

## NEWSLETTER May 2026 (Year 25 Vol 40)

### Editorial

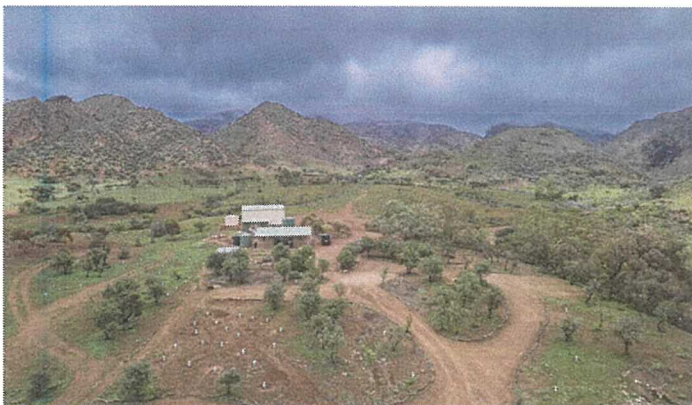
All the talk over the past two months has been about the soaking rain that has inundated many parts of the Flinders Ranges.

Rainfall reports over March 2026 indicated that: the BCR southern enclosure measured 384mm; Hawker had 302mm; and Arkaroola had 301mm!



*Photograph 1: water in one of the BCRs creeks following the march 2026 rain.*

Unfortunately, no YFRWPA member was able to capture a rainfall event, photograph on the BCR – the unsealed road up to the BCR was closed for nearly 6 weeks. However, a rainfall reading of 160mm was recorded at the campground during March 2026. Subsequent days following the rainfall realized the following images:



*Photograph 2: Davey Hut Campground and surrounds, looking towards the west.*

Any visit to the Bunkers CR over the remainder of 2026 is certainly going to provide the traveller with picture-postcard scenery of our beautiful landscape.



*Photograph 3: vegetation growth along Caernarvon Track*

Kym G and Bob T travelled over Caernarvon Track in late March. Apart from a few creek crossings that were gouged out, the track itself suffered minimal damage from the rain.

The landscape around our campground continues to improve remarkably. This is due to the excellent work being carried out by Grant, Brandon and Randy with their meticulous plantings of local vegetation from seeds collected off the BCR.

Finally, within this newsletter are two simple reminders to members. One relates to: what to do with gates when you find them on the BCR; finally, a process is outlined on how to make a booking for your stay on the BCR.

**Shane Fantinel (Editor)**

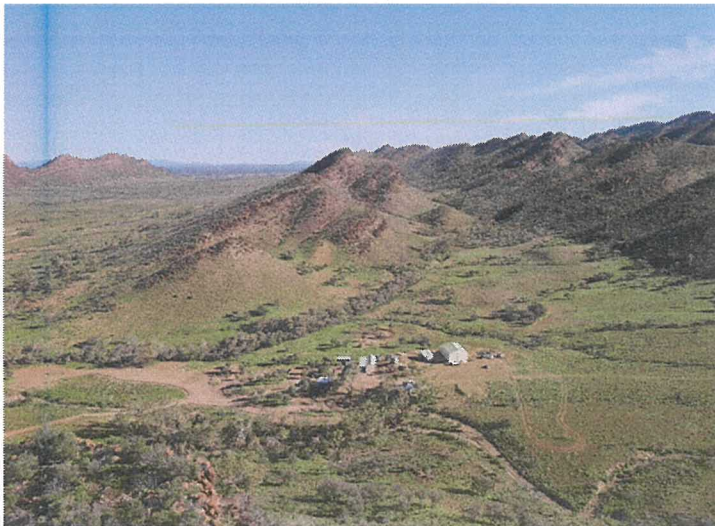
### President's Report

All members would have received the newly revised Management Plan (MP) for 2026 as circulated by email. This plan will be posted on the website; it will be up for review at the end of 2026. It must be remembered that this

is an active document. Further, we have an obligation under our current Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to maintain an up-to-date plan. This is the first step in our more open management of the Bunkers Conservation Reserve by the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Association Inc. (YFRWPA) Committee. Our aim is to involve all members with an opportunity to provide feedback. The MOA is still being negotiated with DEW but, we are hopeful of a completion in discussions in the near future.

