

2024 Annual General Meeting
Sunday 14th April 2024 – 1000
Moore River Cafe, Guilderton

Time: 1005

Welcome and acknowledgement of First Nation Yued/Noongar

Attendees:

Diana Papenfus	Neil Lamont	Paul Robinson
Linda Johnson	Joel Collins	Richard Schaeffer
Bob Johnson	Michael Bishop	Jenny Schaeffer
Helen Sadler	Karl Jupp	Phil Smeeton
Dean Bradly	Tim Britten	Rob Devine
Barbara Horton	Linda Buxton	
Gillian Lamont	Anne Andrews	
	Phillippa Colgan	

Apologies:	Steve Broadway, Shane Love MLA, Elizabeth Eaton, Jenny Gibbs, Sandra Papenfus, Jemila Anderson		
	Acceptance of minutes of previous annual general meeting <i>Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the 2023 annual general meeting be accepted.</i>		
	Moved: Gillian Lamont	Seconded: Barbara Horton	Passed
	Chair's report by Linda Johnson: Attachment One		
	Acceptance of annual report <i>Proposed resolution: That the annual report tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted.</i>		
	Moved: Linda Johnson	Seconded: Dean Brady	Passed
	Treasurer's report by Michael Bishop Current FOMRE membership: 30 2023 Balance: \$11972.24 (2022 - \$11492.06) See Attachment Two		
	Acceptance of financial statements <i>Proposed resolution: That the financial statements tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted.</i>		
	Moved: Michael Bishop	Seconded: Barbara Horton	Passed
	Social Media Report by Michael Bishop Social media sustains consistent growth. Facebook has had over 5400 interactions and reached nearly 50,00 people (mostly Australia). There appears to be a 60/40 split of females to males. Primarily the socials collate and post community activities along with occasional occurrences at Guilderton. Successful interactions have been Sandbank breaking/s, Dig attempts, Sunset beauties. Assistance is always appreciated: Like and share posts, Send through historical images/info. There is no paid advertising on FOMRE's social platform.		

	<p>Call for Nominations/ Election of Committee - Conducted by Helen Sadler</p> <p>Results of the election: (Appointed as per 2023 committee) Convenor: Linda Johnson: Deputy Chair: Olivia Samec Secretary: Diana Papenfus Treasurer: Michael Bishop Committee members: Tim Britten, Gillian Lamont, Rob Devine (new member)</p>
	<p>General Business:</p>
	<p><i>Bidamina sand mining</i> proposal – Rob Devine & Linda Johnson Image Resources NL proposes a 10-year dredge mining project for mineral sands south of Orange Springs Road, Cowalla (Shire of Gingin), adjacent to Moore River National Park. FOMRE is concerned about potential negative downstream impacts of the operation. The proximity to Moore River National Park raises significant environmental concerns, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential disruption to native vegetation and threatened ecological communities. • Risk to habitat for endangered black cockatoo species. • Potential impact on mapped Conservation Category Wetlands (damplands) <p>Urgent action is needed for a thorough assessment and effective implementation of mitigation measures. For further details, please refer to the attached map, and overview Attachment 3.</p>
	<p>FOMRE voted to accept the position of opposing the Bidamina project. ACTION Rob Divine agreed to follow up the project on behalf of FOMRE.</p>
	<p><i>Foreshore Working Group</i> (FWG) - Bob Johnson. Information only: Consultation between FWG and the Shire of Gingin has occurred over past 12+months re. The redesign of the foreshore by the Shire of Gingin. (While no action is actually required by FOMRE, suggestions will be appreciated) Major elements will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve amenities/new toilets • Maximise visitor access to the foreshore • Resolve car park congestion/ traffic flow by relocating caravan park entrance • Rebuild/relocate visitor centre and library <p>*Advice/suggestion from membership – FOMRE could indicate to the Shire and FWG is supportive of the action/s. FOMRE approves the following design principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise visitor access • Minimise/remove structures on the foreshore • increase the provision of natural shade/ green footprint of foreshore • reduction of asphalt in the area • provision of services where people expect to find them (visitor centre/ library) • facilitation of new and improved toilet facilities <p>*Further suggestion: Close the current road into caravan park and reroute such that all c/park access is off Gordon Street.</p>
	<p><i>4WD access to beach/sandbar</i>. Access on and off the beach on south side of the groyne – Helen Sadler. Vehicles have been observed travelling up the beach from the south side of the groyne. Exiting the beach at the groyne has become possible due to the increasing levels of sand covering the rocks. The damage to the sandbar and potential conflict to visitor safety needs to be brought to the Shire of Gingin’s attention and rectified. This is both a GCA and FOMRE concern. Both will write to the Shire indicating concerns.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION D Papenfus</p>
	<p><i>Barbara Horton wished to acknowledge the work of members</i> who keep the issue of Moore River protection alive and membership informed.</p>
	<p>Meeting close 11.30</p>
<p>Minute taker: Diana Papenfus</p>	

