

Narpulungup News

June 2017 Volume 2



2017 AGM held at Twertup

The Friends AGM for 2017 was something of a milestone for the group. It was held at the newly rebuilt Twertup Field Studies Centre for the first time in over ten years. Around 25 adults and three children were present.

Thanks are due to Rosemary Jasper who has been president for the past two and a half years, ably guiding the administrative

affairs of the Friends. Rosemary felt it was time to hand the reins over and Bill Thompson was elected as the new president. Bill and his wife Jane have been generous donors of their time and energy to the reconstruction of Twertup.

Seven working bees have been held since the previous AGM, five in 2016, and these were well supported by members. It was a great effort from all

involved. Rosemary reminded the meeting of the tremendous amount of work that Ric Pepper and Gil Craig have put in to make the Field Studies Centre come to fruition both through building construction and the all important procuring of considerable funds that have enabled us to pay contractors for the large scale tasks.

Paul Cory gave a report of DPaW work in the park in the last year and noted that there had been no major bush fires to contend with in 2016.



Expedition to Fossil Tree Hill. Photograph courtesy Geraldine Janicke

Our guest speaker, Peter Lane, presented a fascinating overview of the geology, or as Peter described it 'Earth science', of the South Coast and where it stands in the context of global tectonic and climate pressures, past and present. Later in the afternoon Libby Sandiford led a party to the other side of Mt Dorrie to check out a small quarry-like anomaly on her air photo. It turned out to be a natural erosion feature.

On Sunday morning I led a walk to a picturesque hill nearby, to look at fossils and various geological formations that are the remnants of the ancient landscape. The ongoing activity of the earth forces which Peter Lane touched on in his presentation were evident on the walks and provided a great opportunity to let our imaginations meet with the underlying realities of the nooks, crannies and panoramas we all enjoy about the park.

At a more mundane level, one of the two toilet blocks was functional, however the lack of walls made for a potentially challenging social

experience for attendees. A satisfactory remedy was achieved using black plastic and masking tape.

There are several major building tasks to be completed in preparation for the grand opening of the facility planned for November. It would be fair to say there is already a satisfying sense of accomplishment amongst those who have labored on the project over the last nine years.

Steve Janicke

2017 Committee

President: Bill Thompson

Vice President: Andrew Chapman

Secretary: Rosemary Jasper

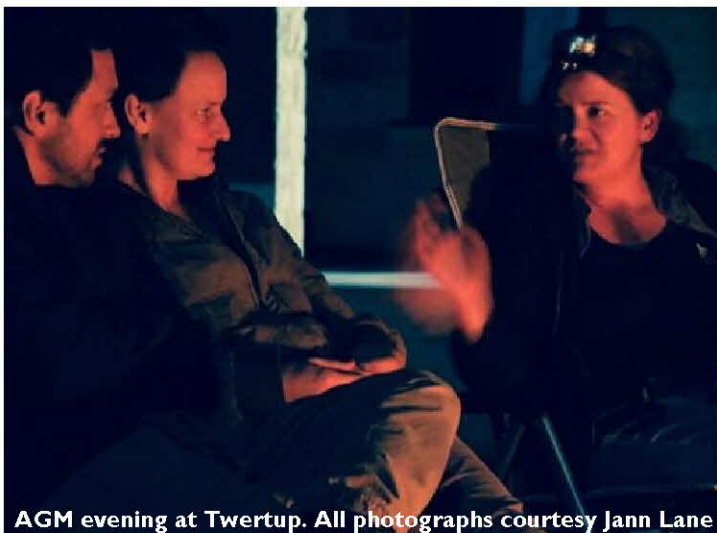
Treasurer: Liz Utting

Minutes Secretary: Geraldine Janicke

Committee: Louise Lodge, Libby Sandiford, Steve Janicke

Newsletter Editor: Leonie McMahon

Twertup Sub-Committee: Gil Craig (Committee Representative), Ric Pepper, Kingsley Vaux.



AGM evening at Twertup. All photographs courtesy Jann Lane



News in Brief

Changes to membership fees

At the 2017 AGM in March it was decided to make membership to Friends free so from this time forth you no longer need to pay an annual subscription. All current members will be retained on the membership database unless they specifically contact the organisation and advise us that they no longer wish to be members. New members are always welcome and can fill out a membership form from our website: www.fitzgeraldfriends.org.au

New bank details

Donations to the group are always welcome. Please note our new bank details: Westpac
BSB: 036150
Account number: 255492

Twertup official opening

Plans are now under way for the official opening of Twertup Field Studies Centre. The date has been set for the weekend of the 4th to 5th of November 2017. Further details will be released closer to the time but for the moment save the date for this momentous occasion.

Dibbler monitoring

The weather conspired against the Dibbler monitoring team resulting in the trips planned for May 2017 being postponed. The first monitoring trip will now be in October 2017 followed by a further session in May 2018. Dates to be announced.

Ground Parrot documentary premier

'Secrets at Sunrise', the documentary about the race to save the Western Ground Parrot, premiered on 31st May around WA. It will be screened at the Luna Cinema in Leederville in July and at the Perth Zoo on 13th July where there will be a question and answer session with the team involved in making the documentary. There will also be a chance to win a tour of the zoo's Western Ground Parrot aviaries.

Starlings sighted west of Esperance

Friends' member, John Tucker has reported seeing starlings to the west of Esperance lately. He saw eight on the south side of the Jerdacuttup lake on 5th December 2016 and has heard of several other sightings. Should anyone see starlings, please report to the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Verandahs and toilets at Twertup



Photograph courtesy Andrew Chapman



Photograph courtesy Grantly Morton

The Field Studies Centre now looks very smart with its new verandahs and barbecue area which were concreted by Kulin contractors, Denaro Earthmoving. Thanks to a *Great Southern Community Chest 2016* grant this will make the building much less dusty and easier to keep clean. Stonemason, Paul Young, is currently at Twertup building the toilet walls and barbecue structure. If you would like to give a hand at Twertup it would be greatly appreciated. Please give me a call on 9838 1071 so that a roster of helpers can be organised.

A LotteryWest grant is being applied for for furniture and we plan to open the building to the public at the end of the year.

Gil Craig

UNESCO Biosphere renomination successful



We have recently learned that the Fitzgerald River National Park has been successfully renominated as a Biosphere under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. The park was first nominated as a Biosphere Reserve in 1978, but it no longer met the criteria introduced in 1996, which required greater community involvement. The renomination proposal includes an expanded Biosphere zone and a marine component. The core zone is now the conservation zone identified in the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan and is surrounded by a buffer zone, further encircled by the transition zone of agricultural land and State ocean waters. The Biosphere Implementation Group (BIG) coordinated the renomination process and consists of representatives from a number of groups that operate in the area, including Friends.



Narpulungup News

is the newsletter of the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

Please note: **the next edition of the newsletter will be in November 2017.**

Information about the official opening of Twertup will be sent separately in the months prior to the event.

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