The MP shows: what we are doing currently; and, what we are planning to do, in the short-term future, to correctly manage the BCR under our MOU with DEW. The MP will underpin our Strategic Plan – which is currently being looked at. A sub-committee has been formed to start the scoping work on the Strategic Plan for the long term, forward planning of the YFRWPA.

The Bunkers Conservation Reserve is the best I have ever seen in the 25 years of the Reserve. 160mm of rain recorded at camp in March and much more was recorded at the Northern exclusion area. Shane has attached some of my drone photos of the reserve. The green is great to see. The flies, however, were a bit over-friendly though!



*Photograph 4: Davey Hut and camp ground looking south.*

Our treasurer, Di F, has been busy with Membership Fees. It is pleasing to announce we are now 100% fully paid up by all Members. Thank you so much to Di and all members.

Di has also been busy applying for grants. We have been successful with quite a few. These will help a great deal with our current and future projects.

## **Membership and Camping at the BCR**

I need to remind members that your membership key is exactly that: "Yours". It cannot be loaned out to anyone, including your family members. If you have a member (s) of your family who wish to visit the reserve, and you are unable to be with them, then the alternative is to contact other YFRWPA members, who will be at the BCR during your family members' stay, and see if they will be willing to host your family members' stay.

Regarding membership, I know we have said it a lot but, if you have been thinking of selling your membership, please contact us via [admin@yellowfoot.org](mailto:admin@yellowfoot.org) first. We have people on the waiting list.

We are a group of 100 members but, unfortunately, only about 25% out of the 100 are active members. Unfortunately, the Reserve does not run itself. If you want to be involved, please contact us as per the Admin email above. We have various projects that you may be interested in. These include: Grassland Surveys; Environmental work - which involves transacts and weed management; management and reporting on numerous Photo Points; wild dog baiting; fence inspections and repair; and many more. We are a friendly mob. All of these tasks can be taught and explained to you if you wish to get involved. But it's not all work. There is always time to sit back and relax and enjoy the wonderful place that we are the custodians of.

Many Members are now including Recreation as a reason for their visit. A bonus of doing volunteer work for YFRWPA is that once a member reaches 40 hours of volunteer work, you then qualify for a Friends of Parks free pass, the details of which I emailed out previously. This is why it is important to complete a Visitor Report Sheet and email it to [admin@yellowfoot.org](mailto:admin@yellowfoot.org)

## Maintenance

One of the grants, received recently, provided us with the funds to purchase fencing panels. These panels will be erected in an area to provide protection to the Slender Bell Fruit Trees and the Silver Daisy plants that are growing on the BCR. This work will be done as a group project, just like we have done with the building projects. However, I need to stress. These projects will need extra hands to help. Your assistance does not require any specialized trade skills. Timing of the project will be advertised well in advance. This should enable members to plan for it.

We now have all our major plant and equipment stored in the storage shed - apart from some of the attachments for the Machine. Just a reminder please. Our plant and equipment are not toys. After the damage sustained to the YFRWPA utility, by persons unknown, we are monitoring its use closely.



*Photograph 5: vegetation and new plantings near Davey hut and campground.*

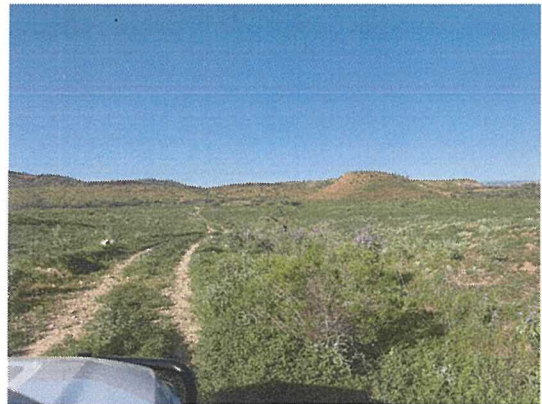
The Headquarters and Camp area is looking great now. Camping areas have been tidied up, and some sites have been capped with river rubble. In addition, Grant, Brandon and Randy have been busy with carrying out an extensive planting program. Their efforts have made the camp ground look amazing. The plants have come from seeds collected on the Reserve. Lots of hard work has been carried out to raise the seedlings; and follow-up work in watering the new plants, over the hot summer, has been done.

