



FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK  
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
No.1, 1985

When the day for the A.G.M. dawned so hot, we rebelled at holding the meeting in such an exposed spot as West Beach, and repaired to Mylies camping ground where we huddled under the trees around our treasurers bright green tent. The mornings proceedings were accompanied by numerous slapping sounds as we depopulated the area of March flies. These appeared to be an extinct species by afternoon!

Ken Newbey made a very able returning officer for the A.G.M. Bill Moir of Borden is your new President, Brenda Newbey of Ongerup your new Vice-president, yours truly Helen Taylor of Hopetoun secretary, and Kaye Vaux agreed to do another term as treasurer. Joan Bathgate will continue to do the Twertup bookings.

Most of the business at the ordinary meeting in the afternoon was most exciting and centred around the grants. The Association has received a grant from the Heritage Commission to employ two people for 12 months to do a biological survey. Ken Newbey will undertake the botanical side of things and Andy Chapman the zoological.

The Association has received a C.E.P. grant to appoint an unemployed woman to act as Education and Information Officer for Twertup. Accomodation will be needed at Jerramungup. Would anyone willing to take her as a boarder please get in touch with Keith Bradby, 098 381129.

The National Parks Authority has received a C.E.P. grant for the employment of two people to help with restoration of erosion etc for a period of three months.

Another grant has come from the Heritage Commission for the employment of a qualified person to do a land use analysis of the land to the north of the Park, as it was thought that insufficient data was collected, before consideration was given to opening up the land for agriculture.

As the distribution of these grants will require considerable time and effort, a grants sub-committee was elected with Keith Bradby as contact person.

A programme of experimental fire-bombing from the air is being planned for this coming winter, and on Thurs, May 16 there is to be a seminar at Jerramungup to explain this. This is a morning session and if you would like to go along please let the



Head Ranger, Martin Lloyd know - 098 355043

Ken Newbey reports that the survey on the ground parrot is finished and findings collated. Birds were seen at five different sites north of the Park. Ken also tells us that the vegetation map of the north Fitzgerald will be ready by June/July.

Over the Easter break a group from the W.A. National Park and Reserves Association (WANPARA) will be at Twertup and members are asked to come down and meet with them on the Sat. evening to discuss management of the Park and aims of the Association. Keith is still waiting to hear comments from some members on the latter. Please ring if you don't want to write. Remember, your executive cannot carry out your wishes if they don't know what they are.

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From Andy Chapman

The Associations report (he's being modest as he, Merle and Colin Bennett did the work) on river water quality in the Park has been sent to the Heritage Committee in Perth and the Heritage Commission in Canberra. Here are some of the highlights:-

1. The West River and Twertup Creek have the highest concentration of salts. West River can be up to three times saltier than seawater.
2. Phillips River has the lowest concentration. Between February '83 and February '84 the Phillips maintained a small rate of low. Surprising isn't it?
3. Phosphorus, presumably from superphosphate, is uniformly present in all Park rivers.
4. An interesting situation exists with oblong turtles in the Fitzgerald River. They are usually considered a freshwater animal, but they live and breed in the river in permanent brackish-saline water.

Anyone wishing to read the entire report, may do so by contacting Andy 098381186 or the secretary 098 383183.

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Plans were announced recently that the P.W.D. plan to drill for water in the Hamersley Inlet area, so Andy's report will come in handy when we object to this.

A small batch of large T shirts has arrived, sizes 18-22 are available - \$6.50 There are two size 20 windcheaters (both red) - \$16.00. Further large windcheaters are on order.

Last but far from least, is the fact that it's that time of year again. Subs. time. Unfortunately, it has become necessary to increase them and it will now cost \$10.00 per family and \$6.00 per individual. (If you are on a pension please apply for a reduced rate.) and please do send in your subs. as soon as possible. Have pity on your busy office bearers who have to keep the books up to date!

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