



FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK (INC.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Twertup Field Studies Centre,

Saturday 9th of March 2024

Meeting Opened: 10:04am

Minute-taker: Kate Brown

1. Welcome to Members and Guests by President, Gillian Craig

Attendance: Gil Craig, Bill Thompson, Jane Thompson, Graham Barrett-Lennard, Annie Leitch, Kate Brown, Sue Leighton, Cathy Taylor, Sheryn Prior, Libby Sandiford, Peter Dawson, Helen Taylor, Erika Jacobson, Helen Taylor, Louise Lodge, Geraldine Janicke, Steve Janicke, Chris Zara & Jasper Vogel.

Apologies: Rodger Walker, Vicky Bilney, Kay Lehman, Kingsley Vaux, Sandy Vaux, Nathan McQuoid, Jen Solly, Ric Pepper, Kim Bennett, Rosemary Jasper, Ron Richards, Leonie McMahon, Delys Harland, Greg Harland, Mitchell Harland, Alan Hordacre, Andy Chapman, Bart Lebbing, Joanna Young, Priscilla Broadbent, Sarah Comer, Paul Redding, Paul Audin, Christine Audin, Neil Gibson.

2. 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.

Sue/Sheryn CARRIED

3. Presentation of Financial Report by Sheryn Prior.

Motion: Financial Report be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Sheryn/Libby CARRIED

4. Presentation of Presidents Report by Gillian Craig (as Per attached document)

5. Twertup Field Studies Centre Report by Gillian Craig (as per attached document)

6. FRNP Ranger's report by Andy Benton

7. Election of Office Bearers for 2024 by Returning Officer Peter Dawson

OFFICE	NOMINATED	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY	ELECTED
President	Gillian Craig	Libby Sandiford	Sheryn Prior	YES
Vice-President	Annie Leitch	Gil Craig	Sue Leighton	YES

Treasurer	Sheryn Prior	Helen Taylor	Libby Sandiford	YES
Secretary	vacant			
Committee Member	Erika Jacobson	Erika Jacobson	Annie Leitch	YES
Committee Member	Sue Leighton	Gil Craig	Libby Sandiford	YES
Committee Member	Kate Brown	Gil Craig	Erika	YES
Committee Member	Liz Utting	Libby sandiford	Gil craig	YES
Narpulungup News Editor	Vicky Bilney	Libby Sandiford	Annie Leitch	YES
Twertup Representative	Alan Hordacre	Gil Craig	Sheryn Prior	YES

8. Appointment of Auditor

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

Gil Craig/ Libby Sandiford CARRIED

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

Motion: Sheryn Prior be appointed as the Public Officer.

Libby Sandiford/Jane Thompson CARRIED

10. Setting Membership Rates

Motion: The Membership Fees to remain at zero

Gil Craig/ Jane Thompson CARRIED

11. Payment of Insurance, CCWA and EDO

Motion: Treasurer to obtain Insurance quotes to which committee decide to obtain

Sheryn Prior/Bill Thompson CARRIED

12. Appointment of a Delegate for Conservation Council of WA

Motion: Ron Richards be appointed as the delegate. Proxy Erika Jacobson

Gil Craig/Kate Brown CARRIED

Meeting Closed: 11:30am

General Discussion

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN 84 383 247 026

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

ABN: 84 383 247 026

Committee's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Your committee members submit the financial report of Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park for year ended 31 December 2023.

Committee members

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

Gillian Craig - President
Troy Treeby - Vice President
vacant - Secretary
Sheryn Prior - Treasurer
Vicky Bilney - newsletter editor
Liz Utting
Kate Brown
Annie Leitch
Kay Lehman
Kim Bennett


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 -\$3,959.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:



Sheryn Prior [Treasurer]

Dated: 4th March 2024

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
BALANCE SHEET
For the year ending 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Westpac Savings	\$31,927	\$31,485
Bank - Westpac Deposit Acc	\$428	\$621
Bank - Westpac Cheque	\$1,692	\$5,819
Accounts Receivable	\$364	\$525
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$34,412</u>	<u>\$38,450</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$102	\$102
Unexpended Grants/Donations	\$6,714	\$6,714
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>\$6,908</u>	<u>\$6,908</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$27,504</u>	<u>\$31,542</u>