Attachment 1 Chair Report

Chair's Report to Friends of Moore River Estuary AGM on 14th April 2024

I wish I was able to tell you about progress with Wilbinga Regional Park, or that we have multiplied our understanding of the hydrodynamics of the estuary or that we have found a benevolent buyer for MRS. Sorry, it's been another year similar to the past 5!

But now there is news!

The Shire Council Minutes of March 2024 show an approval to lift a caveat on MRS due to a change of ownership to Parkmar Pty Ltd ATF the Moore River South Trust.

It is now over 30 years since many of us went to the Shire of Gingin, in February 1994, to oppose their plan to rezone the Plunkett land at Moore River South, from Rural to Urban. It is 24 years since the 1st ODP of 2000, and the latest, 2011 ODP is now 13 years old. In 2015 the government gave all these old plans another ten years and so this expires next year.

The most recent subdivision approval is more than 5 years old and expires in January 2025, while the 2100ha of land has been for sale since 2015, nearly 9 years. It's a bummer of a scheme on so many levels! And now there seems to be a new owner who no doubt also has hopes to make millions.

We looked into Parkmar and discovered that the Director, Secretary and all 12 shares are in the name of Peter Medich who has a residence and business address in WA, apparently having moved to WA from Sydney where his family have been adventurous property developers for many years. You can Google them! I am told that Peter is buying up other land in WA, especially around Margaret River.

I then spoke to the Shire Planning Officer James, who told me that he has seen no application to progress development yet. I also watch the DPLH website for any such applications.

The Shire had a recent meeting with the Wheatbelt Development Commission (photo of them on the foreshore in Shire publication) but James claimed no knowledge of any discussions.

Then, last Monday, I decided to visit the office of this new company in Fremantle.

I asked to speak to Peter Medich or anyone working on the Moore River South project.

After a wait, a very nice woman came to the door to see what I wanted but didn't introduce herself and said she wasn't working on the project and how did I know this was their office.

I introduced myself and explained about the Shire Minutes and our follow up and my purpose was to let them know that there was great interest in protecting Moore River Estuary, which we presumed they shared, and that we would like to know their plans so we could work with them to get the best outcome for the estuary and bushland.

In 5 minutes, on the doorstep, I explained our position, and the problems they are likely to encounter, namely that in a high bushfire prone area, in a cul-de-sac between the river and the ocean; with no roads, power, water or sewerage, development will be expensive and problematic with opposition from Main Roads among others.

I asked her about the 40 conditions on the current subdivision approval and how they were being addressed. I pointed out that the approvals for a Water plant over near Woodridge were subject to "financial hardship" and that the Solar plant was also far from practical as it stands, also over by the Woodridge boat ramp.

She told me that their planners must know these things and I told her that over the last few years I have heard of several planners who have looked at the possibilities here and found them so impractical that no-one has agreed to invest in them until Parkmar came along. She told me that the sale wasn't finalised, which made me wonder why the Shire would have lifted the Caveat already?

She was clearly surprised and told me I had caught her on the back foot.

I told her with only a business address to go on, no phone or email contact, it was my only option.

I reiterated my desire to work with them on any plans for MRS and my willingness to share our devotion to the area and left her with my card and a promise from her to email me with contact details so we could discuss further. I haven't heard from anyone yet!

I am also in contact with a friend who works with developers, about our options within the current planning documents such as the Town Planning Strategy and Scheme 9 and the EPA.

There's a lot to learn and I am always happy to welcome new people to our cause, and to explain as much of the long history as you wish to hear.

We may need all the help we can get if this turns out to be an aggressive move to develop quickly.

Unfortunately, any developer has the Shire on their side as there are documents which show an expectation of development for 1927 residents in 0-5 years' time.

