

# Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the restored Twertup Field Studies Centre, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### 1 WELCOME TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Gil opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone to the first official AGM at the ~~meeting~~ restored Field Studies Centre. Gil also gave a bit of a safety induction to the building and the area.

Gil opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone to the first official AGM to be held at the Restored Field Studies Centre. Gil also gave a bit of a safety induction to the building and the area.

Rosemary Jasper declared the AGM open at 11:10 am

### 2 ATTENDANCE

Steve & Geraldine Janicke, Rosemary Jasper, Tracey Ross & Blake, Priscilla Broadbent, Helen Taylor, Barb Miller-Hornsey, Ron Richards, Bill & Jane Thompson, Leonie McMahon, Anne Gadsby, Paul Cory, Jesse Brampton, Elisa Spengler, Andrew Chapman, Libby Sandiford, Peter Dawson, Liz Utting & Valentine & Kenza, Eduardo Juarez, Gil Craig, Kingsley & Sandy Vaux, Susanne Dennings, Bernard DeBunnetat. One visitor – Valerie Scott.

#### 2.1 APOLOGIES

Grantly Morton, Merle Bennet, Tony Friend, Kevin Giles, John Tucker, Bill Lulfitz. Ric Pepper, Louise Lodge, Alison Lulfitz and Rob and family, Angela Sanders, Jenni & Andrew Chambers, Vicki Bilney, Malcom French, Roger Walker, Keith Bradby,

### 3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S AGM HELD AT THE JERDACUTTUP COMMUNITY HALL, SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2016 AT 1.30PM

#### Motion:

That the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as true and correct record. Moved: **Gil Craig**, seconded **Andy Chapman**, all in favour, carried.

### 4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

NONE

### 5 FINANCIAL REPORT (AUDIT REPORT)

Treasurer Liz Utting reported on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. These went to the same Auditor as last year – Alan Gove & Co.

#### Motion:

That the audit/treasurers report be accepted as true and correct record. Moved: **Ron Richards**, seconded **Tracy**, all in favour, carried

Rosemary thanked Liz for her work especially as she produced a baby in the year as well as the financial report.

## **6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Rosemary read her report, going over the last year and with an encouraging comment on the future. Her report is attached in the Appendices.

## **7 TWERTUP FIELD STUDIES CENTRE RESTORATION REPORT.**

Gil Craig gave her report on the progress on the construction of the Centre. Her report is attached in the Appendices.

Opening of the building has been planned for 4<sup>th</sup> November with Bruce Manning (CEO ) has been invited to officiate the opening.

Rosemary and the present members thanked Gil for her report and hard work.

## **8 SENIOR RANGER'S REPORT**

Paul Cory read out the Senior Ranger's report and commented of some of the issues.

Fire management – no significant fires in this past year.

proposed control burns planning is well underway.

Road work to reduce spread of die-back

Western Shield fox baiting & cat baiting

Annual maintenance work on Hakea and Mamang Trails – will be asking for more assistance if anyone is interested (Mal Grant)

Major flood damage at Cullam Inlet. Paul & Tracey Cory will be moving into Hopetoun.

Moir track is damaged as are other tracks on the eastern side, which will take a while to get repaired.

Paul expressed his appreciation of the support from the Friends group.

Rosemary thanked Paul Cory for presenting the Ranger's report.

## **9 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017/18**

### **9.1 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER**

Anne Gadsby was appointed the Returning Officer.

Details of the election of office bearers and committee members for 2017/18 are in the table on the next page.

Anne thanked all the outgoing members and welcomed the incoming members.

