Narpulungup News

Septmeber 2003
no: 3

from the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

Next issue: December

Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

invite you to a weekend of

Verticordias & Dryandras

with **Elizabeth George* & Margaret Pieroni***

1st -2nd November 2003

Saturday 1st November: Ravensthorpe Range,
north Hamersley Drive & Old Ongerup Road

Sunday 2nd November: Twertup, Pt Anne,
West Mt Barren & Mt Maxwell

Cost is $15 pp for the two days, or $10 pp per day.

For further details contact
Gillian Craig ph/fax 9838 1071 or email ripicasa@wn.com.au
or
Anne Gadsby ph 9837 4063 or email anngad@wn.com.au

Please RSVP to either of the above by Wednesday 29th October if you wish to attend

IMPORTANT NOTICE – a Special General meeting for the purpose of considering and amending the constitution may be held during this weekend. Members will be notified in advance. A quorum of 10 members is required.

* Elizabeth George and Margaret Pieroni have a long association with WA native plants and with Verticordias & Dryandras in particular.

They are the co-authors of the recently published, award-winning (and delightfully titled) book, *Verticordia. The turner of hearts*, published by UWA Press. This book arose out of their long-term involvement, together with more than 250 other volunteers, in the Verticordia Reference Project. Elizabeth coordinated and compiled this 700-specimen collection which is located at the WA Herbarium. Margaret, a talented artist who has specialised in botanical illustration, undertook to illustrate all the species collected. She is also particularly interested in and knowledgeable about the Dryandras.

The name Verticordia, literally translated, means 'turner of hearts'. So this weekend is an opportunity to spend time looking at flowers that will 'turn your heart' – sounds like an opportunity not to be missed!

Verticordias and Dryandras weekend – program

Saturday 1st November (Ravensthorpe Range and Fitzgerald River National Park – NE sector):

9.00 am	CWA building, Dunn Street (blue house next to Ravensthorpe Telecentre) Registration ($15 pp for 2 days/ $10 pp for 1 day)
9.15 am	'Introduction to Verticordias and Dryandras' slide show and talk
9.45 am	Morning tea
10.15 am	Ravensthorpe Range – Archer Drive lookout & Mobile Tower track
midday	Lunch (byo) – Ravensthorpe
1.30 pm	Old Ongerup Road & north sector of Hamersley Drive (Fitzgerald River National Park)
evening	Twertup Field Studies Centre (byo BBQ and a salad to share) (NB if Twertup is closed due to wet weather, suggested alternative accommodation is at Qualup Homestead)

Sunday 2nd November (Fitzgerald River National Park – west side):

9.00 am	Twertup track (or West Mt Barren if Twertup is closed due to wet weather)
midday	Lunch (byo) – Point Ann
afternoon	West Mt Barren & Mt Maxwell
evening	Corackerup Reserve farmhouse (to be confirmed) – ($12 pp/night) byo food & swag

Monday 3 November (Chereninup Creek Reserve):

early!	walk in the Chereninup Creek Reserve

Please RSVP if you wish to attend - see details on front page

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2003 MEMBERSHIP ?

Family $15 Individual $10 Concession $5

Send to: The Treasurer FFRNP
RMB 8716
Nanarup Rd
Kalgan 6330

Please indicate if you require a receipt.

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project.

Birds Australia have recently received funding to continue their work with Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo. So far the work has focussed mainly on northern wheatbelt populations of these birds but birds are also seen in parts of this area during the breeding season (late winter to early summer) and it is to be assumed that this is also an important area for this threatened species. Anyone who is interested in recording sightings of these birds can contact The Project Officer, Leonie McMahon, ph. 9287 2448,

Grevillea News –
continually changing!

Grevillea taxonomist Neil Marriott has been travelling during September on his annual pilgrimage to southern WA. His work on grevillea continues to grow as it becomes apparent that there are many unfolding nuances in the classification of some groups.