Our proposal for Wilbinga Regional Park, the King's Park of the North, which we made in 2019, has been our main focus for protection of this whole area, especially as it would further isolate any 'development area' between the estuary and Perth city.

I have copies of this Plan which you are welcome to take.

Essentially, we want to protect the coast and bushland between Perth city at Two Rocks and the estuary, from the coast to IOD. A Regional Park allows recreational use but prohibits urbanisation.

We have appealed to anyone who we think might be able to buy the MRC land as the rest of the land is in forestry and conservation areas already and includes a parcel of native title land.

We would welcome anyone with expertise in these areas to come to talk to us.

The Turquoise Coast Management Group.

The TCMG consists of reps of the Shires of Gingin, Dandaragan and Coorow, as well as DBCA (Dept Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), Parks and Wildlife and local groups like us, and other Friends groups from Lancelin, Jurien Bay, Greenhead, Coorow etc.

This group met 3 times in 2021 to prioritise our concerns, which largely have been distilled as 4WD and ORV use of the coast and secondly, weed invasion and maintenance of healthy coastal areas.

Access to the coast is TCMGs major focus and NACC is now working with Anthony Seymour, who is co-ordinating plans that will enable all stakeholders to work together.

We will never have proper Govt funding for Coastcare but there are a lot of good people in Shires and Govt departments who want the same outcomes as we do.

DBCA Wanneroo is responsible for administration over the Wilbinga Plan area, which is currently being heavily impacted by 4WD users. We are in conversation with them and the Wilbinga Shacks Crew about preventing further degradation of Wilbinga, thru the TCMG. Our say might be minimal but the collective voices of others who agree with us just might lead to better protection of this coast and bushland for the future.

For the 3 years since the South West Native Title Settlement was made, with the intention to create Indigenous Land Use Agreements over the SW of WA, we haven't heard much.

The claims throughout the Yued lands, some of them in areas of interest to us, both in Wilbinga and between Guilderton and Seabird, are still being worked on.

In other matters, Guilderton only had 363mm of rain in all of 2023 and this year had only seen 3.5mm until a storm went thru on Friday, giving us another 41mm.

Last October to March saw only 18mm in town over 6 months so Friday's deluge is very welcome.

Thankfully the sandbar has been intact all summer and should stay that way until serious rains start.

With our very warm summer, we are starting to see much more algae and also bacterial levels rise at times in the estuary.

The Health Dept and Shire monitor the estuary bacteria levels and put any warnings on their website and Facebook and erect signs at affected spots.

Many thanks to Michael Bishop for keeping our social media active, as his posts encourage people's enthusiasm for this special place.

And a special thank you to Ryan Kam and Mark Shackleton from DWER who so efficiently run our water testing program on the estuary. Last year they produced a marvellous report which is on our website at guildertonwa.com.au.

We did water testing in February and the results look good.

Next water testing day will be in early July, and we welcome visitors to help.

We continue to support the Conservation Council of WA, Urban Bushland Council, Moore Catchment Council, Birdlife WA and the local community groups of the lower coastal area.

Again I must thank you all for your ongoing membership and support and also your committee, vice chair Olivia Samec, secretary Diana Papenfus, treasurer and social media man Michael Bishop, also Gillian Lamont, and Tim Britten for their work to keep FOMRE going.

I encourage anyone who would like to join us to nominate for committee as we head into another year Protecting Moore River Estuary.
 Many thanks to you all, Linda Johnson Chair 2023

Attachment 2 Financial Statement

Friends of Moore River Estuary Financial Statement 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

<u>Balance brought forward 1 January</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Bendigo Bank Account	\$ 11,492.06	\$ 9,836.88
<u>Income</u>		
memberships	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,050.00
donations	\$ 630.08	\$ 985.00
total income	\$ 930.08	\$ 2,035.00
<u>Expenditure</u>		
administration(PO Box)	\$ 107.00	\$ 44.00
subscriptions	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00
sundries	\$ -	\$ -
website	\$ 282.40	\$ 215.82
total expenditure	\$ 449.40	\$ 379.82
Profit/Loss @ 31 December	\$ 480.68	\$ 1,655.18
Balance @ 31 December	\$ 11,972.74	\$ 11,492.06
<u>Bank Reconciliation</u>		
Bendigo Bank Account @ 31 December	\$ 11,972.74	\$ 11,492.06
outstandings	\$ -	\$ -
Cash @ Bank 31 December	\$ 11,972.74	\$ 11,492.06

