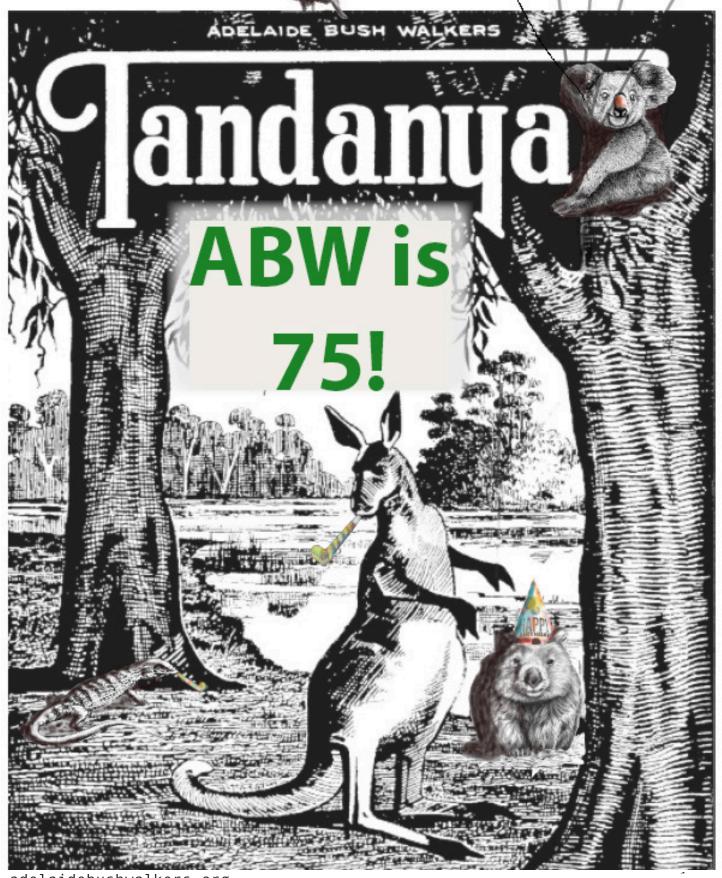
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Adelaide Bushwalkers Magaz

Volume 51 Number 1 Autumn 2021



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"Whatever you do, always give 100%.
Unless you're donating blood."

www.adelaidebushwalkers.org • gohiking@adelaidebushwalkers.org

Close off date for next issue: 5th of May 2021

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Cape Jarvis to Victor Harbor



he route from Cape Jervis to Victor Harbour is one of the most beautiful coastal walks in SA. It traverses Deep Creek and Newland Head conservation parks as well as the magnificent Waitpinga Cliffs.

It takes you across the wild Tunkalilla and Waitpinga beaches and a number of small isolated coves. Wildlife is regularly encountered, Kangaroos, birds and reptiles. Eleven club members set off on a warm but fortunately windy Saturday morning and lunched at Blowhole Beach. We camped at Eagle Waterhole where a gentle rain fell through the evening. Over the next couple of days we were reminded why Deep Creek has its name: a number of steep ascents and descents to climb! The walk finished along the Waitpinga Cliffs with Rosetta Head in the distance.

This walk can be done by public transport from Adelaide to Cape Jervis and then Victor Harbour back to Adelaide.

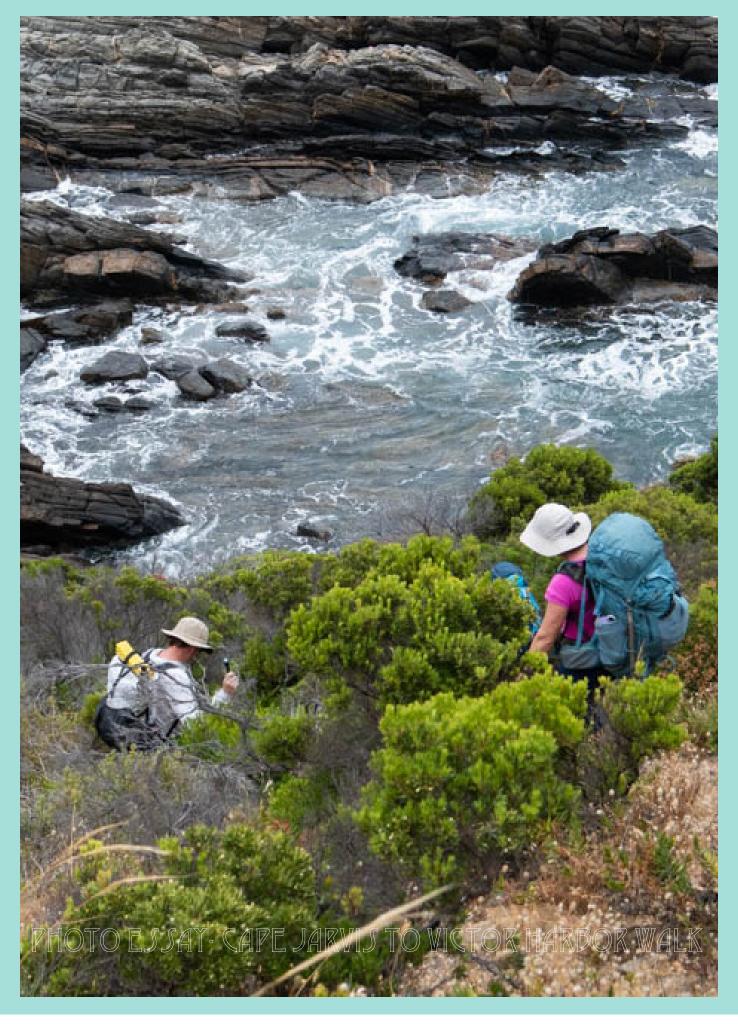




PHOTO ESSAY: CAPE JARVIS TO VICTOR HARBOR WALK













ADELAIDE BUSHWALKERS



Adventure, hi-tech gear, remote landscapes, physical challenges... ...and a nice cup of tea



ABW Club information

The club meets at the North Adelaide Community Centre, 176 Tynte Street, North Adelaide on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm (February to November)

Annual subscription fees

CategoryNormalStudentProspective Membership\$60\$30Full Membership\$60\$30Associate Membership\$10\$10

Family membership is no longer available for new members

Contact details

Email: gohiking@adelaidebushwalkers.org Web: www.adelaidebushwalkers.org

Post: PO Box 434, North Adelaide, SA, 5006

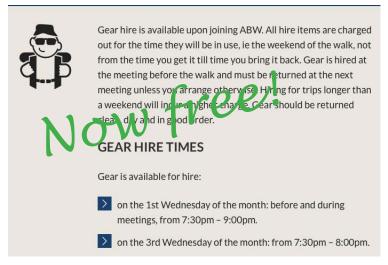
Banking Details

Bank: Bank SA BSB: 105900 Account: 950 866 540 Account name: Adelaide Bushwalkers

Membership queries

Contact the Membership Secretary: Sofia Oliver- 0409 098 169 or via email through gohiking@adelaidebushwalkers.org

For privacy reasons, the names and contact details of other office bearers are no longer published in the magazine. Please use the contact details above.



