

Rawnsley Park Station



Wilpena Pound



Brand New Reception Building (same old receptionists)

We have our house back after 20 years! The front rooms are no longer the reception and offices and the kitchen is no longer the staff crib room. Everyone is delighted with our new straw-bale constructed, eco villa style, bright, airy Reception building.

The new reception is part of our ongoing improvement program for our guest facilities. We have recently finished upgrading guest unit air-conditioners, replacing the TV's and installing DVD players.

Don't worry though, there are no massive price hikes. We are just as committed to affordable family Flinders Ranges adventuring and discovery. And friendly outback service. It's just that the facilities are better.



Bright and roomy, the new reception building.

Check out some construction photos at... rawnsleypark.com.au

Winter in the Flinders Ranges.

- Cozy campfires on crisp cold nights. (Or electric blankets!)
- Foggy mornings lifting to clear sunny days.
- Occasional rainy days to grow the vegetation, run the springs and creeks and bring out the frogs. (Fingers crossed)
- Senna and wattle bushes bursting with yellow flowers.
- Eagles, emu and other birds nesting & a joey in every pouch.
- No flies!
- WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

The Flinders Ranges...a "National Landscape"

Tourism Australia has led a campaign, with state tourism associations and local groups, to promote Australia's world class destinations.

The operation is both a marketing and a conservation strategy. The promotion will be aimed at both Australians and overseas visitors.

With great fanfare the first eight "National Landscapes", the best of the best, were launched in Perth in early June.

After a great deal of work from the Tourism operators associations of the Flinders as well as SA Tourism we are very pleased to say that The Flinders Ranges has been chosen as one of

Australia's first National Landscapes. The other seven are the Red Centre, Kakadu, Australian Alps, Great Ocean Road, NSW Hinterland Green Cauldron, The Greater Blue Mountains and the South East Coastal Wilderness.

Many more will be added in the future as the program is expanded.

Wildlife Watch

Now is a good time to see the Red-capped Robin. Soon to start breeding the males are now in full plumage. Preferring fairly dense cypress or scrubland they build small, well hidden nests in the forks of Acacia bushes. See the heading for a photo.



Rawnsley Park Station
Wilpena Road
via Hawker SA 5434

Phone: 08 8648 0030
Fax: 08 8648 0013
Email: info@rawnsleypark.com.au

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THE WEB!
RAWNSLEYPARK
.COM.AU

Tour Operators On Tour With The Boffins

The Flinders Ranges Tour Operators, as part of our *Mountains of Memory* program, were given a real treat over the last few months. In conjunction with SA Tourism they instigated several 2 day lecture and excursion events given by scientists from the SA Museum.

Three geologists and an anthropologist held seminars in Melrose, Blinman, Orraparinna and Quorn,

with each seminar concentrating on the specific location and immediate surrounds.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn, unlearn, relearn and update our knowledge of our region with the latest scientific understanding from the foremost experts on the region.

All seminars were well attended by the local operators. Some were attended by operators from Adelaide.

Hopefully they'll continue, in some form, as an annual event.

Events like this are critical to ensure that visitors are led to a richer Flinders experience by expert operators with passion matched by credentials.

The presentations were wonderful. A big vote of thanks to the SA Museum team, Jim Gehling, Ben McHenry, Phillip Clarke and Rod Wells.

Rock Wallaby, Flinders' Icon

By popular demand we have begun running a *Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby, Flinders Icon Tour*. Learn some amazing facts about these delightful creatures, and their kangaroo cousins, in their home in the debris of an active fault line, in the imposing Brachina Gorge.

Bitumen To Blinman!!

After abandoning the project after last years heavy rains we are pleased to report that the road sealing to Blinman is now full steam ahead.

Imagine a smooth, bulldust free drive, in all weathers, all the way to Blinman, 60 km beyond Wilpena.

While there are some detractors who feel the road will be detrimental we can see nothing but good for the 23 residents of Blinman, the property owners on the way, the National Park, and of course, the 200, 000+ visitors annually, who often venture no further than Rawnsley Park or Wilpena.

Winter in the Flinders Ranges

Fourty mls of winter rain in the last few weeks has finally kicked winter into gear. It was amazing to see the country drink the rain through parched dry, dusty lips and in the blink of an eye, turn green.

This time of year is critical

for the vegetation to launch into it's growth cycle ready to flower and seed between now and spring. Relying on this are the animals, most of which breed through winter, especially the birds.

The follow up rain is far from assured. What is as-

sured is that watching Nature cope with, and adjust to, the changing climate is awesome. And wet or dry this country remains spectacular.

Tony and Julieanne Smith.