## Tourism

Numbers of vehicles and campers on Caernarvon Track are way down at present. It goes without saying that this has been because of recent, high fuel costs with the war overseas. Jacqui and myself spent two weeks at the BCR over Easter. We noticed there was a noticeable lack of tourism in the general Flinders Ranges area.



*Photograph 6: Mt Caernarvon*



*Photograph 7: vegetation growth along Caernarvon Track down the southern end.*

## Gates - Especially the Main Front Gate

The following information is important:

- when you find a gate locked, open it with your key, drive through, then close it and lock it;
- when you find a gate closed but unlocked - with the lock hanging locked to the gate, open the gate and close it But Do Not Lock It!

We have lost customers in the past because people have left camp and locked the unlocked front gate. This action has caused us to lose a large amount of revenue. On the weekend of 18/04/2026 - 19/04/2026, yet again someone who left first thing in the morning locked the

unlocked front gate and customers were locked out.

In times when we have very little revenue coming in from the Caernarvon Track due fuel prices etc., we should not be locking them out.

Use the Bush saying, "Leave It How You Found It", especially where gates are concerned.

## Vice President's Report

### Work Health and Safety

It is testimony to the outstanding safe work practices of our membership that I am able to announce there have been no incident or hazard reports submitted in the past six months.

Recently, our defibrillator – that is located in Davy Hut – had its batteries upgraded.

Members may have noticed that over the past few months, Telstra has activated its SMS satellite service for remote areas. And yes, this service is available at the BCR. Thank you to Telstra.

### Livestock and Feral Animals and Local Liaison

Late last year, our pastoral neighbours were successful in mustering 1400 sheep off Ikara NP. Ikara NP borders us on our western side. No doubt many of these sheep would have made their way onto the BCR if it was not for the sterling efforts of our pastoral friends.

In March 2026, the Landscape Board reported very few sheep on the BCR. However, a report of sheep sightings on the BCR, received in April, saw our pastoral neighbours remove 70 sheep off the BCR. DEW have been in correspondence with the northern pastoral property on the condition of their border fence. From our perspective, we have a role to play in carrying out repairs and maintenance to our boundary fences whenever we can.

The Landscape Board aerial cull – as mentioned above in March 2026 – saw 65 feral goats removed from the BCR. Approximately

30 odd goats have been removed in the past 6 months, bringing the total of goats removed to just under 100.

Wild dog sightings have been zero. However, reports have come in on the sighting of 1 fox and some cats. Rabbit numbers remain quite low but they are present on the BCR.

### Shane Fantinel (Vice President)

## Conservation

Prior to March 2026, it had been a year of low rainfall and high temperatures across the BCR. While this has meant there has not been recruitment or regrowth of weeds we are constantly trying to control, it has meant a tough time for native flora and fauna.

A recent trip in mid-February 2026 revealed that most, if not all, water sources on the Reserve were dry. Minitinni Springs had no water and, even where euros had been scraping for water, the ground had no moisture. Syphon Springs had no animals nearby, suggesting it, too, was dry.

The desperation for water was reflected in animals staying close to historical water sources and not being willing to move. I walked up to a billy goat, who refused to move until I was almost standing on him where he lay against the cliff in the shade.

Herbivores, native and feral, were eating native vegetation to a point where it was stripped bare (Photograph 8 – *Eremophila* sp. denuded by grazing). This highlights the ongoing need to control total grazing pressure caused from native macropods and feral herbivores (sheep and goats), even after rain events and good seasons occur.

If rain levels had stayed low, then the planned weed spraying in May would have given us an opportunity to expand where we are actively controlling weeds, i.e. further into Turley Load, or to include a few other monitoring activities we haven't had time to do because weed spraying and baiting have been taking priority.

As of early March 2026, Mother Nature had other plans for us! Both the Gammon and Flinders Ranges received rain in, with the

entire landscape turning green and recruitment occurring in abundance. For example, Hawker has received 302mm of rain since we visited in February. Accordingly, weed spraying will still be a priority for us in May!

If you have an interest in participating in any activities we are involved in, please let me know ([jeanine@yellowfoot.org](mailto:jeanine@yellowfoot.org)).