I caught up with Neil and his partner Wendy Renzi in Albany recently where he explained some of his work on south coast grevilleas. He and colleague Peter Olde have a significant paper with the editors at Nuytsia that treats 32 new taxa , including some from the south coast, so keep an eye out for that in the coming months.

Neil is very interested in the Fitzgerald area as it hold several taxa worthy of further investigation; frustratingly he has been thwarted in recent years by limited access due to wet weather and we will try to line up some good weather for him next year. I asked him if he would be available during his visit next year to do some presentations on his work, with FFRNP in mind, and he is most willing.

The picture on the right is of an intergrading phenomenon that occurs in the central Barrens that has Neil particularly interested. It shows the as yet undescribed *Grevillea aff nudiflora* with the narrow elliptic leaves grading into the declared rare and endemic funnel leaved grevillea *G infundibularis*. This occurs over a short distance of a few kilometres from the laterised schizts of the wave cut bench of Mid Mt Barren up onto the lower quartzite slopes of Mid Mt Barren and Thumb Peak.

Eccentric patterns such as this are reasonably common in nature and until now have been largely dismissed by botanists as freak events. Our interpretive abilities are improving as we become more familiar with the flora, and the need to describe with greater accuracy the nuances of nature is upon us. Grevillea is a charismatic example of this pliable species phenomenon; its existence in FRNP continues to prove the park's

Grevillea aff nudiflora…… to……G infundibularis

From the edge .. happenings of interest in districts around the Park.

YONGERGNOW*...The Malleefowl Centre Update (Edited)

Congratulations are due to the Ongerup Community for securing over $1 million in funding for their Malleefowl Centre. The project is now steaming ahead with the recent announcement by Wilson Tuckey of a further $405,000 being granted from the Federal Government under their Regional Assistance Program.

The State Government has made an 11.39 ha piece of Crown land available to Yongergnow for the centre. The Shire of Gnowangerup hold the management order for the reserve and Yongergnow will lease it from them. **The centre opening is planned for mid 2004.**

The Ongerup Community recently took part in an information day which provided them with an update of the project. The level of enthusiasm for the project was reflected in a call for volunteers being well received, with people of many skills registering to help with construction and running of the centre. The centre will rely heavily on volunteers to greet visitors and provide guided tours of the centre, town and surroundings**.**

Contact Angela Sanders
Phone (08) 98464173 Fax (08) 98464175 E-mail sandyang@dodo.com.au

spend valentines day with us . .

An exciting weekend in Bremer Bay is being planned by the Friends for the weekend of February 14th – 15th 2004. Activities will all have a watery focus – come and discover more about scuba diving, estuary and river systems, water birds, water mechanics, and the inter-tidal zone. So … plan to join us … discover our watery environment … celebrate Valentine's Day at the same time - bring a bottle of bubbly!

Happenings in the Park – Ranger's Report

Rain, rain, rain it seems that winter returned at last, and the crops around the Fitzgerald Biosphere Reserve look fantastic, possibly some of the best in the State.

My earlier hopes of a good wildflower season are coming true, the Quaalup Bells along Hamersley Drive are the best I've seen since my arrival. Several Orchid species are flowering now including Pink Bunny Orchids, Banded Greenhood and Dark Banded Greenhoods, I have also notice Cowslip Orchids and lots of Donkey Orchids flowering in the bush along the highway between Boxwood and Ravensthorpe. The Scarlet Banksias are just beginning to flower in the park also.

The first whales arrived at Point Ann on May 12th; there are now many cows with calves along the coast between Bremer Bay and Point Ann. Two University students from Victoria recently spent several weeks at Point Ann studying the whales. They are looking at a few well-known whale nursery beaches along southern Australia in the hope of determining what characteristics the beaches have which attract the pregnant Southern Right whales. They hope to come up with some guidelines for the management of nursery beaches and to assist in determining currently unused nursery beaches, which might help in the conservation of the whales as their population increases.

