

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Welcome to 2011 everyone. Hope you have all had a peaceful Xmas and 2011 is a good year for your all.

Our Xmas meeting in Bendethra was well attended. The committee would like to apologise for the mix up in the date advertised. No matter how diligent our proof readers try they we are human and mistakes do happen occasionally. Luckily we were able to hold 2 meetings in Bendethra over the weekend. One meeting was held on the Saturday and another on Sunday. Both meetings were productive and lots of information was shared between members.

Saturday's meeting was held under the tree with the renovated horse yards as a back drop. The NPWS are to be congratulated on the effort that has been put into restoring these yards.

The AFA committee and members would also like to thank the Southern Tablelands 4WD member who volunteered his labour during the construction of the yards.



Members & committee in front of the renovated horse yards at Bendethra

AFA volunteers – The committee would be grateful to hear of any members with an up to date chain saw license. To assist with track maintenance the NPWS demands certain criteria to be met by those assisting them e.g. chainsaw license and restricted number of volunteers on each outing. Thank you to those who have placed their names on our volunteers list to assist with track maintenance. AFA committee will endeavor to give you as much notice as possible, however because the work is done with the NPWS rangers it is not always possible to give a lot of notice. 2011 looks like a busy year ahead for track maintenance so the committee will endeavor to keep volunteers up to date. Perhaps a few other horse riders who use the tracks would be interested in helping maintaining them (legally & in the appropriate way)?

CORN TRAIL & SHOEBRIDGE TRACK - AFA's application for another heritage grant has been successful. As mentioned in previous newsletters this will assist with the publication of our next book on the Corn Trail & Shoebridge Tracks. The project will identify, map and document two historic bridle tracks used by early settlers, so that they can be preserved and used by future generations. The amount of \$2,500 was one of the highest grants given and acknowledges the Royal Australian Historical Society's recognition of the quality of AFA's publications.

Our thanks again to Peter Smith for contributing so much of his time toward AFA and this project. Now public information is what is required to make our next publication as successful as "The Duea River Track". Members & friends are reminded to advise AFA committee members if you are aware of contacts that could be useful so this can then be passed on. Thank you also to those who have contributed so far with information.

Vandalism throughout our recreation areas continues to be a major issue, particularly in Bendethra. It is a concern of the AFA committee that the restoration

project of the Bendethra horse yards will suffer the same fate as the original yards and become an easy target for those campers unable to find their own firewood. The NPWS is considering installing hidden surveillance cameras in the area.

Bendethra's popularity with outdoor enthusiast makes it obvious that the recently proposed management plan needs to be activated asap. All members and friends of AFA have the opportunity to push for state government funding for Bendethra throughout the state government election campaign happening now. AFA remains committed to having ongoing discussions with the NPWS service regarding firewood availability; extra amenities etc within the Bendethra precinct, however, we all know that playing politics will be the only way funding will be available to look after this valuable, historical area for generations to come.

2011 dates for AFA meetings:

29th January 2011 – Venue: Araluen Hotel at 10am

30th April 2011 – Venue: Braidwood Servicemen's Club at 10am

30th July 2011 – **AGM** Venue & time to be confirmed

29th October 2011 – Venue & time to be confirmed. This will be the last meeting for 2011.

All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to hold a meeting in your area please discuss this with the Chairman or AFA committee member.

MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2010-2011 – Thank you to all those who have paid their membership fees. Family \$20.00, Single \$10, Pensioner \$5 and Corporations \$100.

AFA's 2011 Calendars are available for sale. Cost \$10.00

WAKE UP TIME

When the shearing sheds are silent and the stock camps fallen quiet

When the gidgee cols no longer glow across the outback night

And the bush is forced to hang a sign, "gone broke and won't be back"

When harvesters stand derelict upon the wind swept plains

And brave hearts pin their hopes no more on chance of loving rains

When a hundred outback settlements are ghost towns overnight

When we've lost the drive and heart we had to once more see us right

When "pioneer" means a stereo and "Digger" some backboe

And the "outback" is behind the house. There's nowhere else to go

And "Anzac" is a biscuit brand and probably foreign owned

And education really means brainwashed and neatly cloned

When you have to bake a loaf of bread to make a decent crust

And our heritage once enshrined in gold is crumbling to dust

And old folk pay their camping fees on land for which they fought

And fishing is a great escape: this is until you're caught

When you see our kids with Yankee caps and resentment in their eyes

And soaring crime and hopeless hearts is no longer a surprise

When the name RM Williams is a yuppie clothing brand

Not a product of our heritage that grew off the land

When offering a hand makes people think you'll amputate

And two dogs meeting in the street is what you call a Mate

When "Political Correctness" has replaced all common sense

When you're forced to see it their way, there's no sitting on the fence

Yes one day you might find yourself an outcast in this land

Perhaps your heart will tell you then, "I should have made a stand"

Just go and ask the farmers that should remove all doubt

Then join the swelling ranks who say, "...don't sell Australia out!"

Author unknown (Does anyone know who wrote this?)

AFA 2010 – 2011 COMMITTEE

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