

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK Inc,

PO Box 199 Ravensthorpe 6346.

MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. HELD AT FITZGERALD HALL

SATURDAY MARCH 28TH 2009.

Meeting commenced at 1-35pm.

Members and guests welcomed by Andy.

Present:- Geoff Young; Jenny Taylor; Priscilla Broadbent; Ken Broadbent; Keven Giles; Paul Cory; Tracey Ross; Jeff Pinder; Pierre Raoul; Raana Scott; Robyn Cail; Kim Bennett; Merle Bennett; Helen Taylor; Ron Taylor; Gil Craig; Rick Pepper; Brenda Newby; Stephen Fryc; John Tucker; Mark Moore; Natasha Moore; Tessa and Hettie Moore; Leoni McMahon; Anne Gadsby.

Apologies:- Angela Sanders; Steve and Geraldine Janicke; Gai Downes; Derek and Julia Caruthers; Mark Jeffery; Vivienne Hillyer; Jenny Chambers; Ron Richards; Rosey Jasper; Nathan McQuoid.

President's Report.

Andy reviewed the year's activities. Our revised plant list has been completed, market days were held at Ravensthorpe, Bremer Bay and Hopetoun. The major concerns were Twertup restoration, and 'that road' which contributed to the frustrations and difficulties. Andy told the meeting that he would not seek re-election as president. A full account of the report is filed.

Treasurer's Report.

Robyn Cail, the treasurer presented her report, which due to changes in bank requirements, did not include an auditor's report.

Moved Robyn, seconded Kim Bennett That the Treasurer's report be accepted subject to an audit presented to the next committee meeting.

The treasurer's report was tabled and is filed.

Newsletter Editor's Report.

Priscilla reported that there has been a change to electronic format for members requesting it. This version will result in coloured pictures while the posted newsletter will remain in black and white. Priscilla has been editor for 6 years, and is now happily resigning. She thanked 'Friends' and the contributors to Narpulungup News.

Andy thanked Priscilla for her editorship.

Senior Ranger's Report.

Paul Cory, acting Senior Ranger, gave a very comprehensive report of his activities and changes in FRNP. Of major importance, has been the fact that since Mark Moore resigned in December, there has been only one Park Ranger, at a time when visitor numbers are highest. The position of Senior Ranger is unlikely to be filled before the start of the 2009/10 financial year.

The report gave details of Staff, Works, Weather events, RNP closure, Recreation Sites, Western Shield, Dibbler research, and Prescribed Burns. A separate report from Bell Track Project Officer was provided. Both reports have been filed.

Minutes of the AGM held at Hopetoun Saturday 5th April 2008 have been circulated.

Moved Robyn Cail seconded Tracey Ross, That the minutes be confirmed.

Business arising from the minutes.

Nil.

Correspondence. A list has been circulated and correspondence tabled.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2009/ 2010

Helen Taylor took the chair. All positions were declared vacant. The following members were elected unopposed.

Position		Nominated.	Seconded.
President.	Gillian Craig.	Andy Chapman	Anne Gadsby.
Vice President.	Rodger Walker.	Andy Chapman	Ron Taylor
Secretary.	Anne Gadsby	Merle Bennett	Priscilla Broadbent.
Treasurer.	Robyn Cail	Priscilla Broadbent	Anne Gadsby.
Newsletter Editor	Andy Chapman	Tracey Ross.	Ron Taylor
General Committee			
1.	Tracey Ross	Kim Bennett	Rodger Walker.
2.	John Tucker	Priscilla Broadbent	Anne Gadsby
3.	Raana Scott	Rodger Walker	Helen Taylor.
Building	Mark Jeffery	Helen Taylor	Gil Craig.
Sub-committee			

Assistants to Building sub-committee. Keven Giles; Mark Moore; Paul Corey.

Robyn Cail and Raana Scott left the meeting.

Gil Craig took the chair and thanked Andy the outgoing president; Priscilla for her 6 years as Newsletter Editor; Natasha for her past involvement, and Maria Lee for establishing the website.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

1. Appointment of Auditor.

Motion Moved Andy Chapman, seconded Merle Bennett:- That this meeting appoint Bird Cameron Esperance as Auditor. Carried.

2. Treasurer's access to account information.

Motion. Moved Kim Bennett, seconded Natasha Moore:- That the Treasurer has access to all bank account information and transactions. Carried.

