

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

NARPULUNGUP NEWS

www.fitzgeraldfriends.org.au*Pssst..*

The WA State Election
will be held on Saturday
8th March 2025 - ensure
you arrange your vote so
you can join us for ours!

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EXCURSION

8 & 9 MARCH | BEGINNING 9AM EACH DAY

This year the Friends' AGM will be held at Twertup on Saturday 8th March with an excursion to 'George's Gorge' on the Fitzgerald River on Sunday 9th March.

Our Guest speaker will be Dr Catherine Spaggiari, a senior research geologist with CSIRO and UWA, who has worked extensively on the geology and tectonic evolution of Western Australia including the Albany-Fraser Orogen.

Overnight accommodation at Twertup is
available from
Friday 7th to Sunday 9th March inclusive.

BYO swag /tent, or book a bed in a shared
dormitory by contacting
admin@fitzgeraldfriends.org.au.



Become a member for FREE!



PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL VEHICLES AND FOOTWEAR ARE FREE
OF SOIL TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF PHYTOPHTHERA DIEBACK.

**CHECK THE DBCA WEBSITE FOR ROAD CLOSURES
[HTTPS://ALERTS.DBCA.WA.GOV.AU/](https://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au/) TO OBTAIN A PARK ENTRY FEE
WAIVER, PLEASE EMAIL ADMIN@FITZGERALDFRIENDS.ORG.AU.**

**NB THE ALTERNATIVE WET-WEATHER VENUE WILL BE THE
BUSH HERITAGE'S MICHAEL TICHBON FIELD STATION**

Saturday 8th

9.00-10.00 am

Arrive at Twertup Field Studies Centre

Morning tea (bring a plate to share)

10.00-12.00 pm

Annual General Meeting

12.00-2.00 pm

BYO Lunch

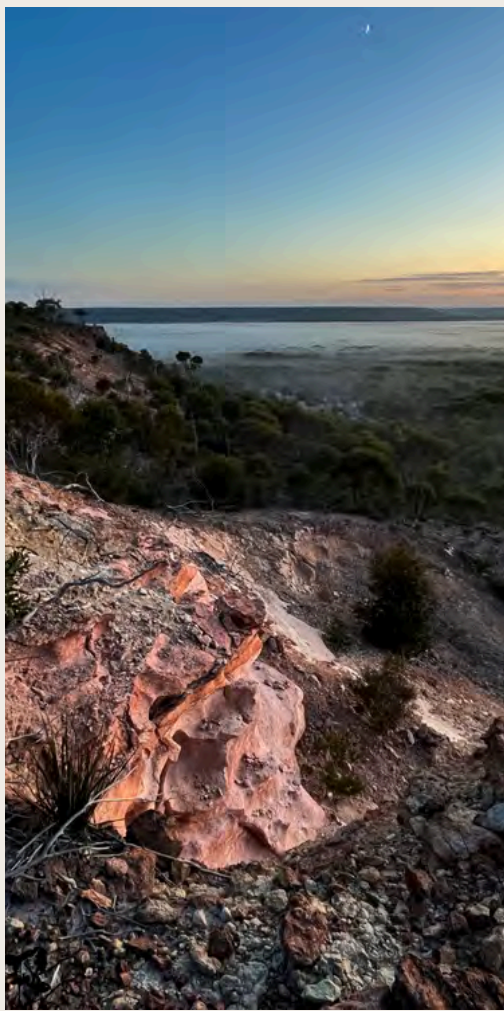
The Busselton Naturalists Club join us for lunch.

2.00-2.30pm

Guest speaker - Dr Catherine Spaggiari will introduce us to geological features hidden beneath the FRNP.

BYO dinner & drinks - outdoor barbecue available.

Bring a salad or dessert to share.



Sunday 9th

9.00am

Leave Twertup and travel to Jacup South Rd

'George's Gorge', named by locals after George Duxbury (who was the second Ranger that worked in the Fitzgerald River National Park) is part of the Fitzgerald River.

Access to the gorge is via Jacup South Road, approx. 9.5 km from South Coast Hwy through a gate into the national park, then about 30 mins drive (~10 km) on a good 4WD track to near the Fitzgerald River. To reach 'George's Gorge', it is a 900 m walk along the riverbed which takes approx 35 minutes.

There is an enormous freshwater gnamma and spectacular towering granite and water-worn rocks to be seen.

BYO Morning tea and Lunch

Bring sturdy walking boots/shoes, water, snacks, hat and sunscreen.



AGM – COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.: Nomination for Membership of Committee

I (name), _____

of (address) _____

email address _____,

being a full member of the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.

hereby nominate (name) _____

as a member of the committee of Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park Inc

Seconded by (name) _____

Nominee's declaration of eligibility:

I hereby declare that I am eligible to be a member of the committee (see below for exclusion criteria)

Signature _____

Date _____

A person will be prohibited from sitting on the management committee of an incorporated association (without prior approval from the Commissioner for Consumer Protection) where they:

- are an undischarged bankrupt or their affairs are being managed under insolvency laws;
- have been convicted of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a body corporate;
- have been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable on conviction by three months or more imprisonment; and/or
- have been convicted of an offence under Division 3 (the duties of officers provisions) or section 127 (the duty with respect to incurring of debt) of the Act.

AGM – PROXY VOTING FORM

Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.: Proxy Voting Form

I (name), _____

of (address) _____

email address _____,

being a full member of the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.

hereby nominate (name) _____

as my proxy at the 2024 AGM of the Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.

