

Narpulungup ews

February
Number 1 2015

from the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

www.fitzgeraldfriends.org.au



WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR. IT'S TIME TO DO TWO THINGS: HAVE AN AGM AND RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGM WEEKEND

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 2015, QUAALUP HOMESTEAD WILDERNESS RETREAT, FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

10.00 am Morning tea at Homestead – tea & coffee provided, bring something to share. A thermos of hot water and folding chair would be useful.

10:30 am ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 NOON (or at conclusion of AGM) Lunch– please bring your own

1:30 pm Guest Speaker, Sarah Comer, Regional Ecologist, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Albany. Sarah's talk will be about the work of the Integrated Fauna Recovery Project focussing on introduced predators and conservation of fauna in the biosphere. Sarah has been working on the South Coast with DPaW for many years and has worked throughout the region, including in the Fitzgerald River National Park, and is currently involved in work with feral cats.

3:00 pm Afternoon tea, free time to relax, set up camp, enjoy Quaalup or go for a walk. The new Committee will meet from ~3:30pm to 5pm.

6:00 pm DINNER. Bring your own with something to share – nibbles, salad, sweets. BBQ facilities available

7:30 pm SOCIAL EVENING

If you plan to stay overnight at Quaalup you will need to make your own arrangements for accommodation with Quaalup management. A wide range of options from camping to self-contained units are available. See website of Quaalup Homestead Wilderness Retreat for accommodation details and a map and directions. <http://www.whalesandwildflowers.com.au> or phone 9837 4124. Karin & Carsten Richelmann will be our gracious hosts.

Best access to Quaalup is to follow the signs from Devils Creek Road off South Coast Highway, 1km NE of Gairdner townsite. Four wheel drive is not required. Don't rely on your GPS, it will lead you astray!

Activities for Sunday are on next page.

Next issue:
May 2015

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL

10:00 am (Weather permitting) Meet at Twertup Field Studies Centre for morning tea – tea, coffee provided - bring something to share. (Directions for getting to Twertup from Quaalup will be given at meeting on Saturday.)

10:30 – 12 noon Optional activities including a walk to 'Horrie and Dorrie' or assisting with delineating walk paths around the quarry (bring gloves, rake, mattock, wheelbarrow).

12 noon Lunch and relax – Bring your own lunch – BBQ facilities available.

WIND UP ABOUT 3:00 pm

Members are reminded to consider if they are available to serve on the Committee, if you are please contact President Rosemary Jasper on 0428 123 400 or rosemary.jasper@bigpond.com. If you wish to nominate yourself or anyone else and are unable to attend the AGM please advise Secretary Donna Higgins of names of nominee, nominator, seconder and position sought by 31 March. Donna's contact is 0408 597 017 or floralush@icloud.com

All memberships are now due for renewal. Please see the letter from the President and the membership form which accompanies this issue as a separate attachment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEITH BRADBY

'Friends' extend their congratulations to Keith, who as CEO of Gondwanalink received a Medal of the Order of Australia (General Division) for services to conservation and the environment in WA in the New Year's honours list. Recent members might be interested to know that without Keith's determination and building skills in the early 1980s Twertup Field Studies Centre would not have come about and there would not have been a building for us to replace.

ANNUAL CARNABY'S COCKATOO NESTING SURVEY AT COCANARUP

The original survey was scheduled for October 24-26 but was cancelled due to 107 mm rain in Ravensthorpe earlier that week. In spite of that Deb Sullivan from Birdlife Aust. in Esperance and I covered some of the area over 25 & 26

October as we camped on the west side of the river, which was 100 m wide on Cocanarup Road, until the water level receded to 'top of FWD tyre height'. By Sunday we were able to cross the river and we located nine new nest trees.

The survey was re-scheduled on 21 & 22 November in much drier conditions when Rosemary Jasper, Ken & Jean Read from Esperance walked many kilometres with very few birds seen or flushed. On 4 December Rick Dawson from DPaW (of ABC TV Carnaby's Documentary fame) and vets from Murdoch University came to Cocanarup to extract chicks from nest hollows to give them a health check including size, weight, DNA sample, eye fluid sample for chlamydia and a leg band. Nest trees that had been previously examined varied from having chicks already flown to the 'python tree' still having two eggs. Last time this nest was checked it had a carpet python with a Carnaby's sized lump in it.



Rick Dawson with Carnaby's chick about two weeks from flying.



Deb Sullivan holds a chick for veterinary examination.

Text and photos by John Tucker

HOPETOON MARKET DAY

On 17 January seven 'Friends' attended the market day and presented a stall. The highlight was undoubtedly Gil Craig's 'What scat is that?' competition whereby for a small entry fee attendees were invited to match a sample scat against photographs of a range of animals to arrive at the right answers. All correct answers were entered into a box and two winning enteries drawn. Thirty four people including many children entered.

We also provided information on the Twertup rebuild, sold a Ravensthorpe wildflower book, recaptured two lapsed memberships and signed up a new member. The scat competition prize winners were Amber Guerini of Broomehill and Harmony Daw of Ravensthorpe. Prizes were an annual national parks pass and a years Landscape subscription. Department of Parks and Wildlife is gratefully acknowledged for the donation of these prizes.



Attendees at the market day work their way through the options at the 'What scat is that?' competition.

TWERTUP UPDATE

Another significant milestone has been reached with the building of the walls by master stonemason and craftsman, Paul Young. The beautiful colours of the Twertup spongolite have been shown to their best effect by Paul's stonework. Following the 2008 wildfire, the charred walls looked like they would be a major job to clean, however after a few heavy rainfalls, the walls were revealed to have been 'cooked', further oxidising the iron in the stone and enhancing the red and yellow colours in the spongolite. The multi-coloured effect of the new outside walls is truly stunning.



The old garage is re-incarnated as a dormitory

Paul has used the paler spongolite blocks, from both 'Yarrabee' and Ravensthorpe, in the internal walls, providing brighter and lighter rooms. The 'fossil wall' takes pride of place in the sitting room, with some new fossils being incorporated into the feature. A number of volunteers have assisted the stonework by sorting the blocks into various sizes and/or scrubbing paint off the blocks. Special thanks to Warren Stevens who accompanied Paul for much of the time, plus Steve and Geraldine Janicke, Libby Sandiford, Pete Dawson, Keven Giles, Russell Peterkin, Bill and Jane Thompson, Ric Pepper and Gil Craig who have helped out at Twertup a number of times in the last months. Our *State NRM grant* is part-paying for the stonemason, along with a *Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife grant*.

The next stage will be installing the wall plates, ceilings and in-fill between the top of the walls and the roof which will be paid for by a Great Southern Development Commission '*Community Chest Fund*' grant, for which we are very grateful.

Our recent achievements at Twertup will be on show on Sunday 12th April (AGM weekend). Please come along and, if you feel like doing a bit of work, there will be many blocks to shift to delineate paths around the quarry. Bring gloves and any useful instruments, such as a rake, mattock or wheelbarrow. Looking forward to seeing you there....

Text and photo contributed by Gil Craig

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

Friends welcome to their number Lucy Clausen who comes from Victoria and is currently working in Albany for DPaW. We wish her an enduring and satisfying membership.

PHOTO GALLERY: TWERTUP ALL....

STITCHED UP



Photos Geraldine Janicke

LATE NEWS FROM TWERTUP

Stonemason, Paul Young has finished. The walls are up. A milestone indeed, congratulations all.

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