



FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK (INC.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Michael Tichbon Field Studies Centre, Saturday 13th March 2021

Meeting Opened: 10:45am

1. Welcome to Members and Guests

President Liz Utting welcomed everyone.

2. Attendance: Liz Utting, Delys Harland, Anne Gadsby, Jan Roberts, Pam Jones, Greg Christie, Angela Sanders, Cathy Taylor, Louise Lodge, Tracey Ross, Vanessa Lipianin, Paul Cory, Libby Sandiford, Bill Thompson, Ron Richards, Rosemary Jasper, Gil Craig, Neil Gibson, Peter Dawson, Andrew Chapman, Jane Thompson, Kingsley and Sandy Vaux.

Apologies: Jack Guthrie, Carolyn Switzer, Kay Lehman, Bart Lebbing, Steve and Geraldine Janicke, Priscilla Broadbent, Joanna Young, Sheryn prior, Alison Lullfitz, Merle Bennett, Kim Bennett, Vicky Bilney, Sylvia Leighton, Keven Giles, Kate Brown, John Tucker, Ric Pepper, Bev Davis

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous AGM, 14th March 2020.

MOTION: The Minutes of AGM 14th March 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Anne Gadsby/Liz Utting CARRIED

4. Business Arising out of Minutes- Nil

5. Receipt and Adoption of Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report

Financial Report was prepared by Sheryn Prior and presented by Ron Richards

MOTION: Financial Report be accepted as true and accurate record.

Ron Richards/Gil Craig CARRIED

6. **President's Annual Report-** Liz Utting (see attachment)

7. **Twertup Field Studies Centre Report-** Bill Thompson (see attachment)

8. **FRNP Ranger's Report-** Paul Cory (see attachment)

9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2021

Liz Utting declared all positions vacant and invited Angela Sanders to be Returning Officer.

OFFICE	NOMINATED	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY	ELECTED
President	Liz Utting	Gil Craig	Rosemary Jasper	YES
Vice President	Alison Lullfitz	Liz Utting	Libby Sandiford	YES
Secretary	Delys Harland	Gil Craig	Tracey Ross	YES
Treasurer	Sheryn Prior	Liz Utting	Rosemary Jasper	YES
Newsletter Editor	Vicky Bilney	Delys Harland	Liz Utting	YES
Comm. Member	Jack Guthrie	Tracey Ross	Delys Harland	YES
Comm. Members	Gil Craig	Delys Harland	Liz Utting	YES
Comm. Members	Kate Brown	Anne Gadsby	Libby Sandiford	YES
Twertup Rep	Anne Gadsby	Gil Craig	Liz Utting	YES
Twertup Works	Greg Harland	Delys Harland	Anne Gadsby	YES
Twertup Works	Neil Gibson	Bill Thompson	Libby Sandiford	YES
Twertup Works DBCA Rep				

10. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: FFRNP being a Tier 1 Association that an auditor is not required.

Ron Richards/Bill Thompson CARRIED

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

Motion: Sheryn Prior be appointed as the Public Officer.

Liz Utting/Delys Harland CARRIED

12. A) Membership Rates

Motion: The membership fees to remain at zero.

Liz Utting/Anne Gadsby CARRIED

B) Insurance, CCWA and EDO

Motion: To continue payment of same Insurance Policy, and renew membership of CCWA and EDO

Liz Utting/Gil Craig CARRIED

13. Appointment of Delegate and Proxy for Conservation Council of WA

Motion: The following members be appointed as Delegate: Anne Gadsby; Proxy: Ron Richards.

Delys Harland/ Liz Utting CARRIED

MEETING CLOSED: 11:37am

General Discussion:

- The importance of a new Memorandum of Understanding between Friends and DBCA was discussed. It was agreed that this should be undertaken. The past involvement of Friends in the importance of the FRNP should be highlighted with DBCA. Future direction to be sought with positive outcomes.
- Friends are planning a Members Weekend and Twertup Open Day. It is hoped to invite special guests to educate members on environmental topics. Two suggestions were Kit Prendergast – Bee Lady, Paul Zborowski- Entomologist. Park Rangers to be invited to meet Friends' members.