## 9.2 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017/18

OFFICE	NOMINATED	Nominated by	Seconded by	Elected
President	Bill Thompson	Andy Chapman	Gil Craig	There were no other nominations, Bill Thompson was accepted by the members.
Vice-President	Andy Chapman	Gil Craig	Rosemary Jasper	There were no other nominations, Andy Chapman was happy to continue as Vice-President and was accepted by the members.
Secretary	There were no nominations for secretary.			The Secretary role was vacated during the year; Ron Richards <b>moved</b> that Rosemary Jasper, as a committee member becomes acting-secretary. (Seconded by ?) Rosemary agreed to act in secretarial role provided Geraldine Janicke accepted being the minute taker. Geraldine agreed to continue as minute taker. The motion was accepted by the members.
Treasurer	Liz Utting	Gil Craig	Andy Chapman	<b>Liz Utting</b> was happy to continue as Treasurer and accepted by the members.
Committees				
Ordinary Committee members (X3)	Louise Lodge	Rosemary Jasper	Ron Richards	By vote – Louise was not elected.
	Steve Janicke	Gil Craig	Helen	By vote – Rosemary, Steve Janicke, and Libby Sandiford were elected.
	Rosemary Jasper	Gil Craig	Andy Chapman	
	Libby Sandiford	Bill Thompson	Kingsley Vaux	
Newsletter Editor	Leonie McMahon	Barbara Miller-Hornsey	Susanne Dennings	There were no further nominations, Leonie was accepted by the members.
Twertup Building Mngt. Rep.	Gil Craig	Rosemary Jasper	Liz Utting	There were no further nominations, Gil Graig was happy to continue in this role (last year this time for real), and was accepted by the members. The membership thanked Gil for doing a wonderful job with the Twertup restoration.
Twertup Building sub-committee (X3)	Ric Pepper	Gil Craig	Steve Janicke	Ric was accepted by the members.
	Kingsley Vaux	Andy chapman	Susanne Dennings	Kingsley agreed and was accepted by the members.

Bill Thompson took the seat of President and chaired the rest of the meeting.

## **10 APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

Bill Thompson asked Ron Richards to explain the need of an auditor under the new legislation. Ron's recommendation was that we do not need to appoint an auditor since our income is not big enough. The committee will be asked to examine the need for an auditor.

### **Motion:**

That the responsibility for constitutional changes and the appointment of auditor be dealt with in the next committee meeting. Moved: Suzanne Denning, seconded Liz Utting, all in favour, carried.

## **11 APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICER TO DEAL WITH ATO & LODGE BAS**

Since the Treasurer remains the same, there is no need to appoint a public officer.

## **12 SETTING OF MEMBERSHIP RATES – THE ISSUE OF MEMBERSHIP.**

Bill Thompson commented that he had experienced the issue of chasing membership fees with other organisations and that they had opened up membership as permanent after an initial membership application. Suzanne Denning commented also on the once only membership. However, her experience was you lost the finances to publish the newsletter. One way around that was that people could give a donation. A general discussion followed on the issues of membership. Ron Richards indicated he is a member of many organisations that only require a donation. He suggested that we could gather more income this way than from subscriptions and that the only way people stopped being a member is when they die or their email contact / phone number fails.

### **Motion:**

That membership fees be abolished. Moved by Ron Richards, seconded by Jane Thompson. The motion was put to the vote, all in favour, carried.

## **13 APPOINTMENT OF A DELEGATE AND PROXY FOR CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WA**

There was no changes to the delegates as Ron Richards and proxy Anne Gadsby were happy to continue.

## **14 GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Andy Chapman indicated that FFRNP were successful in funding for Dibbler Research. He had two trapping opportunities coming up in May and October and would be happy for support from members. They could contact him.
- Susanne Dennings reminded the meeting that Yongernow were having their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The Patron John Williamson and his wife were coming. All friends were welcome, please RSVP for catering purposes.
- Tracey commented that she still had Friends merchandise if anyone wanted anything.

There was no further general business.

