

OUR RIVER NEEDS MOORE FRIENDS

Friends of Moore River Estuary Inc.
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Minutes

FOMRE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 24th April 2021

Guilderton Community Club

Open@ 1005

- Acknowledgement of Yued country and first peoples
- Acknowledgement of Yued visitors Bev Port-Louis and Colin Headland (delivered by Linda Johnson)

1. Attendance:

Diana Papenfus	Neil Lamont	Nic Dunlop	Elizabeth Eaton
Bob Johnson	Barbara Horton	Peter Enright	Bev Port-Louis
Linda Johnson	Ken Horton	Tim Britten	
Gillian Lamont	Alison Goundrey	Colin Headland	

2. Apologies.

J. Staude	Jenny Gibbs	Kerry Smith	Martin Aldridge
David Wake	Michael Bishop	Joel	Helen Sadler
Diane Robinson	John Quigley	John Prince	Pauline Pannell

3. Minutes of 2020 AGM.

Moved: L. Johnson 2nd G. Lamont Accepted as correct

4. Chair's Report. (Attachment One.)

- FOMRE position paper, The **Wilbinga Regional Park – the Kings Park of the north!** Referred to in the Chair's report and added as an attachment to these minutes. (Attachment Three)
- The Pannell presentation video 'Wilbinga Regional Park Proposal' played to the meeting concurrent with the delivery of the Chairperson's report.

5. Treasurer's Report. (Attachment Two)

Moved: G. Lamont 2nd L. Johnson

6. Social Media Report

Michael Bishop was an apology (Covid restrictions) and no report was submitted.

Gillian Lamont continues to manage Guildertonwa.org. (March 2021 the website has received 3000 hits.)

7. Call for Nominations/ Election of Committee.

Alison Goundrey of the Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) presided over the election of committee.

The 2021 committee is elected as follows:

Name	Position	Proposed	Seconded	Voted
Linda Johnson	Chair	A.G	D.P	unanimous

			L.J. accepted	
Pauline Pannell	Deputy Chair	L.J.	Neil Lamont	unanimous
Diana Papenfus	Secretary	L.J.	Gillian Lamont	unanimous
Gillian Lamont	Treasurer	D.P.	L.J.	unanimous
Michael Bishop	Committee	L.J.	G.L.	unanimous

8. General Business

- Paul Robinson sought clarification as to the attitude of the Shire of Gingin towards the development proposed on the south side of the river. "Within the culture of the Gingin Shire do they realise the natural asset and the wave of support the general public have for the quality and pristine areas?"

L.J. answer involved an explanation of the political history and pro-development attitudes within the Shire of Gingin and State governments over the years. The Shire has been in favour of the development for most, if not all of the history of the proposal. There has been anti-development support in the past from several of the councilors (including Elizabeth Eaton, Dorothy Roberts and Peter Enright) but this appears to have evaporated and FOMRE is not confident that there is anyone who could be considered an ally or is concerned about the effects urbanizing the river will have on its ecology/future. A particular previous Shire planning officer was conscientious in ensuring due process being applied. FOMRE believes that under the Barnett Government this position has been weakened over the past few years.

To date the McGowan government has not rescinded any of the previous government's decisions effect on Moore River estuary.

- LJ invited the Conservation Council of Western Australia to contribute to the meeting. Alison Goundrey and Nic Dunlop indicated they are very interested in the progress of water quality monitoring. LJ provided an outline of its history – the original partnership between FOMRE and NACC (including a MOU) with the Department of Water coming on board at a later date. [Moore River Tours boat, five sites, 2-4 times/year].An explanation of procedure outlined.
- LJ presented the results of five years of water quality testing. The results are very pleasing. Current indications are that a healthy status quo exists. Linda talked to a presentation prepared by DOW Ryan Kam. Five years of results were presented in tables and graphs. Well received.

LJ identified the positive 30-year long role the Lower Moore River Working Group's (LMRWG) projects have had on river health. These include stock exclusion fencing, tree planting and other land management activities.

