

February 2016

No. 1

Warpulungup NEWS

from the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

www.fitzgeraldfriends.org.au

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

- Details of the 2016 AGM
- Book Review 'Lifting the Bonnet on Wheatbelt Woodlands' by Nathan McQuoid
- Photo Gallery 'Twertup People' ...continued

Twertup update...

December 2015 was a busy period for organising and acquitting grants. The *Great Southern Community Chest Fund* was successfully acquitted, with funds paying for Chris Newton and Kayne Hamilton (Albany Allway Roofing) to install the wall plates, ceilings and vertical in-fill. As well, glass was purchased from this grant for the doors and windows. The job of installing the glass has been divided between Ravensthorpe and Albany. At the former location, Keith Rowe and Ron Richards did an efficient job on the doors, while in Albany, Keith Sillitoe is organising a 'putty party' of volunteers to affix the glass to the window frames.

We are pleased to have received a *State NRM Community Action Grant*, valued at \$30,000 for installing a 'universal toilet' suitable for disabled people and a boot-cleaning station for the walk trails. Although funds were requested for a shower block and barbecue plus cooktop, State NRM did not include these items in the grant. Subsequently we are in discussion with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to determine the best way to facilitate the upgrading of the walk trails, provide cooking facilities and the ablution area.

Due to changes in risk management requirements in Western Australia, an on-site meeting with Michael Phillips (DPaW's Risk Assessor) has been organised for February to discuss signage and safety at the quarry and cliffs.

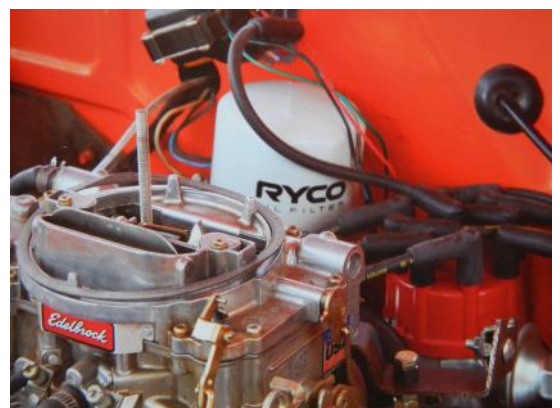
If you would like to be involved in the restoration of the Twertup Field Studies Centre, please contact me on 9838 1071 or ripicasa@wn.com.au.

See page 2 for photos. Contributed by Gil Craig

A question to ponder...

What's the enhanced carburettor of a restored 1977 Valiant got to do with landscape conservation?

.....turn to page 2 to find out



Next issue:
May 2016

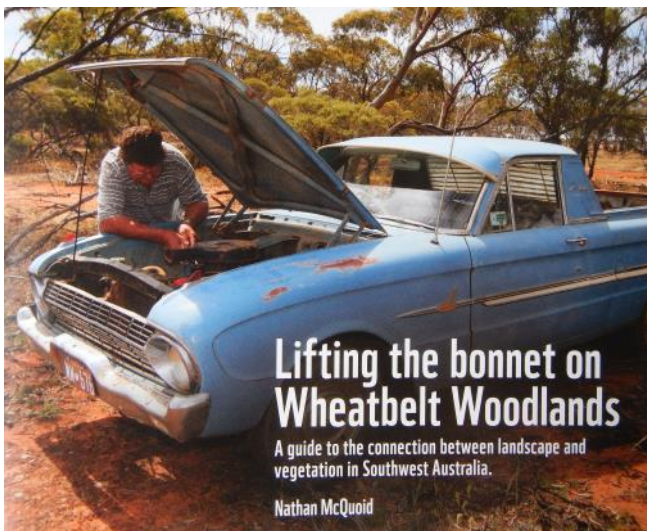


Ric Pepper, Kayne Hamilton and Chris Newton winding up a sheet of iron for the ceiling. *Photo G.Craig.*



Ceiling above the front door. *Photo G.Craig.*

BOOK REVIEW- 'Lifting the bonnet on Wheatbelt Woodlands' by Nathan McQuoid. Published by World Wildlife Fund in 2014, 164 pages.



This book is well structured in a contextual sense in that it opens with a geological history of Southwestern Australia including the Gondwanan aggregation and includes the Noongar seasonal perspective. It then drills down in some detail in turn to the Wheatbelt and its landscapes and the structure and function of the processes which maintain them. It concludes with a list of some 60 woodland tree species with common and scientific names as well as a section on management and restoration.

But the book is much more than this. The author has used his passion for motor vehicles to build an analogy between mechanical restoration (and enhancement if necessary) and landscape restoration. Thus the reader is lead on an excursion with accompanying photos and charts between the mechanical and the natural worlds. This is a clever and creative device. The mechanical protagonists are a well-worn, light blue 1962 Falcon XL utility and an immaculately restored (and enhanced) burnt orange 1977 Valiant Drifter panel van; a 1967 Holden HR utility has a minor role. These vehicles are presented in woodland environments with their bonnets raised of course. The book is very visual.

