



Friends of Mound Springs



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www.outdoorssa.com.au/

A new group has been formed in South Australia to support the conservation and management of the mound springs of the Far North. The group, Friends of Mound Springs (FOMS), has been established as an affiliate of Friends of Parks Inc, coordinated through the SA Department for Environment and Heritage.

The Friends group held its first meeting at the end of June 2006 in Adelaide. At this stage, it has attracted wide-ranging interest, both locally and interstate, from researchers, agency personnel and others with a general interest or involvement in mound springs issues. The group sees its role as an evolving one. It will provide appropriate support for the Department for Environment and Heritage in the management of springs within the Parks network (e.g., Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park). The group is also likely to promote and support research of mound springs in general, and to assist in the protection of mound springs outside the parks network in collaboration with pastoral lessees and other interest groups.

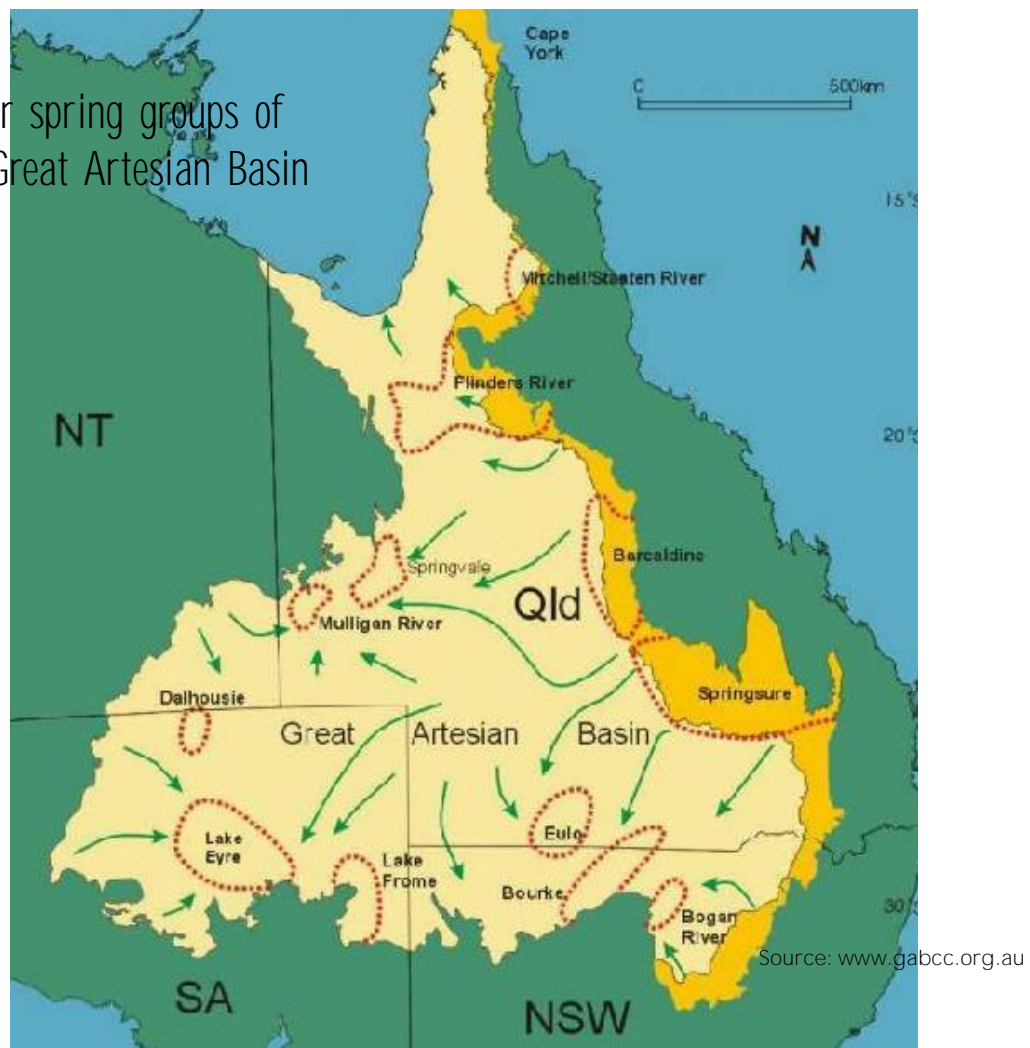
Initially, however, Friends of Mound Springs will mainly operate as an information network which helps keep members informed of issues and developments. A broader role, which may include fund-raising for particular projects and direct assistance with on-ground works, will evolve over time.

For more information please contact the group's Secretary, Simon Lewis on 8554 2132 sealewis@chariot.net.au, or Publicity Officer, Anne Pye on 0438388012 apye@picknowl.com.au.

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Major spring groups of the Great Artesian Basin



The mound springs present at Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park are good examples of the artesian springs of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). The GAB underlies 22% of Australia and encompasses parts of Qld, NSW, NT and SA. The GAB comprises three primary resources, namely water, pressure and heat and natural discharge occurs through point source springs or diffuse vertical leakage. There are more than 1700 GAB springs in South Australia and they are notable for supporting endemic plants and animals and for having high cultural heritage values. The area to the west and south west of Lake Eyre contains the largest number of active springs. The springs remain significant to Indigenous people and for early Europeans they represented an unfailing water resource for early explorers. Subsequently, early pastoral head-stations were located next to them and the routes of both the Overland Telegraph and the original narrow gauge Ghan railway reflected the alignment of the springs.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of Mound Springs please send \$10 with your name, phone number, postal and email addresses to Mr Tony Latz, Treasurer of FOMS, 10 Waratah Way, Stonyfell SA 5066.