

Narpulungup ews

August 2015

No. 3

from the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

www.fitzgeraldfriends.org.au

CELEBRATORY ISSUE. DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER AND WILDFLOWERS ARE APPEARING. WE ALSO CELEBRATE EVENTS PAST AND ANTICIPATE THOSE BEFORE US.

Report on the excursion **Patterns in the landscape**

The Fitzgerald River National Park is renowned for its plant diversity – but how does this fit together in the landscape? A group of twenty-nine, led by Nathan McQuoid, explored this question on an excursion at the western end of the Park on Sunday June 28th. We visited five very different landscapes – two wetlands (one saline, one fresh), a schist headland, a quartzite hill and a limestone-bordered estuary. Nathan talked to us about these landscapes in terms of the processes that were at work in each – disturbance being a critical element, whether that is from floods, wind, or bushfire, etc. This enabled us to see with a fresh understanding the contrast between, for instance, a banksia shrubland and a yate swamp. Nathan's way of looking at the landscape and the associated plant communities is fascinating and warrants more exploration. Those present appreciated the presentation and they also enjoyed being taken to places that they wouldn't necessarily find by themselves and valued being with a group of people with similar interests. We were fortunate that the day was graced by mild sunny weather. Thanks to Nathan McQuoid & Alison Lullfitz who took responsibility for organising and managing the day.

Rosemary Jasper

Nathan addresses the excursion group at the saline wetland they visited



The group at the headland at Point Ann

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November 2015

BUSHWALKERS' DIARY – THE HAKEA WALK TRAIL IN FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

The following is a brief account of a walk from Hamersley Inlet to Quoin Head by Louise Lodge and Andrew Chapman.

Thursday 12 March 2015. Left Hamersley Inlet at approximately 11.00 am; the weather was fine, warm and sunny with some cloud and a light sea breeze. We stopped at Tamala Karst lookout for lunch and to enjoy the expansive view of the Southern Ocean and had the company of the guardian carpet python who let us pass. The significance of this section of coast is that it is the only place in coastal FRNP where the landscape is dominated by limestone; the trail follows a subdued limestone cliff. Arrived at Whalebone Creek shelter about mid afternoon in time for a swim and photography. The shelter is an excellent place to see and hear western whipbirds and although we didn't see it there must be a resident brush-tailed possum to judge by the abundant 'calling cards' left behind.



The guardian carpet python

Friday 13 March 2015. A strong northerly wind before dawn suggested a day much hotter than forecast. We decided not to hike to Quoin Head. It turned out to be 42° in the shade in Hopetoun by lunchtime so it was an appropriate decision. Instead it turned out to be a day of swimming and more photography. The high temperature made us really appreciate the shelter. It is well located, designed and spacious. The verandah with tables is its best feature enabling enjoyment of the sights and sounds of the coast and bush in comfort and protection from the elements. Although some 400 m inland the view includes a very small seascape framed by two headlands and Red Islet. In the

right light conditions it glows bright blue, like a small triangular gem. Although only a small part of the viewscape, it is very visually striking. The cool change arrived at about 2.30 pm so we explored the creek upstream of the shelter.



The Whalebone Creek shelter

Saturday 14 March 2015. The cool change extended into today so we hiked back to Hamersley Inlet in much cooler conditions with light showers and clouds topping the mountains. We encountered a recently dead grey kangaroo on the trail and wondered if, as seems likely, it had succumbed to heat stress.

In retrospect the Hakea Trail is a very worthy addition to the recreational opportunities in FRNP enabling people to enjoy the park in a very different way.



Coastal scene at Whalebone Bay



FRIENDS OF FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK PRESENT

A GUIDED WALK ALONG HAKEA WALK TRAIL in FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Andy Chapman will lead a guided walk along the Hakea Trail between West Beach and Hamersley Inlet on Sunday 16 August. This walk trail is one of the recreational facilities provided by the parks improvement project and takes in some magnificent coastal scenery which is not accessible to vehicle. The total distance for this section is 13-14 km; it is a class 4 hiking trail which means a degree of fitness and some hiking experience is desirable. There are some moderately steep, short rocky slopes, gradual inclines, steep, stepped descents and beach walking involved. We will have time to stop, look and listen and discuss points of interest.

