

FRIENDS OF CRADLE VALLEY BULLETIN 5/3/09

Some notes for you:

1. Our new Friends of Cradle Valley website will be up and running next week. This is an exciting venture and it will be a useful new tool for us to use to communicate with our Members, as well as the Media and the wider public we seek to represent. We are very grateful to Richard for his hard work on developing this site, and we would welcome your feedback or contributions, as well as any ideas for refining the website in the future.

2. FoCV members attended the Cradle Stakeholders' meeting at the P&W Information Centre on February 5th. About 30 people attended the meeting, including Parks staff and local business operators. Elaine Tregloa of TCG Planning advised that the Cradle Gateway Local Area Plan that was done by GH&D is currently being reviewed, and that a follow-up meeting will be held to enable more community input. Date & venue to be advised. Andrew Roberts from P&W informed the meeting that the new Intergrated Sewerage Treatment Plant of Cradle Village will be operational by June-July. Cradle Ranger Eddie Staier advised that visitor numbers were 21,500 over the past month, a drop of 4% on last year's figures, although bookings for the Overland Track were up by 8%.

Shuttle bus usage has increased, and the new electronic gating system was working well. However gridlock situations still occurred on 3 days over the Christmas period. Ranger Bob Hamilton has transferred to Arthur River (Tarkine Coast), and there are 6 p/t rangers on the Overland Track, and 2 volunteers at Waterfall Valley.

3. Note the Premier's surprise announcement this week that a new National Park is going to be established at The Bay of Fires on the East Coast. As Parks and Wildlife has been asked to reduce its budget by 5% in response to the current economic downturn, and there are insufficient funding and resources being provided by the State Government currently for the upkeep and maintenance of our existing Parks, I can't help feeling that that this decision may have been made without much consideration being given to investing new funds into Parks and Wildlife to enable these added responsibilities to be managed properly.

- See FoCV Letters to S.Gadd, WHA Advisory Committee and Media Release 4/3/09.

Best wishes,
John Wilson
Hon. Sec. FoCV