

FRIENDS of the GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS

Newsletter Number 30, April 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Firstly, I have to thank those who had the confidence in me to nominate and elect me to the position of President/Secretary. I have to admit that taking on this role was not on my agenda for the year but to be honest I am looking forward to working for our parks and our members in this capacity. At this early stage in our group's year I don't have a great deal to report.

Having said that, during the past three weeks or so I have been quite busy working with other Committee Members. Thank goodness for the internet, "getting my head" around projects etc in which the group is involved.

The highlight of this year is to be another trip into our desert park. For the first time we are to spend time in the Tallaringa Conservation Park. Tony Magor, Senior Ranger, Port Augusta has been busy "hunting up" information for me on Tallaringa for me to pass on to our members. A big THANK YOU to Tony for his co-operation. I will also be applying for a plant permit so perhaps we will get an opportunity to collect some specimens while in the park.

At any time you have any queries or comments about our friends' group do feel free to either phone or e-mail me.

Marlene Friebe

IN THIS ISSUE

- From the President
- Newsletter
- Dene's Farwell
- AGM President's report
- 2006 Working Bee
- Letter Dene Cordes retirement
- Visit Brookfield Conservation Park
- Profile: Marlene Friebe
- Sunday Fun Day
- Diary Dates
- Web Links



Spinifex Hopping Mouse

Illustration: Nick Pike

NEWSLETTER - our newsletter is currently posted to members and minutes are emailed. If you would like your newsletter emailed as a PDF (then you can print it all in colour) please respond to the editor at forrestjan@adam.com.au. Size of file approx. 650kb.

President/Secretary: Marlene Friebe mfriebe@yp-connect.net

Treasurer: Shelagh Bond jimshe@chariot.net.au

Membership fees are \$20 pa payable to Treasurer, Unit 12, 108 Fendon Road, SALISBURY 5108 S.AUST. on 1st January of each year.

Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM - forrestjan@adam.com.au

Articles for newsletter may be posted to Editor, Friends of the Great Victoria Desert, C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000

Meetings: three meetings are held annually in the Camden Community Centre, 7 Carlisle Street, CAMDEN PARK.



FRIENDS OF GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This past year has been very successful in maintaining the activities of the group. Membership has grown by 20 people, giving a total of 59 memberships and 107 members.

Gary Vine and others undertook the planning tasks for the 2006 Working Party. The working group of 20 members spent two weeks in and around the Unnamed Conservation Park in July/August removing car bodies, clearing roadside vegetation and participating in biological surveys. We received a citation from DEH for this work. We used money from an additional Friends group grant to purchase some safety equipment which was appreciated by those working on the roads.

Bill Matheson, Doug and Heather Smith and Bill Dowling have worked tirelessly on completing the Plant Identikit book and over half have been distributed. We are now getting repeat orders.

Bill Dowling persevered with many technical issues to set up an accessible web-site. We're receiving quite a few enquiries about the region and our work as a result of this.

Several members attended the Friends of Parks Forum and we mounted a display of photos which received many favorable comments. Members also attended the Friends of Arid Lands Botanic Gardens Eremophila Festival at Port Augusta and manned a display of the photos, books and information sheets.

Some SA members joined some Victorian members at Nelson in April this year. We also held a social function on Australia Day at the home of our Patron Anne Beadell. This was extremely well-attended by SA urban and country members, and members from Vic and WA. A vote was taken to make this date our annual get-together.

I estimate we have contributed about 3904 hours or 488 days to the Department of Environment and Heritage in 2006 through our volunteer labour.

Plans for 2007 include:

- Developing information sheets and a new brochure when interpretative markers are in place.
- Further distribution of the plant book
- Contribution to the Unnamed Management Plan
- The 2007 Working Party to Tallaringa and Mamungari.

Retiring notes:

The use of email has allowed quicker communication with members and I recommend that this should be continued.

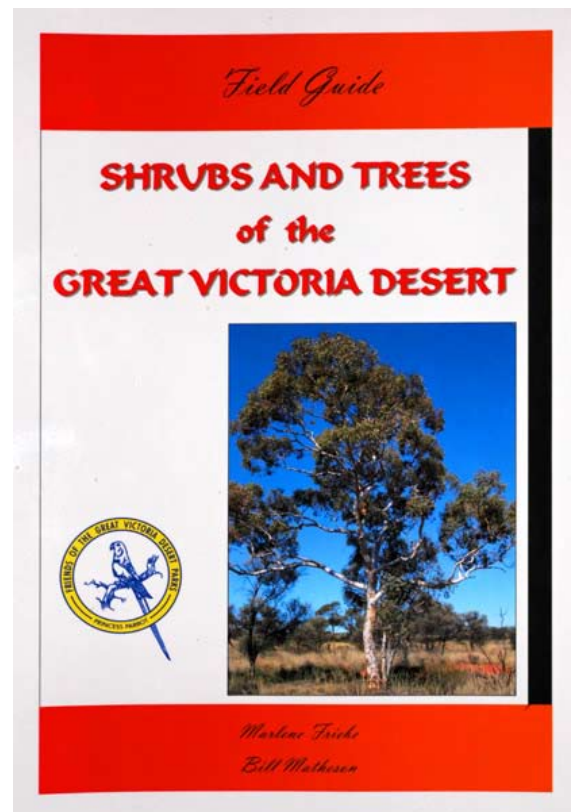
The small executive and three meetings a year seems to work well as long as members take other roles such as Working Party organization etc. The combination of President/Secretary has worked well for me and I would recommend that it continue.

