

7, Jul 88

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

942

LIBRARY FOR
CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT

AUG 1988

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Conservation
and Land Management
- 8 178 1358
COMO, W.A.

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER - JULY 1988

By now, most of you would be aware of the shock the Association suffered when one of our staunchest members, botanist Ken Newbey, died in his sleep on July 23.

The following tribute was written by Kaye Vaux and Keith Bradby.

"Ken spent his life in Ongerup where he attended the little West Ongerup school and later Albany High. A keen footballer, he was in the team in his early years.

Back on the farm he became interested in growing native trees, which was probably encouraged by his mother who was a keen gardener, and his continued interest in botany led him to write a book in 1968 "West Australian Plants for Horticulture" which was followed by a second volume in 1972.

His recent book "Growing Farm Trees" is being widely read and a book on the geology of the district was published by PCAP for use in schools.

In 1970 Ken played a major part in forming the Ongerup Conservation Organisation. During the next few years, Ken's vast knowledge of the Fitzgerald flora and his untiring devotion to saving the area, was a major factor in the halting of mining and the areas gazettal in 1973 as an "A" class National Park.

After a severe illness in the early 1970's, Ken had to give up farming and he returned to studying and later attended Murdoch University to gain his Master of Philosophy degree.

In 1980, at the instigation of Ken, the Fitzgerald River National Park Assn. was formed with the aim of studying, enjoying and protecting the Park.

Through Ken, the Great Southern Region Conservation Council was formed to give strength to the number of small bodies in the area from Albany to Katanning and east to Ongerup.

In 1986-7, the Heritage Commission gave a grant to the FRNPA for a flora and fauna survey of the Park. With some help from members, Andy Chapman and Ken were in charge, and together with Ken's wife Brenda, they provided a sound basis for future biological studies as well as discovering a number of new and rare species.

As an indication of the scale of Ken's contribution, in the past 10 years he has taken the number of known plants from the Fitzgerald from 600 to 1750.

Ken was constantly being sought for advice by Shires, Main Roads Dept & CALM.

For the past 10 years he was Curator of the Ongerup & Needilup Museum, and was responsible for naming specimens at their Wildflower Display which has become recognised both interstate and overseas.

His knowledge of W.A. flora was outstanding and he was always willing to share this with whoever required it. His patience in explaining the complexities of botany to amateurs endeared him to both adults and children.

We will miss him so much and our deepest sympathy goes to Brenda and the rest of his family. "

RANGERS NOTES from Chris Hart, Ranger-in-charge

The Park is still effectively closed to all traffic since the deluges of late April early May (East Mt Barren 300mm, Jerramungup 286mm). Air and ground inspections have confirmed extensive damage has occurred throughout most of the central and eastern sections of the Park. Deep water from the still rising Culham Inlet lies across Southern Ocean West Road at the main Park entrance near East Mt Barren. Several sections of Hamersley Drive to the west of East Mt Barren have been completely washed away. Hamersley Drive is likely to remain closed for several months.

General damage has also occurred along Quiss Road and Pabelup Drive, Collets and Pt Anne Roads. The main western entrance from Devil's Creek Road has been cut six times since the initial deluge.

CALM staff and MRD are assessing the damage. Hopefully repairs will be undertaken in the next few months to enable the re-opening of Pabelup Drive and some sections of Hamersley Drive.

Fitzgerald and Dempster Inlets remain the only inlets that have not broken through to the ocean.

During June, Athol Thomas visited limited sections of the Park gathering information and impressions for the 'Biosphere book'.

The Twertup Hill walk was inspected by Regional staff and requires some further pegging and a rationalisation of its commencement. (Latest information to hand is that the two hills on this walk are to be officially named on maps as 'Horrie' and 'Dorrie' after Horace and Doreen Worth who built the cottage which is now the Field Study Centre.)



Mylies Beach May 2. Dressed timber from footbridge.

The information bay at the eastern entrance to the Park is nearing completion (Bob Newlands is really grateful it is on his side of the Culham!)