*Photograph 8. Eremophila (Emu bush) denuded by herbivore grazing*

## Quoll cameras

Monitoring of the quoll cameras (BCR1-5) continues and is showing insights we wouldn't get without the 24/7 monitoring they provide at various sites.



*Photograph 9: motion detector camera.*

The photographs from each camera still show the presence of sheep, goats, rabbits, kangaroos, euros, various birds (e.g. magpies, frogmouth, owl nightjar), echidna and sleepy lizards. In addition, we are also recording cats – usually a single cat showing up at the same site over time. However, the camera at BCR2 is a hot spot for a number of cats. This camera has detected the same cats showing up over time as well as at least 2 lots of kittens since it has been in place (photos 5, 6 and 7).

We previously recorded a possum on BCR3 and, despite the cats being abundant at the

BCR2 site, we are also recording a possum there (photo 8). These 2 sites are 4.7km apart and it seems that possums are spreading. This would be consistent with male dispersal.

These findings make a site close to BCR2 the ideal location for a Felixer, given there are so many cats being identified there and we now have possums too. Thank goodness our treasurer, Di Farrell, was successful in getting a Friends of the Park and Nature Grant to hire a Felixer from Thylation.



*Photograph 10: Felixer box used on cats.*



*Photograph 11: A regular visitor at BCR2*



*Photograph 12: Another regular visitor at BCR2, this time carrying prey.*

Jeanine Baker (Conservation Group)



Photograph 13: Kittens at BCR2



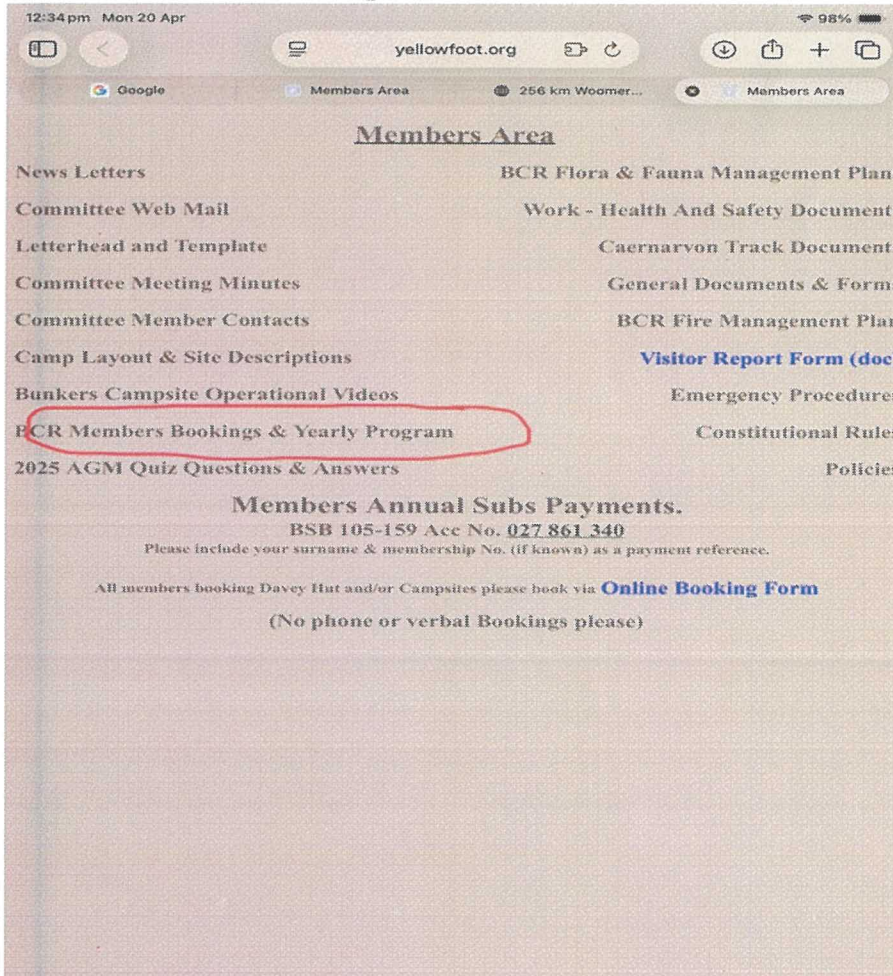
Photograph 14: Possum at BCR2



Photograph 15: one of our Echidnas.

