# MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. of Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

# Held at Quaalup Homestead

**Saturday April 11th, 2015**

## Meeting commenced at 10:30am.

Present:- Steve & Geraldine Janicke, Gil Craig and Ric Pepper, Andy Chapman, Angela Sanders, Rosemary Jasper and Ron Richards, Alan & Donna Higgins, Helen Taylor, Louise Lodge, Leonie McMahon, Tracey Ross & Blake, Paul Cory, Merle Bennett, Kevein Giles, John Tucker, Anne Gadsby. Bill & Jane Thompson, Brenda Newbey.

Apologies: - Kim Bennett, Vicky Bilney, (& Paul & Bennedict), Jesse Brampton, Priscilla & Ken Broadbent, Susanne Dennings, Ellen Hickman, Sheryn Prior, Alison Lullfitz

## Welcome

Members and guests welcomed by the President, Rosemary Jasper

## Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes of the meeting held at Hopetoun, April 2014, were circulated.

#### Motion

That the minutes of the previous AGM be confirmed as a fair and true record of the meeting.

Moved by Andy Chapman, seconded by Angela Sanders– Carried

## Buisness arising out of minutes of the previous AGM

None

## Treasurer’s report.

Angela Sanders expressed her disappointment in the Auditors, Watts, Symes & Associates of Esperance, who, after having the accounts since January, only returned their report to Angela on Friday 10th April at 4pm. They have not corresponded with Angela during the period in which they have held the accounts. Due to this, Angela had not had time to complete a summary of the report but she did ask Ron Richards, a registered company auditor (it was also disclosed for transparency reasons that Ron is Rosemary Jasper’s husband) to look at the report and to brief the committee and members, which he did. Ron feels the group is in a good financial position but the Auditor’s report does not reflect this, he therefore moved the following:

Motion: that the auditor’s report is not accepted as they do not reflect the current position and that the members delegate the responsibility for appointing a new auditor to the committee. Moved by Ron Richards, seconded by Geraldine Janicke. All in agreement

Ron reassured the group that Angela and Gil Craig have a sound knowledge of the financial affairs of FFRNP.

Angela also reported that the recent membership drive had been very successful, and that grants are well on their way to being expended

## President’s Report

Rosemary Jasper gave a report of Friends activities over the 2014 -2015

* Thanks to Anne Gadsby for her support in Rosemary’s transition into role of President
* 2014-2015 has again been dominated by the restoration work at Twertup and has seen the construction of the spongolite walls by the building sub-committee, Paul Young and volunteers. Rosemary passed on her thanks to all involved, especially Paul Young, Gil Craig, Ric Pepper, Gerladine and Steve Janicke.
* Community Projects relating to flora and fauna (SCNRM funded). FFRNP received $4500 which allowed 3 projects to be carried out – Turtles and Marine Debris, Noongar Workshop with Larry Blight and Jerramungup District High School Herbarium project (in progress). Rosey commented on the great success of these projects and thanked Leonie McMahon for taking on the organising of these projects
* Stall/Market Days -Carrying on the tradition of holding a stall at Paddys Market in January at Hopetoun, we added the attraction of ‘What Scat is that?’. Rosey informed the AGM attendees that a reproduction of the activity was on display outside today. Rosey thanked DPaW for their prize donations of park prizes and Landscope calendars

Rosey also thanked those involved in organising a stall as part of the Easter markets at Bremer Bay last weekend with a focus on the ‘Turtles and Marines Project’

* Website & Facebook – Thanks to Geraldine Janicke and her son-in law Sam and Leonie McMahon revamping the website, hosted through WIX and for also setting up a generic Friends email address: admin@fitzgeraldfriends.org.au Thanks also went out to Geraldine for managing the Friends Facebook page
* FFRNP Improvement Project reported on the official opening of the parks upgrade in June 2014 which Rosemary Jasper and Gil Craig attended
* Memberships – We continue to hold membership of Conservation Council of WA and Environmental Defenders Office and we renewed our membership of Gondwana Link
* Committee – Meetings were held in April, July, October and February, two of which were held by teleconference which reduced time and costs
* It is recognised that activities for members are important if the organisation is to retain memberships and Committee have discussed possible activities for coming year. Work on Twertup will continue as well. A suggestion list for activities for the next year has been compiled and Rosemary encouraged AGM attendees to give feedback.
* Conclusion – Rosemary thanked everyone for their support. She informed members that several committee members would not be seeking re-nomination.

## Twertup Field Studies Centre Report

Steve Janicke reported on the great progress at Twertup. The walls have been completed by Paul Young. More than 6 Busy-Bees were carried out as well as some informal sessions. The old tank was cleaned out and re-roofed and a new poly tank was installed. These soon filled. Albany Men in Sheds finished restoring the window frames and these were installed as the stone work was carried out. Extra spongolite blocks were obtained. The fossil wall has been recreated.

Ric Pepper corrected Steve on the fact that no water was carted in for building purposes, only for drinking water.