What to bring? Your lunch and snacks, at least 2 litres of water, ankle supporting footwear, binoculars and camera. Dress for conditions on the day including hat and sunscreen. If you are allergic to bees bring epi-pen or antihistamines.

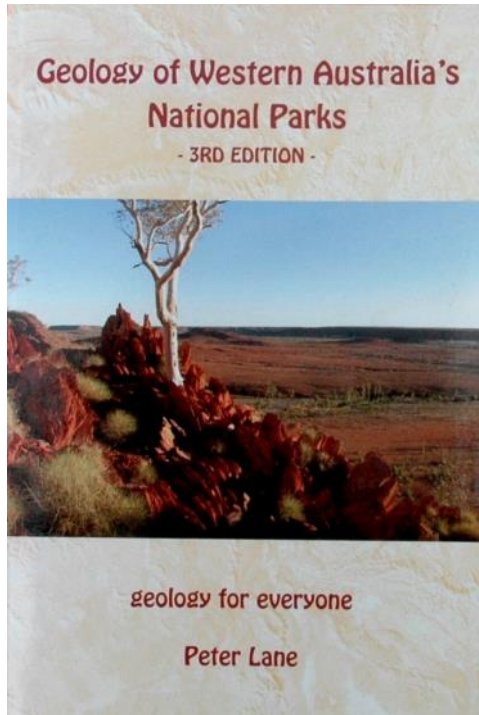
Place and time to meet? At West Beach car park at 8.30 AM for 8.45 start. We should finish between 3.30-4.30 PM at the Hamersley Inlet recreation site. A cup of tea will be on offer. A vehicle shuttle back to West Beach will be organised.

Further information? See the Hakea Walk Trail brochure available from DPaW or on the website at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au. Alternatively ring Andy on 98381149 or email fishymaster1@bigpond.com Please indicate your intention to walk with above so we can organise vehicle shuttle or advise on changed circumstances due to weather etc.

Remember to be dieback aware and only bring cleaned vehicles and footwear into the national park.



BOOK REVIEW



I felt that this book lived up to its sub title – geology for everyone. For someone like me who doesn't have a scientific background, but loves wilderness environments and national parks it was a great read - as good as a bedside novel. I was looking forward to reading about the next park as the book moved on through different parts of the state.

My understanding of national parks of WA has been considerably enhanced from reading Peter Lane's book and has helped me to understand a significant fact, that there has been a lot of movement and continues to be a lot of movement in the earth and although generally thought of as solid much of it is soft. The other point he makes is that geology is not just the study of rocks but is also about living things and the interdependence of various aspects of the planet.

It was interesting to learn that the Leeuwin Current is the longest current in the world and flows from the WA coast all the way to Tasmania. I also found it interesting to learn that Karri trees grow in the Porongorups but not the surrounding countryside because granite weathers down to create Karri loam. Another interesting fact covered in the book is that Lake Jasper is the largest freshwater lake in Western Australia. He explains how the soils around Lake Jasper contain iron pyrites – iron sulphide – which when disturbed produce sulphuric acid. This connects with a campaign I was involved with, as an artist, some time ago against mining the minerals found in the sandy soils of Lake Jasper.

These are just a few examples of the information I gained from this handy book.

I found all the illustrations – photos, diagrams and maps very supportive of the text. I thought they were well chosen. This is a book I will certainly recommend and have on my bookshelf and also take along on future excursions into our national parks.

Review by Louise Lodge

The book is available from Boffins Bookshop in Perth, The Map Shop in Fremantle, Karajini National Park information centre, Paperbark Merchants in Albany, Margaret River Bookshop and direct from the author at petelane@westnet.com.au for \$29.95 including postage and packing. Editor.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER....