## Reminder About How to Book at Room or Camp Site at the BCR campground.

### Go to the Members Page on the Website



Click on the Circled Tab this will open the Bookings Page this page is read only no bookings can be entered into here

12:35 pm Mon 20 Apr yellowfoot.org 98%

Members Area 256 km Woomera... Members Area YFRWPA Yearly P...

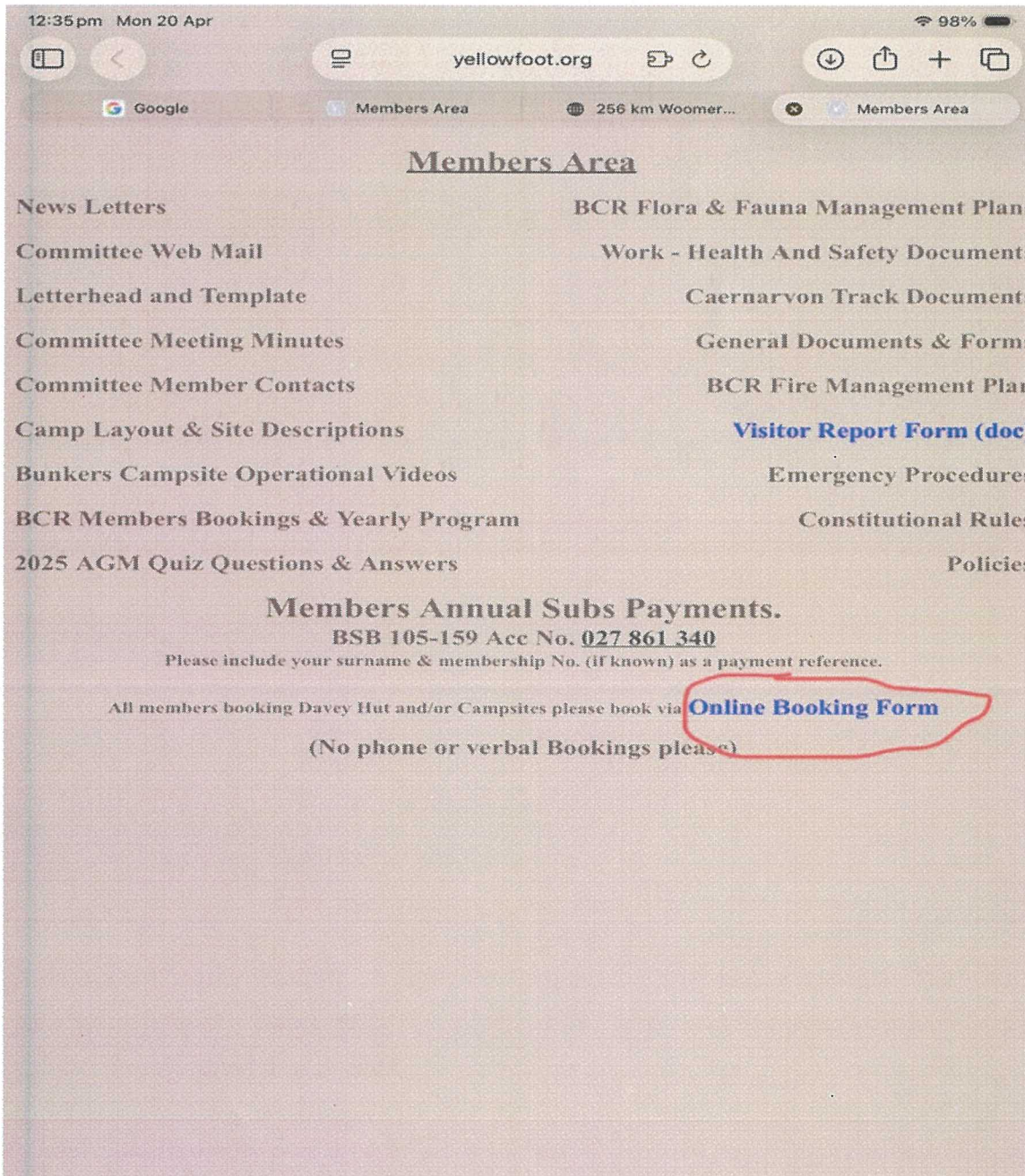
### Yellowfooted Rock Wallaby Preservation Association