The reason for this is that cash is infrequently used and is difficult to manage. In addition the fees typically amount to about \$300 per annum, which is considered insignificant.













An expo to celebrate the start of the South Australian bushwalking season. With the arrival of cooler autumn weather, hiking is an ideal outdoor activity. South Australia's bushwalking clubs and Walking SA are coming together to celebrate the occasion with a unique day in Belair National Park.

Expo of walking tours, walking destinations, outdoor retailers, walking clubs, free entry. 9am to 2pm.

Guided hikes ranging from 45mins to 3 hours, including childfriendly and Accessible options. Guided Walks will depart every 10 minutes from 9:20am to 12:20pm.

You can secure a place on a specific guided walk by registering online, or just arrive on the day and choose a guided walk to join. (Details and tickets for the dozen walks will be published in March 2021.)

NEW: Bushwalking equipment and experience demonstration stage Location

Main Oval, Belair National Park When

9am to 2:00pm, Sunday 11th April 2021

park for expo visitors Free entry to expo Guided Walks: \$5 on the day to participate, or secure a place on your chosen guided walk by purchasing a ticket online from March 2021 Guided Walks There are guided hikes ranging from 45mins to 3 hours, including child-friendly and Accessible options.

Free vehicle entry to national

Guided Walks depart the expo site every 10 minutes from 9:20am to 12:20pm.

Walks are \$5 per person



Please refer to the ABW website for up to date information on the clubs 75th anniversary activities

5th Anniversary

- Beyond Heysen Walk –
 Lee is leading this activity.
 The route of the walk will
 depend on rainfall with the
 preferred option to incorporate the new water tanks,
 with an alternative option
 around Parachilna. The
 timing is likely to be in the
 first half of May 2021. Lee
 has posted the walk on the
 website.
 - Re-enactment of first ABW walk Alex is leading this activity. It was confirmed that this event will occur on the weekend as close to the original date of 26 October. Kerry has done some research and advised that the walk started at Hill St Fullarton at a tram terminus.
 - Commemorative badge and shirts - Alex advised that the badge design has been approved and an order has been placed for 200 badges due to be completed by 5 February 2021. The commit tee discussed shirt material, quality and style. The committee agreed to purchase the premium quality navy shirt, with red strips. The committee agreed to buy 6 shirts including mens (size medium, large, X large), womens size 10,14 and 16). People will be required to attend a meeting, chose

- their shirt size and pay and ABW would order the required volume following placement of orders. The committee agreed that the badge and polo shirts should be made available early in 2021 (March).
- Updating History Book –
 Kerry is leading this activity
 and will be receiving articles to include from some
 members. Publish updated
 history book towards the
 end of 2021.
- Social Event Sammi Lanyon is leading this activity. This needs to be monitored carefully regarding COVID. Planning has begun and it is proposed to have the event in October 2021 at the Woodcutters Cottage at Kuitpo Forest. Current restrictions allow for 50 people at this site.
- Activity' Bagging John Bartlett will lead an activity. Rather than peak bagging, John will modify this to be an 'activity bagging' event. This will enable a wide range of members to participate.



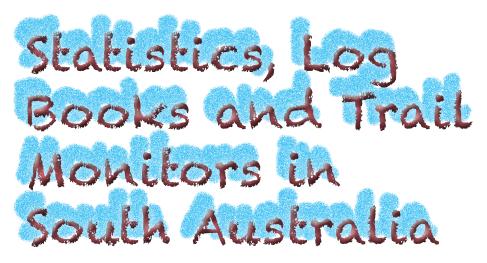
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*In Store Only Excludes GPS, PLB's, Scouting Products & Sale Items





by Lorraine Thomas

cattered throughout our state there are trail monitors on trails and Summit Logbooks on peaks and they provide us with a wealth of information. For example they show how many walkers are using the trails which, in turn, will validate trail improvements and infra structure measures. These statistics are also useful governments policy such as Pastoral Act late last year and can assist local entities in land management and regulation.

As far back as the late 80's to the present in the North Tusk Hill log there are many regular entries from the Scientific Expedition Group (SEG) monitoring the biological, botanical rainfall and information. This information can be viewed on the link below.

https://www.communitywebs.org/ ScientificExpeditionGroup/main. php?pid=14

The Rover Rock Hole log led to an article being published in Tandanya, Summer edition, 2018, by Mike Round. Mike compared the number of parties, (rather than individuals), entered in the log to the rainfall over the years

and these statistic clearly show that there are more visitors in high rainfall years. This peaked in 1990 and the numbers have fallen away since and Michael asks if this is due to the aspirations of hikers who now may prefer the shorter walks and a comfortable bed.



"Us-Hikers" are well represented in the Vulkathunha Gammons logbooks throughout the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties and this group consisted of secondary school boys and girls plus scout groups. These consistent trips perhaps opened up extended hiking for girls who prior to the 60's were treated differently to boys. The aim was to build confidence and to inspire these young men and women with a

"can do" attitude. In particular, this was borne out by Diana Patterson, the first woman to lead an Antarctic Expedition. In her book, "The Ice Beneath my Feet: My Year in Antarctica". She attributed her drive and passion for the environment to her early years with "Us Hikers" in the late sixties.

Other notable entries are from Warren Bonython, Adrian John and Monica Heard, Chapman all of whom have written books on the area so if you dig deep enough into these logbooks you can unearth a great deal and I have met, via email, so many interesting people who have contributed so much to hiking in this state, it is quite humbling.