Buffer burning programmes have been upset by the rain. Some small sections of Quiss Rd. and the northern private property buffers have been burned.

Of recent interest was a dead red-tailed Wambenger found on the road .3km north of the Twertup and Pabelup Drive junction.

I returned from long service leave in April as Mobile Ranger Bill Badcock departed for Cape Range National park. Mobile Ranger Nathan McQuiod is assisting Bob Newlands while stationed at East Mt Barren. Nathan is shortly to be transferred to the Porongorups but will have to leave his caravan in Bob's care! Since commencing as a Mobile, Nathan has experienced wildfire, floods and the recent wind tempest that struck Busselton - if Culham Inlet keeps rising he may also experience famine! Bob commences annual leave in August. Ranger Geoff Keen recently returned from an annual leave spent mostly marooned at Qualup by the floods.

Talking of Qualup - one of the enclave of small blocks there has come on to the market, and the Association is giving serious consideration to buying it with the idea of establishing a second Field Study Centre. Exciting though this is, this venture would be very expensive - so, be warned, we may be looking to all our members for a little financial assistance!

Work towards the Draft Management Plan moves on and below is an approximate timetable.

- June 21 - Project Team meeting to discuss objective and timetable to publication.
- July 11 - last day for Project Team comments on background sections
- July 14 - FRNP Advisory Committee meeting to discuss background information, objectives and timetable to publication.
- July 27/28 - Project Team meeting to discuss zoning and recommendations for recreation sites, access, rare species, fire and dieback. Other specialists invited.
- Sept 5/6 - FRNP Advisory Committee meeting to discuss zoning and recommendations for recreation sites, access, rare species, fire and dieback.
- Oct 10/14 - Project Team meeting to discuss Draft Management Plan (DMP)
(May be extra meeting in October)
- Nov 14/18 - FRNP Advisory Committee meeting to discuss DMP
- Nov 21 - Brief Policy Directorate on DMP
- Dec 9 - Brief National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.



As a result of winning a Churchill Fellowship, Ken and Brenda spent some time in the U.K. recently and above is one of the photographs she sent home. Her comment "Although U.K. has beautiful buildings for such, there is a great lack of unmodified (by man) environment to study so they make do with what's there."

GEOLOGICAL TRIP TO FITZGERALD by 'Spike'

Our well known member Bill Moir held a geological course for beginners during the Albany summer school and those attending then arranged for a weekend with him to further their knowledge.

The weekend of the 27th March was chosen and the itinerary planned, was first to go into Twertup to examine the sedimentary rocks, plant fossils etc. and then journey to Hopetoun via Hamersley Drive and see the coastal belt of quartzite, phyllitic schists etc and later to Ravensthorpe and Kundip to inspect the ancient igneous rocks of the

mineral belt.

This was the plan but it did not work out exactly like that. Some of the party went into Twertup on the Friday Night and the others expected to join them early on the Saturday morning. However, Mother Nature intervened and those who had gone to Twertup found they had been cut off by boggy roads as it had rained all night.

Ranger Badcock was able to come to their assistance and tow several vehicles out after Mary Milne had contacted someone on her CB radio who in turn phoned the Ranger.

The bulk of the party was waiting patiently at the intersection of Quiss Rd and the Highway, though several cars had chosen to go on to the Hamersley Drive junction. Things had become a little unco-ordinated, for several hours later, when we reached there, we found messages scrawled in the gravel, that those cars had gone down the Drive to Hopetoun.

Bill decided that we would have to reverse our plans and see the mineral belt first as he had arranged a time with resident geologist Ivan Henderson. We visited the pegmatite belt north of Ravensthorpe and then Elverdton, Kundip etc being squired around by Ivan.

Those who had gone via Hopetoun caught up with us there, but some got lost from the main party once more. However, we all made Hopetoun by teatime and a bit of "slap up" accommodation in various places of emergency. (Mainly Keith Bradby's lounge floor while he was overseas!)