Quote requests have been sent out for installation of ceilings and vertical in-fill and/or supply of materials. The next Busy-Bee projects will be the sanding and priming of the window and door frames, and the hanging of doors and finally the glazing of the windows and doors hopefully in early 2016.

Extra blocks may be used for the new ablution blocks.

Steve suggested there should be a register of all those who have worked on the project and the hours worked to be displayed in the centre or in a time capsule. Gil Craig assured members she has been accumulating such information as part of grant requirements.

Gil handed out a report ‘Twertup Report: Volunteers, Contractors and Grants’ and talked the AGM attendees though this report

Gil commented that despite the cut-off date for quotes for the ceilings and vertical in-fill and/or supply of materials was March 31st, only 2 quotes have been received, so she is still liaising with the builders and hopefully there will be a recommendation to the committee soon.

Gil explained the tables in her report and she thanked those who donated time and services – Kevin Lodge, DPaw, Rosemary Jasper and Ron Richards, John Mason, Bill & Jane Thompson, Keven Giles.

Ric Pepper also added that loaders were also donated for carting bricks by(?) neighbours organised by Grantly Morton and Kingsley Vaux.

Gil reported on the acquitted and on-going grants.

## Senior Ranger’s Report

Paul Cory presented his report

* Visitation figures – 2012/2013: 48,203; 2013/2014: 63,407; and 2014/March 2015: 56,058. 66% enter the Park from Hopetoun. Peak times are Christmas, Easter and Wildflower season.
* Staffing – a decision on the future of the two Dieback rangers is expected shortly
* Works Program – continuing upgrading of facilities
* Fire management – no fires in 2014-2015 fire season. Prescribed burns planned for autumn 2015. Southern fireline between Hamersley Drive and Quiss Rd is currently being upgraded.
* Dieback management – planning is continuing to form up and resurface gravel sections of Doubtful Island and Gordon Inlet roads with $120,000 secured through SCNRM Project Dieback Funding. Additional funding is being sought from GSDC. Aerial surveys were carried out in March. Wash down facilities have been completed at all Ranger stations
* Conservation – Fauna monitoring and cat trapping and tracking programs were undertaken in Feb.

# Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2014/15

* Anne Gadsby took the chair as the Returning Officer and recorded the results
* All positions were declared vacant.
* The following members were elected.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position**  | **Nominee** | **Nominated** | **Seconded** |
| President | Rosemary Jasper | Andy Chapman | Merle Bennett |
| Vice President | Andy Chapman | Helen Taylor | Donna Higgins |
| Secretary | Angela to contact Vicky Bilney |  |  |
| Treasurer | Liz Utting | Rosey Jasper | Gil Craig |
| Newsletter Editor | Andy Chapman | Merle Bennett | Leonie McMahon |
| Manager of Twertup Business | Gil Craig | Rosey Jasper | Geraldine Janicke |
| **General Committee** |  |  |  |
| 1.  | Tracey Ross | Angela Sanders | Rosemary Jasper |
| 2. | Donna Higgins | Gil Craig | Rosemary Jasper |
| 3. | Louise Lodge | Rosemary Jasper | Donna Higgins |
| Building Sub-committee | \*Ric Pepper | Ron Richards | Keven Giles |
|  | Bill Thompson | Geraldine Janicke | Angela Sanders |

* \* Ric accepted the nomination on the condition of it being for one more year only

## Acknowledgement of long term members

Rosemary had the pleasure of thanking Anne Gadsby for her service to the group and her support. Gil Craig then reported on Anne’s involvement and dedication to the group since 2000 – Secretary for 8 years, Vice President in 2010 and President 2011 – 2014 and Vice President for the past 6 months assisting Rosemary Jasper into the position of President. She thanked Anne for always saying ‘yes’. Gil presented Anne with a gift of a framed photo of Hooded Plovers taken by John Tucker and life membership.

## Appointment of Auditor

This was addressed during the Treasurers report.

**Appointment of Public Officer to deal with ATO and lodge BAS**

Rosey proposed motion: It is hereby resolved to appoint Liz Utting (Treasurer) of PO Box 199, Ravensthorpe WA 6346 as Public Officer and contact person of the Association for the purposes of conducting transactions with the Australian Taxation Office. Seconded Angela Sanders All were in agreement.

**Setting of Membership rates**

Rosey proposed motion that: Membership fees remain the same (‘Family - $30; Individual -$20; Concession - $12.) Geraldine Janicke seconded the motion. All were in agreement

**Appointment of delegate and proxy for Conservation Council of WA**

Ron Richards was nominated as delegate by Tracey Ross, seconded by Geraldine Janicke. All in favour.

Proxy – Anne Gadsby, nominated by Rosey Jasper and seconded by Donna Higgins. All in favour.

Anne noted FFRNP committee meeting minutes should be forwarded to Anne and Ron so they can report to CCWA on the group’s activities

**General Business**

The various proposed Busy Bee activities were discussed and Bill Thompson agreed to take on the organising of the first task of sealing the interior walls. Andy Chapman, Alan and Donna Higgins offered to support Bill with this task.

It was agreed that the other tasks be addressed once the sealing has been completed.

The meeting closed at 12:40pm