Signature _____

Date _____

AGM - COMMITTEE NOMINATION



This year the AGM will be held at Twertup, although if wet-weather prevents access, the weekend will be held at Bush Heritage's Red Moort reserve.

The [Minutes from the 2024 AGM](#) are available on the Friends website.

All committee positions will be open for nomination, so if you can't get to the meeting and would like to join the committee, please send the form in this newsletter to admin@fitzgeraldfriends.org.au.

For the past two years the Secretary position has been vacant - we'd love someone to take on this role and help our organisation keep its membership list up to date, keep full and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Committee and coordinate the correspondence of the Friends. We usually hold four committee meetings per year via Zoom, so you could live anywhere and participate!



TASMIN LANCASTER'S RESEARCH ON HAKEA VICTORIA



The impact of fire frequency on *Hakea victoria*: finding the right balance

By Dylan Korczynskyj

In December Notre Dame student, Tasmin Lancaster, presented to the Friends her research on *Hakea victoria*: the striking floral emblem of the Fitz. For those of you who were unable to attend here is a potted summary of what she found.

Hakea victoria regenerates after fire, but too frequent or too infrequent fires threatens its survival. The plant does not resprout after fire and instead relies on seeds stored in its canopy, therefore the optimum interval between fires is the one which allows for maximum seed bank size. The plant begins producing fruit from 5-yrs-old and steadily increases production as the number of branches increases with age. On average, plants over 101 years old produced 476 more fruits and 86 more viable seed than 33-yr-old plants - a long 'window' between fires is important!

However, the 'benefit' of new seed production is offset as seeds lose viability, seeds are eaten, fruits release seeds before fire, and plants slowly die with age. Irrespective of plant age, seed viability fell rapidly after two years - old seeds are unlikely to germinate. And predation of seeds followed the opposite pattern, with the oldest plants having the highest rates. While *H. victoria* fruit was thought to only open when the mother plant died (e.g. during fire), we observed spontaneous seed release coincident with inter-fire recruitment at old sites. These recruits were sparse (<5 % of the population) and are unlikely to make a substantial difference to plant density, and therefore seed production. Not surprisingly, the occurrence of dead plants increased with time since fire and with it an erosion of plant density.

Short fire intervals put *H. victoria* at risk by not allowing the development of a sufficient seed bank. And by the time *H. victoria* reaches 33 years-old the collective impacts of predation, spontaneous seed release and plant death resulted in little additional accumulation of viable seed. Hence the optimum interval between fires for *H. victoria* was estimated to be 20 to 26 years. The variation seen in this species' response between sites should remind managers that this is a guide, and not a rule.

[READ HER FULL THESIS HERE](#)

FITZGERALD BIOSPHERE VEGETATION RESEARCH FOR APPROPRIATE FIRE REGIMES



By Gillian Craig

Our research project, which is supported by funding from the [Western Australian Government's State NRM Program](#), is moving forward with a project schedule developed and a contract signed.

An advertisement for the position of botanist/ecologist was advertised on NRM jobs and Linked In and has been widely circulated through social media.

Seven applications have been received and are currently being reviewed against the selection criteria. The committee is impressed with the quality and experience of the majority of applicants.

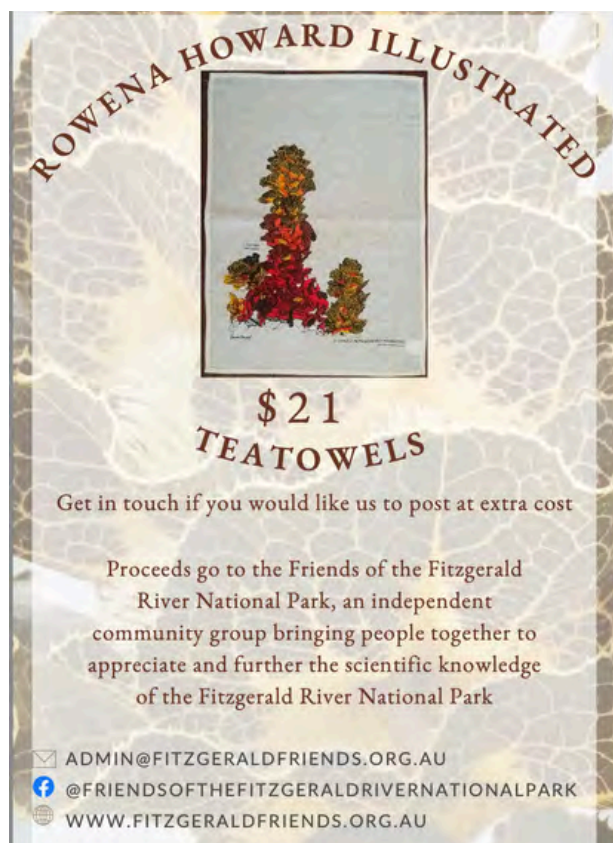
Interviews will be held this month and we look forward to announcing a successful applicant by the AGM in March.



natural resource
management program



Hakea victoria photos: Erika Jacobson



MERCHANDISE

Our stunning tea towels, beautifully illustrated by Rowena Howard and Julie Outram are on sale and will be available at the AGM.

Anyone interested in buying them before hand please contact Annie to order them: Coordinator@fitzgeraldbiosphere.org

remember all proceeds go to Friends of the FRNP! 🌿🙏



We respectfully acknowledge the Noongar People as Traditional Owners of Country. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, culture and community and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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