

Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Twertup Field Studies Centre, 14th March 2020

1. Welcome to Members and Guests

President Bill Thompson declared meeting opened at 10:30am

2. Attendance

Leonie McMahon, Gil Craig, Priscilla Broadbent, Kate Brown, Helen Taylor, Robert Neal, Libby Sandiford, Pat Meads, Merle Bennett, Kim Bennett, Bill Thompson, Jane Thompson, Keven Giles, Delia Youngman, Ric Pepper, Jack Guthrie, Christine Soulier, Paul Audin, Jack Cosgrove, Ron Richards, Liz Utting, Delys Harland, Alison Lullfitz, Anne Gadsby, Duncan Crichton

Apologies

Pamela Jones, Kay Lehman, Kingsley Vaux, Sandy Vaux, Corey Whisson, Lisa Kirkendale, Susanne Dennings, Steve Janicke, Geraldine Janicke, Bart Lebbing, David Winstanley, Carolyn Switzer, Sheryn Prior, Angela Sanders, Vicky Bilney, Peter Dawson, Tracey Ross, Ken Broadbent, Andy Chapman, Elise Spengler, Nathan McQuoid, Carol Wilkins, John Tucker, Neil Gibson, Cathy Taylor, Rosemary Jasper

3. Confirmation of Minutes of 2019 AGM

Motion: The Minutes of the 2019 AGM be accepted as a true and correct record.

Anne Gadsby/ Louise Lodge CARRIED

4. Business Arising out of Minutes – Nil

5. Financial Statement and Treasurers Report

Treasurer Liz Utting reported on the Financial Statement of the year ending 31st December 2019

Motion: The Financial Statement be accepted as a true and correct record.

Ron Richards/Leonie McMahon CARRIED

6. President's Annual Report -Bill Thompson (attachment)

7. Twertup Field Studies Report -Gil Craig (attachment)

8. FRNP Ranger's Report -Jack Cosgrove (attachment)

9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2020

Bill Thompson declared all positions vacant and invited Ron Richards to be Returning Officer.

OFFICE	NOMINATED	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY	ELECTED
President	Liz Utting	Bill Thompson	Merle Bennett	YES
Vice President	Alison Lullfitz	Delys Harland	Anne Gadsby	YES
Secretary	Delys Harland	Anne Gadsby	Bill Thompson	YES
Treasurer	Sheryn Prior	Self	Liz Utting	YES
Newsletter Editor	Vicky Bilney	Self	Anne Gadsby	YES
Twertup Rep	Bill Thompson	Helen Taylor	Ric Pepper	YES
Comm. Member	Jack Guthrie	Anne Gadsby	Libby Sandiford	YES
Comm. Members	Gil Craig	Liz Utting	Libby Sandiford	YES
Comm. Members	Anne Gadsby	Delys Harland	Louise Lodge	YES
Twertup Works	Ric Pepper	Anne Gadsby	Liz Utting	YES
Twertup Works	Kingsley Vaux	Self	Anne Gadsby	YES
Twertup Works DBCA Rep	Jack Cosgrove	Self	Gil Craig	YES

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: 11:50am

General Discussion

- Gil Craig told members of a large donation of wildflower books from Rodney Van Proctor. Libby Sandiford has sent a thank you card from Friends expressing our appreciation.
- Ron Richards spoke about Cocanarup/Kundip Area. Letters have been written to the Premier regarding the Plan for Our Parks program. The letters are requesting the area to become a Class A Reserve. CCA have received a favourable reply from The Premier and they hope to meet with him.

- Ric Pepper asked Jack Cosgrove about water quality in tanks at Whalebone Beach and Twin Bays huts. Jack reported water was good when it was last checked.
- Ric Pepper asked Jack Cosgrove if DBCA had any plans to progress the track to Roe's Pool. There are no plans. Ric asked for it to be put on their agenda.
- Several comments were made on the proposed Fire Mitigation Works which have been passed on to the Twertup Sub-Committee.

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN 84 383 247 026

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
ABN: 84 383 247 026
Committee's Report
For the year ended 31 December 2019

Your committee members submit the financial report of Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park for year ended 31 December 2019.

Committee members

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

Bill Thompson - President
Anne Gadsby - Vice President
Delys Harland - Secretary
Liz Utting - Treasurer
Leonie McMahon - newsletter editor
Libby Sandiford
Louise Lodge
Alison Lullfitz
Gillian Craig - 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 \$545.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:

Elizabeth Utting [Treasurer]

Dated: 1st March 2020

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
BALANCE SHEET
For the year ending 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Westpac Savings	\$33,744	\$34,654
Bank - Westpac Deposit Acc	\$0	\$50
Bank - Westpac Cheque	\$1,416	\$1,486
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$35,160	\$36,190
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$313	\$206
Unexpended Grants/Donations	\$6,714	\$8,397
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$7,027	\$8,603
NET ASSETS	\$28,133	\$27,587

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the year ending 31 December 2019

INCOMES	
Sundry Incomes	\$342
Sales	\$465
Donations	\$845
Grants	\$1,684
	\$3,336
EXPENSES	
Sundry Expenditure	\$1,123
Insurances	\$400
Project Expenditure	\$1,268
	\$2,791
NET IINCOME	\$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 2019**

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 2019, 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.

