

Friends of The Innamincka Reserves

NEWSLETTER Number 10, 2020



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Foreword from the President

The Friends of The Innamincka Reserves volunteer group welcomes new members:-

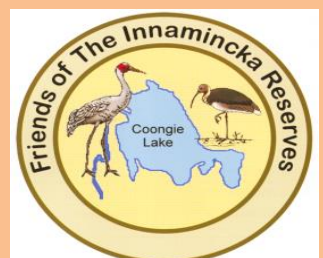
John Schutz, CEO of Department Environment and Water, SA.

Erik Dahl, former Ranger of Innamincka, currently Ranger Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

Lynton and Karen Huxley, active Members of Birds SA and Friends of Great Victoria Desert and Simpson Desert.

Tracker Prance who has spent over 20 years working in the Moomba region.

All of these folk reside in the Adelaide region of SA.
WELCOME!



MEETINGS

The 2020 AGM for the FOIR was held on Tuesday 11th February at the Resource Centre in the Black Hill Conservation Park, Morialta.

Office Bearers were elected unopposed. They are:-

Kate Buckley, President; Peter Olson, Vice President; Vern Treilibs, Secretary; Buzz Meakes, Treasurer.

Congratulations to all office bearers and "Thank You" for being willing to undertake these roles.

Treasurer

Malcolm McDonald served as Treasurer for the Friends of Innamincka for 17 years and decided to step down at the 2020 AGM. We are very grateful to Malcolm for his careful and very thorough management of our funds and Grant Monies over these years and for giving us 12 months to find a replacement Treasurer. We are in his debt.

President

The role of President will become vacant at the February 2021 Annual General Meeting. If anybody is interested in undertaking this role please make contact with FOIR so that a timely hand-over can be achieved. The Friends of Innamincka protocols state that the role of the President should be for 3 years with an option of a 4th year. Kate Buckley has been in this role since 2010, so it really is time for somebody else to nominate for the role.

If the protocol of 3-4 years is adhered to, it makes the role of President more appealing to anybody who is prepared to put in a little extra for 3-4 years.

So Members, please consider supporting your Friends group by nominating for the role of President in 2021. (For management purposes it is advised that the President reside in South Australia.)

Meeting Venue

We were advised that a new venue would have to be found for our 2020 AGM because the Black Hill Resource Centre was to be turned into a "Coffee Shop"

under the Government's drive that "Parks must pay". Well, the Coffee Shop did not eventuate and FOIR are still able to hold their AGM at Black Hill. This facility is free of charge, it offers the ability to show power-point presentations and the all important, cup of tea or coffee. This venue will be booked for the 2021 AGM.

The "2019 May Report" was sent out to Members and 2019 26th July Meeting held at Innamincka was appreciated by our interstate Members. The securing of "Policemans" camp site during the working bee was discussed and those present heard clear details regarding the second cycle of the annual Bird Survey Reports and the comparisons that these reports would offer.

I would like to express my appreciation to Anne and Peter Young who again offered their home for our end of year meeting and social gathering to be held on November 17th, 2019.

Our meetings have always been enhanced by reports from the DEW staff in Innamincka. I hope that this continues in 2021.

STAFF

Our "Thanks" is extended to Tony Magor, National Parks and Wildlife Manager, Flinders and Outback/National Parks and Wildlife Service, DEW, for his ongoing support to all aspects of the FOIR undertakings and especially with the allocation of Grant Funding.

Chris Hannocks "Ranger in Charge", Innamincka, has been undertaking various training programmes, but at present is unable to fulfil his role in Innamincka due to health issues.

Ranger 2, Katheryn Litherland keeps in contact giving updates on Innamincka. She advised that Jason Litherland has received a promotion to the role of "Field Officer". "Congratulations Jason". FOIR always appreciate the effort you put into our annual working bees.

INNAMINCKA NEWS

Trading Post



Clinton Stevenson and his wife Pae, Managers of the Trading Post and “President” of the Progress Association, took a well earned holiday in January and went to Taiwan to introduce baby Ella to her Grandparents.

Innamincka Station

The Management of Innamincka Station, is being undertaken by a Jacob & Teagan at the moment.

