

FRIENDS of the GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS

Newsletter Number 31, June 2007

Report On Tallaringa/Mamungari (Unnamed Conservation Park) Working Trip 29/05/2007-8/06/2007

The crossing of the desert was designated as a reconnaissance trip to establish work to be undertaken on future trips, as well as taking the opportunity to continue further study of quadrants established on the group's previous trip in 2006.

Ceduna DEH office provided a vehicle driven by Ranger, Andy Causebrook and Trainee Ranger Tammy Cox to precede the convoy dragging chains to eliminate corrugations. Port Augusta Office was represented by Ranger, Kristian Coulthard who supported the Tallaringa working team. They also provided a barbecue meal and drinks at Tallaringa Well. The Friends Of The Great Victoria Desert are most appreciative of this assistance.

Terry Friebe undertook the organisation and planning. Doug Smith was team leader of the Tallaringa Conservation Park workers and Harold Ross lead and supervised the working party in Mamungari Conservation Park (Formerly The Unnamed Conservation Park.).

Work in Tallaringa

The two working groups in Tallaringa set up a quadrant to survey and record plants and birds. Each morning a survey of birds was undertaken. Ten different birds were sighted on the test area totalling 44 species for the Tallaringa area.

continued page 3



IN THIS ISSUE

- Working trip Tallaringa and Mamungari CP
- Friends Forum AGM
- What's in a name?
- Dene Corde retirement
- 4 WD driving course
- Visit to Brookfield Conservation Park
- Volunteer News
- Volunteering SA
- Field Guide comments
- Diary Dates
- Web Links

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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.



Dene Corde's Farewell

On Friday 30th March I attended Dene's farewell celebrations at National Park, Belair. It was a day of celebration of Dene's career of 40 years within our National Parks system. What a celebration it was. Those who participated in the speeches including Dene retraced his working life. Congratulations to all involved in the organisation.

Marlene Friebe

Friends Of Parks Inc. 14th Annual General Meeting

On Monday 7th May I attended the 14th Annual General Meeting which was held at Sunnybrae Heritage Farm, Regency Park. All groups were given the opportunity to present a two minute report on their group's activities for the year 2006-2007. A written report was submitted prior to the meeting. It was interesting to hear of other groups activities.

After a very enjoyable lunch participants were given the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of the Heritage Farm. If you get the opportunity a tour is well worth while.

The statistics presented by Pam Smith are noted below.

There are to be increases in fees. Full Friends Member Groups \$5 rise to \$10 per Friends Group per year, Affiliate Groups - \$10 rise to \$15 per group per year and Individual Subscribers - \$10 per year.

Marlene Friebe

Summary of Thanks From Dene Cordes

I feel overwhelmed at the kindness shown to me on my retirement. It was quite amazing.
 Brian, thanks for the speech you made at the pavilion.
 To you all, heart felt thanks for the camera, watch, Sturt Pea book, cricket ball and on top of that the cheque!
 Words cannot express my gratitude, surprise, humility.
 And to Pam, for all that you arranged, the personal inputs, and the stressful times in recent weeks.
 Lynn, thanks for your words at the pavilion.
 Debbie what an amazing job you did with the photography and the photo displays.
 Marg & Gwynne - thanks for your help to me.
 Kosette, a huge vote of thanks to you.
 The day will never be forgotten by Dianne and me and our families.
 Signed Dene Cordes.

What's In A Name

On our recent trip across the desert I noticed some texta writing on the back of a sign. Being a curious person I checked it out. It read, '*The correct spelling of the hill named after Bill Voake who was a member of the 1901 RT Maurice Expedition, has now been officially accepted.*' This was signed.

When speaking to an employee at the Geographical Names Board I was informed that the spelling of Voakes Hill was gazetted on the 18th November 1993 and has been recorded on the 28 -11-1994 so it appears that we have been spelling it incorrectly for more than a decade.

When searching the web I received this further information. *W.Voakes was a general hand and cook with RT Maurice in the 1901 exploration of the area. Name altered in 1993 with the correct spelling of the name of the person the hill was named after.*

Marlene Friebe

YEAR	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	NUMBER OF DAYS	REGISTRATIONS	PROJECTS
2005	5837	28476	425	755
2006	8950	35051	480	1371

SUMMARY - 2006
 The 35,051 days of volunteer labour equates to 7,010.2 weeks. This equates (allowing for a paid employee being absent for five weeks of leave and public holidays) to 149.153 full time staff.
 This, in dollars, based on an average salary of \$45,829.70 (South Australia) per year, is worth \$6.5m to National Parks & Wildlife per year.