Sometimes the information is recorded in exercise books held in practical waterproof containers that are custom made or in old "ammo" boxes and sometimes it is just scraps of paper in an old Vegemite jar. Not practical, as the old tin lids rust through and the documents are lost forever. An ABW (Adelaide Bushwalkers) salvaged documents from Mt Stuart in 2014 and now photocopied and can be viewed on the website (thanks to Jeremy).

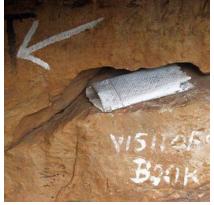
An old tablet tin containing logs for Kankana Peak was found in May 2020, 500M below Iralbo Peak by Dr Mark Lethbridge of "Echoknowledge". The last entry was 2006, this may have been removed on purpose by some "purists" who believe Logbooks and cairns desecrate the pristine wilderness or it could have made its way down by not being secured properly. What a chance find after 14 years! This log is now held in ABW archives.

The problem with statistic collection is that it is variable because trail counters include walkers plus bikes and horses and log book entries depend on whether the hiker actually makes an entry. It has been suggested (from decades of asking) that only about half of the hikers make entries and this is because many don't write up subsequent visits, or they don't see the logbook, there is no pen or they just don't bother.

In my view, if we are to pursue statistics we need to persuade hikers to make entries in the logbooks. Anecdotal evidence shows that the number of extended hikes are diminishing in the Northern Flinders which could mean that people just don't know of the myriad of places to do extended walks. One such log entry requested that a list of all the summit logs be listed inside the front cover so they could plan more walks. I hope that person reads this article because the list is at the end!

There is a protocol for filling in the logbooks but this is often ignored as there has been a lot of graffiti and vandalism of these historic records. An example of this involves the Brown logbook where signed pages were torn out to light a fire. In addition, pages were missing from an entry made in the late seventies by Fos Williams (coach) and the entire Port Adelaide football Club, someone had selfishly souvenired the signatures. Fos was born in Quorn and for training he ran his team up to Mt Brown and back before there was even a walking trail.

These logbooks or containers are installed by various groups



visiting a summit mostly to say "I've been here" and then random responsible people collect them when full or damaged and archive them in various locations unbeknown to the hikers who left their precious comments and who often revisit the location and try to find their old entry. To locate these books requires calling on old memories if you know who to contact in the first place, ABW have many logbooks (11) placed on summits throughout the Flinders Ranges and they maintain them and archive the old ones within the club.

From other sources I believe Arkaroola may hold old logs from Freeling Heights, A



member of Walking Trails Support Group holds logs from the Quorn area, Angorigina Station may have old logbooks from Patawarta Hill and sometimes these books are handed to the local park ranger and occasionally they find their way to the care

of ABW. The State Library of South Australia (SLSA) holds an old log from Rover Rock Hole and is available on Microfiche (18th May 1970 to 11 May 1998 (microfilm D7431(L), State Library of S.A.)

As the caretakers of these items change there is potential for this history to be lost over time and it is the general consensus



that it would be wise to have them stored in one location such as the SLSA where they can be put on microfilm (or digitized) and be accessible to the general public. SLSA will only take logbooks in reasonable condition and some responsible body has to hand over the rights of that document. The CEO of Walking SA has agreed to facilitate the collection of logbooks to hand on to SLSA. In the meantime it would appear that Adelaide Bushwalkers have the most logbooks in place and presently have their own archives with digital copies of these plus others on their website.

Not only are logbooks historical documents but together with the numbers from various trail counters they show trends in the numbers visiting an area on which we can base our policy and plans to "Keep More People Walking More Often".

Trail counters are installed by various councils, trail builders and the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) and they monitor numbers for their own purposes but they also pass this information on to Walking SA who have seen a statewide trend that walking numbers have more than doubled since the Covid 19 initial "lock down". The challenge now is to keep this trend going and next time you bag a peak, look for a logbook and make an entry, that small deed may be very important in the future (courtesy Jeremy Carter)

Logbook Protocol

The aim of the logbook is to provide a permanent record of visits and observations in the area.

Please enter:

Date and weather conditions.

Water availability ie condition of waterholes, springs, tank levels etc.

Where you are from (ie club, family, friends or school, town) and the number in your party.

Where you have travelled from and where you are travelling to.

Any notable animals, birds, flowers weeds or pests that you noticed during that day.

Each member of the party can then sign their name and make a short comment. Be mindful of not writing up your complete diary and filling up the book or using obscene language.

Logbooks are an archival historical document.

Secure carefully back into watertight container.



LOGBOOK LOCATIONS

Please notify ABW or Walking SA if these logbooks are full or damaged in any way and every effort will be made to replace them. Taking a spare pen or pencil to the location may be prudent.

POMPEY PILLAR*	CD 54 1 064040E	65 00640N
	GR 54 J 264240E	65 08648N
PATAWARTA HILL*	GR54 J 281715E	65 72716N
MT FALKLAND *	GR 54 J 264513E	65 49458N
KANKANA PEAK*	GR54 J 265108E	6542353N
PT BONNEY*	GR 54 J 274389E	6502868N
MT ABRUPT*	GR54 J 264838E	6516308N
BARLOO*	GR 54 J 266198E	6539352N
MT HAYWARD*	GR54 J 268008E	6534283N
MT HACK*	GR54J 289401E	6593556N
CLEFT PEAK*	GR 54 J 319128E	6627298N
McKINLAY BLUFF*	GR 54 J 320698E	6623548N
NORTH TUSK HILL	GR 54 J 311582 E	6629173N
ROVER ROCK HOLE	GR 54J 318297E	6628706N
CENTRE HILL	GR54 J 316566E	6628349N
OCTOPUS HILL	GR 54J 316525E	6624848N
MT HOPELESS	GR 54 J 371795E	6713656N
FREELING HEIGHTS	GR 54 J 344865E	6664306N
TEE-JUNCTION WATERHOLE	GR54 J 348880E	6667905N
MT BROWN	GR 54 H 218905E	6399526N
DUTCHMANS STERN	GR 53 H 779170E	6420250N
WARREN GORGE	GR 54 H 218495E	6434801N
DEVILS PEAK	GR 53 H 781318	6409580N
EDMUND HILL	GR 54 J 347923E	6668704N
MT TILLEY	GR 54 J 283705E	6584321N
MOCATOONA HILL	GR 54 J 285325E	6601155N
MT STUART	GR 54 J 272209E	65877362N

^{*}Denotes ABW logbooks

ARCHIVED LOGBOOKS

Currently held at Adelaide Bushwalkers:

PATAWARTA HILL, 18.5.87 - 17.07.97 PATAWARTA HILL, 14.6.99 - 15 7 09 MOUNT BROWN, Pre Oct. 1989 - 9.03.01 MOUNT ALECK, 7.06.86 - 19.08.13 POMPEYS PILLAR, 8.06.86 - 15.09.01 MOUNT FALKLAND, 19.05. 84 - 2.06.08 CLEFT PEAK, July 1990 - June 2015 KANKANA PEAK 1964-2006

Currently held at The State Library of South Australia (State Library of SA ROVER ROCK HOLE available on Microfiche (18th May 1970 to 11 May1998 (microfilm D7431(L), State Library of S.A.)



