



# *Friends of Parks Inc*

## Walking Trails Support Group

### NEWSLETTER Spring 2009

**Our goal:** *Reliable and sustainable access to natural areas.*

*Volume 7 Issue 1*

#### **From the President**

I have recently returned from a week in the Flinders Ranges helping to eradicate cactus on a property adjacent to Flinders Ranges National Park. I was staggered when we were informed that our effort last year was costed at \$30 000 using official government guidelines.

I wonder what the annual financial 'value' of the work done in the past year by WTSG in the field, attending meetings, writing brochures and other administrative tasks would be? I think we would be staggered. Volunteers put so much into our Parks in many ways, and need all the support they can get from government agencies, other organisations and individuals.

As you read the rest of the Newsletter you will see how modest financial funds have been stretched to the maximum by careful planning and willing volunteer activity.

Peter Beer

#### **Observations and group activity to date in 2009**

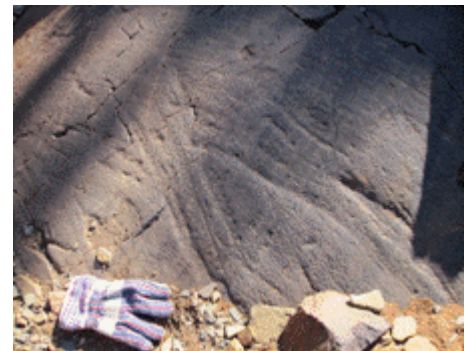
- we had hoped to get this to you in Winter!
- the AGM and end of year convivial meal is scheduled for Friday 27 November. Details to come.
- with an infinite range of individual capacity and enthusiasm, group achievements have been substantial as described below

#### **Trakers**

- pedestrian numbers to date for 2009 are [attached](#)
- Friends of Para Wirra kindly monitor Hale and Warren monthly

#### **Interpretation**

- the group has received a number of positive comments including significant donations from visitors who have used the Flinders Walks and value the availability of information on site and on the web
- Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary has printed 5000 copies of each of the walks on their patch
- the DEH version of the Weetootla Hike Network is now printed
- WTSG have applied donation funds to the printing of Italowie and Oppaminda - Nudlamutana leaflets
- the availability of prototype Barossa Walks leaflets and seeding funds from Skyline Walkers has allowed the assembly of resources to respond to a request from Barossa Information Centre for the printing of individual interpretive leaflets for ten walks
- reduction of the Barossa leaflets to both sides of an A4 sheet will permit a simpler web download.
- a larger dispenser in Brock Reserve allows the presentation of both the Burnside Walks and Pioneer Womens Trail leaflets – 47 collected in the first week (see photo over page)
- contributing our bit to Geotourism through collaboration with Dr Nick Langsford who is an enthusiastic field geologist (see photo above). Geology notes for Mount Brown and Dutchman Stern are close to web presentation. Bararranna is in our sights too. A new focus on geology!



*Glacial scratches on a boulder in Merinjina Tillite on the Bararranna Walk; we have walked past for years without recognising them!*

**National Trust SA**

- building on last years activity at Overland Corner, the group is providing assistance at Wilabalangaloo near Berri (more next time)

**V-GRNP, Arkaroola and Moolawatana**

- in 2008 checkpoint maps and topograms were installed on the Weetootla Hike Network with funds from the 2007 DEH VSU grant
- in 2009, the 2008 DEH VSU grant has been applied to purchase of waymarking materials for the Weetootla Hike Network, 60% now installed; the final 40% is scheduled for December
- assets were checked and GPS data was verified on all walks
- good news from DEH that the rebuilding of Nudlamutana Hut is scheduled for completion by December 2009
- installed the Arkaroola Village Trailhead
- proposals for re-routing of the Oppaminda - Nudlamutana walk along some more interesting alignments including access to a fossil reef adjacent to Wywhyana Creek are being prepared



*New members Liz O'Shea and Tom Goodwin assisting with track care of Bunyeroo Wilcolo*

**Flinders Ranges National Park**

- while we were constrained in some works we might have done due to the emerging Trails Master Plan we enjoyed a solid program of track improvement
- assets were checked and GPS data was verified on all walks
- after seventeen years of visiting Bunyeroo Gorge we were pleased see the Acraman detritus layer composed of fragments of Eyre Peninsula basement rocks, product of a meteor impact 580 M years ago. Increased awareness of the geological attributes of Bunyeroo Gorge might see an outcome for interpretation

**Southern Flinders – Mt Brown and Dutchman Stern**

- assets were checked and GPS data was verified on both walks
- solid work was put into track maintenance particularly drainage on both walks
- assistance on these walks from local walker Ray Wood is most welcome

**Barossa Walks**

- minor work has been effected concentrating on drainage
- recently more effective contact has been established with ForestrySA to upgrade waymarking which has been in place now for six years and to improve two minor alignments
- contact has been made with The Barossa Council who have indicated that they could include sections of tracks in their annual mowing program



*Dispenser capacity increased in Brock Reserve to accommodate Pioneer Womens Trail leaflets*

**Burnside Walks**

- track maintenance involving both weed spraying and minor track work to maintain cross falls has been undertaken
- assistance has been provided on alignments for new access developed by CVA

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