Tallaringa/Mamungari Working Trip continued.

The Tallaringa Well site was visited and rubbish was collected. Assessment was also made of future work to be undertaken.

During their survey the Tallaringa group were given an insight into the old and the new including the discovery of an automatic solar powered rain gauge. Kristian explained that after 2mm of rain, it empties itself and records the results on a graph. Once a year the information is removed and sent to the Meteorology Office.

The Mamungari Working Party

This party continued along the Anne Beadell Highway to Serpentine Lakes. On return to Voakes Hill Corner they proceeded down the Cook Road to the Dey Dey Road and to Oak Valley before proceeding to Colonna and the Eyre Highway. Along the way they continued to resurvey quadrants that had been set up during the 2006 working trip resulting in twelve quadrants being surveyed during the trip. This group also repositioned the seven new vegetation posts that had either been destroyed by fire or had weathered over the years.

During this trip an opportunistic collection of plant species was gathered. Two samples were collected of each species and one will be kept by the State Herbarium whilst the remainder will be returned to the Friends of the GVD for cataloguing.

Desert Conditions

Prior to the Dog Fence the convoy was detouring around a water covered track and so the party was optimistic of good conditions within the desert and as they progressed they were not disappointed. Along the way they were treated to displays of very green mounds of *Triodia* (Spinifex). In fact at times it was so thick and dense it resembled thick carpets. At other times it was in flower with beautiful purplish heads.



The once burnt desert was regenerating. Marble Gums – *Gongylocarpa* and Mallees were sprouting at ground level from root stock and young *Hakea francisianas* were well established. Some of the more established plants were in flower. From time to time the party stopped to photograph the beautiful golden/yellow *Grevillia juncifolias* as well as the cream of the other species of *Grevillia*. Although it was late/early in the season different *Eremophila* species displayed purple, mauve and red. At other times we were treated to splashes of *Acacia* yellow.



As we approached Tjintirrgarra Water Hole a Grey Teal duck waddled out of the water and up into the vegetation. Serpentine Lakes partially covered in water was quite spectacular. These lakes are the feeding grounds for Red Capped Plovers and Grey Teal ducks.

continued page 4



4x4 Driving



I have owned a 4WD since 1990 and my first vehicle was a Toyota Hi Lux dual cab ute. I really had no idea how it worked, so Shelagh and I joined a club to gain the knowledge to drive it properly. Since then we have owned several 4x4's of varying types and have been members of several clubs, presently we are members of the Suzuki club of SA.

Over the years I have gained from listening and watching people with experience, but you never stop learning, different vehicles operate in totally different ways. The course I did with David Wilson at Adventure 4x4 was excellent, theory in the morning then up to Sandy Creek in the Barossa for the practical. We had different situations to overcome, from water crossing, sand, rocky terrain and dunes, also stall procedures for up and down hill. In all of these exercises we were talked through, giving you confidence. I learnt a great deal from the course and recommend others to take up the chance if possible. It was an enjoyable day.

<http://www.adventure4wd.com.au/>

Jim BOND.

Tallaringa/Mamungari Working Trip continued.



Tjintirrgarra Water Hole



Serpentine Lakes



Hakea francisiana

Track Conditions

Track conditions for this area were predictably rough. However with Andy and Tammy travelling in front of the convoy and dragging chains conditions were not quite as bad as they have been in the past. In particular the chains removed much of the corrugations in the sandy areas and

improved travelling in the more stony sections of track.

Seventy Kilometres from Tallaringa our convoy came across a vehicle that had broken a spring. This group was employing good 4WD procedure and consisted of a party of four vehicles. When the mishap occurred the occupants of two vehicles had gone to obtain replacement springs whilst the third remained with the damaged truck. They had constructed a detour around

the offending vehicle to enable other traffic to safely pass and being a happy positive, experienced group they had a plan in place should rescue not occur within a prescribed time.

Several days later as our convoy was returning to Voakes Hill we came across the group who had repaired the vehicle and were proceeding on their way towards Serpentine Lakes. Fortunately the driver had obtained 2 springs as the second one broke within 40km of the first breakdown.

Weather

Except for a wind storm accompanied by thick dust at Coober Pedy and very cold evenings and mornings (-1°C) on sunrise the group was treated to lovely mild to sunny, warm days.

Marlene Friebe

incorporating notes on the Tallaringa working party by *Doug Smith*.

Photography by Marlene Friebe.