Ten Day Tasmanian South West Cape Loop Trip Leader: Trevor



ive of ABW made their way to Hobart and all arrived by Saturday 16th January 2021 (and Australian Open tennis players landed in Adelaide for an exhibition match). We were hiking during Covid-19 snap travel restrictions – fortunate to have a direct flight by Jetstar on the Adelaide-Hobart route, and for the

open borders between the two states.

The walk started and finished at the Melaleuca remote airstrip in the South West National Park. On Saturday we received advice from Par Avion (for the flight) that due to forecast windy conditions they had rescheduled our Sunday flight to leave earlier

at 8am rather than 2:30pm. Sigh, no relaxed Sunday breakfast at a Hobart cafe!

However, this allowed us to be a day ahead of schedule, as the original plan had our first night at Melaleuca, but now we would have plenty of time to walk the easy four hours to our first camp at New Harbour on the south coast.





Walk leader Trevor Jones

So, on Sunday we made our way to the Cambridge airfield, were weighed in, and paid for stove fuel (to be collected at Melaleuca).

We five plus another person were in one plane, and our luggage spread across planes - four planes in total flying out together. The other person was a Meetup chap leading a diminished group along the south coast track – most had to pull out because of a recent Covid-19 cluster in Brisbane.

Departure was on time at 8am and landed just after 9am. Flying along the coast meant we could see Bruny Island and the south coast cliffs with streamers coming of the waves indicating the blustery conditions. The pilots kept in communications with each other to determine the conditions being experienced. Glad I put on warm clothes as the flight was cold. It was a bumpy ride, happy when we gently touched down. Unloading and reloading quickly, all the pilots were keen to get back in the air before the weather worsened.

We collected our stove fuel from the pilots, sorted out our packs, left some food containers in the shelter storeroom, and headed off wearing full rain gear and warm layers at 10am. After about six kilometres the turnoff to New Harbour was reached, with no indication other than a light pad off to the right. We had a rest and took off a layer. Up until then it had been easy (occasionally slippery) boardwalks, but now it was the typical eroded path, generally flowing with water due to the constant drizzle. Some gusts in the exposed sections; a few small creeks to step over and a couple of small ascents.

After about three and half hours of hiking we came across the Walkers Registration logbook (with nifty waterproof pages) at New Harbour - the most recent walkers were here January 9th. We waded the shallow creek outlet on the beach and traversed the beach for a while until locating a brackish creek, with a sheltered and spacious camping area. All the camp sites we used along the coast were in the sheltered forest edge next to the beach. all with a fresh water creek

flowing nearby. There are no facilities – any ad hoc "seats" or "tables" at the camping locations have been made from flotsam and jetsam.

We were all very damp and cold, so all disappeared into our tents for the rest of the day and night, looking for as many warm dry clothes to put on as we had. A common entertainment for us when snuggled into the tents was watching the occasional leech trying to get through the inner (and of course making sure none entered with you).

The next morning's weather at New Harbour was still drizzling rain and gusty, with the ocean roaring nearby. We found out later that there was 20mm of rain at the airstrip today.

After breakfast in our tents (or outside in wet gear), we headed off after donning our damp clothes from yesterday. About two and half hours later we arrived at Hidden Bay, giving up on the idea of the side trip to Mount Melaleuca due to the poor weather. The track was good with a lot of work by Parks. From New Harbour it is through



rainforest then to ridges exposed to the elements. The Hidden Bay campsite is not so nice or as large as New Harbour, although Hidden Bay has a nice beach and a large tannin-stained creek flowing well.

We continued on the improved track that goes from Hidden Bay to Ketchem Bay; great views on this section looking back to Hidden Bay and later to Ketchem Bay. It is very exposed to weather - we were constantly buffeted trying to keep balance. Overall today there was not much mud due to Parks improvements - mostly walking on white rubble, except within the pretty rainforest section after (I think) New Harbour, where some care was required on the narrow "ledge" track and around the tree obstacles.

Overall a fairly easy walk where "navigation" is not required.

The Hidden Bay to Ketchem section was too exposed to stop for lunch, so we delayed lunch until setting up camp at Ketchem Bay. A mother and daughter came in from Wilson Bight just after dropping our packs at Ketchem – they had spent yesterday in their tent due to the rain. The weather calmed very occasionally after our arrival at Ketchem, but overall, we spent the rest of the Monday in our tents.

The next morning (our third day), John was awake about 6:30 am and saw a rogue wave come up to the edge of the camp – this was due to the high tide and the blustery conditions. The wave covered the sandy sitting area just

a few metres away. He was getting ready to do a hasty pack-up, but the water did not reach that level again. Possibly Mal was at a greater risk being slightly lower in the camping area.

Anyway, the weather had cleared, though still blustery, and departure was at a relaxed 9am as it was to be a short day. An easy ascent up the track through the forest and soon we stopped at a creek with a "wash down station" (scrubbing brushes and creek water) to limit the spread of phytophera, for those heading west (like us). We then ascended through relatively open forest on an obvious track. Some sections of the track were almost overgrown, so pushing scrub out of the way was required at times, but not much mud



to deal with. Overall, this section of the track has been less maintained than up to Ketchem Bay. The track meandered near the cliffs at times, so gave us some limited coastal views through the trees.

Eventually the track opened to flowering scrub with views of Wilson Bight, and followed by a steep straight forest descent to the beach. But the real challenge then comes to get around the rocky headlands at sea level.

Wading the edge of Horshoe Inlet

The tide had been receding since we left camp two and a half hours ago, but we still had challenges getting around the rocky headlands at Wilson Bight (there are two sections that I recall). Much careful clambering as far from waves as possible and watching the timing of the waves got us all around okay, but not completely dry!