Next day we journeyed to the E Mt Barren shoulder, then to West Beach where we were met by Helen Taylor, and Bill explained the origin of the folded rocks, garnets, kyanite crystals etc. We lunched there and then set out leisurely for Albany region once more, looking at rocks along the way.

About 30 persons took part in the expedition and some were from Donnybrook, Boyp and Esperance.

It was a very happy and worthwhile experience and our thanks go out to Bill Moir and of course 'The Wagon Master' Amelia and also Ivan Henderson for his hospitality to our party.

Deep in the vast wilderness of the Fitzgerald River National Park, in the blackness of an outback night, why are Libby and I gazing skywards with such worried expressions.

A T shirt for the best caption!



An invitation from the Denmark Arts Council - August 7 - 13
classes in printmaking, stained glass, woodturning, outdoor adventure, personal growth,
guitar, photography, music instrument making, wine making & tasting, bird study, craft
and wine tour & harnessing a heavy horse.

Interested? Write to Box 156 Denmark 6333

.....
An invitation from the Albany Arts Council - October 10 - 14
A plant identification course, led by Eleanor Bennett.

Interested? Write to Box 1110, Albany 6330 for costs etc.
.....

TOP OF THE CONS

AN INVITATION FROM THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL IS
EXTENDED TO ALL **AFFILIATED GROUPS** TO
BRING TABLES OF EIGHT ALONG TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
QUIZ NIGHT

* ALL QUESTIONS HAVE AN **ENVIRONMENTAL** FLAVOUR

* **BARRY CARBON** CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AUTHORITY, OUR ENTHUSIASTIC **QUIZ MASTER**

* **GOVT. BODIES** DEPTS; COMMITTEES; COUNCILS;
POLICY GROUPS ETC HAVE BEEN INVITED

* **SMOKE FREE** BY POPULAR DEMAND

FRIDAY, 26TH AUGUST

8PM

FLY BY NIGHT CLUB

CNR. QUEEN + HOLDSWORTH STREETS, FREMANTLE

\$5 ENTRY **DRINKS** AVAILABLE FROM BAR

* Rsvp. **22.7.88** - indicating no. of tables required or
if you would like to join with another group!!

contact: Colma Keating

P.O. Box 778 Subiaco 6008
381 4230

Quote of the month - from David Bellamy during a dinner with members of the Conservation Council and Australian Conservation Foundation.

"... if you can't get the right mix here in Western Australia the rest of the world can't.

You have a small population and you're a rich country and you do have some pretty good scientists, for example some arid zone scientists in this university of yours. That's why I made the film "Wheat today - What tomorrow" because if people like Bond and Holmes a Court can't actually see that the foundation that's part of the wealth of this state is blowing away and start doing something about it, then we really haven't got a chance."

.....

- 0 -

Have you paid your subs yet?

Name

Address

Family *10 Individual *6 Pensioner/student *3 Please circle.

Return to Joan Bathgate, Treasurer FRNPA, Box 77, Jerramungup 6337

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- August 13/14 - meet at Kundip, 20km south of Ravensthorpe at 10.0.a.m. after which we'll wander off into the bush to look at stromatolites. In the evening we'll see slides on whales at the Hopetoun Hall and the next day we'll patrol the beaches to whale watch. Bring a sleeping bag and tucker and we'll find a place for you to lay your head.

 - Sept. 24/26 - Dr Kingsley Dixon from Kings Park is coming to Ravensthorpe to look for orchids. Anyone welcome. Again bring sleeping bag and tucker, maybe a mattress too as we'll be camping at the National Trust registered property of Cocanarup which is unoccupied - but for sale.

 - Nov. - Study course on ants with Jonathan Majer - hopefully at Twertup.
-

Keep warm,

Your Hon Sec,

Helen Taylor, Hopetoun 6348

Phone 098 383183

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 199, RAVENSTHORPE, W.A. 6348
REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
PUBLICATION NUMBER WBH 1755

POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
6330

PUBLICITY OFFICER CALM
BOX 104
COMO 6152