



FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK (INC.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Mary Anne Haven, Hopetoun, Saturday 4th March 2023

Meeting Opened: 10:04am

1. Welcome to Members and Guests by President, Gillian Craig
2. Attendance: Rosemary Jasper, Gil Craig, Bill Thompson, Jane Thompson, John Tucker, Delys Harland, Ron Richards, Graham Barrett-Lennard, Merle Bennett, Kim Bennett, Annie Leitch, Troy Treeby, Kate Brown, Liz Utting, Andy Chapman, Graham Richardson, Sue Leighton, Cathy Taylor

Apologies: Alison Lullfitz, Sheryn Prior, Libby Sandiford, Peter Dawson, Helen Taylor, Brian Malone, Sally Malone, Rodger Walker, Vicky Bilney, Alison Reddington, Kay Lehman, Kingsley Vaux, Sandy Vaux, Kim Gray, Nathan McQuoid, Jen Solly, Ric Pepper, Anne Gadsby, Louise Lodge

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous AGM, 12th March 2022
MOTION: The Minutes of AGM 12th March 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record.
Rosemary/Kate CARRIED
4. Presentation of Financial Report by Ron Richards, prepared by Sheryn Prior.
Motion: Financial Report be accepted as a true and accurate record.
Ron Richards/Gil Craig CARRIED
5. Presentation of Presidents Report by Gillian Craig (as Per attached document)
6. Twertup Field Studies Centre Report by Gillian Craig (as per attached document)
7. FRNP Ranger's report by Damien Medley
8. Election of Office Bearers for 2023 by Returning Officer Delys Harland

OFFICE	NOMINATED	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY	ELECTED
President	Gillian Craig	Liz Utting	Kim Bennett	YES
Vice-President	Troy Treeby	Delys Harland	Gil Craig	YES
Treasurer	Sheryn Prior	Gil Craig	Liz Utting	YES
Committee Member	Kay Lehman	David Winstanley	Gil Craig	YES
Committee Member	Annie Leitch	Gil Craig	Delys Harland	YES
Committee Member	Kate Brown	Delys Harland	Rosemary jasper	YES
Committee Member	Liz Utting	Gil Craig	Kim Bennett	YES
Narpulungup News Editor	Vicky Bilney	Troy Treeby	Delys Harland	YES
Twertup Representative	Kim Bennett	Liz Utting	Gil Craig	YES

9. Appointment of a Delegate for Conservation Council of WA

Motion: Ron Richards be appointed as the delegate.

Gil Craig/Delys Harland CARRIED

10. Appointment of Auditor if required

Motion: FFRNP being a Tier 1 Association that an auditor is not required.

RonRichards / Cathy Taylor CARRIED

11. Setting Membership Rates

Motion: The Membership Fees to remain at zero

Gil Craig/ Rosemary Jasper CARRIED

12. Payment of Insurance, CCWA and EDO

Motion: Treasurer to renew Insurance policy and annual membership to CCWA and EDO.

Troy Treeby/Kate Brown CARRIED

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

Motion: Sheryn Prior be appointed as the Public Officer.

Liz Utting/Ron Richards CARRIED

Meeting Closed: 11:25am

General Discussion

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN 84 383 247 026

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN: 84 383 247 026

Committee's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Your committee members submit the financial report of Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park for year ended 31 December 2022.

Committee members

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

Gillian Craig - President
vacant - Vice President
Delys Harland - Secretary
Sheryn Prior - Treasurer
Vicky Bilney - newsletter editor
Liz Utting
Alison Lullfitz
Kate Brown
Jennifer Dunn - resigned 14/09/2022 .
Jack Guthrie - co-opted 14/10/2022

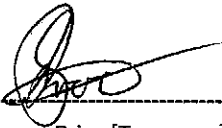
Significant changes

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 -\$4,014.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:



Sheryn Prior [Treasurer]

Dated: 14th February 2023

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
BALANCE SHEET
For the year ending 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Westpac Savings	\$31,485	\$31,367
Bank - Westpac Deposit Acc	\$621	\$814
Bank - Westpac Cheque	\$5,819	\$9,775
Accounts Receivable	\$525	\$0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$38,450	\$41,956
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$102	\$383
Unexpended Grants/Donations	\$6,714	\$6,714
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$6,908	\$7,097
NET ASSETS	\$31,542	\$34,859

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the year ending 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
INCOMES		
Sundry Incomes	\$118	\$204
Sales	\$2,108	\$4,205
Donations	\$435	\$900
Grants	\$0	\$0
	\$2,661	\$5,309
EXPENSES		
Sundry Expenditure	\$1,261	\$1,034
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0	\$2,505
Insurances	\$440	\$422
Project Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Scholarships	\$5,000	
	\$6,702	\$3,960
NET INCOME	-\$4,041	\$1,349

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 2022**

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 2022, 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.