FRIENDS OF THE FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the year ending 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
INCOMES		
Sundry Incomes	\$442	\$118
Sales	\$391	\$2,108
Donations	\$860	\$435
Grants	\$0	\$0
	<u>\$1,693</u>	<u>\$2,661</u>
EXPENSES		
Sundry Expenditure	\$1,713	\$1,261
Cost of Goods Sold	\$3,480	\$0
Insurances	\$459	\$440
Project Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Scholarships	\$0	\$5,000
	<u>\$5,652</u>	<u>\$6,702</u>
NET INCOME	<u>-\$3,959</u>	<u>-\$4,041</u>

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 2023**

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 2023, 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
Twertup Field Studies Centre, Saturday 9th March, 2024
President's report (includes Twertup)

This year our AGM is being held at Twertup with an excursion to Calyerup Rocks on Sunday. Our guest speaker this afternoon is Malcolm French on the subject of "Eucalypts '24".

Activities:

Twertup meeting with DBCA:

16 May – A meeting to discuss fire mitigation around the building was held with Jeremy Friend and Matt Prophet (DBCA) with Al Hordacre, Nathan McQuoid and myself. It was resolved that minor pruning was required, especially at south end which Matt would get the Rangers to carry out.

An attempt was made to open the 'donation' box, but the correct keys weren't on hand. Later, Ranger Andy Benton released over \$100 which was banked in DBCA's designated Twertup trust account.

National Science Week:

19-20 August – Annie Leitch (wearing her Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective hat) organised a weekend of events for Friends members at Nowanup where Noongar Elder, Uncle Eugene Eades introduced us to the eco-restoration efforts on the property. At Monjebup North, Sarah Comer (Bush Heritage Australia) showed us their restoration efforts with direct seeding and infill planting, plus the expensive Felixer grooming traps for feral cat control. Thanks to Lotterywest who funded the weekend.

Twertup working bee:

9 September - A working bee at the Twertup Field Studies Centre attracted 3 participants (Kate, Libby and me) who gave the building a spring clean. The walks afterwards were exceptionally attractive as the park was in full bloom after good rains.

George's Gorge recce:

18 November – Troy Treeby, Nathan McQuoid and Jen Solly did an exploratory trip to George's Gorge on the Fitzgerald River for a proposed excursion by members later in 2024.

Merchandise and Market Days:

Annie Leitch has been managing the merchandise and has had more tea towels printed in two designs – Julie Outram's banksia and Rowena Howard's royal hakea - which are retailing at \$21 each. Jane Thompsen's popular 'Wildflower Faces' colouring book has sold out and we're in the process of getting more printed. Vivienne Hillyer's beautiful illustrated maps of the Fitzgerald Biosphere continue to sell steadily.

The main promoters of Friends' merchandise have been the Hopetoun and Bremer Bay CRCs, plus market days where Louise Lodge has kindly put our goods on her stall at Hopetoun and Leonie McMahon (Fitzgerald Biosphere Group) on a Bremer Bay stall.

Scholarship:

Tasmin Lancaster, Honours student at Notre Dame University, has extended her scholarship of \$5,000 to June 2024. Her research into the reproductive biology of Royal Hakea (*Hakea victoria*) and how fire affects its population dynamics is producing some interesting results. Her supervisor Dylan Korczynskij has provided us with regular updates with some of the results already provided in *Narpulungup News*.

The relationship with Notre Dame University has been very rewarding and I have been having ongoing discussions with Dylan on how students can continue to be involved in research associated with the FRNP. It is intended that another scholarship be awarded to a post-graduate student in 2024.

Community Stewardship Grant Application 2023:

A project titled *Fitzgerald Biosphere vegetation research and monitoring for appropriate fire regimes* was applied for through State NRM. Funding was requested to employ a senior botanist and a technical officer, however we were unsuccessful in this round. It is intended that we apply again in 2024.

South Coast Marine Park:

"The proposed South Coast Marine Park will provide important protections to marine species, such as the unique ruby seadragon, which is not found anywhere else in the world. The area is also home to southern right whale nurseries, vast kelp forests, vulnerable seal and sea lion colonies, precious reefs, and important fisheries. About 75 per cent of the proposed marine park will remain open for commercial and recreational fishing, with recreational beach access unchanged by this proposal

(<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook-Labor-Government/>)"

DBCAs website provides an indicative joint management plan for the proposed Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park which extends from near Bremer Bay to Hopetoun, i.e. the offshore area from the Fitzgerald River NP. The public comment period is open until June 16. If any member would like to help the Friends formulate a submission, please contact me.

