



Port Julia Progress Association

FEBRUARY 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all members and friends of the Progress Association.

It has been four months since the new Committee was elected, and they have been working to the Programme for 2016/2017. The following two events have been held:

CHRISTMAS DINNER

This was held at the Curramulka Hotel on 17 December with thirty members and friends in attendance who enjoyed a Christmas Dinner with a few wines and cold beers.

After the dinner members drove around the streets of Curramulka looking at the Christmas lights and displays put together by the residents around their houses and gardens. For a small town they put on a good show!

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST



This was held on 28 January and attended by sixty-five members and friends who enjoyed an excellent meal of bacon/eggs/sausages/tomatoes/toast and orange juice plus tea and coffee. One member's table celebrated with a few bottles of bubbly....well done!

Lucky squares, raffles and lucky spot chairs helped to increase the atmosphere at the well decorated hall carried out by the Committee.

The raising of the Australian flag whilst singing the National Anthem, and the reading of Australian poetry prior to the flag ceremony, was conducted before breakfast.



Many thanks to the Committee and their supporters who assisted on the day with the breakfast. For those members who paid for the breakfast by EFT, could they check if the transaction was successful? Our Treasurer, Faye Matthews, would appreciate a reply if there was a problem, as she needs to complete the accounts for the breakfast.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

BARBECUE DINNER - SATURDAY, 4 MARCH 2017

This is to be held at the Community Hall. See the flyer attached. Get in early to book your seat/s as the last Dinner sold out!!

EASTER FAIR – SATURDAY, 15 APRIL 2017

More donations are required for our many stalls, plus volunteers to work on the stalls during the day. This is our major community fundraiser for the Association – your help will be greatly appreciated. A flyer is attached. Easter Raffle Books will be distributed and available next week. Contact the Secretary if you can help in any way or sell more than one book.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS are due from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Like many of us, what with Christmas and New Year activities, it may have slipped your mind. Could you please arrange payment with the Treasurer, or via any of the Committee Members. Thank you to those who have paid their subscriptions already.

TREASURER – If you're paying the Association via an EFT or cash deposit, could you please notify the Treasurer, Faye Matthews, of the details, i.e. your name, type (e.g. subscription, raffle money, function fees, etc), and the date of your transaction. Email treasurer@portjuliapa.org.au. *Please note: Rob Moon is no longer the Treasurer and has moved out of the area.*

BUSH CAMP



We now have resident Caretakers at the Reichenbach Park Bush Campground. They manage the campers, collect fees and keep the toilets and areas clean. They will be with us until June 2017. If you're passing by say "hello" to Sue and Alan Jones.

DRAKES FOODLAND COMMUNITY DOLLARS



The Port Julia Progress Association joined the Drakes Foodland Community Dollars Programme last July. For every \$2 spent when shopping at a Drakes Foodland the Association receives 1 cent. Every six months (May and November) we will receive the amount collected over that time (by way of a Foodland voucher).

I am pleased to report that in November 2016 we received a voucher to the value of \$63.00. Thank you to everyone who has used their barcode tag when shopping.

If you do not have a tag, please contact the Secretary, Colleen Bennett, who will mail one out to you – secretary@portjuliapa.org.au or ring 0417 877 316.

The tags can be used at any of the 36 Drakes Foodland stores that are spread throughout the metropolitan and country areas of South Australia.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION

Thank you Anne Chappel who has forwarded the following piece.

Written by Stephen Davey, and published in the **NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK** (Issue 165), entitled “**Port Julia – A Study in Tenacity**”

“I had occasion to spend time in a different kind of world, on the edge of the monoculture of upper Yorke Peninsula. Inland, the heart is gone from the natural systems which once prevailed, but on the coast there can sometimes be found echoes and remnants of the former diversity.

Between the shack city of Black Point and the yachting mecca of Port Vincent is a tiny settlement called Port Julia. Even the name is romantic. I had stopped in there briefly on trips to the peninsula, but only knew it as the area near the small jetty, with pale cliffs behind a tiny, narrow beach. A pleasant and peaceful place.

This time I was staying in a house, north of the jetty and the older shacks which encroach right on to the beach, threatening to fall into the slowly rising sea. The house was up above the foreshore along an unsealed road, and I was immediately taken by the beauty of the view. What made it so special was that the sea formed a backdrop for a strip of mallee which filtered the two-tone blue of the sea-grass filled bay and the pale yellows and buff colours of the reef, gradually being exposed as the tide ebbed.

Over the next few days I was able to explore the remarkable diversity and natural history of the bay. The vegetation may only have formed a narrow strip, but it supported a significant population of plants and birds, seeming to punch well above its weight for such a restricted remnant.

My host for the stay was involved in the local bush care group and was able to enlighten me regarding the geology, human history, birds and plants of this quiet part of the peninsula. Several species of Eucalypts are still represented in the coastal strip, along with a healthy understory, in spite of a long history of human involvement, going back to the days of sailing ketches and bagged wheat.

I saw a family of Babblers noisily scouring the vegetation along a road verge in the morning and, remarkably, the increasingly uncommon dusky wood-swallow lining the overhead wires like so many starlings or sparrows. The way in which the narrow strip of mallee links in to other patches of vegetation along the coast must mean that the birds have a reasonable, if linear, foraging area.

The local bush care group has had the good fortune to be granted use of an old road reserve which the council handed over to be used as a revegetation corridor to areas inland.

Life on the offshore reef was also in evidence. I saw one specimen of the endangered Hooded Plover along with groups of the commoner birds like Red Capped Plovers and Oyster Catchers feeding when the reef was exposed.



The geology on display in the cliffs embraced tens of millions of years, and it felt strange to put my hand to places where the layers between epochs belied the scale of their formation. I learned that rounded limestone boulders got their shape from being smoothed in the waters of an ancient river, and a famous outcrop of soft jade-green stone, north of the jetty, was composed of the droppings of marine animals from a time beyond our imagining.

For those of us who dwell on the eastern side of the Gulf of St Vincent, it is almost a spiritual experience to watch the sun rise over the sea, and I was up early to capture images of this phenomenon. It produced wondrous ochre and yellow colours in the cliffs.

Despite the excellent work of concerned locals to preserve and enhance the remaining natural habitat, it was disturbing to see that a new subdivision had been approved and was underway just back from the foreshore, supplanting the gentle, fragile and scattered mallee with an inappropriate sea of colour bond and hard surfaces.

Out on the reef it is still legal for people to walk where they will and remove a quota of razor fish or disturb anything that gets in their way. I got the feeling that in Port Julia I was looking back in time, and this glimpse showed me something so extraordinarily precious that we ought to be doing everything humanly possible to protect it. It isn't quite too late."

VALE – Robert (Bob) Tate passed away on 19 January 2017 (aged 86 years). Sincere condolences to Peggy and family.

CLOSING

The Port Julia Progress Association website has been updated. There is a lot of information included....check it out: www.portjuliapa.org.au.

Our enthusiastic Committee is keen to work together with all members, supporters and residents of Port Julia. You can contact me if you have any issues or email our Secretary at secretary@portjuliapa.org.au.

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