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN 84 383 247 026

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN: 84 383 247 026

Committee's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Your committee members submit the financial report of Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park for year ended 31 December 2020.

Committee members

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Liz Utting - President

Alison Lullfitz - Vice President

Delys Harland - Secretary

Sheryn Prior - Treasurer

Vici Bilney - newsletter editor

Gillian Craig

Anne Gadsby

Jack Guthrie

Bill Thompson - Twertup Rep

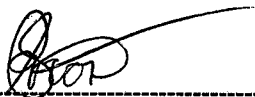
Significant changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating result

The profit of the Association for the financial year after adjusting for unexpended grant funds carried forward was \$5,377.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:



Sheryn Prior [Treasurer]

Dated: 16th February 2021

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
BALANCE SHEET
For the year ending 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Westpac Savings	\$31,364	\$33,744
Bank - Westpac Deposit Acc	\$918	\$0
Bank - Westpac Cheque	\$5,220	\$1,416
Accounts Receivable	\$2,916	\$0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$40,418	\$35,160
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$194	\$313
Unexpended Grants/Donations	\$6,714	\$6,714
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$6,908	\$7,027
NET ASSETS	\$33,510	\$28,133

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the year ending 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
INCOMES		
Sundry Incomes	\$936	\$342
Sales	\$3,046	\$465
Donations	\$2,623	\$845
Grants	\$5,832	\$1,684
	\$12,437	\$3,336
EXPENSES		
Sundry Expenditure	\$1,097	\$1,123
Insurances	\$422	\$400
Project Expenditure	\$5,541	\$1,268
	\$7,060	\$2,791
NET IINCOME	\$5,377	\$545

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with notations attached.

**FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
UNEXPENDED GRANT FUNDS
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

Culham Inlet Study	\$1,347
Numbat Monitoring	\$293
Twertup Donations	<u>\$5,074</u>
Total Unexpended Grant Funds	<u>\$6,714</u>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with notations attached.

**FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
NOTATIONS TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For 1 January to 31 December 2020, cash basis**

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The committee have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the needs of members.

The following Australian accounting standards have been applied:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- AASB 1031 Materiality
- AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards
- AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed, which the committee have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

President's Report – AGM 2021

Liz Utting

Well 2020 was quite a year on all fronts and Friends of the Fitz have been no exception. This year's theme has been education, thanks to Delys and the Wildflower Society of WA's Mary Bremner Grant, which saw Wildflower Discovery Sessions delivered to primary schools in Wellstead, South Stirling, Bremer Bay, Ongerup, Gairdner, Jerramungup, and Manypeaks. The Discovery Sessions were facilitated by regional botanist Sylvia Leighton and featured Jane Thompson's Wildflower Faces colouring book. We are looking forward to making Wildflower Discovery Sessions available to the other primary schools in the Biosphere region. Sales from the Wildflower Faces book will help make this possible.

Unfortunately our planned Schools Development Day was unable to go ahead due to Covid, however Del has continued working hard in the background to keep schools abreast of Twertup's educational value, as well as what is required for a visit to such a remote site. To date 2 schools have visited Twertup and feedback has been very positive.

Thankfully Covid restrictions eased in time for our Winter Solstice Member's Weekend at Twertup in June, which was enjoyed by many, including some new members. We also hosted a Twertup Open Day in October which was well attended with 24 current and prospective members. Unfortunately we also saw the end of dibbler monitoring in the Fitz during this time, Andy Chapman retiring after many years of voluntary monitoring on behalf of Friends. Many thanks to Andy for your efforts! We are still waiting to see what the future will bring for dibblers in the area.

