



# **NARPULUNGUP NEWS**

## **TWERTUP CELEBRATION 2025**

**Saturday 4 October**

It has been 8 years since the rebuilding of the Twertup Field Studies Centre.

### **JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THIS ACHIEVEMENT!**

#### **SATURDAY 4 Oct**

**Come and walk the trails or just enjoy the company of members and friends.**

#### **SATURDAY NIGHT**

**A fun evening of music, song and skits. Please share your talent...**

**BYO food and drinks for the weekend.  
- celebratory dessert provided.**

### **Accommodation & Directions**

Camp overnight at Twertup, BYO own tent/swag, or, to book a bed in a shared dormitory contact:

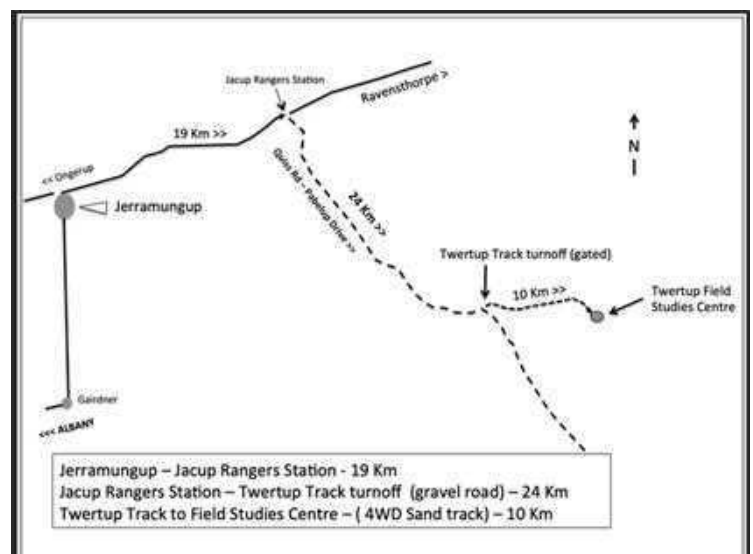
**admin@fitzgeraldfriends.org.au**

**Gil: 0456 720 707**

**NOTE:** if it rains before the event and the park is closed to prevent the risk of spreading dieback, **the celebration will be cancelled.**

Please check road conditions beforehand to see if Pabelup Drive (north) is open at:

**<https://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au/>**





## Salinity in the Hamersley Inlet - disappearing ecosystem.

By PhD Candidate Kurt Krispyn



Estuaries are the transitional ecosystem between the river and the ocean.

They are the beating pulse for the environment that surrounds them and the fauna that lives in them.

Yet, these systems are now in decline from anthropogenic stressors, along with the ecosystem services they provide:

- nursery habitats;
- abundant food for invertebrates, fish, and birds;
- the processing and recycling of nutrients;
- vital cultural and economic benefits.

Estuaries live on a geological timescale, and eventually they will disappear naturally; however, estuaries in general, but particularly in the Fitzgerald National Park, have had their timeline pushed exponentially forward by climate change.

Reduced rainfall, higher evaporation rates and land clearing causing secondary salinisation, these estuaries are reaching unprecedented salinity levels.

Transforming an estuarine habitat into that of a Salt Lake.

In November 2020, we recorded Hamersley Inlet to be **345 ppt; for context, freshwater is 0, and seawater is 35.**

This is the highest recording for an estuary globally. No fish in the world has been recorded to live in salinities over 160 ppt.

One thing I noticed walking around Hamersley, and a few other estuaries that were at extreme levels of salinity, was that there was very little life around the estuary, no birds, no kangaroos, no possums, ...

“unprecedented salinity levels”





## High salinity is ... '...Transforming an estuarine habitat into that of a Salt Lake.'

Kurt Krispyn

... not even mosquitoes or midgies;  
the salinity would have been too  
high for their larvae.

All that was around were spiders;  
it was like walking into an old,  
abandoned house and the ghosts  
of what once was.

Scientifically, we know very little  
about the effects of extreme  
hyper-salinity on the fauna and  
estuarine function. And whether  
they can recover from such events.

A chapter in my PhD project will  
be focusing on such effects.



You can follow along in this journey by following  
[@ParamountImportance](#) on Instagram or listen to the  
progress and other scientists on the Paramount  
Importance Podcast [@Paramountimportancepodcast](#).

Below are some views of the Hamersley Inlet clockwise from top  
left. 1. view from the edge of the lake. 2. popular stop for a pic with  
lake in background. 3. Walking to the mouth of the inlet onto  
Hamersley Beach. 4. Walkers in the Fitzgerald River National Park.





## Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show

Sept 8 - 20

The Friends had a good day at the Ravensthorpe Market Day on Saturday 6th September.

We had 21 Wattle Quiz entrants with 6 entrants getting 10/10 correct.

The Junior prize of 'Australia's Incredible Insects' by Australian Geographic was awarded to Stella Major.

The Open Prizes were drawn by Gabi Major with the winners being Maria Biddle and Rosemary Jasper.

Thanks to the Department of Parks and Wildlife for donating two Annual All Parks Passes for the adult prizes.

The quiz raised \$42 and merchandise sales \$98.

Thanks to Delys Harland, Cathy Taylor and Ron Richards for helping on the stall.



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IF UNDELIVERABLE PLEASE RETURN TO  
FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK  
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