VISIT TO BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION PARK

On Saturday, May 5, Doug, Heather and Jim, and I drove to Brookfield to hear Glenn Shimmin of DEH, Abundant Species & Sustainable Use, give a talk on the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat (*Lasiorhinus latifrons*). Besides being a very interesting and informative talk it was a good opportunity to meet the president of the Brookfield Friends, Sue Linnell, along with a few other members and the Murraylands liaison ranger, Steve Brown

Later, there was a brief discussion about a possible kangaroo and wombat survey later in the year. If this takes place this may be an opportunity for some GVD members to be involved. Sue will contact me when she knows more details.

After lunch we were taken on a tour by Glenn of several wombat warrens so he could point out features which would help to assess whether a burrow is active or not.

For those of you who, like me, aren't familiar with the park, it covers 5534 hectares and was proclaimed primarily to conserve the Southern Hairy-nosed wombat as well as being home to the Fat-tailed Dunnart and Red Kangaroo. The park was a gift to South Australia from the Chicago Zoological Society in the 1970s. It is about 125 kms from Adelaide. It took me about 1-3/4 hrs from Reynella, following Main North Road, around the Gawler bypass onto Sturt Highway. The entrance is about 30 kms after Truro (which has a good bakery on the right hand side of the road). There appears to be plenty of camping spaces near the Scientific Camp which has a roofed cooking area and basic amenities.

There are several internet sites for anyone interested, I just happened on www.wombania.com which has pictures and basic information.

Ruth Grgurich



Top: Wombat hole

Middle: GVD Friends at Brookfield

Bottom: Heather and Jim with Brookfield member

Volunteer News - The Link

This fortnightly publication can be read online at any time. The Link provides an insight to issues pertaining to Volunteering within DEH. If you wish to be contacted by e-mail please forward your e-mail address to DEHVolunteers

VOLUNTEERING SA



Dear Member

Re: Volunteering SA Going For Gold Conference 17, 18, 19 October 2007

The VSA Going For Gold Conference, to be held on 17, 18 and 19 October at the National Wine Centre, will focus on the theme that volunteers are:

Vital Viable, Vocal, Visible

... so can you imagine the visible impact of 1,000 volunteers assembling to form the Volunteering Big V logo? Well, that's what we're planning on the final day of VSA Going For Gold Conference ... but we need your support to make it happen.

The Big V will kick off 'FestiVOL' - a day celebrating volunteer recognition and service and our chance to thank all our volunteers.

By forming the Big V, we are hoping for maximum media coverage, awareness and impact that will reinforce the promotion of volunteering during our 25th year ... and, it's going to be a whole lot of fun!

As we need a minimum of 1,000 people to help us make this happen, we are seeking 10 people from your organization for approximately 2 hours on the morning of Friday October 19. Clear directions and other relevant information needed to make the event efficient and effective will be provided to you closer to the date. This will include: assembly time, location place and points, amenities and refreshment availability.

Many thanks in advance for your help with this request.

Kaye Mahomet
Volunteer Manager
Volunteering SA

If you are interested please contact Doug Smith 08 8268 4625 before the end of August.

Dene Corde's Comments On The Field Guide to the Shrubs and Trees of The Great Victoria Desert.

Marlene

One of my retirement goals was to catch up on some of the reading in my library at home. I have just read, more thoroughly, the Field Guide to Shrubs and Trees of the Great Victoria Desert.

Please accept this as a letter for the next meeting. I congratulate and commend the Friends Group on that publication - it is excellent and was a good use of Friends Grants.

In particular, I congratulate you, Marlene, and Bill Matheson on your wonderful input. The book is fascinating and useful. As flora is my main interest, I read every word.

The photographs are concise and colourful. Great to see that Doug Smith, Marlene and Terry, and my former colleagues at work contributed to them.

Sincerely
Dene

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Deadline for the next newsletter will be the end of August 2007. Images are very welcome however, please send them separately as a jpg. or tif. file.

Ed.

DIARY DATES

MEETINGS

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

2007 FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM

The 2007 Friends of Parks Forum (www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks/) is being held in Port Lincoln hosted by the Friends Groups for Southern Eyre Peninsula from 3rd -4th August. There is still room on the coach. If you wish to travel by coach please contact pam Smith at Community Liaison Unit at the Department of Environment and Heritage.

2008 Friends of Parks Forum

The venue, for the 2008 Forum will be held at Wilpena in the Flinders Ranges from 15th -17th August 2008. Dene Cordes is to remain the coordinator of the Forum.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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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