The meeting closed at 1:05pm

Rosemary welcomed Peter and Janny Lane to Twertup

## 15 APPENDICES

### 15.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

ABN: 84 383 247 026

#### Income Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	3,010	1,488
Membership Fees	1,167	1,029
Interest Received	378	838
Sales	522	430
<b>Grant Income</b>		
Twertup Donations	-	678
Numbat Tracking	-	359
Culham Inlet	-	1,263
Twertup FSC FNPW	-	13,106
NRM Community Action Grant A15026 Restoration of Twertup Field	-	17,471
SCNRM	-	4,482
Twertup GSDC	10,000	20,000
Twertup FSC SCNRM	30,000	-
Twertup FSC DPaW	7,443	-
	<u>47,443</u>	<u>57,359</u>
	52,519	61,144
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Advertising	557	99
Auditor's Remuneration	800	300
Bank Charges	-	49
Insurance	375	375
Magazines, Journals & Periodicals	-	416
Meeting Expenses	556	-
Newsletters & Brochure	231	-
Postage	65	25
Prior year adjustments	189	-
Subscriptions	-	438
Sundry Expenses	-	121
Travelling Expenses	-	283
	<u>2,773</u>	<u>2,105</u>
<b>Project Expenditure</b>		
Culham Inlet	-	1,263
DPaW Twertup Upgrades	615	-
NRM Community Action Grant A15026 Restoration of Twertup Field	3,433	17,471
SCNRM	-	4,482
Twertup Donated fund Expenditure	404	678
Twertup FSC DPaW	6,726	-
Twertup FSC FNPW	2,464	13,106
Twertup GSDC	-	20,000
	<u>13,642</u>	<u>57,000</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

ABN: 84 383 247 026

### Income Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
	16,415	59,105
<b>Net operating profit</b>	36,105	2,039
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	24,153	35,257
Unexpended Grants B/Forward	15,506	-
Unexpended Grants C/Forward	(50,591)	-
<b>Extra-ordinary Items</b>		
Inventory write-off	-	(11,119)
Plant & Equipment Write-off	-	(26,910)
Twertup FSC FNPW Grant Funds	-	627
Twertup FSC Development	-	24,260
	-	(13,143)
<b>Retained earnings at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>25,172</b>	<b>24,153</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

# Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

ABN: 84 383 247 026

## Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank	76,712	38,170
<b>Total current assets</b>	76,712	38,170
<b>Total assets</b>	76,712	38,170
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
GST Credits	949	-
GST Payable	-	(1,048)
<b>Unexpended Grant funding</b>		
Donated Funds	11,445	11,326
Twertup Development	-	1
Numbat Tracking	359	-
Culham Inlet	1,504	1,504
Twertup FSC FNPW	-	2,437
Twertup FSC NRM	-	(220)
SCNRM	-	18
GSDC Community Chest Twertup E5.5055	10,000	-
Community Action Grant A15027 (State Nrm)	27,284	-
	50,591	15,065
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	51,540	14,016
<b>Total liabilities</b>	51,540	14,016
<b>Net assets</b>	25,172	24,153
<b>Members' funds</b>		
Retained earnings	25,172	24,153
<b>Total members' funds</b>	25,172	24,153

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## 15.2 PRESIDENTS REPORT

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK (INC.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### **Firstly to mention two things relating to the Park itself.**

The Fitzgerald River National Park was included in the National Heritage List in May 2016 for its outstanding diversity of native plant species, including many plants which are unique to the local area. The Park is the 106<sup>th</sup> place to be included on the List. This is probably important to raise the status of the Park in official circles. The application for listing was made in December 2006 by the Humane Society International and it included areas surrounding the Park as well as the Park itself. It was disappointing that the listing did not include the wider area, including the Ravensthorpe Range. The status of the bush adjoining the Park remains a concern.

It has been a very wet year. This has affected access to the Park and we felt it in organising work at Twertup, but it has also meant general access to the Park has been restricted particularly at the eastern end. At the same time, it has made an interesting time for the biota of the Park. If the flowering last spring is any indication, the Park itself has benefited from the wet conditions.

#### **Then for a summary of our activities for the year.**

The 'Restoration of Twertup' project has continued and it is anticipated that we will be in a position to open this Field Studies Centre in November this year. Gil will report on the detail of what has been done in the year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project, particularly to Ric Pepper & Gil Craig whose efforts have continued to be monumental.

