

Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park Inc

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Twertup Field Studies Centre

10.30 am Saturday 10th March 2018

1. Welcome to members and guests

Bill Thompson declared the meeting open at 10.37 am

Gil Craig made some housekeeping points.

2. Attendance

- a. Present: Bill Thompson, Merle Bennett, Helen Taylor, Rosemary Jasper, Peter Dawson, Anne Gadsby, Pat Meadows, John Tucker, Louise Lodge, Kevin Giles, Angela Sanders, Jenny Taylor, Geoff Young, Andrew Chapman, Jane Thompson, Ric Pepper, Gillian Craig, Pam Jones, Liz Utting, Ron Richards, Libby Sandiford, Deon Grantham, Leonie McMahon, Nathan McQuiod.
- b. Apologies: Susanne Dennings, Carol Wilkins, Steve and Geraldine Janicke, Tracey Ross, Paul Cory, Priscilla and Ken Broadbent, Bill Lullfitz, Brenda Newbey, Rodger Walker, Sheryn Prior, Barbara Millar Hornesy, Alison Lullfitz, Sarah, Mark and Tilda Comer.

3. Confirmation of minutes of 2017 AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Gil Craig Seconded: Anne Gadsby All in favour: carried.

4. Business arising from minutes

None

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Liz Utting reported on the Financial statement of the year ending 31st December 2017.

Motion: That the Financial statement be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Liz Utting Seconded: Libby Sandiford All in favour: carried.

6. President's report (attached). Presented by Bill Thompson

7. Twertup Field Studies Centre Restoration Report (attached). Presented by Gil Craig

8. FRNP Rangers Report presented by Deon Grantham

- Action Plan has been developed for Hamersley Drive dieback infestation. Propose to use helicopter to do phosphite spraying. Perimeter of infestation will be marked and monitored to ascertain effectiveness of treatment.
- Dieback – new outbreak in February 2018 along Desmond Track (1.5 km from Hopetoun Rd)

- Jacup Ranger station– EMB donga moved onsite, old information site to be removed, no plans to have a replacement. EMB ranger house is going to be new rangers office.
- Twertup – walking trails have been slashed, as has track into Twertup, guidance markers up but more needed.
- Gravel pit near aerodrome near Bremer is being rehabilitated (Colin Hobbs to manage, including tea tree removal)
- Roadside slashing – program completed. Near Twertup Track bush will slashed to improve line of sight for road users.
- Internal fire breaks – 50 km been sprayed
- Feral animal baiting ongoing – cat aerial baiting coming up in April
- Fire mitigation work at Bremer, Boxwood and many other places to reduce fire threats around towns and key infrastructure.
- Prescribed Burns – add on to St Mary’s, towards Trigalow completed, another near Southern fire line east of Bell Track to Hamersley Drive proposed. South Telegraph proposed.
- Mamang Track – signs not put up and Deon has been asked to remove frames before Easter.
- Four Mile Beach access point – stairs being removed and access relocated to western end.
- Main Roads inspected road out to Point Anne to find solutions to corrugations and at North Pabelup a visual inspection was done.
- Moir Track should be reopened in 2018. (Andy Chapman)
- Two Shepherds beaked whales washed up at Trigalow and reported.

9. Election of office bearers and committee members for 2018

Bill Thompson declared all positions vacant and invited Anne Gadsby up as returning officer.

OFFICE	NOMINATED	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY	ELECTED
President	Bill Thompson	Andy Chapman	Libby Sandiford	YES
Vice President	Anne Gadsby	Libby Sandiford	Liz Utting	YES
Secretary				
Treasurer	Liz Utting	Gil Craig	Rosemary Jasper	YES
Newsletter Editor	Leonie McMahon	Liz Utting	Merle Bennett	YES
Twertup Building Sub Committee Rep	Gil Craig	Libby Sandiford	Rosemary Jasper	YES
Ordinary Committee Members	Libby Sandiford	Gil Craig	HelenTaylor	YES
	Sheryn Prior	Liz Utting	Libby Sandiford	YES
	Louise Lodge	Andy Chapman	Liz Utting	YES
Twertup Building Sub Committee (X3)	Ric Pepper	Gil Craig	Andy Chapman	YES
	Kingsley Vaux	Ric Pepper	Liz Utting	YES
	Gil Craig			

Role of secretary to be filled post-meeting. Sheryn Prior to be approached.

Anne Gadsby thanked outgoing committee members

Bill Thompson thanked outgoing committee members.

10. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: That no auditor be appointed for 2018

Moved: Ron Richards Seconded: Anne Gadsby. All in favour: carried

11. Appointment of Public Officer to deal with ATO and lodge BAS

Liz Utting was appointed by the members as the Public Officer

12. Membership Rates

Motion: that membership rates remain at zero.