Joan Osborne

I maintain contact with Joan, who was desperately hoping to get back to Innamincka in 2020. But like all arrangements this year, her trip had to be put on hold.

Changes in the Town – Toilet Block

At last!! The long promised new toilet block has been completed. It is in the same position as the former one, and you still need \$2 coins to operate the showers, but it is more spacious, better designed and hopefully easier to keep clean.



Thank you to Kathryn Litherland for these photographs and “Congratulations” to the Innamincka Progress Association in achieving this long awaited goal.

Air-strip

Another big improvement for Innamincka has been the changes to the air-strip.



In 2018 FOIR Members, Jan and Ray Hutchinson spent 3 days rolling the air strip – no longer required



All weather tarmac means air-travel security for the locals and visitors.



Welcome Signs



The entry point to Innamincka has some extra signage and historical figures, but...



we never expected to see this!!



Rubbish Dump

Picking up plastic bags and other items from the surrounds of the “rubbish dump” has been an annual back-breaking task for the Friends of the Innamincka Reserves.



Yet again, due to the very active Innamincka Progress Association with support from the Outback Communities, this is a task no longer required.



This amazing enclosed construction has been long over due.



However,



although we applaud the Progress Association developments with this much improved enclosure of the “Rubbish Dump”, which will stop the distribution of plastic bags all over the area by Black Kites and Little Ravens, the enclosure still needs refining.

The birds have found that they can still get into this structure, but then struggle to get out.

It will be good to see this “entry point” closed off for the safety of the birds..

Given the constraints of distance and lack of local expertise, the Innamincka Progress Association has achieved an enormous amount in the last twelve months. Their works will make life better for locals and tourists.

“CONGRATULATIONS”

From the Friends of the Innamincka Regional Reserves

Weather Extremes of Innamincka



January brought unbelievable dust storms.



Katheryn was in a constant state of “cleaning mode”.

These are her footprints in the “enclosed” section of the AIM building. There is just no way to keep the dust out. Closed windows and doors seem to be just a small hindrance to the seeping, suffocating dust.

Katheryn reported that there was no relief from the dust even at night. They could not sleep because of the coughing that the dust induced.



Why bother doing the washing!!!



Vehicles under-cover received little or no protection.

Whilst we all love Innamincka we certainly appreciate just how difficult it would be to live there through the extremes of weather.

And then came the rains!!!



The Strzeleckie Creek was even flowing.

Katheryn reported that from the 4th of March to the 4th of April 163.4 mm of rain fell and then a further 78.1 mm in the following three days.



And then the whole landscape changed!!!

Is it any wonder that this place holds us in its grip!!

INNAMINCKA RACES

The annual Innamincka Sporting Association Race Meeting, has been cancelled for 2020. Hopefully it will be back to normal in 2021 and Friends of The Innamincka Reserves can assist with their annual clean-up of the facilities at the Race Course.

WORKING BEE.

The Sager Family from Victoria



have reason to be proud with Caitlyn finishing her Year 12 and being accepted into a TAFE course. We wish her success when her study regime can return to normal.

We had high hopes for a busy 2020 working bee – Jason had some surprises ready for us – but that was not to be. We can only hope that 2021 will see a return to Innamincka of our usual working bee enthusiasts.

“Thank You” to all of the Members who were willing to attend the 2020 working bee and for understanding the reasons for its cancellation.

Whilst we could not celebrate with a working bee, 2020 is still a very important year for this Friends Group.

1999

to

2020

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

FRIENDS OF THE INNAMINCKA RESERVES

2020 marks the 21st year of the founding of the Friends of The Innamincka Reserves. DEW and Friends of Parks celebrate 20 years and 10 years of service with certificates and medallions to Members. At the 21st AGM of the FOIR Erik Dahl, former Ranger Innamincka, gave a presentation on Innamincka entitled, "Then and Now". Then the CEO of DEW, John Schutz, presented Gold Medallions for 20 years of service to:-

Don & Sue Ransom, Peter & Ann Young, TC & Terrie Coleman. (Peter Olson and Lesley Hunkin have also been Members for 20 years but were not present at the meeting).



Erik showed amazing photographs relating to the Innamincka region, spanning many years. He acknowledged and paid respect to the traditional owners, the Yandruwandha and Yawarrawarrka Peoples and highlighted their link to this land.