To members who haven't and wish to renew their membership. There is a renewal form on the website www.fitzgeraldfriends.org.au Thanks to all who have renewed; we value your continued support.

FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

At its last meeting on 3 July the committee discussed the vexed issue of the closure of access to Fitzgerald Inlet to take a position to the next FRNP Advisory Committee meeting in August.

The meeting supported re-opening Collett's Track in dry conditions subject to a favourable review to include:

- * A re-assessment of the PC dieback risk on the track
- * The maintenance of two permanent rangers in the western end of the park.
- * An assessment of any increase of shore bird breeding on Point Charles Beach since the cessation of 4WD access.
- * Further progress in dieback management at the western end of the park including the Doubtful Islands access infections and the provision of a publically available vehicle wash down .

'FRIENDS' PRESENT A SPRING TIME ACTIVITY FOR YOU

Walk and draw on the Hakea Trail on Sunday 18 October (alternative date 25 October)

Explore and draw some coastal sites in Fitzgerald River National Park with local artist Louise Lodge who will lead an excursion along the Hakea Trail between West Beach and West Beach headland, a distance of 5-6 km return. Louise will show some of the techniques of drawing on location.

The event is open to anyone interested in having a go at drawing outdoors. Families with school children are welcome. No previous drawing skills are required. There will also be the opportunity for photography. Bring along with you in a day-pack:

- Drawing materials pencils, crayons, pastels or markers to share.
- Sketch book if you have one; otherwise clip board and paper will be provided.
- Lunch and refreshments (at least 1.5 to 2 litres of fluid each)
- Clothing suitable for bushwalking and shoes/boots for rocky surfaces. Epi-pen or antihistamines if you are allergic to bees.

Children must be accompanied by one parent or guardian. Numbers are limited to 12 persons. Meet at the West Beach carpark at 9.30 am for briefing prior to 10.00 start. We should return by 3.00 pm. The alternative date is in case the weather is unsuitable on 18 October.

Please register your participation or inquire by phoning Louise on 0427700613.

For further information on the Hakea Trail and to preview some scenery see the flier on p.3 of this edition. The top RHS is the view east from West Beach headland. Editor



Lawrence Emery and Ron Richards fit french windows.

TWERTUP UPDATE

In late May ten volunteers did various odd jobs which included cleaning the internal walls ready for a "natural finish" sealant. While there, Ric Pepper erected some corrugated in-fill between the top of the walls and roof, both horizontally and vertically to see what would look best. There were pros and cons for both directions, however the verticals won. Albany Allway Roofing have been contracted to do the in-fill and install the ceilings and wall plates, with the work expected to be carried out in early August.

Materials for the ceilings were ordered from Metroof Albany who gave a discount valued at \$403 and BlueScope Albany who gave a discount of \$120. This all helps make our *Great Southern Community Chest Fund* grant go further, so we are grateful to these companies for supporting our project. Gramax Deliveries, based at Bremer Bay, did the Albany pick-ups and managed to deliver the materials to Twertup without being stopped by rain, a big surprise for this time of year!

Ron Richards organised the fitting of windows and doors of the Field Studies Centre in late June, being ably assisted by Lawrence Emery. These were brought back to Ravensthorpe where they were sanded and undercoated by Rod Jasper and Ron. While at Twertup, Rosemary Jasper and Louise Lodge started cleaning the floors next to the walls – a job that will need to be completed before the walls can be sealed.

There are now lots of easier jobs to be done that don't require heavy lifting, e.g. cleaning floors or sanding and painting door and window frames. If you can spare some time to help, I'd love to hear from you. Contact me on 9838 1071 or ripicasa@wn.com.au.

Contributed by Gil Craig



Anne Gadsy and Gil Craig contemplate infill options.

PHOTO GALLERY

Since the Twertup rebuild commenced this newsletter has published many photos of the building event. After a visiting absence of nearly eight years now is the time to remind members, particularly new members who have never been there, of the splendour of the environment in which the building exists.



Red Peak from Mt Horrie

Twertup cliffs

Sunset on Twertup valley

View south from the building

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