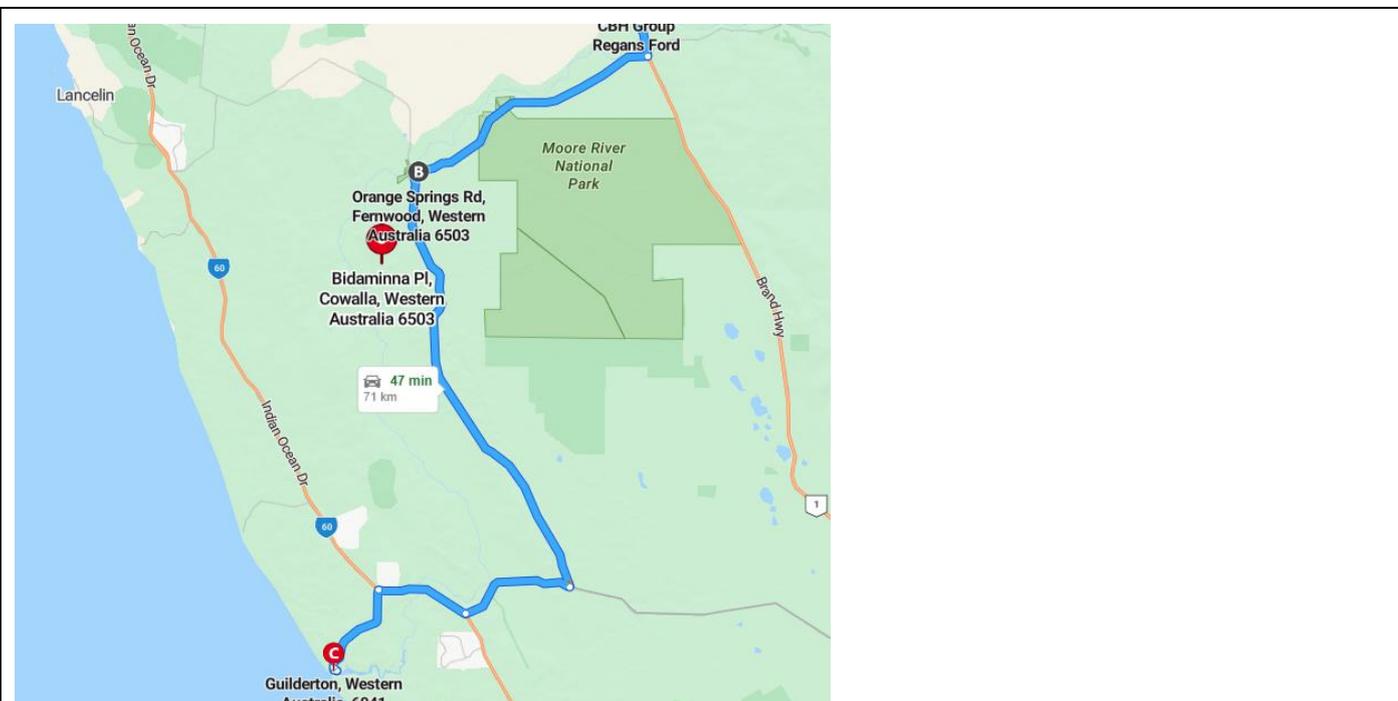
Notes to 2023 Accounts

Total number of members 30

Thanks goes to our many volunteers and members that have donated in addition to their annual membership :)
 (Additional donations are allocated to membership when in arrears in former years)

Attachment 3

Biddaminna Project



Overview

Image Resources NL is proposing a mineral sands extraction project south of Orange Springs Road, Cowalla (Shire of Gingin), adjacent to Moore River National Park. The project encompasses a 10-year operation for progressive and linear dredge mining of the sand resource, along with the development of temporary waste dumps, tailings storage, processing facilities, solar drying ponds, water supply infrastructure, and associated supporting infrastructure. The proposed mine disturbance area covers approximately 950 hectares within a 1950-hectare development envelope, while the external infrastructure disturbance area spans around 50 hectares within a 75-hectare development envelope. The project's proximity to Moore River National Park raises concerns about potential impacts on native vegetation, threatened ecological communities, habitat for endangered black cockatoo species, and mapped Conservation Category Wetlands (damplands).