We received two grants this year. A *Great Southern Development Commission Community Chest Fund* grant for the sum of \$24,000, most of which is for concreting the verandahs here at Twertup Field Studies Centre. And secondly a *State NRM Community Action Grant* for the sum of \$5000, to continue monitoring the Dibbler population in the Park. And we have an ongoing **State NRM Community Action Grant** for **\$30,000** for the construction of the toilets.

In April over three days, four members assisted DPaW staff on the Hakea trail with track and infrastructure maintenance and biological monitoring. This was a worthwhile contribution to the trail and a very enjoyable experience for those involved.

In August we organised a weekend event on and around Hamersley Inlet. On the Saturday 13 people kayaked on the inlet. Six of the group camped overnight at the Inlet. On the Sunday Andy Young, an entomologist who is part of a project investigating micro-moths and their role in the ecosystem, led a very interesting excursion. Ten people attended. Andy Young also gave a power-point presentation to a group in Ravensthorpe the following Monday. This was organised as an impromptu event and 9 people attended. In total 27 individuals attended one or other of these events. We were pleased to be offered a grant of \$700 by Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network to contribute to Andy Young's expenses.

Paddy's Market in Hopetoun is a well-attended community event held in January and we aim to have a presence at this each year. This year Andy Chapman produced a feather identification competition which added interest to the display and the merchandise that was available. Thanks to Louise, Tracey, Andy & Gil plus other members who assisted, to make this stall possible.

We produced a new version of our brochure which is available here today. We edited the text and photos but used the template of the previous brochure. Thanks to Alison Lullfitz, Vivienne Hillyer & Leonie McMahon for working on that and so again providing us with a ready publication to hand out to prospective members.



Again this year we produced four editions of *Narpulungup News*. Leonie McMahon took over as the editor and has done a wonderful job, continuing to produce a very professional and informative newsletter. It is an important part of our organisation in that our members are very widespread and the newsletter maintains member contact and also informs members of issues in the Park.

As many of you would be aware, like all other organisations in WA, our constitution needs to be amended to bring it in line with a new *Associations Act (2015)*. We have started this revision process and it seems that the changes required are minimal and therefore can be done at a committee level. This is a work-in-progress and I anticipate that it will be complete within the year. We have until July 2019 to make the required amendments.

### **Now for some matters relating to the organisation directly.**

We currently have 91 members, consisting of 29 family, 16 single, 12 concession memberships and 5 Life members.

Our secretary, Vicky Bilney, resigned in July and we were not able to find a replacement so the secretarial work has been split amongst current committee members since then. This has not been ideal but we have managed. Thanks to the committee members for taking on extra tasks as required and to Geraldine Janicke for her willing involvement.

We held four committee meetings this year – in April, July, October & February. Each of these was a face-to-face meeting in Jerramungup, except for the first meeting at which we linked to the Albany committee members by Skype, a little unsatisfactorily, unfortunately. Thanks to Fitzgerald Biosphere Group for allowing us to use one of their offices for our meetings.

Finally, I have been President for 2 ½ years and have decided not to seek re-nomination but I would like to just say something about where I think we are at as an organisation.

When I think about 'Friends of the Fitz.' several things stand out for me:

- We have a long history – this could be our 37<sup>th</sup> AGM;

- Our reason for being, the Fitzgerald River National Park, is a conservation area of world importance;

- We have a core of loyal members;

- Over the years we have made significant achievements; and as icing on the cake,

- We have had a lot of good times.

This provides a fantastic basis for a strong organisation but unfortunately, it is not enough by itself.

For about nine years now the restoration of Twertup has been a focus. Realistically, the first part of this year will be taken up by finishing off Twertup and organising the Opening. Both of which will require willing hands and celebratory minds. Then it would seem that as an organisation we will be moving into a significantly different time. Once Twertup is operational there will be exciting opportunities for the group both because we will have this place to use and also we will be able to focus on things other than building.

### **How do we make this year a good one for the organisation?**

We certainly require committed, enthusiastic people on the committee. We need more people who are willing to get involved at the business end of the organisation, to do the work that makes things happen. We realise that this is a perennial question for organisations like ours, but I think that it has to be faced if we are to continue.