AGM
Mary Anne Haven, Hopetoun
Saturday 4th March, 2023
President's report

This year our AGM is being held in Hopetoun with two excursions into the Park, to enjoy the great landscapes on the Hakea Walk Trail on Sunday, and some unique flora on the No Tree Hill walk this afternoon.

It was heartening that in 2022 the Covid-19 rules relaxed, so that we could organise some activities. Unfortunately, rain causing road closures in the Park meant flexibility was required, however we managed to still carry out our program. We even managed to have two events at Twertup, which is always a challenge to organise.

Activities:

National Science Week:

13 August - Dr Kate Sprogis, cetacean researcher, enthralled a group of 15 whale-watchers at Bremer Bay. Unfortunately the road to Point Ann was closed due to wet weather, so a late change of venue was made to Bremer Bay, where two southern right whales were spotted. As well as talking about different behaviours of southern right and humpback whales, Kate told us about satellite tagging and biopsy sampling of the southern right whales that was planned for the following month, to determine migration patterns.

13 August - Anne Gadsby told us about the lives and hardships of Hooded Plovers in the Wellstead Estuary

13 August - Vanessa Lipianin (FRNP's recent Senior Operations Officer) led a night prowl for owls at Quaalup Homestead Wilderness Retreat. Signature calls of different birds were played which successfully attracted a boobook and a masked owl.

14 August - A guided botanical walk along the Nature Trail developed by Karin and Carsten (owners of the Quaalup Homestead) was led by me. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of two local children, as well as nine adults, delving into different flowers with their hand lenses.

Twertup working bee:

3-4 September - A working bee at the Twertup Field Studies Centre attracted 10 participants. The building was cleaned, door seals installed in an attempt to keep mice out. Mice had damaged the sofa and left ample evidence of their infiltration.

Twertup members' weekend:

4-5 February 2023 – A weekend at Twertup attracted 10 people and no mice! Alex Mitchell, Gairdner Ranger, joined a few members for a walk to Horrie and Dorrie on Saturday afternoon. Amongst other things, we discussed reinstating the Roes Rock and Roes Pool long walk.

DBCA staff changes:

Over the past year there have been a number of staff changes, which I'm sure Damien will elaborate in his Ranger's Report. We were sorry that Vanessa Lipianin moved to another position in NSW, as she was keen to interact with Friends and we had a very positive relationship with her.

We welcome Matthew Prophet as the new Senior Operations Officer and hope he enjoys working on the South Coast. The recent high turn-over of DBCA staff in the park means that there has been a great loss of knowledge within the Dept of Parks and Wildlife of this highly diverse park and its management challenges. We look forward to Matthew and the Rangers participating in Friends' activities and for opportunities to work together.

Retiring Committee Members:

Delys Harland has been Secretary for the past five years and has done an amazing job in the role. Not only has she attended and minuted all the meetings and tried to keep track of all our merchandise, but Delys actively promoted the use of the Twertup FSC by schools. Unfortunately Covid-19 stalled visitation, however two schools did come to Twertup as a result of her encouragement. Delys also facilitated publicity of the park through the use of Jane Thompson's 'Wildflower Faces' colouring book at primary schools. She was also the Friends' representative on the Fitzgerald River NP Advisory Committee.

Alison Lullfitz has been on the committee for four years and was Vice President for two of those. Alison studied, and has more recently been working, at UWA Albany which has helped improve Friends' network with the tertiary education sector. As a result, we have had some inspirational speakers share their knowledge as guest speakers at Friends' activities.

Jack Guthrie first joined the committee in 2020, but resigned when he left Hopetoun in 2021. He was invited back onto the committee in mid-2022, but has decided not to renominate this year.

Thank you to the three of you for your involvement. We hope that we will see you at future events and perhaps consider coming back on the committee another time.

Representatives on Community Committees:

Thanks very much to the following members who represent Friends at meetings and provide feedback:

- Ron Richards and proxy Anne Gadsby on the Conservation Council of WA
- Delys Harland on the Fitzgerald River NP Advisory Committee
- Nathan McQuoid on the Fitzgerald River NP Fire Working Group
- the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective is another group which Friends' are invited to attend.