Erik had the honour of cutting the delicious birthday cake baked by Wendy Spackman.



Don & Sue Ransom with Erik Dahl and John Schutz. Don & Sue were founding Members of the FOIR along with Peter Olson and Lesley Hunkin.

Date Joined	NAME
1999-04	Mr Peter Olson
1999-05	Mr Don & Mrs Sue Ransom
1999-05	Ms Lesley Hunkin
2000-04	Mr Trevor & Mrs Terrie Coleman
2000-04	Mr Peter & Mrs Ann Young

Within a year, Peter & Ann Young had joined the FOIR group with TC and Terrie Coleman.



Peter Young, (Ann was unable to attend)



TC Coleman with Erik and John.
(Unfortunately Terrie was unable to attend due to ill health)

John Schutz then presented silver medallions to the Members present who have given 10 years of service.

Date Joined	NAME
2002-06	Mr Malcolm & Mrs Marie McDonald
2007-05	Mr David & Mrs Wendy Spackman
2007-05	Mr Kevin & Mrs Bev Bird
2007-05	Mr Malcolm & Mrs Sandra Wiesman
2008-05	Mr Chris & Mrs Christine Medlin
2008-05	Mr Martin & Mrs Claire Forsyth
2008-08	Mr Stephen & Mrs Judy Golley
2009-04	Mr Rod Powell
2009-12	Ms Sylvia Kaberry & Mr Anthony Perrett
2009-11	Mr Steven & Mrs Kirstie Miller
2010-01	Ms Maria Rosenfelder & Mr Harry Verrey
2010-02	Ms Kate Buckley

Malcolm and Marie McDonald became Members in 2002. They have given 18 years of service to the group, with Malcolm serving as Treasurer for most of that time. Outstanding contribution Malcolm – thank you.



Malcolm & Marie – 18 years.



David & Wendy Spackman – 13 years.



Martin & Claire Forsyth – 12 years

CONGRATULATIONS

THANK YOU

and

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to these dedicated Members of the Friends of The Innamincka Reserves
“Thank You” to John Shutz and Erik Dahl for taking the time to celebrate with us

GRANT MONIES

Given the complexities of 2020 it is fortunate that Friends of Innamincka do not have any Grant Monies outstanding this year.

CONSERVATION

The amazing Coongie Lakes has benefited from good water flows in 2020.



A bird survey at Coongie would be a wonderful experience in 2020 but for Covid 19. However, the track to Coongie is overgrown and impassable



in some areas with grass at 1.5 metres in height.

Coongie Lakes is a very special place in the **world**. Euan Moore (pictured below) works each year to monitor this KBA, (Key Bird Area) as designated by BirdLife Australia and BirdLife International. Coongie Lakes was added to the world RAMSAR list in 1990s. This is clearly stated on the signage in the AIMS building.



The **Ramsar Convention** on Wetlands. is of **International** importance. It holds the unique distinction of being the first modern treaty between nations aimed at conserving natural resources. The signing of the **Convention** on Wetlands took place in 1971.

The aim of the Australian Guidelines is to facilitate improved management of Ramsar sites in line with Australia's commitments under the Ramsar Convention and responsibilities under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Guidelines provide a framework for Ramsar Convention implementation in Australia and provide jurisdictions and other interested parties with clear guidance on the management of Ramsar sites.

Given that there has been a good deal of water flowing down the Cooper this year, as is seen by the photographs of the Causeway in January



and May

– it beggars belief that cattle are roaming through Coongie Lakes at the present moment!!

Friends of Innamincka saw the devastation wrought by cattle on this precious landscape in 2017

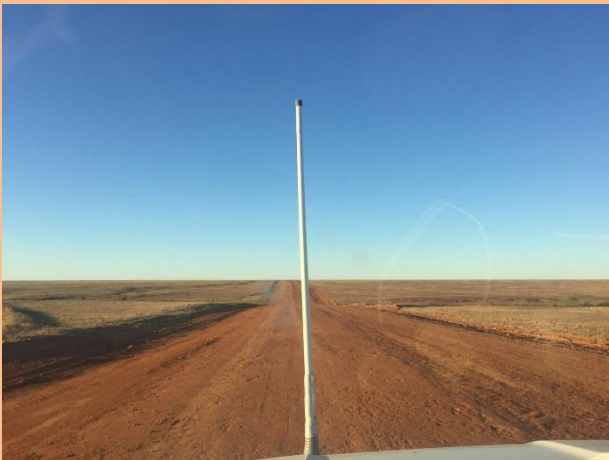


and spent days erecting and repairing fencing in order to prevent a repeat of this pastoral activity.