I won't go in to too much detail, as all these events have been well presented in the Narpulungup News thanks to Gil Craig and Vicky Bilney, who have presented several very well put-together newsletters this year. Huge thanks must also go to Sheryn Prior for taking on the role of Treasurer this year with great aptitude. And of course to the indomitable Delys Harland for holding everything together as our Secretary and school liason. Thanks to all our Committee members for your dedication and effort this year.

We welcomed 14 new members this year, bringing us to a total of 157. We also offered a scholarship to study the population ecology of *Hakea victoria* in the FRNP, which unfortunately was not taken up. Friends have resolved to open the scholarship up to Park research projects of applicants choice. We will soon be inviting applicants to put forward a proposal and see where it takes us!

2021 promises to be an interesting year, with ongoing concerns about drought and fire in the Park and surrounds. We will be looking in to this further and continuing to support other organisations in their efforts, for example the Fire and Biodiversity Forum coming up in Margaret River in June this year. Keep your eyes on Narpulungup News and our website (and hopefully facebook if we find someone able to help us with it!) to stay up to date with all that's happening this year!

Twertup Report 2021

Apart from a few finishing touches and maintenance tasks Twertup is, as they say, open for business. There have been 38 nights booked over the last 14 months.

Friends organised two events for members and the public. On October 4th an open day was attended by 24 people and a members weekend in June attracted 16 members and two visitors overnight, with a further 9 day visitors attending.

As reported in the Narpulungup newsletter, the Bremer Bay school had an eventful three day trip to Twertup in October, the highlight being the journey out in the mud. Very little rain makes this road inoperable and DBCA are well aware of this.

1:50000 scale Conservation operations maps for the park have been supplied by DBCA.

Ric Pepper completed the plumbing to the fire fighting tank, which is now full. The water to the toilet facilities is also operational.

Kingsley Vaux kindly donated a couple of gates so people are directed to the car park rather than parking around the building.

At a working B in early February, the tiles around the BBQ were reset as many had become loose.

Ian Weir, a member of the Bushfire Building Council of Australia, kindly did an assessment of the building and provided guidance to make the building Bushfire Attack Level – BAL-19 – compliant. Part of this process is to have gaps greater than 2mm around window and door frames filled with silicone-based sealant so as to suppress ember attack. Many thanks to Greg Harland for researching this topic then carrying out the necessary work. Work is still required to screen vulnerable windows and reduce gaps beneath and between the french doors.

There has been much discussion between ourselves and DBCA about bush fire protection and what asset protection zones are required. Gary McMahon, a certified Level 3 Bushfire Planning and Design practitioner, provided an assessment for Friends of the Twertup track. He modelled two fire runs (SE and W) to determine the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) required for a BAL-19 attack, an APZ of 19 m distance from the building was recommended. Friends then requested from DBCA that a natural

visual buffer of 10 metres be retained beside the track before scrub rolling a 20 metre fire break. The DBCA position is that a 30 m slashed break alongside the existing road provides for greater safety for fire fighters and offers better building protection. The scrub rolling has now been completed for over 500 metres on the western side of the road with the fire break a minimum of 30m alongside the road. In addition to the original plan, a section on the eastern side of the track, north of the quarry, has also been scrub rolled.

The next issue to address is the vegetation around the building. Friends have suggested a workshop to investigate whether this can be determined on a scientific basis, using the Victorian 'Overall fuel hazard assessment guide'. This is not supported by DBCA who do not like a site specific fire management plan. An onsite meeting will now be held with DBCA to determine what vegetation surrounding the building should be removed and what retained. Please make suggestions.

On a larger issue, DBCA wish to discuss the future management arrangements for Twertup and are considering two options namely -

1. A lease held by the FFRNP for Twertup. The Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan makes provision for the FFRNP to enter into a lease arrangement for Twertup. DBCA would be supportive of this arrangement as it would be consistent with the management plan. DBCA will still be responsible for the management of visitor and environmental risk in and around the facility.

2. Outright management of Twertup by DBCA whilst maintaining the current user rights for the facilities by the FFRNP.

A meeting with DBCA and the Friends 'President has been organised to discuss this issue next week.

Bill Thompson=