Presidents Report - AGM 2020

History was made in mid-June when the TWERTUP Field Study Centre was opened to the public after a monumental effort by members on the rebuild. The road is now open except in wet weather. Bookings for overnight stays are made through the Albany office.

We welcomed 12 new members during the year, with a couple more in the pipeline, bringing membership to 144. At present membership is free. This saves considerable time for committee members. Donations will be sought if funds are required.

At present, the Fitzgerald National Park is severely impacted by drought. You could be excused for thinking that dieback was on the move on the road in to TWERTUP. I recently walked the Mamang Walk Trail at Pt Anne and noticed the large number of plant deaths including *Banksia media*, *Hakea victoria* and literally all of the *Banksia nutans* which is an important bridging species for honey possums. I have observed that seeds shed from dying plants are not viable. The last two years could well prelude what we can expect from a warming and drying climate with dire consequences for some species.

The hot topic for the year is fire. There is no doubt that after this shocking fire season, there will be pressure to increase hazard reduction burning across the landscape. Friends have major concerns about the frequency of prescribed burns, the juvenilisation of much of the vegetation within the park and surrounding areas, and the lack of fire related research and monitoring. These concerns were raised at a fire workshop in August 2019.

Friends were disappointed that prescribed burns were carried out prior to the fire workshop, with much larger areas being burnt than intended by burn prescriptions. Considering the extremely dry conditions and young age of the majority of the park we are concerned that prescribed burns are conducted at all in the wilderness zone. These fires have diminished our capacity to develop a vegetation monitoring system. The persistence of obligate seeders is threatened with too frequent fires. Obligate seeders are plants that can only regenerate after fire from seed.

The uncontrolled fire on Thumb Peak that started as a prescribed burn in dry conditions on June 22, has put two EPBC act threatened ecological communities, six flora and seven fauna species listed as threatened, at risk of local extinction. Evidence from No Tree Hill shows

that *Hakea victoria* has been severely impacted by a short-term 14 year fire interval.

The management plan specifically states that in order to determine the best fire regime for the park a research and monitoring program is established. Contrary to this, the formation of a formal group specific to address the plan and the significant concern of Friends and others, has been rejected by senior DBCA staff. The Friends however welcomes the new research project under the DBCA fire science program and it was most pleasing to see that the group met yesterday at TWERTUP the day before the AGM. This project will produce a model for defining ecologically acceptable fire return intervals for sensitive plant species derived from seed production and adult survival across a south coast rainfall/productivity gradient.

Friends continue to support the reservation of the Cocanarup-Kundip area as a Class A reserve. We have joined the Cocanarup Alliance and written to the the CEO of DBCA requesting the area be preserved under the Plan for our parks program. This 65,000 hectare area is adjacent to the Fitzgerald River National Park(FRNP) and supports a wide range of ecosystems, many not represented in the conservation estate. A recent survey of Carnaby's Cockatoo confirmed 69 breeding pairs, probably the most important entirely natural nesting site on the planet. This currently unmanaged area poses numerous risks, including the spread of dieback, feral animals and weeds. The existence of mining leases ensures that there will be continuing disturbance. DBCA are enthusiastic about including this area in a reserve.

The staff and school community from 11 schools have been invited to attend an information day on April 28, regarding the opportunities for school visits or camps at the TWERTUP Field Study centre. This will showcase the facilities and potential local environmental learning topics. The Hopetoun primary school visited TWERTUP in December and the students and volunteers were so happy with the camp and the facilities that they have suggested that this could become an annual outing for the school.

We have been successful in receiving the Mary Bremner grant from the Wildflower Society of Western Australia. This project will engage and inspire children growing up in or near the Fitzgerald Biosphere, to appreciate the exceptionally high botanical diversity of where they live. This will be achieved through a school-based programme involving five local schools. Botanists will visit these schools to conduct wildflower

education activities. The colouring in book "Wildflower Faces" will be utilised into the learning activities and each student will be given a copy. The project is well underway with 30 magnifying glasses purchased and the "Wildflower Faces" book amended and printed.

I would like to thank Leonie for doing such a great job on our newsletter. This remains an important form of communication with our members and provides a good history of the organisations activities.