Surely nobody has purposely left gates open or cut through the fencing to allow cattle access to Coongie Lakes??????

Road works have been happening aplenty in the Innamincka Reserves over the last 12 months.



Dillons Highway 2020



Cordillo Road 2020

Whilst I am sure that the 4x4 drivers will all enjoy a much smoother ride, I wonder if any thought was given to the surrounding landscape, the future degradation of these areas through further erosion and in particular to the survival of the very rare "Small-headed Toadlet" *Uperoleia capitulata*.

The late Professor Mike Tyler was most anxious that this species be protected. He

specifically asked Friends of Innamincka to try to protect the habitat of the "Small-headed Toadlet" recorded only once in South Australia at Patchawarra Creek.



2020



Cordillo Road 2020

I have grave concerns for the survival of this species in this location given the extent of the earth movement.

Bore Track was the beginning of the Friends of Innamincka annual formal Bird Survey and reporting. The 5 year cycle was repeated along the Bore Track in 2019, however, it didn't look like this



Bore Track - 2020



Bore Track - 2020

Erosion does occur naturally but it has been exaserbated by the earth movement being undertaken to build "straight-line" roads for infrequent use by mining vehicles.



but for all Australians.

This fragile land gives plenty



As well, there are culturally sensitive areas that need to be protected not only for the



but we must protect it!!

Ranger Katheryn Litherland and Field Officer Jason Litherland have worked to protect Innamincka Reserves by collecting rubbish left by visitors and workers.



Adventure Highway 2020

We are sorry that we have not been there to help them this year.

They have also collected for repair the damaged signs along the Strzelecki



And Katheryn adds a touch of beauty to the AIMs building – apart from her momentous task of keeping out the dust.



BIRD SURVEY

2020 Was to be the second year of our “Comparative” Reporting with our Bird Survey work. This year it was to be the Coongie Track 5 year comparison. Disappointingly we can not gather that data however, our “Roving Bird Reporter”, Jason, has noted “Old Man Emu” along the track near Policeman’s carefully guarding his 4 chicks, and 3 Bustards on the Coongie Track.

We will make a “Birdo” out of you yet Jason!!

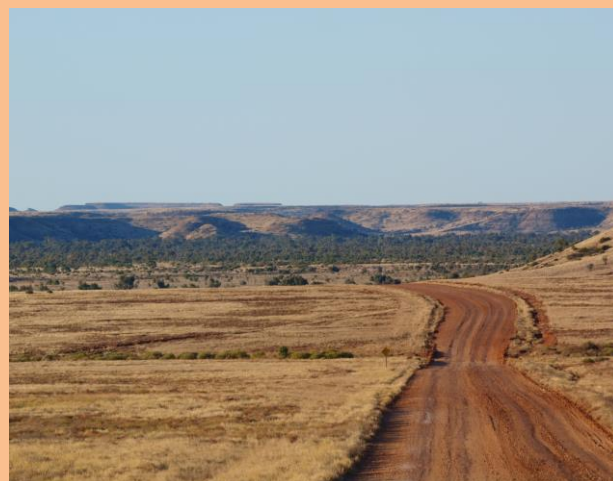


He seems to have lost his chicks!!

THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS FOLK WHO WERE WILLING TO COME TO THE INNAMINCKA WORKING BEE THIS YEAR.

‘THANK YOU’ TO THE DEW STAFF FOR THEIR ON-GOING SUPPORT OF FOIR AND TO KATHERYN AND JASON, FOR ALL OF THE 2020 PHOTOGRAPHS.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE 2021 WORKING BEE,



Nappamerrie Road 2011

(Photograph K Buckley)

Farewell folks, see you in
Innamincka in 2021
Kate Buckley