Just before the Wilson
Bight camp we passed a
small waterfall (source of
drinking water) and heaved
up the wooden steps to the
campground – which takes
maybe five tents at the most,
however it is sheltered and
grassy.

At the camp, the sun was out, and we hung out our wet gear to dry. It was also nice finally eating in the sun together rather than solo in our tents out of the rain. It was a relaxing afternoon exploring the beach area, snoozing, reading and eating.

On the way off Wilson Bight on our fourth day, there was a dead seal tangled in ropes near the entrance to the forest and a live seal further away. The track started with a very steep but short (25 minutes) climb up from the beach through rain forest (rope in place). Some more ascending then the track followed the top of the South West Cape Range so is largely just grasses, no significant scrub, but still much easier walking on a pad than not.

Chapman writes it is a six to nine hour day for the traverse from Wilson Bight to Window Pane Bay, so we took twelve. Some time was invested in hunting for the pad (or just saying, darn, let's just get across to that ridge, it's bound to have a pad), as well as taking a steady pace to keep the group together. Finding the pad in poor visibility would be an issue. On a fine day, you may still need to hunt around for it, and use navigation skills to just aim for where you expect the track to be.

The day included a couple of notable high points - Mount .
Karamu and later (at 4pm)



the highest point on South West Cape Range. The weather was clear, providing great views along the coast and across to the jagged outline of the Western Arthurs. The only water we found was collected from a tiny tarn - it was novel not having tannin stained water for a change. From the range we could see the peninsular of the South West Cape, but we just waved to it. Later was spotted a pair, I believe, of Tasmanian Purplestars -Isophysis tasmanica and as well the group was watched over by a scattering of white quartz "megalithic" rocks brilliant in the afternoon sun as we started the long slow meandering descent off the range.

The exit to the beach at Window Pane Bay is down a very steep sand "cliff" assisted by a long rope in place. The forest camp requires crossing a rocky bottomed creek twice, so we ended the day again with wet boots and socks etc. We were all very tired by the 8pm arrival but able to setup

camp, then sit around and have dinner before complete darkness.

What is the best thing after a 12 hour walking day? Well chocolate for sure, but what else? A rest day of course! So day five was just that and fortunately a fine day at a very nice campsite - best so far, except for having to cross the slippery rocky creek to the beach. The author did some clothes rinsing and body rinsing, walked to the more sheltered far south west end of the beach for a swim, and Trevor went exploring and the others did similar housekeeping and relaxing activities. Some catlike like creature was lurking near the campsite at dinner time, but was too hard to see clearly.

After a nice day at lovely Window Pane Bay it was off for a five hour trek to lovely Noyhener Beach for our sixth day out. Overnight had been overcast and warm and so was the morning sitting around at the agreed breakfast area. But it was cold on the exposed hills and ridges. A

relatively easy walk for most of it varying as usual between open scrubland pad, and the melaleuca forests with leaf litter covered pads down to and up from rainforest creek sections.

The pad was easy to follow except on one open hillside (but found quickly continuing straight on), the other was about half a kilometre from the rocky point just before descending to the coast near Noyhener – it appears to be a track junction - the way we went was taped, but through fallen tree obstacles, but came easily to the steep jagged rocks running into the water. The other pad (to the right) we speculated continued through the forest and came out onto the beach further on avoiding the coastal rocks - this turns out to be the case.

We then faced the challenge of clambering on the jagged and a slippery rocks, sometimes timing the waves to move on – at one point we had to climb back up and descend again to the ocean level as it was all water and no rocks at that



The highest point on SW Cape Range



Timing the waves at Wilsons Bight



Alfresco dining at Nohenyer Beach



Obsticle-trail between New Harbour and Ketchem

point. Anyway, after some time we all got around with only John taking a dunking when exploring ahead for us for a route.

The forest at Noyhener Beach has two sheltered campsites, and grows to the edge of a high sand bank on Murgab Creek, access is a short wade across the sandy bottomed shallow creek and up a chain and wooden ladder.

The weather had brought rain part way through the walk today, but the sun came out just as we left the rocks and onto the beach. The Noyhener/Murgab camp is nice and sheltered. There is a big "table" made of a large wooden cable bobbin with ad hoc bench seats in the middle of the open area - very convenient. There is a second camping area further into the forest, with a steep bank down to the creek for water. There is another Walker's logbook here recording that recently some day trippers visited from Spain Bay. Trevor and Mal explored the sand dunes and walked west to the rocky point but the tide prevented further progress - jokingly, Mal discouraged Trevor from swimming out to Sugarloaf Rock a mere 4km away, but looks much closer! The group finished the day with a relaxed dinner sitting around the cable table.

The walk plan included a night at Spain Bay. The following day, Trevor, John and Mal continued on to there, while Pam and David settled in at Noyhener for our return.

We found an easy route across the sand at the back of the north headland, taking only



Looking back to Ketchem Bay

A 20 minute video of this trip can be seen at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLTSGBILbBh6dkXiZiilrw

about fifteen minutes to cross over the headland to Stephens Bay and coming out at the large aboriginal midden complex beside a flowing soak. A few photos were taken at the midden no surprise there would be a dependable water source there - it looks like a spring feed outlet. We then walked north along the long beach at Stephens Bay (the middens full of abalone shells etc continue for up to half a kilometre) and stopped for a rest at the steps into the forest for the final track to Spain Bay. A creek flows there, and we filled bottles again. The track from there is easy to follow across low heath but it has some muddy sections, taking about 30 minutes to cross to Spain Bay. The bay has a lovely (again) long beach with narrow line of solid forest along the edge.

There were already some tents in the camp site. We three set up tents, had lunch, got water, and rested. After resting we set off on a 4km return walk east along the bay and did scrub exploration to the top of a hill there. Note to readers: I have decided on the phrase "scrub exploration" rather than "bush bashing", pass it on!

Later a volunteer group of four people returned to camp - they are removing marram grass, and (I think) sea spurge. They have been doing volunteer work for twenty years. This time they were helicoptered into Spain Bay landing on the beach and will spend ten days in the SW Cape area gradually walking back to Melaleuca the way we have come. Later as a reminder to be careful with food, a bandicoot that was



not overly concerned about us, went sniffing around the tents looking for an easy meal.

