

Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

@ Twertup Field Studies Centre 16th March 2019

1. **Welcome to Members and Guests.**

Bill Thompson declared meeting open at 10:40am.

2. **Attendance**

Present: Sheryn Prior, Chris Vogel, Zara Vogel, Anne Gadsby, Libby Sandiford, Brenda Newbey, Robert Morales, Ron Richards, Garry Mulder, Lucia Quearry, Judy O'Neill, Loxley Fedec, Steve Janicke, Geraldine Janicke, Barbara Miller-Hornsey, Liz Utting, Lisa Kirkendale, Corey Whisson, Ric Pepper, Louise Lodge, Rosemary Jasper, Tracey Ross, Paul Cory, Helen Taylor, Andrew Chapman, Gillian Craig, Kingsley Vaux, Sandy Vaux, Garry Mulder, Deidre Martin, Delys Harland, Greg Harland, Elisa Spengler, Jack Guthrie, Bill Thompson, Jane Thompson, Jack Cosgrove, Sarah Cosgrove.

Apologies: Leonie McMahon, Peter Dawson, Merle Bennett, Kim Bennett, Sarah Comer, Angela Sanders, Priscilla Broadbent, Keven Giles, Nathan McQuoid, Suzanne Dennings, Cathy Taylor.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of 2018 AGM**

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM be accepted as a true and correct record.

Ron Richards/Anne Gadsby CARRIED

4. **Business Arising from Minutes**

None

5. **Financial Report (attached)**

Treasurer Liz Utting reported on the Financial Statement of the year ending 31st December 2018

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

Liz Utting/Gil Craig CARRIED

6. **President's Report** (attached). Presented by Bill Thompson

7. **Twertup Field Studies Restoration Report** (attached). Presented by Gil Craig

8. **FRNP Ranger's Report** presented by Jack Cosgrove (attached)

9. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2019**

Bill Thompson declared all positions vacant and invited Ron Richards to be returning officer.

OFFICE	NOMINATED	NOMINATED by	SECONDED by	ELECTED
President	Bill Thompson	Self	Libby	YES
Vice President	Anne Gadsby	Self	Barb M-H	Yes
Secretary	Delys Harland	Self	Anne Gadsby	Yes
Treasurer	Liz Utting	Self	Rosemary	Yes

Newsletter Editor	Leonie McMahon	Self	Kingsley	Yes
Twertup Rep	Gillian Craig	Self	Liz	Yes
Committee Mem	Libby Sandiford	Self	Bill	Yes
Committee Mem	Louise Lodge	Self	Andy	Yes
Committee Mem	Alison Lullfitz	Self	Libby	Yes
Twertup Works	Ric Pepper	Gil	Kingsley	Yes
Twertup Works	Kingsley Vaux	Tracey	Helen	Yes
Twertup Works DBCA Rep	Jack Cosgrove	Gil	Kingsley	Yes

10. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: FFRNP being a Tier 1 association that an Auditor not be required.

Ron Richards/Libby Sandiford CARRIED

11. Appointment of Public Officer to deal with ATO and lodge BAS

Liz Utting was appointed by the members as the Public Officer

12. Membership Rates

Motion: The Membership Fees to remain at zero. No re-current annual subs.

Liz Utting/Anne Gadsby CARRIED

Insurance

Motion: To continue payment of same Insurance policy.

Ron/Del CARRIED

13. Appointment of delegate and proxy for Conservation Council of WA

Motion: FFRNP remain members of CCWA. Delegate – Anne Gadsby

Proxy – Ron Richards. Also to remain members of EDO.

Bill/Anne CARRIED

14. General Business

14.1 Conservation of Cocanarup by Rosemary Jasper. The meeting was informed of lithium mining activity extending into the Cocanarup Timber reserve. Rosemary muted the idea of extending the FRNP to include the Cocanarup Timber Reserve and the UCL between to form a linkage. It was suggested that FFRNP write a letter to DBCA and Mines Dept. and possibly Premier. If FFRNP members wish to become involved to consult Rosemary.

14.2 CCWA involvement. Anne has attended meetings but may not be able to hold a stall next year, unless she has a helper, as she is unable to leave stall to speak with others when by herself. by Anne Gadsby

14.3 Archives. There have been some additional items collected and housed in room at Bremer Bay. The collection of items continues.

Meeting Closed: 12:10pm

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN 84 383 247 026

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2018

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
ABN: 84 383 247 026
Committee's Report
For the year ended 31 December 2018

Your committee members submit the financial report of Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park for year ended 31 December 2018.