Much of the text is arranged into reference sites whereby particular woodland tree species or processes like regeneration can be located on the ground. Thus the book is more than an armchair read; it is a very appropriate travellers' companion. My only suggestion is that GPS waypoints would be useful to locate reference sites in the future as some locators such as picnic sites or car parks are sure to be moved or closed. Other features are sections on outlier woodlands of marri, jarrah and wandoo where they still occur well outside of their usual distributions and with reference sites which exhibit particular woodland diversity in and around Ravensthorpe, Norseman, Westonia, Ongerup and Corakerup. The reference sites concept is very useful; I have wondered for some time what the stately tree growing on South Ironcap is. I now know it to be Ironcap Mallet.

Five woodland drives are indicated with maps and what to look out for on each. The book has adequate photos, maps, sketches to make it both attractive and illustrate the concepts presented in text. The photos include outstanding misty, sunrise images of the Mt Walker wheatbin from Mt Roe in its woodland setting, on the wrap around cover and frontispiece by landscape photographer Alan Carmichael. *Continued on page 4*

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ACTIVITIES WEEKEND



The AGM & Activities weekend will be held on 12th & 13th March at the Jerdacuttup Community Hall near the intersection of Jerdacuttup Rd & Fence Rd, Jerdacuttup. The AGM is to be held at the Hall on Saturday 12th March commencing at 1.30 PM followed by time out and/or an excursion with dinner & informal activities and entertainment in the evening. We suggest that you try to arrive about midday for lunch and fellowship prior to the AGM.

There is camping at the Hall either trailer/caravan, tent or swag under cover. You will need to provide for yourselves in terms of food and camping gear for the weekend. There are excellent kitchen and BBQ facilities as well as water, toilets but not showers.

On Sunday 13th meet at Jerdacuttup Hall at 9.00 AM ready to leave for an excursion focussing on pollination of plants by animals led by Professor Stephen Hopper. We will drive to particular places and walk in the bush once there. Bring your own lunch, water and other refreshments. We will visit sites around Jerdacuttup and East Mt Barren. The activity will finish mid-afternoon.

Professor Stephen Hopper AC is an eminent Western Australian botanist specialising in conservation biology and vascular plants. He has held the positions of Director of Kings Park, Perth and Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Steve is currently the Winthrop Professor of Biodiversity, Australian Research Council Discovery Outstanding Researcher 2014-16 and is based at the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management and School of Plant Biology, The University of Western Australia, Albany. Pollination is a particular research interest of Steve's.

What you need to bring for weekend: clothing suitable for walking in prickly bush, including sturdy footwear, binoculars, head torch (for camping and if there is opportunity for a 'nightstalk') and treatment for bee sting if allergic. We need to be vigilant in relation to Dieback, please ensure clean vehicles and footwear. Enquiries please contact: Rosemary Jasper, rosemary.jasper@bigpond.com ph. 0428 123 400 or Andrew Chapman, fishymaster1@bigpond.com ph. 9838 1149

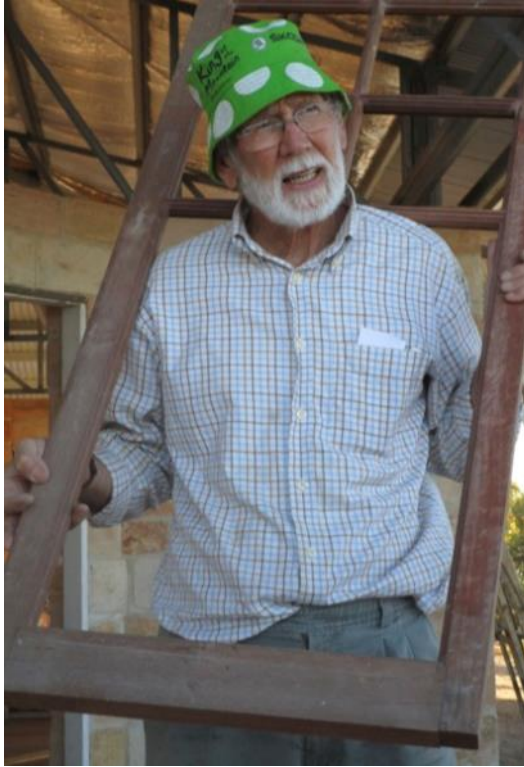


Book Review (continued from page 2)

The author and WWF have combined to produce an attractive and informative book which deserves a place on your bookshelf as well as on the car seat beside you as you traverse these landscapes. The book is available directly from WWF from the website or by phone 1800 032 551 for \$25.

Reviewed by Andrew Chapman.

Twertup people (continued from previous edition)



Who's been framed? ...Ron Richards

Bill and Jane Thompson *Photos Jane Thompson and Geraldine Janicke. Further Twertup people in next edition.*

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The Editor
Narpulungup News
PO Box 199
Ravensthorpe WA 6346*

Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park PO Box 199, Ravensthorpe WA 6346