



## Ferguson Valley Member Update

March 2017

### PROMOTE - REPRESENT - CO-ORDINATE - CREATE

Following the holiday period Brian Rettinger and Karin Williams were back in full swing with the membership drive and map upgrade. It was a bit rushed, but we were keen to have something to show at our first networking evening. Our membership has increased to 54, and we are still recruiting. The real benefit of the increased membership is the recognition that the FVMP represents industry, which the Shire of Dardanup can rely on and assist financially.

In January, Brian and Karin met with Fran Kenneally, Manager of the Collie Visitor Centre, who saw the benefit in working together with our Networking Group. While in Collie they met with the owner of Harris River Estate, who joined as a financial member to be added onto the revised Map. Prior to our Sundowner in February they also met with Helen Denton the new Manager of the Harvey Visitor Centre, strongly supporting the Tourism Circle.



We had a strong FVMP Representation at the launch of several Fund Announcements by Leaders and nominating Candidates of the upcoming State Government Elections.

**Labor - 30<sup>th</sup> January.** Hon Mick Murray & Paul Papalia at Wellington Forest Cottages with the following promise:  
A McGowan Labor Government will allocate \$300,000 towards a marketing campaign to promote the Ferguson Valley and Wellington Forest areas. This is exactly the amount requested by your Board. They also stated separately that they will prioritise sealing the Wellington Forest Road, which will complete the "Loop". FVMP Members attending: Wendy Perdon, Brian Rettinger, Kim Wesley and Karin Williams

**Nationals - 3<sup>rd</sup> February.** The Launch of the Nationals Campaign attended by Phil Smith, Brian Rettinger and Karin Williams on behalf of the FVMP at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre. If elected, the Nationals promise increased Funds through Royalties for Regions for Tourism in the South West Regions to the tune of 61 Million dollars to promote and create increased Employment Opportunities.

**The Liberal Party** has not to date made any new promises to the Ferguson Valley, however, has reiterated their promise to upgrade the Wellington Mills Mountain Bike tracks.

#### **FVMP Sundowner - 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Our Sundowner was well attended by Members and Representatives of key stakeholders and Candidates for the upcoming Government Elections.

Phil Smith opened the evening, setting out the achievements of the work undertaken to date by the new Board. Brian Rettinger followed, launching the new updated Ferguson Valley and surrounds Touring Map which can be found on our website in the "Gnoming On" section of our Welcome page. Our new Business Plan is also available for viewing under the "Members" tab.



A beautiful selection of food was provided by Board Members. The generous collection of Wines were donated by Willow Bridge, Henty View, Carlaminda, Ferguson Falls, St. Aidan's and Beer with plenty of ice compliments of Cr Tyrrell Gardiner. Thank you to all for making this a very successful evening.

We propose to hold future networking Sundowners on a 2-3 monthly basis, helping to promote the Valley members businesses. Members are welcome to put in an expression of interest to host a Sundowner by making contact with Gae Bessen or Lynda Vandersteen at [marketing@fergusonvalley.net.au](mailto:marketing@fergusonvalley.net.au).

Until next time...