#### Yearly Program & Members Bookings 2026

All members booking Davey Hut and/or Campsites please book via the **Online Booking Form**  
(No phone or verbal Bookings please)

January 2026			
Arrival	Departure		
February 2026			
Arrival	Departure		
1st	5th	Davey Hut Booking - 2 Rooms - Water Trees	Grant D daveygrantjulia@gmail.com
12th		Committee Meeting 130 - Unley Community Centre	Jim K admin@yellowfoot.org
11th	15th	1 Room (Southern Room) Feral animal control and checking quoll cameras	Jeanine B jeaninebaker323@gmail.com
March 2026			
Arrival	Departure		
8th	12th	Landscape Board Feral Animal Aerial Cull over the BCR	Landscape Board sfant57@hotmail.com
12th	15th	1 Campsite - Plant native shrubs, water trees and collect seed	Brandon S sumnerbrandonm@gmail.com
13th	17th	Davey Hut Booking - 2 Rooms - Tree Planting	Grant D daveygrantjulia@gmail.com
26th		Campsite Booking (Campsite 4) - Maintenance, Feral Animal Control, Recreation	Kym G kym@yellowfoot.org
27th		Bunkers Booking - 1 Campsite (Campsite No.2) - Recreation & Maintenance	Bob T rjandba7@bigpond.com
April 2026			
Arrival	Departure		
	6th	Bunkers Booking - 1 Campsite (Campsite No.2) - Recreation & Maintenance	Bob T rjandba7@bigpond.com
2nd	6th	Davey Hut Booking - 2 rooms & 2 Campsites - Family Time, Maintenance, Water Trees as required	Grant D daveygrantjulia@gmail.com
2nd	6th	1 Campsite (site B) - Recreation	Brandon S sumnerbrandonm@gmail.com
	12th	Campsite Booking (Campsite 4) - Maintenance, Feral Animal Control, Recreation	Kym G kym@yellowfoot.org
9th	12th	Davey Hut Booking - 2 rooms & 2 Campsites - Recreation	Grant L geepositive@hotmail.com
13th	16th	1 Room (Northern Room) Weed spraying, Check quoll cameras and deploy Felixer	Jeanine B jeaninebaker323@gmail.com
13th	17th	Davey Hut Booking - 1 room & 2 Campsites - Walking tracks - draft works	Philip W pnbwells@gmail.com
17th	20th	Campsite Booking -1 Campsite - Camp and check what work may be required	Tony C tony@alano.com.au
	16th	Committee Meeting 131 - Unley Community Centre	Jim K admin@yellowfoot.org
18th	21st	Davey Hut Booking - 1 Room (North Bedroom) - Animal management	Shane F sfant57@gmail.com
25th		Davey Hut Booking - 2 rooms & 1 Campsite - Grassland Survey	Katrina W ak.w...
May 2026			
Arrival	Departure		
	2nd	Davey Hut Booking - 2 rooms & 1 Campsite - Grassland Survey	Katrina W ak.w...
3rd	7th	Davey Hut Booking - 2 Rooms & 3 Campsites - Recreation, Maintenance & Water Trees	Grant D dave...
14th	15th	Bunkers Campsite Booking - 2 Campsites - Weed spraying activity	Ian L iloehert@gmail.com

This page is read only but shows you the Current Bookings



To make a Booking Click on the Circled Tab as shown above



# YFRWPA Davey Hut & Camp Booking Form

Name\*  Booking Date (Today)

Email\*  Phone\*  Member #

Arrival Date\*  Departure Date\*

Davey Hut (Number of Rooms)\*  Campsites (Number of Campsites)

Reason for Visit (Recreation/Activity/Project etc)