The quality of water is maintained also from flows of the artesian springs located within the estuary. Peter Enright informed the meeting of activity further up river, in early 2021, particularly from two large storm events at Moora and near Miling. Significant water flow and debris arrived at the confluence of these creeks at Mogumber. This water would have carried a lot of salinity from the run-off from farmland up and around those areas. When the water reaches Reagan's Ford area a large injection of artesian water occurs and this will help to 'cleanse' the water. LJ indicated that water quality testing will occur in May 2021 (Friday 21 May?) and it will be interesting to see if results reflect this upstream rain event.

'That's pretty good isn't it? Our artesian systems are keeping up and delivering good quality water' – Peter Enright

Bob Johnson indicated that this data provides us with a good baseline from which changes can be monitored into the future.

- All the Moore River Estuary information can be found on the Department of Waters WIN database. <https://water.wa.gov.au/maps-and-data/monitoring/water-information-reporting>

- Nic Dunlop suggested the testing for Selenium should be added. <https://www.waterquality.gov.au/anz-guidelines/guideline-values/default/water-quality-toxicants/toxicants/selenium-2000>

- Elizabeth Eaton comment: the 2004 – 2009 water quality data was a Guilderton Community Association project

- Bob Johnson sought a vote of thanks be given to Ryan Kam for the presentation and the ongoing participation in monitoring the health of the river

- Bev Port-Louis and Colin Headland representatives of the 'The Yued Working Party explained to the meeting their connection and opinion with the Noongar Land Estate claim. (See below). It does appear there is much to consider and negotiate between Yued working groups. Bev and Colin indicated they understood FOMRE's position on furthering/supporting Aboriginal training activities in future negotiations within Wilbinga.

Aboriginal Lands Trust *"The State Government is committed to divesting **Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT)** properties and identifying the beneficiaries of the ALT estate. As a part of the Settlement, some ALT freehold properties that are unleased have already been included in the terms of the Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) for transfer to the Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT) and will be among the first parcels to be transferred once the Settlement commences."* <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/projects-and-initiatives/south-west-native-title-settlement/noongar-land-estate/land-allocation>

Bev went on to explain some of the issues associated with this initiative. Including: how land will be identified and eventually allocated to the Noongar Land Estate, the Yued Regional Corporation, and the relationship they have with the current Reconciliation action plan.

- Peter Enright sought from FOMRE a map defining the area that FOMRE is championing. Linda will provide copies to Bev and Colin and directed him to FOMRE's website. WWW.Guildertonwa.org
- DP – vote of thanks to Linda Johnson and Gillian Lamont for their constancy in keeping abreast of issues that affect the estuary and keeping FOMRE's profile active.
- Peter Enright – vote of thanks to Bev Port Louis an Colin Headland for their attendance to FOMRE

Meeting Ended at 11:15

Attachment One:

Chair's Report to Friends of Moore River Estuary AGM on 24th April 2021

Welcome to you all and thank you for coming to our AGM.

It is now 27 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.

That was the first big mistake, the consequences of which we are still fighting.

The latest Planning decision on the now, Moore River Company, land was to give a Subdivision approval over the 357ha of the ODP in January 2019, with 40 Conditions attached.

The whole 2100ha of MRC land has been for sale since 2015.

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 so we hope that the economics alone will see this development proposal fail and this valuable bushland left intact.

Prompted by our Premier's Plan for Our Parks, FOMRE made a proposal for Wilbinga Regional Park, the King's Park of the North, 2 years ago, which you have all seen.

While not accepted into the Premier's Plan, we continue to push our Plan for a Regional Park.

DBCA Wanneroo is responsible for administration over the Plan area, which is currently being heavily impacted by 4WD users. We are in conversation with DBCA, the Wilbinga Shacks Crew and 4WD clubs about preventing degradation of Wilbinga. Our say might be minimal but we are not alone in wanting to protect this coast and bushland for the future.