Andy Chapman continued his long term Dibbler monitoring during October 2019 with eight 'friends' participating. It was encouraging to see two dibblers trapped along with plenty of bush rats. There were no Dibblers trapped during the previous survey. The next survey will be in May 2020.

We say farewell to Grantly from DBCA and welcome Duncan Crichton to Jacup. Although we have disagreed with DBCA on some issues we continue to have an excellent and cooperative relationship with all the staff.

We are keeping a foot in the door with the EDO and CCWA. The CCWA are aware of the situation at Cocanarup.

A successful members weekend was held in September and I believe they should be continued. It provides new members with a great introduction to the park, forms and renews relationships and allows the adventurous to explore new areas. Another weekend is scheduled for June 19th to 21st.

With several projects targeting our youth, I see a bright and constructive future for the Friends.

Thank you.

Friends of FRNP – AGM – 14 March 2020

Twertup Report

1. 54 kL Concrete water tank is still filling up. Drought hasn't helped, nor the sieve in the outlet pipe of the poly tank (which was blocked). Ric Pepper plans to rearrange the gutter downpipes so that more water off the roof goes to the new tank.
2. Maintenance. Southern windows and frames have been sanded and repainted.
3. Pruning of mallees, trees and shrubs around the building occurred in 2019 to decrease fuel load.
4. Botanical book donation by Rodney van Proctor to Twertup. Eight boxes of books for either keeping here or selling to raise funds for Friends of FRNP. A valued and valuable gift.
5. Memorandum of Understanding between Friends and DBCA needs to be reconsidered. Anne Gadsby had a meeting with Greg Mair (Regional Mgr, DBCA) to discuss options. The 'Management Guidelines for the Twertup Field Studies Centre' has been more recently developed, but has different concepts for collaboration than would an overarching MOU.
6. Building committee meeting with DBCA. A meeting was held between DBCA (Peter Hartley, Vince Hilder, Kimberley Page, Jack Cosgrove, Duncan Crichton) and Friends Building Committee (Gil Craig, Ric Pepper, Kingsley Vaux), chaired by Anne Gadsby on 21/2/20 at Twertup to discuss the booking system, income generations ((\$257), 'Twertup Fire Management Plan' and maintenance issues. Items included:
 - DBCA to provide 1:50 000 scale 'Conservation Operations Maps' of the park
 - stonework around the 'Twertup FSC' entrance sign at Pabelup Drive
 - green painting of gate at Pabelup Drive
 - farm-style gates (donated by Kingsley Vaux) to be installed at FSC entrance, locked with code given to booked visitors
 - potential to apply for grant for sprinkler system around building.

Of major contention was the 'Twertup Fire mitigation works 2019/2020' (see map) proposed by DBCA and tabled as a *fait accompli* and that had been in the planning for 6 months by them, for:

- approx. 600 m length of slashed firebreak (30 m width) on the west edge of Twertup track, starting 400 m north of the parking area and extending south of the building to the walk trail head. This would be maintained every 12-18 months.
- selective pruning around the building, carpark area and between the walk trail head and cliffs.

DBCA emphasised that it has to exercise a 'Duty of Care,' minimise risk and protect life and property. The proposed slashed break is not what was agreed at a meeting held on 23/9/2015 (attended by 6 Friends members and 7 DBCA, including Greg Mair, Peter Hartley and Peter Masters) where it was agreed that there would be a visual buffer between the track and slashed break. The action at the 2015 meeting was: "*ACTION: DPAW staff (FRNP staff) to work with FFRNP to develop a fire plan.*"

It was resolved by the Building Committee that we would take the 2020 DBCA plan to the Friends' AGM for discussion and feedback on the proposal. So please indicate to me today, whether or not you want a visual buffer between Twertup track and the proposed slashed break.

7. Bookings. Jack Cosgrove (DBCA) will provide more information on bookings at the Centre in his report.

TO DO:

8. Rearrange guttering and downpipes. Ric Pepper is organising this.

9. Refit pantry door, install a couple of latches to stop doors slamming and tile kitchen bench beside stove.

Retirement from Twertup Building Committee:

I will be retiring as the 'ex-officio' member of Twertup Building Committee on the Friends' Committee. I have been in this role for eight years and wish to change focus within the group. The role of 'Twertup Building Committee ex-officio Member' includes:

- liaising with DBCA regarding maintenance of the building and surrounds;
- having a meeting at least once per year with DBCA regarding 'Twertup funds' that have come in from bookings and donations and how that money will be spent. DBCA's preference is for the meeting to be after 30 June (end of financial year);
- checking the building and surrounds and liaising with Committee and Building Sub-Committee about works to be done, and getting them done.

Gillian Craig