DBCA staff changes:

Andy Benton (Jacup Ranger) should be here today to present a 'Ranger Report', but here's a short summary. Over the past year there have been more DBCA staff changes, with Eloise Morath (Hopetoun Ranger) and Alex Mitchell (Gairdner Ranger) leaving. It was particularly disappointing to see Alex leave as he had a keen interest in the park's flora and greatly assisted Tasmin in searching for old-growth *Hakea victoria*.

We look forward to meeting Kenneth Donohoe, the new Ranger based in Hopetoun and Greg Williams (Gairdner). Donna Higgins, a Friends' member, also joined the DBCA team in Hopetoun. We will look for opportunities for Matthew Prophet and his team to participate in Friends' activities and for us to assist the Rangers when needed.

Twertup:

The DBCA Trust account for maintenance of the Twertup FSC has had a total of \$3674.16 collected through accommodation fees and donations since 2018, and \$1,106.65 in expenditure. As such \$2,587.51 remains available (Jeremy Friends, pers comm, 13/2/2024).

Matt Prophet has arranged for the Rangers to maintain the water level in the batteries that store the solar power.

Table 1 – Occupancy rates for Twertup over past year (DBCA Albany, 29/2/24)

MONTH	NUMBER OF NIGHTS BOOKED	PAID NIGHTS	UNPAID NIGHTS	COMMENTS
March-23	2	2		
April-23	6		6	
May-23	3	2	1	
June-23	0			
Jul-23	0			
Aug-23	0			
Sept-23	10	7	3	3 PAID NIGHTS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER
Oct-23	11	4	7	4 PAID NIGHTS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER
Nov-23	5	0	5	
Dec-23	0			
Jan-24	0			
Feb-24	0			
TOTAL	37	15	22	

Representatives on Community Committees:

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

- Ron Richards on the Conservation Council of WA;
- Troy Treeby on the FRNP Advisory Committee;
- Nathan McQuoid on the Fitzgerald River NP Fire Working Group;
- Liz Utting and Annie Leitch on the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective.

Nathan has attended many Fire Working Group meetings over the years, reminding the Group of their responsibility to adhere to the FRNP Management Plan – a difficult task indeed! He is moving to Hazelvale and wishes to resign from this position, but is willing to provide advice and support where possible to a new Friends' representative.

Memberships:

Membership numbers increased extraordinarily over the past year, mainly due to Troy's expertise on Facebook, with 56 new members over the past year. In February 2024 we had:

- 34 Family members
- 161 Individuals
- 6 Life members

Sadly, two long-term members Merle Bennett and Pat Meadows died late last year.

Committee Members:

Kim Bennett has been on the committee for the past year, but will be resigning due to her busy work load. Troy Treeby resigned in February due to mental health issues.

Thank you both for your involvement. This year's committee has worked together exceptionally well with the newer members providing added energy and taking initiative with events, merchandise and social media.

The Secretary position has been shared in 2023, as no-one was willing to take on the role. Liz and Kate have managed new memberships and the register, Annie handled the merchandise, while taking of committee meeting minutes has been shared. I have picked up the remaining duties.

We look forward to new committee members – no special expertise is required, just a willingness to participate and be actively involved. I encourage anyone interested in the Park's future to join the committee. I'm willing to continue in the role of President for the next year as I'm keen that Friends apply for a grant to research appropriate fire regimes in the park.

Gillian Craig

Briefing for Friends of the Fitz

- Grading will be done before Easter, grading has been done previously 24th Jan – Pt Ann Rd only at this stage.
- New Rangers for Gairdner and EMB – Ken and Greg
- Works – Gairdner Rangers Station, seats install at end of walk on cliffs Twertup and at Horrie Dorrie
- Rehab done around WMB and Mt Maxwell fire scars
- Fires this year Mt Maxwell, WMB, EMB, No Tree Hill, and a couple outside the boundaries
- Donations banked as per instructions from Albany – \$133.50
- Western Shield monitoring has been carried out
- Baiting with Eradicat has commenced throughout the park.
- Visitation – estimate 90,000 since July (Estimate of 146k) Metrocount data.
- Questions asked and issues raised;
Seat near Nuytsia may be culturally inappropriate.
Visibility of Mamang beach access poles
State of the Mamang Trail
Concerns raised about vehicles accessing Bell Tk and the Fitzgerald Inlet Campsite.