The following day (our eighth) Trevor proposed a morning walk (4.3 km return) to Sunset Hill for some views. We again went past the little headland to the northern beach and then scrub explored up the south end of the Sunset Hill ridge into the mist. We took some photos but waited awhile and the mist cleared to a sunny day with great views of Spain Bay, the next door Hannant Inlet and the entrance to Bathurst Harbour, and a few islands. It was a nice return walk at low tide back along the beaches, and we left Trevor to have a short swim or a swim without shorts only he knows.

We packed up camp and next encountered the volunteer group who had moved on and dropped packs at the midden/soak and were exploring the headland coast between Stephens Bay and Noyhener Beach. We arrived back at the Noyhener camp mid-afternoon with Pam and David waiting at the cable table. Later the

volunteers arrived and set up at the second camp which was further into the forest.

From Noyhener Beach the route is about 13km to Horseshoe Inlet, just next to the Port Davey track. Sadly, you have to cross both the South West Cape Range and the Pasco Range! So, we got away early expecting a longish day, putting on shoes, socks and gators after crossing the creek to the beach – why start wet! The exit track is up the dune beside the creek.

We managed to lose the pad not long after, at the top of a hill, and found a pad after some scrubby descent. As an indication of pad visibility, we lost the pad and came down the South Cape Range on one spur north of the spur with a pad - the up/down pads are very obvious when seen from the other side of the valley but not obvious when on top where they are less eroded. The track up the Pascoe range was equally very visible across the valley while on the South West Cape Range, and not too hard to follow.

Upon nearing Horseshoe Inlet

after about six hours it was hard to locate any pad so we just pushed into and along the forest edge and on the grassy water edges when we could, and in the water at other times. Note that high tide pretty well covers all of the exposed areas between the Horseshoe Inlet low tide edge and the forest of the Horseshoe Inlet - try and get there at low tide if looking to camp or to get onto the Port Davey Track. Trevor got us there at low-tide fortunately (he did well with all the tide planning).

At Horseshoe Creek we stripped down to modesty and as well kept on shoes for the short swim across the creek (shoes in case of sharp branches etc) - we put our clothes into the backpack and the pack into a large garbage bag and tied it shut and this worked well to float the backpacks across, though Trevor had a nifty waterproof backpack that floated nicely on its own. The water was not as cold as any of us expected, nor fortunately was the air as we "dried" and dressed.

We had a lot of trouble finding the camping area at Horsehoe Inlet – in the end we established an ad hoc camping spot I reckon about 100m before we later found what looked like a more used camping area amongst the Melaleuca forest.

Our final hiking day was a very pleasant (not) hike along the muddy Port Davey Track for about four and a half hours including a lunch break. As the Horseshoe Inlet was at high tide, we went through the forest to the nearby larger camping area which had an exit track to the Port Davey track, rather than

back to a heavily marked exit we encountered on walking around the inlet.

After several hours, and nearing the airstrip, there is a solid metal foot bridge over Melaleuca Creek- older editions of Chapman's may not mention it – the creek in with day visitors who were all wearing facemasks, and we were all handed facemasks by the volunteer caretaker someone had decided both Cambridge and Melaleuca were airports. Along with our luggage, we all went on



was very energetic, and we were appreciative of the easy crossing. Upon arrival at Melaleuca we collected our stored food, and set up camp in the trees behind the two hikers huts. The sea water edge of the Melaleuca Lagoon is just down the slope a bit and on a nice day would be an excellent swimming spot – it was very useful for rinsing all the mud off shoes and gaters.

We tried to have a group dinner at the picnic table, but rain interrupted our plans.

Back to civilization on day eleven. We had a scheduled flight out at 10am from Melaleuca, and the weather was much nicer this time. We packed up and waited in the museum for our flight. There we met a woman who was counting the parrots and had just released some, and she (not the birds) was also flying back with us. Just before 10am, two planes flew

Above: Group photo at Port Davey Track sign at Melaleuca

a twin engine plane taking about an hour in calm but overcast skies. This time we flew inland, to the right of (and lower than) the West Portal of the Western Arthurs and could just glimpse Federation Peak in the distance to the right.

On arrival at Cambridge we made our various ways to Hobart accommodation, hot showers and cleaner clothes, and met again in the evening for a nice dinner down at Salamanica.

The next day, another adventure started for Trevor, Mal and John before flying back to Adelaide – while Pam and David enjoyed the cafes and sights of Hobart - but that is another story.



by Don Rusby and Edward Burgess (Leader)

ach year the Wednesday Walkers hold a week long bushwalk / camp which is open to all club members. There is no overnight walking but the scenery and activities are great.

2020 was the year that I decided that it was time to return to the **Gammon** Ranges after a long hiatus caused largely by diabetes and the start of arthritis. Originally fate was against me because of the Corvid19 virus and our original booking of Grindell's **Hut** for April was cancelled and money refunded. Once bookings opened again, I booked the hut for August/ September and crossed my fingers for this time. Fortunately this time was a goer.

We had sixteen members in the group with 8 Wednesday walkers and 8 other ABW walker. This presented a minor problem due to the differing strengths in each group. I decided that the group could be split up with different experienced leaders for different sections. People could also have rest days provided they did not wonder off. I also decided that although the hut only catered for eight people, that Worturns all facilities would be shared by the campers as well.

I had never seen the Gammon Ranges so dry. Even trees that I thought would outlast any drought were dead and there were very few living animals and lots of carcasses of dead kangaroos and goats. Fortunately, I did not see one The expedition adventurers at the well-equipped walker's hut near the historic Grindells Hut

living goat in the entire week that I was there. The rains came but three weeks after we left and not enough to make much difference.



Day 1 31st August written

by Edward
All sixteen members of the party went on a walk to
Monarch Mine along a Royal Geographical Society of S.A. trail. This is a circular walk across the barren mountain tops to the Monarch Mine. We



had many beautiful views of **McKinlay Bluff**, **Mt John Roberts** and even **Cleft P**eak and the **Blue Range**. We began the walk at 9AM. After two hours of steady minor climbing we reached the top and Monarch Mine.

Here we rested for "11's". Next was our sharp descent towards beautiful Weetootla Gorge. As we were descending into the beautiful Weetootla Gorge, the track gave way under the feet of one of our party. He had received some serious cuts and abrasions and sprains. I was worried for him but being a true bushwalker and after 30 minutes of first aid by other members he was able to push on although at a much slower pace.