Message & Additional Requests

**SUBMIT FORM →**

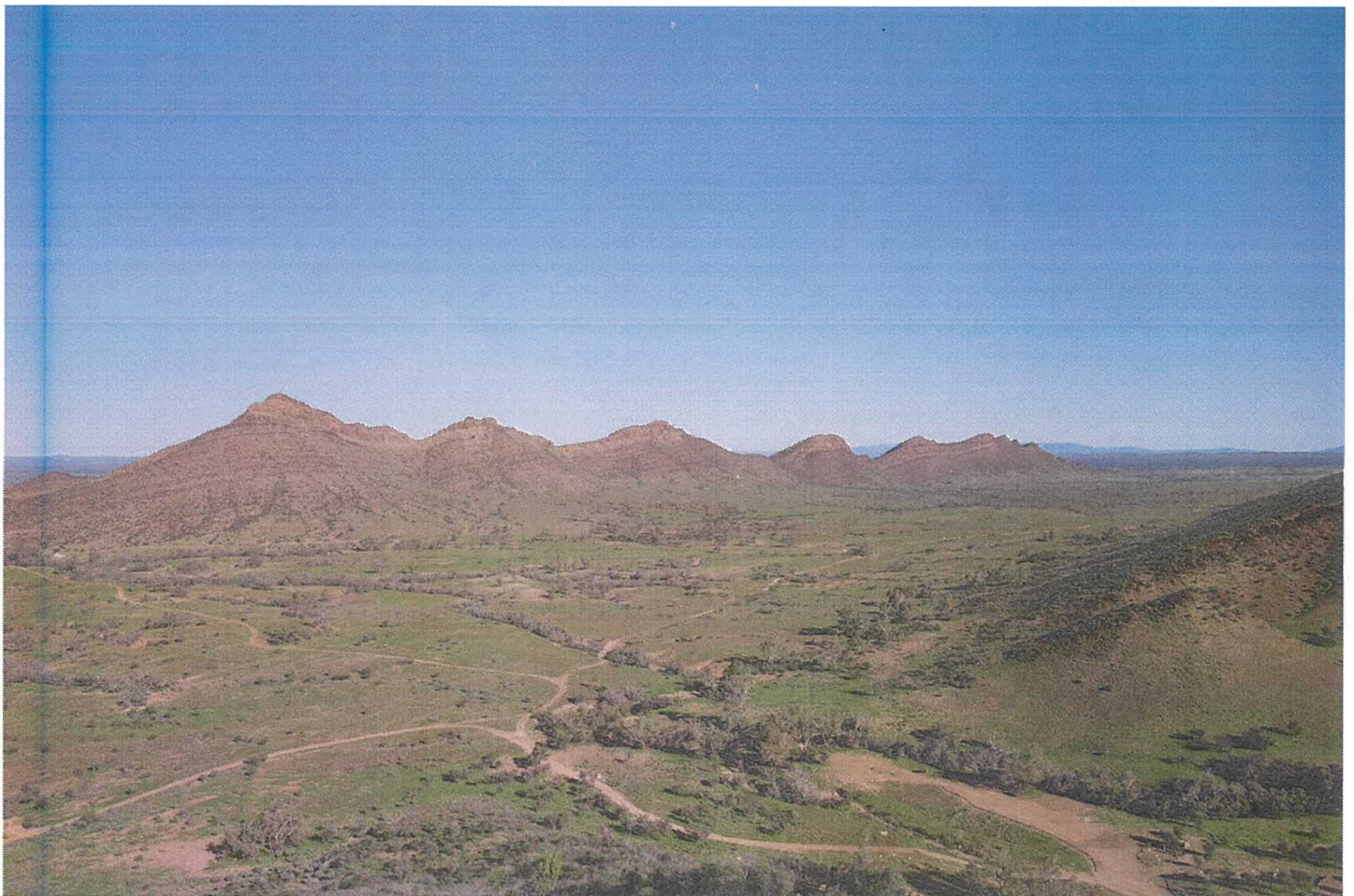
Never submit sensitive information such as passwords. Report abuse

123 FORM BUILDER

Create online forms and surveys

Create your own form

This is the Booking Form Complete the Form and Click submit the form will be sent to us and the requested booking will be checked against current Bookings and if OK will be entered into the BCR Bookings Page as per above



Photograph 16: a 'once in 25 years' vision of our splendid Bunkers Conservation Reserve.