A new staircase has been built at Barrens Beach with a lot of help from the Ravensthorpe Emergency Services Cadets and John Brouwer, a local Hopetoun carpenter. The cadets spent a day in the park ripping up and removing the timbers from the old staircase; they also picked up some rubbish along the beach and helped remove part of Four Mile Beach staircase. Their effort is very much appreciated by the Rangers. They worked really hard, which must have been difficult as many of them had had little sleep from the previous night's festivities.

Prescribed burning occurred in the park during Autumn. A helicopter was used to produce some strips of reduced fuel in the northern part of the park and a 40m chained strip of vegetation was burnt along the eastern edge of Drummond Track. These burns will assist in the protection of threatened flora and fauna that live along the northern uplands including the Western Ground Parrot population which is the strongest of the three known populations left in the State. The burns will also help to manage wildfires as they enter or exit the park.

Preparations are now being made to implement a prescribed burn in previously a chained strip of vegetation along John Forrest Road and along the northern park boundary to Moir Track. This strip has been re-chained; we plan to implement this burn in the coming Spring.

Ravensthorpe locals may have noticed the re-location of the park entry gate on Moir track. It has been moved from the true park boundary back onto Moir Road north of the Phillips River crossing. The reason for this is to improve the management of the Moir Track access during wet soil conditions, reducing the risk of spreading the Dieback disease along the Phillips River. The Moir Road residents and the Ravensthorpe Shire were consulted on the idea and agreed to the installation of the gate. I would like to thank the locals who volunteer to help with the gate closures and signs on Moir Track, northern Hamersley Drive and western Pabelup Road.

The re-sheeting project on Point Ann road was stopped due to wet weather. This project will be completed when the road dries enough to allow machines back in the area. The road is open for public access. Another re-sheeting project will occur later this year on a section of Pabelup Drive.

Finally the Western Shield aerial baiting continues. The park was last baited in July, the next baiting will occur again in Spring.

Peter Wilkins: Ranger in Charge – Fitzgerald River National Park.

Geology at Hopetoun with Bill

It was one of those mind-boggling weekends! The number of fascinating geological facts we were presented with left my brain feeling like part of the seething mass of molten lava which flowed out of the earth so many million years ago to form our wonderful southern coastal area.

Bill Moir is a natural teacher. At 2 Mile Beach he started with the basic categorisation of rocks into metamorphic – those which have "changed', i.e. been heated and squeezed**;** igneous – which have been in a molten state and cooled and solidified**;** and sedimentary – the results of erosion and other processes. Later on in the weekend, questions were asked and identification required!

Another awe-inspiring concept was the depth at which many rocks formed - 10, 20 kms down – under such pressure that the water which was present, having nowhere to escape to, became so hot and potent that it was able to melt rocks – and even gold. We looked at lineation on the surface of rocks showing where the massive pressure had squeezed them and forced the minerals to separate out. Of all the 6000 minerals down there only about 20 – 30 form the crust of the earth.

The folds which we see in rocks were caused by pressure from above and other directions; cracks are sometimes the result of shearing while the rocks are deeply buried below in a plastic condition. All this buckling was caused by compression and extension as the continents came together and drifted apart.

We moved on to Mason's Point and here (as a person who lives in a rock house built largely of gneiss) I learnt an important distinction – the difference between granite and gneiss. Granite is igneous and gneiss is metamorphic (it never quite got to the melting stage). Now I'm not sure if I feel more secure about what would happen to our house in a bush fire!

At 12 Mile Beach we goggled and stretched our minds again as we considered what it might have looked like when the sea was out near the continental shelf and high winds drove old fractured shells inland and gradually rain washed the lime into the ground where under pressure it formed the limestone which we see exposed today.