Moved: Liz Utting Seconded: Libby Sandiford

13. Appointment of delegate and proxy for Conservation Council of WA

Anne Gadsby was nominated by Committee.

14. General Business

- **Acknowledgement of members who have made significant contribution to our organisation.**

Andy Chapman was awarded Lifetime Membership for 23 years of active

A combined number of 23 years as President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, general Committee member, Fitzgerald River Advisory Committee member. Andy has lead a lot of research, guided walks, stalls at Hopetoun, working bees.

In his acceptance speech Andy said:

He first visited the Fitz in 1970 – as undergraduate when assessing WA Museum in 1971 – divided time between wheatbelt and Kimberly so became familiar with most and least affected parts of the state. During that time was a recreational user of Fitz and realised it was an amazing circumstance to have such pristine wilderness in relatively close proximity to four towns, and within a stone's throw of a farm gate. Still resonates today.

Gil Craig was awarded Lifetime Membership

Committee for 17 years, Advisory Committee for 15 years. First came in 1984 with Sue Moore. In 1995 she produced the walk trail brochures. Twertup rebuild coord in 2009 – managed 14 grants, more than 40 working bees.

Ric Pepper was awarded Lifetime Membership

Ric's interest began in 1969 (while living in Katanning). Fitzgerald National Park Association was formed at a time when many mining applications were being fought in Warden's Court and won. As a result it was gazetted in 1973. In 2009 Ric was asked to project manage the restoration of Twertup and he accepted with some trepidation.

Ric said it was a battle then and it is a battle now. The only way you beat bureaucrats is to know the law better than them. Been rewarding but tiring.

- **Archiving the records of Friends**

Andy noted that Jenny Taylor is a librarian and she will consider looking at Friends archives.

Archives are located in several places and are extensive. Three boxes of files are held at Twertup, there is a cupboard of information at Jacup, Angela has information from Kay Vaux, Gil Craig holds information also.

Jenny advised the following:

- a) Set up a working group.
- b) Develop a plan or approach.
- c) Start preliminary work – what is there, how is it going to be accepted into formal archive
Currently owned by individuals – need systematic process and is a very long process.

Questions to consider:

- Where does the information get housed? Suggest off-site.
- Do we want electronic and hard copy?
- Do we want oral histories to be taken.

First step – go home and locate historical information, write it down.
LM to make note in next Narpulungup News.

Helen Taylor has been trying to keep photo records up to date. She requested photos from Twertup Opening – Geraldine and Steve, Nathan, Louise all have photos

[Mrs Newbey and sons, Steve and Garry, dropped in]

- **Twertup Cleaning Roster**

A volunteer roster will eventually be set up once Twertup is officially open to public and the MOU with DPaW is finalised.

Dibbler Project – Andy said next monitoring program will occur in May. Anyone interested is encouraged to talk to Andy,

Bill thanked everyone for coming and declared the meeting closed at 12.19 am

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK (INC.)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 10th March 2018
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome everybody.

History was made last November with the opening of the Twertup Field Study Centre. This was a monumental rebuilding effort by a group of motivated volunteers over almost a decade. The ambience of the original building has been maintained while surrendering to a few modern conveniences such as lighting and running water in the kitchen. The aim of the use of the Field Study Centre remains as originally envisaged namely to promote and facilitate environmental research, education and appreciation of the natural environment. Further details of the opening are well covered in the December 2017 edition of the Narpulungup News. I would like to again recognise the incredible effort put in by volunteers and especially that of Ric Pepper and Gil Craig. The resource has been valued for about one million dollars for insurance purposes.

Several members have been liaising with DPAW to develop comprehensive Booking Guidelines to ensure the appropriate use of the centre and a draft has been issued. At present we have a Memorandum of Understanding on the operation of Twertup, signed in 2011, and current for ten years.

In June 2017, after several resubmissions, our region was successfully renominated as a biosphere reserve under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere program. The boundaries for the internal zones of the Biosphere (Core, Buffer, Transition) have been adjusted. The Core Zone has been contracted to be just the Wilderness Area of the FRNP. Friends are members of the Biosphere Implementation Group and we have been asked to provide a presentation at the official biosphere launch during the afternoon session - an offer we have accepted.

A revised constitution was approved on 31st May 2017 by Consumer Protection. The changes were required to bring our constitution in line with the Association and Corporation Act 2015 so the committee deemed it acceptable to effect the changes by committee resolution. The most significant change is that we are no longer required to have financial statements audited. Our revised constitution now reads "Auditors of the Association shall be appointed, if required, by the members at each Annual General Meeting." This will save a considerable administration burden as well as about \$900 per annum.