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
Sheryn Prior
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 -\$(847).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:

Elizabeth Utting [Treasurer]

Dated: 26th February 2019

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
BALANCE SHEET
For the year ending 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Westpac Savings	\$34,654	\$36,481
Bank - Westpac Deposit Acc	\$50	\$250
Bank - Westpac Cheque	\$1,486	\$5,602
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$36,190	\$42,333
 CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$206	-\$1,296
Unexpended Grants/Donations	\$8,397	\$19,555
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$8,603	\$18,259
 NET ASSETS	\$27,587	\$24,074

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the year ending 31 December 2018

INCOMES	
Sundry Incomes	\$4,923
Sales	\$1,021
Donations	\$2,485
Grants	\$10,467
	\$18,896
 EXPENSES	
Sundry Expenditure	\$3,943
Insurances	\$403
Project Expenditure	\$11,037
	\$15,383
 NET IINCOME	\$3,513

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 2018**

Culham Inlet Study	\$1,503
Numbat Monitoring	\$359
Twertup Donations	<u>\$6,535</u>
Total Unexpended Grant Funds	<u>\$8,397</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 2018, 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.

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK (INC.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 16th March 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome - good to see all your smiling faces.

In 1988 in an address to the US congress, James Hansen was the first climate scientist, to publicly state that the "greenhouse effect is here" and humans were directly affecting the climate. Unfortunately for humanity his worst case scenario model that was howled down at the time, has mostly been realised. The basic science had been understood since the 1850's so we can't say we haven't been warned. With most countries doing as little as possible to reduce emissions, a greater than 2 degree rise seems inevitable even though there are some very positive things happening. Our own governments have many members captured by big money, and are using all sorts of accounting tricks. As Walter Scott said "Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive".

So what is this to do with the Fitzgerald River National Park(FRNP). It is now well recognised that many of our food crops are very sensitive to weather extremes, especially temperature. Scientists are scrambling to identify genes that will provide resistance to these extremes. The FRIENDS are the guardians of a huge unrecognised and undervalued genetic goldmine. The FRNP has over 1800 species many growing in very harsh conditions.

Recent research in Tasmania, that is most likely relevant to our area, is showing that with a warming climate, the rain-producing low-pressure systems are moving south, leaving the area drier. This, combined with increasing evaporation rates, results in rapid drying of the landscape. Areas that historically rarely experienced fire will become increasingly prone to burn. Summer conditions are projected to last up to two months longer with dry lightning an ever-increasing threat. It is therefore most important that the correct fire management is implemented for the park.

A meeting was held in September 2018 with Peter Hartley and Vince Hilder (DBCA, Albany) to discuss concerns that Friends have with proposed prescribed burns, especially in the Wilderness zone of the park. Of particular concern are:

- inappropriate fire regimes that could wipe out obligate seeders, such as the iconic Royal Hakea;
- whether prescribed burns may **increase** risk of wildfire;
- once an areas is burnt, it is extremely difficult to get 'old-age' (>70 years) plant assemblages back;
- it is estimated that currently 1/2 of the park is around 20 years old and about 75% less than 30 years.

It was resolved to hold a workshop in Albany, now in June, inviting University lecturers, FFRNP, DBCA science branch, to assess the research and monitoring needs re: fire management and fire-return intervals. In February 2019, Gil Craig met with Ben Miller and Carl Gosper (DBCA Science Branch, Perth) and had a positive response regarding the need for fire research to inform fire management in the park.

Objects of our constitution state that we support the establishment of reserves proximate to the park and that any development adjacent to the park be consistent with the protection of its conservation and landscape values. Cocanarup is a 9000 hectare area of largely intact native vegetation, including a large area of mature salmon gum woodland. It is connected to the Park by continuous and excellent quality bushland. It has been suggested by various reports over many years that this whole area should be incorporated into the Park but mining prospects have probably been the factor preventing this from happening. The area and the Reserve are known to have significant natural and cultural heritage values, some of which are clearly of national significance. Lithium exploration is now placing many of these values under threat. Friends of the Fitzgerald wrote to the Ministers concerned in 2017, and we support the group of largely Ravensthorpe residents (& Friends of Fitz. Members!) who are currently requesting the government to take urgent action to conserve the area. The most significant fauna conservation issue is that the area contains one of the 3 most important nesting sites for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo which is classified as 'endangered'. Rosey Jasper will give a detailed account of this issue later.

Last year your committee organised two events that utilised our research centre. One was a weekend plant identification workshop including both theory and practice. This highlighted the incredible biodiversity of the area and the depth of expertise within our membership. Thanks to Libby and Gil for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm.

A well attended walking weekend was held in late October. Hills to the south of the centre were investigated on Saturday, with a longer walk to Roe's Pool on the Sunday.