3. Proposed Coastal Road through FRNP.

- a) Gil informed us that Keith Bradby of Gondwanalink would be making submissions, and was seeking the support of FFRNP

Motion. Moved Kim Bennett, seconded Brenda Newby:- That FFRNP support the Gondwanalink project to oppose the road through the FRNP. Carried.

- b) Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for the Environment Heritage and Arts, has been invited to Esperance by The Esperance Regional Forum on May 6th to launch a DVD in support of the Lake Warden Wetlands, a new RAMSAR site. This would be an excellent opportunity to follow up the letter he received from FFRNP.

3.

- c) Andy reminded us that the Conservation Council, Senator Rachel Siewert and the Greens have already published media statements opposing the road. These and the Malleefowl Preservation Group are people and organisations with whom we could form an alliance.
- d) Merle suggested that we seek information on whether the construction of this road would compromise the Biosphere status of FRNP.
- e) Mark Moore suggested seeking the reaction of shires other than Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe.
- f) Natasha stated that South Coast NRM should be included in any process which is adopted.

4. Twertup.

Gil stated that she would like to see some resolution from today's meeting. Mark Jeffery has put together a comprehensive display of designs that everyone should look at.

Andy gave a outline of the situation to date.

- There is financial uncertainty
- As a result of consultation with Bruce Bone DEC, , it has been established that:-
 - a) We are on our own.
 - b) A registered builder is required on site at all times when work is in progress.
 - c) DEC remain the owners, and we would need to obtain a memorandum of understanding or a lease agreement
- We are now in a much more focused position than we were at last year's AGM
- We need to decide if we have the resources to provide any of the above, and that even if we do achieve our goals by providing the money and the work, it will NEVER be our building.

Gil then stated that this may not be an unsolvable problem, but that we needed sound advice.

Mark Moore then stated that DEC has an employee who deals with leases, and who's advice might be useful. He also outlined the department's protocol for getting the plans from the drawing board to the building stage, pointing out the need for collaboration.

The first step has been taken, yesterday the plans were sent to Bruce Bone, Regional Manager, South Coast Region for consideration.

After further discussion on the availability of a builder, Gil called for a motion.

Rick moved That we restore the building to near to its original state.

Priscilla called for clarification; did the motion preclude useful modifications and minor improvements?

Andy reminded the meeting that in its present form, the motion was almost identical to the motion passed at the Special General Meeting , 05-04-08, and that now we should re-assess our goals as times have changed.

Rick wondered who had the time to fund-raise the \$300,000-00 needed?

At present, pending approval, Natasha believes that an application would meet the criteria for a grant from Royalties for Regions.

Kim Bennett suggested a review of funding criteria to find other sources of money.

Gil recalled that the Minister for the Environment has funding sources.

Gil gave credit to Mark Jeffery and thanked him for the time and effort he had spent in getting the plans this far.

4.

There being no seconder for Rick's motion, the meeting then :-

Resolved In-principal support to continue with restoration.

Priscilla then voiced her concerns about the constitution and the status of the building sub-committee.

Priscilla moved:- That the committee of FFRNP creates an amendment to the constitution formalising the exact relationship of the building committee to the committee of the FFRNP.

Consultation of the constitution established that in section 11: 11.2.2, the Committee is responsible for deciding upon any activities to be undertaken by and on behalf of the Association.

This should cover any action by the building sub-committee and Priscilla withdrew her motion.

Kim commented that there should be adequate consultation between all sections of the committee.

5. Ranger Numbers.

It emerged during the recent ministerial activity in the FRNP that many of DEC's senior managers had never been to FRNP and expressed surprise that there was only one Ranger.

Gil asked if there was a role for FFRNP to play? It was suggested that we complain to the Government and its Ministers.

6. Walk and Talk in the Ravensthorpe Range.

Rodger and Gil invited everyone to this interesting day to be held on Saturday 9th May. A detailed programme will be available soon. The programme is jointly organised by R.A.I.N. and FFRNP, and will benefit the Twertup building project.

7. Carnaby's Cockatoo Survey.

Rodger has sighting forms available to anyone wanting to record sight or sound of Carnaby's during the week 28-03-09 to 03-04-09

8. Tree Plantations for Carbon Sequestration.

The Shire of Jerramungup has sent letters to all ratepayers asking for submissions. As some of the properties will be close to the FRNP, it was agreed that we make a submission. (**Anne**)

9. Web page.

Rodger has kindly offered to organise our web site, and will liaise with Kim Bennett if back-up is needed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4-00pm.