One of the objectives of our association is to ensure that developments and activities adjacent to the park protect its conservation and landscape values. A letter was sent to the Minister of the Environment expressing our concern of mining developments in the Cocanarup Timber Reserve, that will potentially impact important Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat. This reserve is the largest and most intact patch of mature Salmon Gums in the south-east of the Carnaby's range in Western Australia. Friends and Birds Australia have been monitoring breeding activities for 10 years. We received predictable responses from the Environment Minister and the Mines Minister.

The Jerramungup Shire was informed of the Friends concern about the use of quad bikes along the beaches and in particular the Mamang walk trail, for safety reasons, spread of dieback, birds, track erosion and damage to vegetation and to suggest that they be banned from the beaches. A copy was also sent to DPAW. We have had a response from DPAW thanking us for our ongoing support. Several members attended a Gondwana Link Forum in April 2017 and Steve Janicke gave a 10 minute presentation on our behalf, informing the audience of our objectives and some concerns. Steve commented that there was a strong cooperative atmosphere but concluded that the forum was valuable for hearing from a wide range of players about who they were and what activity priorities were. However there were too many complex issues raised and as a result there seemed to be no definitive conclusions about where to head in future.

Andy represented the Friends at the Park Advisory Committee meeting which was very poorly attended by representatives outside DBCA. Issues covered were the parks improvement review, signage, Four Mile camp and a wash down facility for Bremer Bay. Andy recommends that we continue our membership as it allows us to know what the department is up to.

Your committee all agreed with Libby Sandiford that the Ken Newbey herbarium be relocated to Twertup from Ravensthorpe as it will provide a very interesting and valuable educational resource at the centre. Thank you Libby for a fantastic effort in bringing the collection up to date and relevant to the Fitzgerald River National Park.

This January the friends held a stall at the Hopetoun Paddy's market. A "Rock" quiz was organised with great prizes donated by DPAW of annual park passes. Although attendance at the market was poor, it was considered good fun and worth doing.

Following on from previous monitoring since 2005, Andy Chapman conducted a further four night Dibbler survey in October 2017 with help from seven "friends", five people from the indigenous green army and Dr Tony Friend from DPAW and the results were most encouraging. More monitoring is scheduled for May this year.

Three volumes of the Narpulungup News were issued in 2017. Thank you Leonie for doing such a professional job. While we have a website and Facebook page, the Narpulungup News remains our main communication to keep our members informed.

We held four committee meetings during the past year. We again thank the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group for allowing us to use office space in Jerramungup.

350 of our Biosphere maps have been folded and put in plastic sleeves. Participants at the Biosphere Launch will each receive a copy and the remainder available for sale.

We have maintained our membership with the Conservation Council of WA, the Environmental Defenders Office and Gondwana Link.

The future. Now that a lot of the hard work has been completed it is time for members to come forward with innovative ideas and give direction where they think the association should proceed. So please consider joining the committee. Libby has already made several suggestions, one a botanical survey in spring that she is willing to lead so we can get the herbarium updated and another walking weekend to further members appreciation of the park. So let's see those hands go up when we call for nominations.

Membership. At the last AGM it was moved that membership fees be abolished. This has reduced the administrative burden considerably. We now have 24 new members making a total of 116. Many of the new members gave a donation, totalling about \$750.

To end on a very positive note, the following letter was received from two new yet to be endorsed members. "I was in this park this month after an 11 year hiatus. I had not forgotten how wonderful this park is, but it was sensational to visit it again. Please keep up the good work". Attached was a cheque to the "friends" for \$500(not included in the \$750 above).

Thank you.

Bill Thompson, President.

2018 AGM, Twertup Field Studies Centre - Twertup Report

Working bees & contractors

- 2017 March** - Pittards delivered a B-double of aggregate mix to Fregon's property for verandahs. DBCA inspected Holcim's pit near Albany for potential of *Phytophthora* dieback in sand (day before delivery) and 'Dieback Hygiene Management Plan' signed off. Avon Hiab transported aggregate from Fregon's to Twertup.
- Denaro Earthmoving (Barry and Tyrone Smoker) from Kulin concreted the verandah and BBQ area.
- April** - 'Welcome to Twertup' and 'Walk trails' signs designed by Lorna Charlton & staff (DBCA). Printed by Jason Signmakers in September.
- May** - Successfully applied for a Lotterywest grant for furniture and opening event (\$25,740).
- June-July** - Paul Young (stonemason) built the spongolite walls for the toilets blocks to 1.9m height, plus BBQ support. Installation of slow combustion heater.
- August** - Work continued on the bbq area and toilet installation; pantry shelving.
- September** - Libby Sandiford updated the 'Ken Newbey Memorial Herbarium'.
- October** - Alison Lullfitz recorded the 'Twertup story' by three Noongar Elders.
- Paul Young finished toilet wall height to 2.2m, plus 2x stone plinths for signs.
- Front step was built. Nature trails brochure updated and trails numbered ready for stakes and final clearing.
- Parks and Wildlife Service had a 'team bonding' event - installing trail marker posts, spreading limestone aggregate around the building, furniture delivery and assembly.
- November** 4th 'Opening' and unveiling of stone plaque by Bruce Manning (CEO, GSDC), and 5th 'Open day' celebrating the finishing of the Field Studies Centre.
- 2018 January** - Purchase of kitchen and archive room benchtops. BBQ & cook-top gas plumbed.
- Peter Masters (transferring to Walpole) farewelled by Friends and DBCA.
- February** - Directional signage and marking of walk trails.
- March** - Proposed construction of 54kL concrete water tank for fire-fighting purposes and toilet hand-washing basin.
- Booking guidelines finalised with DBCA.