Lunch and a short break at 4 Mile campsite was followed by a trip to a gold mine run by the McCall family. Here we stared down into the open cut where seams would be mined following dynamiting, and examined the machinery (some of it quite old) used to produce gold ore – "but not a lot," our guide told us. Somehow it all looked quite romantic – like something out of the bygone mining days. We learned that the gold comes up with magma and is pushed along fault lines which form seams. We carefully examined the specimens we were shown

After a delicious dinner in a Hopetoun restaurant on Saturday evening and a good sleep we set out on Sunday morning to the groyne to look at more rocks, only to find that nothing is as it seems, for Australia is moving northwards at 5 cm a year. It is also rotating and being compressed from the east and the west. I scanned the horizon anxiously! On to a riverside spot at the end of the Phillips River Rd; here two ridges about a kilometre apart and spanning the river were carefully examined – yes, they did appear to be part of the same ridge wrenched asunder as the land moved and a gigantic fault was formed. Often these faults can be observed by noting how the vegetation changes, but is related, on either side of the fault.

Bill later talked earthquakes with us and showed us data from the USGS website (check it out – it's fascinating) - 3 x A4 pages containing lists of earthquakes over 3.5 on the Richter scale which had happened in the last week. Remembering the 2001 Ravensthorpe quake which measured 5.2 and woke me up in Greenbushes, I again began to feel slightly unstable!

So to East Mylies beach where we discovered stretched-pebble conglomerate - rounded, elongated pebbles, some still in their conglomerate, which were embedded and stretched while in a molten state. And we saw quartzite chevron folds forming incredibly beautiful patterns in the rocks, now so much more interesting because we know something about them.

On our last stop we looked back at the wave cut benches and sea stacks of East Mt Barren – formed a mere 40 million years ago when the sea was 80 m higher. With that mind bending thought we returned to the hall for a much needed cuppa and an piece of definitely-not-rock cake Thanks Bill!

Bill Moir giving a group of Friends some rock sol-

More from the edge …..

TOTALLY BIOSPHERED – NEWS FROM THE FITZGERALD BIOSPHERE

Entries have arrived for the story and art competition from out of this sphere! There has been a tremendous response from locals of all ages across the Fitzgerald Biosphere Region – almost 250 entries in total have been received.

Winners will be **officially announced** at the **Ravensthorpe Spring Festival** on **Saturday 27th September**, where the entries will be on display. All the entries, including the winners will be on display again at the **Jerramungup Agriculture Show on Saturday 11th October.**

The text entries have already had an initial assessment by one of the 4 judges, Sally Haigh. Sally is "impressed and excited by the enthusiasm and creativity this has generated. There is some wonderful

TWERTUP CLEANING ROSTER:

September:	Nathan McQuoid
October:	Ken and Priscilla
November:	Mark and Vivienne
December	Barbara Miller
January	Angela Sanders
February	Tim and Caroline

WHAT NATIVE ANIMALS LIVE ON YOUR land?

The Fitzgerald River National Park is a natural area of outstanding significance. And that significance is made more secure by the areas of bush that exist within its vicinity – linking it to other patches like the Magenta Reserve, the coastal bushland, the Ravensthorpe Range. Part of this whole network of bush in the region is the bush that still exists on private property. It too can support populations of a range of native animals and plants.

If you do have bush on your property that you would like to would like to protect and learn more about, you can join the Land for Wildlife scheme and get assistance. This is a voluntary nature conservation scheme designed to assist private land-holders or managers of bush (like Golf Clubs and Shires) to manage their bush as habitat.

This is a particularly rewarding thing to do in the Fitzgerald Biosphere region because there are so many plants and animals still out there. It is a great way to complement the values that exist in the National Park and great fun to learn more about the bush that you live and work around.

Sylvia Leighton (based in Albany ph. 9842 4500) works as a Land for Wildlife officer at the western end of the Fitzgerald Biosphere and Rosemary Jasper (based in Ravensthorpe ph. 9838 1890) works at the east-

Post Print approved pp 607743/010 Surface Mail

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Bremer Bay WA 6338