To this end the current Committee have considered the possibility of engaging someone early in the year, to facilitate a committee or wider-membership discussion, about how we can move forward with clarity and purpose and fulfil our potential - to work through questions like how to strengthen our organisation, to set direction and vision, and to maintain the same without incurring burn-out and disillusionment for committee members.

Anyone here today who wants to be part of both the last stages of Twertup and the revitalisation of the organisation is encouraged to put their hand up to be part of the committee. It could be a very exciting year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the committee members for their effort over the year and all the members who have contributed in other ways.

Thank you.

Rosemary Jasper, President.

11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### **15.3 TWERTUP RESTORATION REPORT**

#### **AGM, Twertup Field Studies Centre**

#### **Twertup Report**

#### **Working bees & contractors**

##### **2016**

**May** Fitting of windows & doors

**June** Installation of 12V lighting system by Rodney Chapman (Eden Traders, Ravensthorpe)

**August** DPaW's Remote Regions team clean-up site, compact pad for water tank, install boot cleaning station

**October** Window/door latches, toilet slabs extended, 'Horrie & Dorrie' trail clearing

**November** Seal floors

##### **2017**

**January** Toilet slab concreted, deliver toilet framework & roofing, flag short nature walk

**February** Erect toilet frames, clear short nature walk & flag long nature walk, water to kitchen sink

**March** Denaro Earthmoving (Barry and Tyrone Smoker) from Kulin expect to concrete the verandah and BBQ area in late March

**April-May** Paul Young (stonemason) has been contracted to build the spongolite walls for the toilets and shower blocks, plus BBQ.

#### **Grants**

The following grant was acquitted in June 2016:

- Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife - \$20,000 for materials, equipment and volunteer travel.
- On-going grant:
- *State NRM Program Community Action Grant 2015 A15027* - \$30,000 for toilets and boot-cleaning station.
- Recent successful grant application:
- *Great Southern Community Chest Fund 2016* - \$24,000 for concreting of verandahs and BBQ.
- Proposed grant application:
- *Lotterywest* for furniture and opening event.

**TABLE 1 - Material and 'in-kind' contributions for the restoration of the Twertup Field Studies Centre between Jan-Dec 2016.**

ITEM	No. working bees	No. individuals	HOURS	KM	VALUE			
					Labour <sup>1</sup>	Travel <sup>2</sup>	Material	TOTAL
Project Management		2	58	40	\$ 1,733	\$ 24		\$ 1,757
Working bees	5	26	869	8740	\$ 26,078	\$ 5,244		\$31,322
DPaW labour		9	220		\$ 18,747			\$18,747
<u>Material donation</u>								
Kitchen cupboard (H Taylor)							\$ 50	\$ 50
Kitchen sink & 2x bed/mattress (R Pepper)							\$ 170	\$ 170
<b>TOTAL 2016</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>1147</b>	<b>8,780</b>	<b>\$ 46,557</b>	<b>\$ 5,268</b>	<b>\$ 220</b>	<b>\$52,045</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 2010-2016</b>			<b>6373</b>	<b>65,770</b>	<b>\$ 195,081</b>	<b>\$39,074</b>	<b>\$33,652</b>	<b>\$267,806</b>