Later Gil will present a report on Twertup. Suffice to say that the year saw some finishing touches done and a concrete fire fighting water tank installed. A patch of naturalised *Eucalyptus megacornuta* was removed from near the centre. Management guidelines were signed off. These spell out how the centre will be managed, what fees are payable and a booking system controlled by the Department of Parks and Wildlife office in Albany.

A successful relaunch of the Fitzgerald Biosphere Programme was held in March. Our association has a representative on the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective. The group, that recently met at Twertup, are completing a strategic planning process and developing an action plan. We

donated a small sum for the process to continue and have signed a memorandum of understanding.

Our representative Anne, suggests that with such a diverse group, decision making will be slow and difficult. Anne tabled our concerns over mining developments in the Cocanarup Timber Reserve.

As noted at our last AGM we are creating an archive of historical information about our organisation. We have the use of a small room in Bremer Bay and will be assisted by Jenny Taylor a trained librarian.

If you haven't noticed, we now have, after many hours of deliberation, a new logo and it looks great!

Last October Andy Chapman continued his long term Dibbler monitoring survey with disappointing results. It is hoped that this is solely the reflection of the extremely dry conditions over the past year.

I would like to thank Leonie for doing such a great job on our newsletter. This remains our best form of communication with our members.

The committee is investigating school based education trips to Twertup. A grant to acquire an education manager is in the pipeline. Each of the ten local schools with a total of 450 students will be encouraged to camp at Twertup Field Studies Centre for 3 days and two nights. Information days for teachers and parents will be held. It is intended to utilise a Wildflower Colouring Book which contains information and illustrations of many wildflowers existing in FRNP. This book was designed and illustrated by Jane who is a member of the FFRNP. All students attending camps at Twertup Field Studies Centre are to be given a Wildflower Colouring book. This program is intended to introduce our children to the wonders of nature and the importance of preserving this area. DBCA is very supportive of this initiative.

Thanks to all the committee for their efforts during the year which we survived without coming to blows. Last and not least, a special thanks to Liz and Ron for keeping us solvent. I haven't noticed any of the committee whipping off for a \$700 massage in Japan.

Bill Thompson

Twertup Report

1. 54 kL Concrete water tank for fire-fighting purposes was constructed at Twertup in late March 2018 and roofed in January 2019, with materials paid for by DBCA. Some new volunteers were involved, four of whom were <30 years old. The tank mould was kindly lent by Steven Challenger (Jerdacuttup). A working bee in August had volunteers raising the tank stand level of the plastic water tank so that it will overflow into the new concrete tank.
2. Toilets. A sink installed that will be fed by water from the new concrete tank (when it rains). Walls were sealed. Shower tested and found that water spreads through cubicle, so minor bund to be installed this weekend.
3. Walk trails. Posts installed by DBCA with ‘hakea’ reflectors. These work well at night and are highly visible in torch-light.
4. TFSC Management Guidelines have been signed by both Greg Mair (Regional Manager, DBCA) and Bill Thompson (President, FFRNP).
5. Mice plague. A very bad mice plague over winter had mice in every room. DBCA informed us that baits are not suitable in the park, so next time it happens they need to be informed and come up with a solution. Plus, the pantry door especially needs refitting to make it mouse proof.
6. Inside. Kitchen stove has been flued. New benchtop with ‘map drawer’ installed in ‘herbarium’ room this weekend. ‘Ken Newbey Memorial Herbarium’ has been updated by Libby Sandiford.
7. Tree pruning around the building and removal of *Eucalyptus megacornuta* fruits.

TO DO:

8. Refit pantry door, install latches to stop doors slamming and tile kitchen bench beside stove.
9. A flyer needs to be prepared to advertise the Centre and facilities available etc for hand-out to the public and putting on our and DBCA’s websites. I believe it should be put together by a professional and perhaps funding could be sourced through South Coast NRM.
10. Memorandum of Understanding between Friends and DBCA needs to be updated.

Retirement from Twertup Building Committee:

I wish to retire as the ‘ex-officio’ member of Twertup Building Committee on the Friends’ Committee, but would like to remain as an ‘ordinary Member’. I have been in this role for seven 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 once per year with DBCA regarding ‘Twertup funds’ that have come in from bookings and donations and how that money will be spent;
- checking the building and surrounds and liaising with Committee and Building Sub-Committee about works to be done, and getting them done.

Thanks to Ric Pepper for being ‘boss’ and all the Volunteers and Rangers who have provided their labour over the year. At last we can now enjoy the fruits of our labour.

Gillian Craig