

# Spring 2008

## Rawnsley Park Station



## Wilpena Pound



### *4 New Eco-Villas Begun*

**F**our new Eco-Villas are now under construction. Just when we all breathed a sigh of relief after finishing the new reception building we have found that this was just practice for the real work!

Each villa is located in it's own private spot with it's own scenic vista further down the ridge from the existing villas. So far we have spent a good deal of time breaking through much more rock than last time. This has been the only set back to date....touch wood!

So far everything is on target for an April launch date after which twice as many people will be able to enjoy a touch of outback luxury.



*4 new Eco-villas on target for April 2009.*

### Spring in the Flinders Ranges.

- Warm sunny days with cooler evenings.
- Eagles, Roos, Emus, Rock Wallabies and others raising their young.
- Goanna, bearded dragon, tawny dragon, stumpy tail and other reptiles active.
- Senna and wattle bushes bursting with yellow flowers. Other plants trying to flower as the landscape yellows and dries.
- A relatively dry winter has left the creeks dry and the springs quite feeble. Better than last year though with a large number of birds about this year.
- WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

### *Arkaroola Reef...oldest fossils in the world?*

Early in September a paper was presented to the scientific community, in Melbourne, announcing the exciting discovery of what may well be fossils, of the oldest multi-cellular, oxygen breathing creatures yet found on earth.

These microscopic "creatures" were discovered in what was an ancient under-sea reef but

is now a rocky outcrop, dating back possibly 650 million years, at Arkaroola in the far north Flinders.

How exciting that they should be discovered at the home of Reg Sprigg, the discoverer of the previously "oldest" life forms, the Ediacran fossils, also discovered in the Flinders Ranges.

The paper was presented to the Geological Society of Australia by Associate Professor Malcolm Wallace of the University of Melbourne. The study is by Prof. Wallace and two doctoral students.

No final conclusions are drawn from the evidence so far but it is shaping into another fascinating Flinders story.

### Wildlife Watch

With so much food about the kangaroo population is spread out so it seems numbers are low. As Tony's photo shows they're still there, just out of general view. See the photo in the front page heading.



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## End of An Era as Wilpena Pound Resort Sold

Since the early 1960's, soon after it's inception in the late 1950's, Wilpena Pound Resort has been synonymous with the name Rasheed.

Built by Kevin Rasheed who passed the reigns to sons Keith & Dean. Keith and Lynette ran Wilpena while, from 1985, twin brother Dean, with wife Lizzie, ran nearby Arkaba Station.

The Rasheed family contribution to the Flinders Ranges community by

building the Wilpena Pound Resort into a South Australian icon, is greatly appreciated and forever woven into the fabric of Flinders Ranges history.

'Anthology', guided by Greg Hunt, is the new owner. They own properties in Tasmania and aim to own several more in key Geotourism areas.

Their development plans are very exciting and we welcome them to the Flinders family.

## Rawnsley Wedding

August 30th was a very special day this year. Not only did it bring the heaviest rainfall event for the season but it was also the wedding day for employees Tim & Marg. The delightful service and reception were high and dry in the Old Wilpena woolshed with moods extra bright after the wonderful rain. The afternoon concluded with a firey sunset.

Birds, birds, birds are the theme this Spring.

Colourful birds with the Red Capped Robin and Varigated Fairy Wren leading the charge. Reinforcements have recently arrived in the delightful Rainbow Bee Eater.

## Bitumen To Blinman!!

The newly bitumised section of the Blinman Road from Wilpena has already proved its worth after a recent thundery shower.

Reaching 25km with 35 to go, the road will add 60km of safe, all-weather road for Flinders explorers, making the fascinating Blinman experience much more accessible to all.

## Spring in the Flinders Ranges

Several pairs of Eagles have been spotted through Bunyeroo Gorge area, along with falcons and kites. Plenty of Emu about but, so far, few chicks.

The reptiles are active now with lizards of several species spotted regularly.

## Farewell Friendly Horses...



As we grow and expand our walking, biking and 4WD tours we have found the cost and time commitments of stabling, caring for and touring with the horses is no longer viable. With some sadness we announce that December 25th this year will see the last ride at Rawnsley.

## Blog Us

We have recently added a blog to our web site.

This allows you to stay up to date with the various goings on at Rawnsley, should you so wish.

What we *really* are hoping though is that *you* will register and leave *your* Flinders story.

We are back to delightful 'short pants' weather for walking with pleasant evenings for sunsets and dining.

"Do yourself a favor" and take a break up here. We'd love to see you.

*Tony and Julieanne Smith.*