<sup>1</sup> Volunteer Labour value in 2015 = \$30/hr

<sup>2</sup> Mileage value = car \$0.60/km; truck \$1.50/km

**TABLE 2 - Cost of restoration of the Twertup Field Studies Centre (to 31/12/2016)**

ITEM	Year	Detail	Income (ex. GST)	Expenditure (ex. GST)
GSDC - Single Purpose Grant	2009	Building plans & specifications	\$4,000	
FaHCSIA 1-BXYMMM	2009	Volunteers travel	\$2,500	
Community Action Grant CAG09-00457 (Master Plan)	2010	Master Development Plan & Labour	\$12,000	
GSDC - R4R Small grant	2011	Steel frame	\$7,000	
Environmental Community Grant 2009	2011	Steel frame	\$30,000	
State NRM Grant No.12074	2012	Builder, materials & equipment	\$40,000	
Environmental Community Grant 2012	2012	Builder/stonemason	\$30,000	
Community Action Grant CAG12-00196 (Twertup track)	2012	Twertup Track	\$14,330	
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife - 12.41	2012	Materials & equipment	\$20,000	
Great Southern Community Chest Fund 2015	2015	Ceilings & glass	\$20,000	
State NRM Grant No. A51207	2016	Toilets and walk trails	\$30,000	
Great Southern Community Chest Fund 2016	2016	Verandahs & bbq area	\$24,000	
Dept Parks & Wildlife	2016	12V solar lighting system	\$6,726	
<b>CASH GRANTS TOTAL</b>			<b>\$240,556</b>	
<b>CASH TWERTUP DONATIONS</b>			<b>\$17,766</b>	
IN-KIND LABOUR & TRAVEL	2010-2016	Project Management		\$16,386
IN-KIND LABOUR	2010	Twertup Master Plan		\$3,252
IN-KIND LABOUR	2010	Twertup Historical Documentary DVD		\$5,614
IN-KIND LABOUR & TRAVEL	2010-2016	FoFRNP working bees		\$186,960
IN-KIND LABOUR	2012-2016	DEC/DPaW labour		\$21,942
IN-KIND MATERIAL DONATIONS	2010-2016			\$33,652
<b>TOTAL IN-KIND</b>				<b>\$267,806</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>\$526,129</b>

Once again a huge thanks to the 26 volunteers who laboured this year, especially Ric Pepper, Ron Richards, Rosemary Jasper, Bill and Jane Thompson, Libby Sandiford and me (all of whom individually volunteered 50 or more hours during 2016). We welcomed a few new volunteers to Twertup this year and hopefully they will continue to participate in Friends' activities.

Thanks to DPaW staff of the Albany district, particularly Peter Hartley, Peter Masters, Grantly Morton and Deon Grantham. Also the Remote Regions Conservation and Parks Program which made a contribution valued at \$17,474 to Twertup.

So what remains to be done (the list gets shorter)?

#### INSIDE:

1. pantry shelving
2. archives room bench – ?Nathan providing wood
3. install kitchen sink and cupboard (donated by Helen Taylor)
4. furniture
5. repair and install wood stove
6. install slow combustion heater

#### OUTSIDE:

7. verandahs – Denaro Earthmoving (GS Community Chest funds)
8. new 'universal' toilet and revamp old toilet plus add shower cubicle
  - a) spongolite cladding (State NRM funds) – Paul Young
9. build bbq and cooktop – Paul Young, DPaW (P Masters)
10. Noongar artwork/interpretation - Alison
11. walk trails – Gil, DPaW
12. signage – Gil, DPaW (Lorna Charlton, Peter Hartley) map of precinct at entrance/quarry, & walk trail head.
13. new 54kL water tank for fire –fighting
  - a) construct concrete tank – Ric
  - b) plumb external sink near toilets - Ric

The Grand Opening is planned for 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and Bruce Manning, CEO, Great Southern Development Commission has been invited to 'open' the building.

Gillian Craig

9/3/2017

## 15.4 SENIOR RANGERS REPORT



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Parks and Wildlife

Regional and Fire Management Services, South Coast Region,  
Albany District, Ravensthorpe Work Centre