Issues for our members include the costs of attending working groups in our Parks. Rising petrol costs and the wear and tear on vehicles make it difficult for members to attend.

As retiring President I would like to thank all the members for their support and the Executive for their help in 2005. I wish the group well in the future.

Arlene Dowling

23 FEBRUARY 2007



More than half of the copies of our book *Shrubs and Trees of the Great Victoria Desert* have been sold. If you have not yet obtained your copy or can sell some books, contact Doug Smith 08 8268 4625.



WORKING BEE 2006





FRIENDS OF GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS
Volunteers Working for Conservation

Patron Mrs Anne Beadell

President/Secretary

Marlene Friebe
08 8836 3248
PO Box 165
Maitland 5573
mfriebe@vp-connect.net

Treasurer

Shelagh Bond
08 8258 0934



<http://www.communitywebs.org/~FGVD>

Mr Dene Cordes
Manager Community Liaison Unit,
Department for Environment and Heritage,
GPO Box 1047,
Adelaide, SA, 5001

Dear Dene

The Friends Of The Great Victoria Desert Parks wish to congratulate you on achieving 40 years of service with the National Parks organization and to wish you a healthy, active and happy retirement. Within weeks I am sure that you will be wondering how you ever had time to go to work.

We recognize the initiative you portrayed in establishing the unique Friends of Parks organization and to the establishment of Consultative Committees. The establishment of the "Friends" groups was a most innovative forward thinking concept and a leading influence within Australia. The Friends' groups input to our State's Parks system are an invaluable asset to the organization and in turn to the State's economy. Our group recognizes your valuable contribution.

Your devotion to your position as Manager is one which you should be justifiably proud and we hope that you will always look back on our association with fond memories.

Personally I wish to thank you for the encouragement and support that you have given to Terry and I during our 15 years or more association with The Friends Of Parks Incorporated, especially when I held the position of President of the Simpson Desert Parks and also when Secretary of the Great Victoria Desert Parks and to Terry when he was in the position of President of the Great Victoria Desert Parks. Your assistance has always been recognized and appreciated.

The Friends Of The Great Victoria Desert Parks have appreciated the support that you have afforded them over the years and will sincerely miss you in the future.

Best wishes Dene and to Dianne in your retirement.

Yours Sincerely

Marlene J Friebe
(President/Secretary) (19/03/2007)

ADOPTION OF BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION PARK

At the February Annual General Meeting it was suggested that to give members of the GVD Friends who are unable to travel to the desert regions annually the opportunity to have an engagement in a working environment that the our group should adopt another Friends group with the Brookfield Conservation Park being nominated.

Brookfield is 12 to 13km Adelaide side of Blanchetown and adjacent to the Adelaide Road and has National Park signage. The park is important because of its association with the Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat, an endangered species.

The President, Sue Linnell has invited members of the GVD to join her group at their gathering on Saturday 5th May 2007 when they will be addressed by a member from Biodiversity who will be speaking on the Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat. They will be meeting at 10am for 10.30am at the Scientific Camp. The gate to the park is usually closed, open it go through (then please close the gate) and follow the signs. At this meeting Sue will be able to outline several other interesting projects that her group hopes to undertake in the future.

Ruth Grgurich has kindly agreed to be the liaison person for this venture and can be contacted on, 08 8387 3680 or via email rgrgurich@hotmail.com. **Please advise Ruth if you would like to attend.** Unfortunately Marlene will be at a Consultative Committee Forum at Goolwa and is unable to be present.

PROFILE – MARLENE FRIEBE – PRESIDENT OF GVD

Born and raised at Maitland on the Yorke Peninsula, in South Australia of a trucking family, Marlene left school at the ripe age of 14. Her working life began as a Telephonist employed by the Postmaster General's Department at Maitland, where she worked through to the position of Monitor.

The conversion of the manual exchange to automatic in 1962 was her downfall when her husband of now more than 43 years arrived on the scene to do the job. Married in 1963, she accompanied her husband as he moved around the country to Jamestown, Nuriootpa, Lenswood and finally became resigned to living in Adelaide. Initially living in rented accommodation before settling in Henley Beach where they lived for 20 years before moving to Balgowan, a seaside town, 27km west of Maitland on the Spencer Gulf where they have been residing for the past 8 years.

While living in the Barossa Valley, in 1964 first daughter, Karyle arrived on the scene and 30 months later, at Malvern, second daughter, Terry-Renette was born. In the mean time, husband, Terry, continued to spend the weeks in the country, returning to visit on weekends. Marlene had the onerous task of raising the girls on her own until 1972, the year Terry-Renette commenced school.