We found water in Weetootla Spring and had lunch at the water's edge. Surprisingly, there was heaps of bird life but no animal life (except ants). The remainder of the day's walk was along Balcanoona Creek back to the hut along an extremely old and disused 4WD track. I allowed people to forge ahead while I stayed back and walked with our injured. There is nothing worse than being injured and left behind. We returned to the hut at about 4pm. A special shower awaiting our injured.

Day 2 1st September written by Don

It got down to -2C last night but my sleeping bag kept me snug and warm.

Our Tuesday walk had us head up onto the **Gibber Plain** then a climb up and down both Edward's Red Hill and the real Red Hill finishing at the shelter/ water tank that our club had installed in 2019 using part of a bequest from our former Patron, the late Warren **Bonython**. From there, those of us who still had some life in our legs, pushed on up Italowie Creek towards Wildflower Waterhole. We then returned to the 4WD track back to the start of today's walk. Another nice cool sunny day of walking with the usual sitting round the campfire after dinner.

Day 3 2nd September written

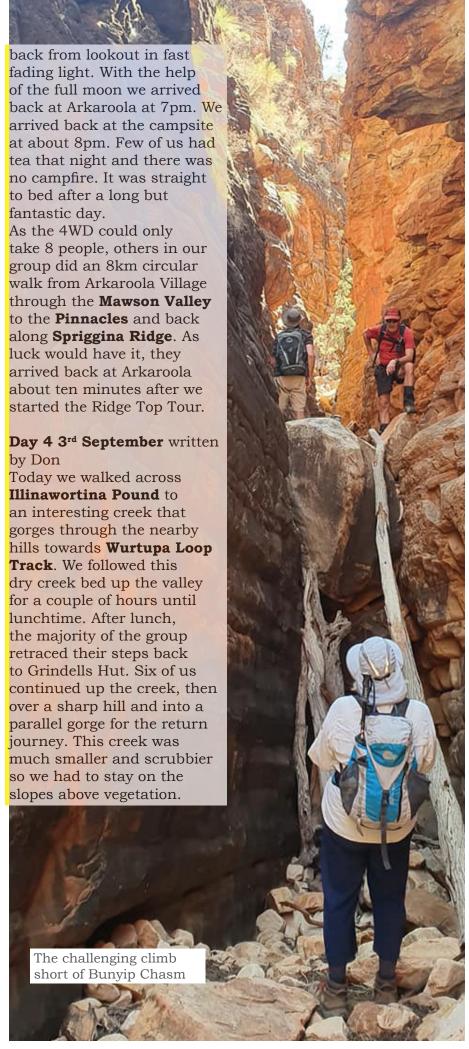
by Don (and Edward)
With balmy weather, it got
down to 15C overnight. On
Wednesday we had a day
off from walking. Today
was the 4WD tour to Sillers
Lookout What a difference
a day makes. After a
deserved sleep in, we drove
to Arkaroola, arriving at
10AM and enjoyed an early
lunch and drinks at their
restaurant.

The 4WD truck/troop carrier returned to Arkaroola from its first trip about an hour late. Eight of us boarded it at about 12.45pm to set off for Sillers Lookout along the Ridge Top Tour. It was only a round trip along a so called 4WD track but the whole trip took about 6 hours with three major stops and afternoon tea with lamingtons atop Sillers Lookout.

It was a fun afternoon being thrown around in the back of the truck whilst going up, down and around some of the craziest 4WD tracks we have ever been on. We drove



Warwick can't resist attempting a challenging climb



Suddenly the vegetation cleared away and we arrived above a 30 metre high vertical dry waterfall. We had to scramble around rocks which was interesting and scary indeed. Once we were at the bottom of the waterfall, we were able to follow the dry creek bed out onto the plain and back to the camp. Another very long and tiring but interesting day.

Day 5 4th September written by Don

Today, Edward (leader) went off to investigate some local mines. The rest of us drove to **Loch Ness Well** where we parked our cars. Roger Kempson led today. We walked up the top end of Balcanoona Creek deep into the **Blue Range**.

We were walking towards Bunyip Chasm looking for stray bunyips. I had heard of Bunyip Chasm before and I was finally getting there. Our leader had told the adventurous ones of our group not to climb up the gorge at the end due to some deaths while climbing into it (in other words it is a dangerous climb). We reached the first waterfall where most of us stopped for lunch. Four of us climbed up and through it to the impenentrable area which if I was younger, I would say was "do-able" We then returned to the start of the chasm, ate lunch and caught up to the others on the return journey. The Chasm is very similar to Stanley Chasm in the West McDonald Ranges out from Alice Springs butmuch more difficult to walk through.

(Edward) Although I have made many trips into the



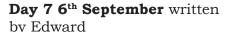
West of Grindells Hut

Gammon Ranges, I have only ever climbed to the end of the Bunyip Chasm twice. The first time, I was young and stupid and the second time, I freaked out halfway while descending the chasm. I had to close my eyes and follow verbal directions from below and put my faith in other people.

Day 6 5th September written by Don

On the Saturday we divided into 2 groups for our final walks of the trip. Three walkers decided to do a big walk to the top of McKinlay Bluff and the others, a reasonably flat and straight forward 12km return walk past "Hells Gap" following the the Balcanoona Creek through Weetootrla Gorge to the **Wetootla Camp Ground**. Whilst I would have loved to

go with the other 3, I decided that I didn't a long and hard uphill climb on the last day! I think that I made good choice as we returned to the hut at 2pm. The mountaineers returned after dusk at 6pm. The river walk was very pretty and topped off a great week of walking in the Gammon Ranges.



Early on Saturday, we all said our goodbyes and headed off in the different cars back home. Some drove all of the way while others spent a night in Quorn and other places. I would like to thank the 16 people who were on the walk. We all blended with each other perfectly and we all had a fantastic week of the Gammons. To those who had

been there before, I am sure that it brought back great memories. For those who were there for the first time, I hope that you now consider yourself a GAMMONITE. (Gods own country).