Memberships:

Membership numbers have been gradually increasing. In February 2023 we had:

- 41 Family members
- 99 Individuals
- 6 Life members

Survey of Members:

A questionnaire was sent to all members in mid-December to see (a) what activities people were interested in participating in the park, and (b) whether anyone would help organise activities and importantly, be willing to be on the committee. Thanks very much to the 27 respondents (out of a membership of about 200), whose answers we will use to guide future activities. The highest scoring interests were walks (both short and long), cultural activities and science-based activities, particularly to do with plants.

The most encouraging responses came from five members who were willing to be on the committee (besides those who have already been on it). Another three said they were willing, but didn't provide their name! Hopefully they are here today and will nominate themselves and become actively involved.

This is my third stint and fifth year as President, although not as many as Andy Chapman who presided for seven years. I'm willing to continue in the role for the next year, but encourage anyone interested in the Park's future to come onto the committee in an Executive position.

Scholarship:

Currently, a major threat to the park is the increased frequency of fire, both through wildfire and prescribed burns. Short fire-return intervals have caused a noticeable decline in Royal Hakea (*Hakea victoria*) numbers at No Tree Hill. To gain a better understanding of the population dynamics of this iconic species, Friends awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to Honours student at Notre Dame University, Tasmin Lancaster. Today, Tasmin is our guest speaker and will give us an update on her research.

Future projects:

In the past month, South Coast NRM have been meeting with local partners to develop investment concepts for projects (of up to 5 years) in the South Coast region for future funding from the Commonwealth government. The "Fitz-Stirling" region has been recognised as a "Priority Place" by the Commonwealth and one of the project concepts is to focus on this area for funding. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity for Friends and DBCA to collaborate on some research and monitoring projects in the park, should funding come through.

In particular, I would like Friends to carry out research and monitoring of vegetation quadrats in the park. The late Ken Newbey recorded many plots in 1985-87 and DBCA (Sarah Barrett and Damien Rathbone) have a number on Thumb Peak, Drummond Track and other areas. Ron and Sue Wooller also did research near Quaalup, which would be good to follow-up. This would be an opportunity for all those members who ticked the questionnaire 'very interested' box for walks, vegetation and flora surveys, and plant identification workshops, to get involved!

Gillian Craig

Twertup Report

The 'Twertup' position on the Committee remained 'vacant' this year, so your President did most of the liaison with the Dept of Parks and Wildlife, with whom we're meant to have a meeting once per annum.

6 May 2022 – Delys and Gil had an informal meeting with Jeremy Friend, the new Albany District Operations Manager (taking Peter Hartley's position) at DBCA Albany office.

12 August 2022 – Fire mitigation meeting with Jeremy Friend at Twertup was postponed to November due to wet weather.

3-4 September 2022 – Working bee with 11 participants. Building cleaned and door seals installed by Mike Oakley and Phil Stacey, to prevent mice infiltration.

November 2022 – Due to work commitments by everyone, Twertup Fire Mitigation meeting postponed to February.

2 February 2023 - Fire mitigation meeting with Jeremy Friend at Twertup postponed as not all Friends' representatives (including a Fire Accredited Assessor) could attend. New Senior Operations Officer, Matthew Prophet, will be available in April to participate in meeting.

4-5 February 2023 – Members' weekend (see President's report). No mice! Possums active and owl nightjar very vocal about the noisy intrusion into its domain. Quite a bit of fallen timber on 'long Nature Walk' will need clearing off trail.

10 February 2023 – Delys and Gil met newly appointed Matthew Prophet, Jeremy Friend and Peter Hartley at DBCA Albany office. Main discussion was about the wildfire, started by lightning south of Hamersley Drive, near the intersection of Quoin Head track which has burnt 4,400 ha west of Moir Track. Also, shown the location of the Boeing 737 water-bomber crash site at the south end of the fire scar.

28 April 2023 – Proposed fire mitigation meeting with Jeremy Friend, Matthew Prophet (DBCA) and Friends' representatives.

The building would benefit from having fire-proof screens installed on the windows. If there is a proactive member who could follow-up on this, it would be much appreciated.

Visitation:

Friends were the only group booking the Field Studies Centre over the past year, however there are two March 2023 bookings (at the time of writing).

Day visitors continue to write encouraging comments in the 'Guest Book':

"Surprising to see such a well respected facility, for all to use. A reminder of the good nature of people. Respect when respect is given. Thank you. Luke and Segó (1/10/2022)".

Gillian Craig