Grants

The following grant was acquitted in December 2017:

- **State NRM Program Community Action Grant 2015 A15027 - \$30,000 for toilets and boot-cleaning station.**

In process of acquittal:

- **Great Southern Community Chest Fund 2016 - \$24,000 for concreting of verandahs and BBQ, and Noongar story of Twertup.**

Successful grant application:

- **Lotterywest - \$25,740 for furniture and opening event.**

TABLE 1 - Material and 'in-kind' contributions for the restoration of the Twertup Field Studies Centre between Jan-Dec 2017.

ITEM	No. working bees	No. individuals	HOURS	KM	Labour ¹	Travel ²	Material	TOTAL
Project Management		2	205	346	\$ 6,150	\$ 208		\$ 6,358
Working bees	9	23	1131	13903	\$ 33,915	\$ 8,201		\$ 42,116
DBCA labour		20	200		\$ 12,000			\$ 12,000
<u>Material donations:</u>								
DPaW - bbq & sideburner							\$3,000	\$ 3,000
DPaW - 300 trail markers							\$489	\$ 489
DPaW - builder's sand							\$400	\$ 400
Albany Allway Roofing (45m toilet roofing iron)							\$ 585	\$ 585
Slow combustion heater (DBCA)							\$ 400	\$ 400
Black plastic (Janicke)							\$ 40	\$ 40
TOTAL 2017		22	405	346	\$ 18,150	\$ 208	\$ 4,914	\$ 23,272
GRAND TOTAL 2010-2017		75	6,778	66,116	\$213,231	\$39,281	\$ 38,566	\$291,078

¹ Volunteer Labour value = \$30/hr

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

TABLE 2 – Cost of restoration of the Twertup Field Studies Centre (to 31/12/2017)

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	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 & Noongar story	\$24,000	
DBCA, Parks & Wildlife Service	2016	12V solar lighting system	\$6,726	
Lotterywest	2017	Furniture and opening event	\$25,740	
CASH GRANTS TOTAL			\$266,296	
CASH TWERTUP DONATIONS			\$17,766	
IN-KIND LABOUR & TRAVEL	2010-17	Project Management		\$22,744
IN-KIND LABOUR	2010	Twertup Master Plan		\$3,252
IN-KIND LABOUR	2010	Twertup Historical Documentary DVD		\$5,614
IN-KIND LABOUR & TRAVEL	2010-17	FoFRNP working bees		\$229,076
IN-KIND LABOUR	2010-17	DEC/DPaW/DBCA labour		\$33,942
IN-KIND MATERIAL DONATIONS	2010-17			\$38,566
TOTAL IN-KIND				\$333,194
GRAND TOTAL				\$617,257

There have been 15 steadfast members who have stayed for the long haul of the rebuild, without whom I doubt we'd be enjoying this beautiful building today. In 2017 there were 23 volunteers who laboured to complete the building, walk trails and surrounds. Thanks especially to Ric Pepper, Libby Sandiford, Bruce Pope, Andy Chapman, Peter Dawson and me (all of whom individually volunteered 50 or more hours during 2017).

Recognition is also due to Parks and Wildlife Service staff of the Albany district, particularly Peter Hartley and his 'team', Peter Masters, Grantly Morton and Deon Grantham who spent a couple of days getting the precinct ready in time for the "opening" celebration in November.

It is now ten years since the wildfire burnt the original building and I consider that the 'restoration' has essentially been achieved. We can now focus on re-establishing Twertup as a place for appreciation of the environment and a centre for learning and teaching. A number of our members have educational experience, and I encourage them to come forward to guide the preparation of information that can be used by teachers bringing students to the centre. Joining the committee would be one way to help achieve this. I encourage you to actively participate in keeping this group engaged with the community and park. We are at the end of one phase – the rebuild – and the start of the next – re-establishing Twertup as a place where people, nature and science meet.

Gillian Craig

10/3/2018