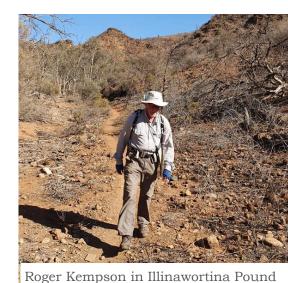
Lunch on the first day in Weetootla Gorge



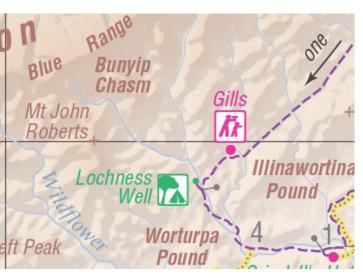
Camp ground near Grindells Hut



Third ABW water tank below Red Hill



Roger Kempson in illinaworuna Pound



Citizen Science in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

by Ray Hickman

his item reports on an environmental monitoring project being conducted in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park by members of the Park's Friends group. Early reports on this project have appeared in the Autumn, 2017 and Summer, 2019 issues of Tandanya. It is a Citizen Science project that sees Friends group members working under the guidance, and with the support, of scientific professionals including Mr Robert Brandle, Senior Conservation Ecologist,

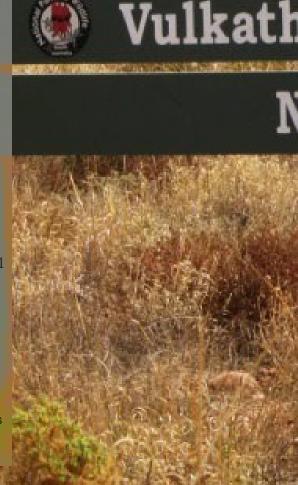
The main focus for the monitoring is a set of three permanent springs, and their associated wetlands, all of which are habitat for the nationally endangered fish Mogurnda clivicola. The common name for the fish is 'Flinders Ranges Gudgeon' and the local Adnyamathanha people call it Wirti Udla Varri. Two of the springs, Weetootla and Yuwanhinya, are located inside the park about 9 km north-west of

the park headquarters at Balcanoona. The third, Nepouie, is located on the nearby Wooltana pastoral lease about 8 km north-east of Balcanoona. Nepouie is not accessible to the public and the Friends group visits that spring through arrangement with the pastoralist.

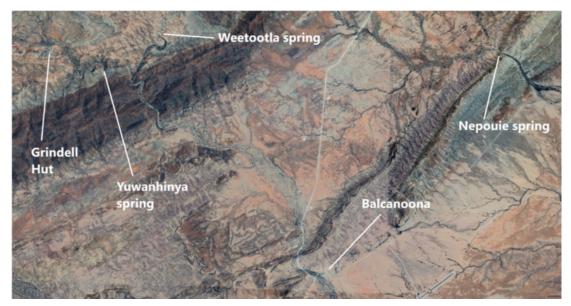
Weetootla, Yuwanhinya and Nepouie springs are the only known sites where Wirti Udla Varri is definitely surviving today and, consequently, there is concern about the possibility of the fish becoming extinct. Actions that have been recommended to protect against this include:

- 1. investigation of other sites in the northern flinders where additional populations of the fish might be successfully established;
- 2. regular monitoring of the existing populations to assess the quality and extent of habitat, along with fish numbers and signs of disease.

The Friends group has directed nearly all its efforts towards regular monitoring of the existing populations but is likely to be involved in assessing alternative sites, and then monitoring at those sites, if they are established.







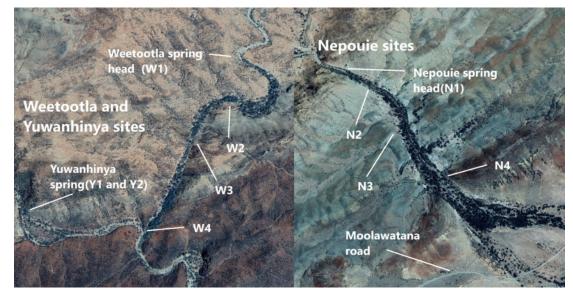
Google Earth



The photo above is of monitoring site W3 which remained in the condition shown throughout 2018 and 2019 when rainfall at nearby Arkaroola was the lowest since records commenced in 1938.

The image from Google earth above shows where the springs are located in relation to the Park headquarters at Balcanoona and the Grindell Hut campground.

The Google earth image below shows approximate locations for the 10 monitoring sites.



Google Earth



Friends group president Dr Martin Caon is shown here with the simple equipment used.

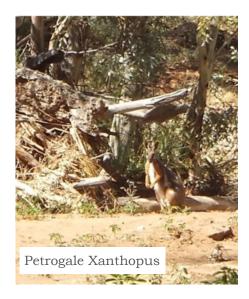
Spring condition: there is more than just water quality that contributes to a good habitat for a fish as vulnerable as Wirti Udla Varri. An important factor contributing to its survival is likely to be the cover provided by both aquatic plants growing in the pools in which the fish live, and terrestrial plants growing nearby. Should this cover diminish significantly, for an extended period, survival of the fish will be threatened. Alternative sites will need to provide similar cover for the fish relocated there. To assist in identifying suitable alternative sites one member of the Friends group, Ms Nicki de Preu, an experienced conservation ecologist, has combined the group's water quality measurements for Weetootla spring with estimates of soil erosion, total vegetation cover, reed presence in pools and degree of grazing. These estimates were combined to provide an index indicating that the Weetootla

habitat is currently in good condition.

Of these three monitoring elements the first two require only an interest in doing the work and sufficient physical fitness to be on foot, out in the open, for 6 or so hours. Any training required can be done on site. The walking is mostly on flat ground on marked walking trails, with distance covered being about 6 km or less. The third element listed does require sound knowledge of plants and animals. Infra-red activated

cameras have recently been acquired for use in monitoring native and feral animals in the terrain adjacent to the wetlands. The most highly visible native is the Yellowfooted Rock wallaby (Petrogale xanthopus).(image above right) It inhabits the high, rocky ground near the springs with individuals often seen in the creekline.





Feral cats are rarely seen but they are present in the monitoring area as the adjacent photograph of a dead cat at Nepouie spring proves. The infra-red activated cameras should provide a better indication of feral cat numbers.

Other monitoring activities:

Locations of Native Orange or Iga trees (Capparis mitchelli) are being mapped by gps. The trees can occur singly or in groves separate from other tree species. When they are in groves there may be little or no

> undergrowth and this is attributed to past use of that location as aboriginal campsites.

About the Friends Group:

Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park is an incorporated

body having about 60 members. It visits the Park at least twice a year for a stay of 6-8 days each time. Environmental monitoring is one of three activities in which members can choose