Your ref: Parks & Wildlife FFRNP Report

Our ref: March 2017

Enquiries: Peter Masters

Phone: 98381967

### Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

#### Annual update

11 March 2017

#### Fire Management Services

- ❖ 0 bushfire was reported within the FRNP in the last twelve months.
- ❖ FRNP and RWC staff have assisted with bushfire suppression within the Shires of Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe, and in other districts including Albany, Esperance, and Blackwood.
- ❖ The Albany District has been fortunate enough to obtain funding, through the National Bushfire Mitigation Program, to undertake strategic firebreak works in the Phillips River cell to further enhance fire strategies within the FRNP and boarder community's. This work is due to commence, as soon as conditions allow. Works were also completed within the Ravensthorpe Range, and other areas of the FRNP last autumn and early winter.
- ❖ FRNP and RWC staff assist with the summer bushfire FA roster for 2016\_17 bushfire season, which will continue, through to late autumn with staff being on call up to 24/7 depending on predicted bushfire conditions within the park and District and South Coast Region.
- ❖ Water bombing aircraft will continue to respond to bushfire within the park until the aerial firefighting contact finishes early April, with 2 fixed wing water bombers based in Albany, which can be over the park in approximately 45 minutes from being called.
- ❖ FRNP Fire Working Group meeting was held in Jerramungup yesterday to discuss fire management within the park and is made up of P&W staff, DFES, Chief Bushfire control officers and other community representatives.
- ❖ All town firebreaks have been completed after some delays due to machine issues.
- ❖ Planning is well under way for the 2017 Autumn program, which includes several burns within the FRNP including ALB\_032 (20,500ha) Phillips/Culham, ALB\_004 (25,568ha) Drummond, ALB\_014 (2711ha, Moir/Desmond Track, ALB\_033 (13,563ha) Northern Fireline, and ALB\_037 (1,733ha) Jacup, and Point Ann protection burn to name a few.

As soon as approvals are in place and, conditions allow we will commence prescribe burning.

#### Nature Conservation

- ❖ The Threatened Fauna Recover program is continuing to study, monitor, and put in place control measures for predators within the FRNP. This work also involves intensive fauna monitoring works, via trapping, and using other devices including camera, and satellite monitoring.
- ❖ Ground Parrott monitoring and research is continuing.
- ❖ Aerial dieback surveys have been completed in the last 12 months, followed up by ground trothing.
- ❖ Roads were upgraded within the Doubtful Islands area, to assist in minimising the risk spread of dieback adjacent to known infection sites, that were detected in the previous years surveys.
- ❖ Western Shield fox is occurring, every 3 months by air and ground baiting (33,000 per bait round, ), and aerial cat baiting is completed on a six month cycle, with 50,000 baits being dropped in the last few days.
- ❖ Annual surveys and maintenance work was completed along the Hakea and Mamang trails with the assistance of the Friends, with similar works planned for this autumn.
- ❖ Normal monitoring of weather conditions and the implementation of hygiene road closures.
- ❖ Flora monitoring on a as required basis from D/ Sarah Barrett.

*Parks and Wildlife, Ravensthorpe Work Centre*

PO Box 307, Ravensthorpe, Western Australia 6346

Phone: (08) [98381967] Mobile [0488919598] Email: [peter.masters@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:peter.masters@dpaw.wa.gov.au)

[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

- ❖ Works are continuing on the Western Shield/Water bombing compound at the Ravensthorpe airport, with the cat racks now in place and all other containers moved by May this year.

**Other departmental, current operational works.**

- ❖ WANDRRA assessments are continuing on P & W estate, after the recent flood events, including strategic fire breaks.
- ❖ Remote Regions crew at Twertup and Trigelow.
- ❖ Roadside slashing has been completed of park roads.
- ❖ Upgrades to MRD style road signs are continuing.
- ❖ Relocating of the EMB ranger to Hopetoun is now under way, with eventually the current house will be converted to the new work centre office, including additional facilities, to improve, and enhance current park management, incident response times, and ability for operational staff to work together on a daily basis, including financial savings for the district.
- ❖ Horizon Power, will install a new Stand Alone Power Station (SPS) at EMB in early May, too allow for around 5 km of lines and infrastructure to be removed, at a cost of approximately 1.3 million.
- ❖ VRM inspections and reporting.

**Staff Changes**

Deon Grantham is currently redeployed to the Stirling Rangers to fill in as Senior Ranger until early May, when he will return to Gairdner.

Yours sincerely,

*Peter Masters*

Peter Masters

Senior Operations Officer

Parks and Wildlife, Ravensthorpe Work Centre

14 March 2017