1972 was an eventful year which saw the whole family uprooted and sent to Sydney (only 10 months after moving to Henley Beach), where husband, Terry was to undertake 7½ months of training on computer operated telephone exchanges.

The family returned to Henley Beach in February 1973, and now Marlene had a husband who came home every night.

For the next few years, Marlene's life focused on providing assistance for the girls' schooling, helping in libraries, canteens, remedial reading and sports, taking on coaching and umpiring netball, a game which she'd not played until in her 30s.

As the children grew older, Marlene was able to devote attention to her own education. Initially she went to classes in dressmaking and design which culminated in her achieving a TAFE certificate in Advanced Dressmaking and Design, after which she went to work as a couturier at a Hyde Park establishment. Still not satisfied, Marlene decided she would like to fulfil a lifetime's dream and teach, so she went back to school, obtained her Matriculation and was accepted into Flinders University, where she undertook and completed a four year Bachelor of Education degree in 1990 with her degree being conferred in 1991. Work for Graduates was scarce, 1990 was the year that the Education Dept shed 900 teachers, and Marlene was limited to some relief work, short city contracts and two country contracts. Both the latter required her to be away from home for extended periods.

During this time Karyle, also a teacher working at Karoonda had joined the Friends Of Southern Mallee Parks based at Pinnaroo. Somehow Karyle managed to convince Marlene to join, and this started a new phase which has seen Marlene become deeply involved in the Friends of Parks organisation. She is currently a member of the Simpson Desert Parks (FOS), Friends of the Great Victoria Desert Parks (GVD), Friends of Innamincka Reserves, with Terry has undertaken several Campground Hostings and has been a member of The Outback Consultative Committee for a number of years. Marlene has undertaken the role of Editor for the Far Horizons magazine (FOS) and was President of FOS from 1995-1998 inclusive, also Marlene has been a Secretary for the GVD. She has been to many Forums and has served on organising committees for three Forums the last being the Consultative Committee Forum at Woomera held in 2005.

Since joining FOS the deserts have had a major impact on her life and she has made 12 crossings of the Simpson Desert and in May this year will make her 9th crossing of the GVD. Marlene always says that the only competition that Terry has had in their 45 year relationship has been the Australian deserts.

Marlene, since returning to the Peninsula took a two year stint as President of the Maitland Friends of the Library and has been involved in developing a Herbarium for the township Heritage Land at Balgowan. Marlene and Terry have discovered a new hobby which takes up a considerable amount of time and travelling not only within South Australia but also interstate. They have taken up Nu Vogue Dancing. Marlene can't believe her luck and tells everyone that if they hear of two oldies going broke chasing dancing it will be them.

In her spare time Marlene embroiders and quilts and belongs to the local guilds. She also makes regular visits to a client at "The Village" in Maitland.



SOCIAL EVENTS:

**SUNDAY FUN DAY
BOWLING SOCIAL EVENT**

**Sunday 1st July
10.00a.m. --12.00noon
Cost: \$10**

**Followed by lunch at the Settlers Tavern for
\$16.50 per person (less for concession holders)**

**Exprssions of interest to: Jim Bond
08 8258 0934 by 20th June, 2007**



Ooldea Mallee
Illustration: Nick Pike

DIARY DATES

MEETINGS

Next meeting: Friday 22nd June, 2007 in the Camden Community Centre, 7 Carlisle Street, CAMDEN PARK
November meeting: Friday 9th November

BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION PARK

Saturday 5th May at Brookfield CP, 12km Adelaide side of Blanchtown at 10.00am. **Please advise Ruth** on 8387 3680 or via email rgrgurich@hotmail.com if you intend to come to this event.
Includes a talk on the Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat and outline of plans for this park by President Sue Linnell (see page 5)

2007 WORKING BEE

1. A recce to Tallaringa from Coober Pedy, leaving Tuesday 29th May, 2007. This will allow those attending the FOS working bee a couple of days in Coober Pedy. Brett (DEH Ranger) has agreed to send a car, chains and crew to work on the road. Tony Magor has agreed to provide a ranger from Port Augusta. General recommendations on Tallaringa will be made to DEH.
2. Some will go on to Mamungari to replace the interpretative posts destroyed by fire, attach marker disks to vegetation plots, perhaps undertake other survey work and provide a Friends' presence there for a week **or so**.

2007 FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM

The 2007 Friends of Parks Forum (www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks/) is being held in Port Lincoln from 3rd -4th August. If you require more information ring the Marlene Friebe on 88 363 248 and she will forward the forum information to you.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marlene Friebe	President/Secretary	08 8836 3248
Doug Smith	Vice President	08 8268 4625
Shelagh Bond	Treasurer	08 8258 0934
Arlene Dowling	Minutes Secretary	08 8339 6562
Jan Forrest OAM	Editor	08 8297 8230

WEB LINKS

- DEH:** <http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/mamungari/index.htm>
- Friends of Great Victoria Desert:** http://www.communitywebs.org/~FGVD/wiki/index.php/Main_Page