Since our last meeting the South West Native Title Settlement has been achieved, with the intention to create Indigenous Land Use Agreements over the SW of WA.

This includes claims throughout the Yued lands, some of them in areas of interest to us, both in Wilbinga and between Guilderton and Seabird.

I am sorry that Jai Wilson, a member of FOMRE, can't be here today to answer our questions but I will put more questions to him about the likely effects of the ILUA. My great hope is that Wilbinga might be suitable for aboriginal Ranger education and training programmes, leading to a win/win for both employment and protection of this great bush, so close to Perth. My greatest hope is for collaboration resulting in great planning so the future of Wilbinga is assured.

In other matters, the sandbar broke after the unseasonal summer rain but only for 3 days. The estuary filled fast and is clear and lovely. We did water testing in March and Ryan has made us a summary of our results which I hope to show you today. Next testing day will be in May.

In March I attended the Coastcare day arranged by Northern Agricultural Catchment Council and held in Jurien Bay and also the Wetlands conference in Mandurah where we celebrated 50 years since the RAMSAR Convention was signed in Europe. The Peel Harvey catchment and estuary is an extensive and important wetland of international significance and it was fascinating to learn more about it.

We have many of the same issues but on a much smaller scale and can be very glad that our estuary is still so healthy.

Today we welcome Alison Goundrey and Nic Dunlop from Conservation Council of WA, who is the umbrella body for conservation groups all over WA. Their support and liaisons with Government are important as we all try to raise the profile of keeping our waterways, bushland and forests healthy. Their divisions about renewable energy via their Clean State Plan, and Clean Jobs are relevant to us all.

I'm sure that Nic and Alison will be happy to answer your questions too.

We continue to share support with the 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, Pauline, Diana, Gillian and Michael 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.

**Attachment Two:
2021 FOMRE AGM Treasurer's Report**

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Friends of Moore River Estuary Financial Statement 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

<u>Balance brought forward 1st January</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Bendigo Bank Account	\$ 6,887.52	\$ 5,698.34
<u>Income</u>		
memberships	\$ 850.00	\$ 720.00
donations	\$ 1,010.00	\$ 825.00
sticker sales	\$ -	\$ -
interest	\$ -	\$ -
total income	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,545.00
<u>Expenditure</u>		
administration(PO Box)	\$ 39.00	\$ 35.00
bumper stickers	\$ -	\$ -
subscriptions	\$ 120.00	\$ 105.00
sundries	\$ -	\$ -
website	\$ 215.82	\$ 215.82
total expenditure	\$ 374.82	\$ 355.82
Profit/Loss @ 31 December 2020	\$ 1,485.18	\$ 1,189.18
Balance @ 31 December 2020	\$ 8,372.70	\$ 6,887.52
<u>Bank Reconciliation</u>		
Bendigo Bank Account @ 31 December 2020	\$ 8,372.70	\$ 6,887.52
outstandings		
Cash @ Bank 31 December 2020	\$ 8,372.70	\$ 6,887.52

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Map 1

Notes to 2020 Accounts

Total number of members 85

Subscriptions are for Urban Bushland and WA Conservation Council

Donations

Rob and Helen Millstead	\$ 250.00	Kerry Smith	\$ 90.00
Gill Meecham	\$ 90.00	Robert and Trish Guthrie	\$ 80.00
Pauline Pannell	\$ 80.00	Paul and Diane Robinson	\$ 70.00
Brad Giblett	\$ 50.00	Steve Braodway	\$ 50.00
Anthony Tompson	\$ 40.00	Shannen Britten	\$ 40.00
Bob and Linda Johnson	\$ 30.00	Chris and Brenda Hicks	\$ 30.00
Chris and Anne Andrews	\$ 30.00	Kylie Tirner	\$ 20.00
Jai Wilson	\$ 20.00	John and Sharon Staude	\$ 20.00
Sean Burke	\$ 10.00	Diana Papenfus	\$ 10.00