of gutter guard to reduce the rate of future blocking.
2. Installation of a rainwater tank to collect rainwater from the roof of the building.
3. Removal of dried out Athel pine debris to reduce fire risk to the building.
4. Permanent removal of all live Athel pine growing near the building.
5. Strengthening of an existing fence to exclude goats and kangaroos from the immediate surroundings of the building.

Our involvement in work on the interior of the building is not likely to begin until 2019 by which time park authorities will have identified any safety issues and we will have a better idea of what skills, experience and enthusiasm our friends group has to contribute.



Athel Pine thriving and drawings of Oocaboolina by member Wally Joosen

If you are interested in getting involved with the Oocaboolina project in 2018 you should contact Graeme Oats by e-mail at gdoats@bigpond.net.au. If you have skills and experience that you think would be relevant to the project let Graeme know. It is hoped that a weeklong visit based at Oocaboolina can be arranged during the first few months of 2018. Dates and work schedule will be advised soon.

Environmental monitoring at Weetootla and Nepouie Springs

There were two visits made to the Park in 2017 in connection with this project and it is expected to be a viable project for the long term. There is a report of each of the 2017 visits posted on the website at www.rayh.id.au/vulkathunha and accessible from the 'Activities of the Friends Group' page.

There are now firm dates for two monitoring visits to the Park in 2018 and these are:

- **Tuesday 10 April until Saturday 14 April.**
- **Thursday 23 August until Monday 27 August**

During these visits the group will begin talking with indigenous people at Nepabunna and Iga Warta about their historical and cultural relationship with Weetootla Spring and other localities in the park.

If you are interested in the Weetootla and Nepouie Springs project, and have not already signaled your interest to him, contact Ray Hickman by e-mail at raywen@bigpond.net.au.

Success with a grant application

In October Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park made an application for a grant of \$600 under the *2017-2018 DEWNR on-park Volunteer Support Grants* program to assist with activities in the Park in 2018 and beyond. We committed to supplement the grant money with \$400 of group funds if the application was successful.

We have now been notified that our application has been successful. Acquisition of the items specified in the grant application will soon begin. Because the Friends group is not an incorporated body the grant application was made using Friends of Parks Inc as a sponsor. The \$600 will be paid to them and we will liaise with their Treasurer as items are paid for and acquired. The Committee wishes to acknowledge the assistance given in making the grant application by DEWNR staff members Pam Smith and Kathy Reynolds and by the Friends of Parks Inc. President, Duncan Mackenzie.

The items to be purchased with the combined sum of \$1000 are:

- Two UHF radios to allow communication between members of groups working at different locations.
- Gardening implements for weed containment/eradication work.
- Test kits and equipment for water quality measurements.

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park in the Spring

