

# **FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held at the Folly, Warrandyte State Park, Sunday 10th November 2019 at  
5.00pm

**Chairperson:** Artur Muchow **Minutes:** Lynda Gilbert

**Present:** Marie Krause, Lynda Gilbert, Gray Ardern, Artur Muchow, Ken Crook, Jeff Cranston, Kelvin Watkins, Carolyn Noel, Joy Hick, Barrie Taylor, Kay Williams, Lisa Jenkins, Jan Falconer, Gloria Moore, Annette Lion, John Young, Judy Green, Phil Rance.

**Apologies:** Linda Rogan, Josh Revell, Cathy Willis, Diane & John Baird, Wolfgang Krause, Ben & Margaret Gotlib, Bev and John Hanson, Michelle Tumino, Faye Williams, Warren Murphy, Michelle Tumino, Caitriona Young, Carol Page, Cliff Green.

## **1. Welcome by the Chairperson:**

Artur welcomed all to the meeting.

## **2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

The draft minutes of 2018 AGM were tabled. Moved Artur Muchow that the minutes were an accurate record of the proceedings of the 2018 AGM. Seconded by Kelvin Watkins. Carried.

## **3. Reports:**

### **Year in Review** (*See Appendix 1*)

Report presented and moved by: Gray Ardern. Seconded: Artur Muchow. Carried.

### **Nursery report** (*See Appendix 2*)

Gray Ardern presented a report prepared by the Nursery Manager, Josh Revell.

Report prepared by Josh Revell and moved by: Gray Ardern Seconded: Artur Muchow. Carried.

### **Treasurer's report** (*See Appendix 3*)

Lynda Gilbert tabled the audited Annual Report.

Report presented and moved by: Lynda Gilbert. Seconded: Artur Muchow. Carried.

### **Ranger's Report** (*See Appendix 4*)

Report presented and moved by: Phil Rance. Seconded: Lynda Gilbert. Carried.

## **4. Election of Committee of Management**

All positions were declared vacant. There were no nominations from the floor. The following members were nominated as committee members for 2019/20 -

Secretary: Artur Muchow. Treasurer: Lynda Gilbert

Ordinary members: Gray Ardern, Kelvin Watkins, Linda Rogan, Lisa Jenkins, Jeff Cranston, Carolyn Noel. All committee places were declared filled.

## **5. Any Other Business**

Moved Lynda Gilbert that those members with an email address be asked to pay \$10 per annum more if they request a hard copy of the newsletter, to cover the cost of postage. Seconded Artur Muchow. Carried.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 6pm.

A presentation was given by retired Parks Ranger, Steve Anderson - “**Ranging Across the Years**”.

## Appendix 1: Year in Review - Gray Ardern

Firstly, we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to play our part in making Warrandyte State Park and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Reserve such a priceless asset. We thank Faye Williams, Area Chief Ranger for Plenty Gorge and Warrandyte, and closer to home, Warren Murphy, our Ranger Team Leader, and his team of dedicated Rangers.

We are particularly grateful to Ranger Phil Rance, who has become our *de facto* contact ranger. We greatly appreciate his knowledge, enthusiasm, and willingness. He is extremely busy doing the job for which he was formally engaged, but somehow, he finds the time and energy to go the extra mile for us! We thank Ranger Cam Beardsell for his leadership of Thursday Activity Groups – always an education and an inspiration! We also thank Ranger Colin Bromiley for keeping the river-water pump going.

I don't usually acknowledge our Office Bearers, but I do wish to thank our Treasurer, Lyndy Gilbert, for producing delicious and varied Morning Teas week after week – the Bush Crew particularly enjoys the portable morning tea that Lyndy provides!

I will now mention a couple of this year's achievements: The Walert Creek Habitat Restoration and Protection Project is now in its third and final year, and there is now a very gratifying reduction in weediness. The many hundreds of plants of local provenance that we have put in are doing well.

Last year I mentioned that Cam and Phil and I had found two colonies of the *Chiloglottis* orchids that are a focus of this grant. At the time of our grant application these colonies were believed to be of *C. jeansii* [Mountain Bird Orchid] but re-examination of the orchid, when it bloomed in September 2018, suggested that it was actually a *Chiloglottis* species with affinities to *Chiloglottis valida*. Very recently orchid specialist Geoff Carr came and inspected this orchid in flower, and is inclined to believe that it is an as-yet undescribed species! Not so long ago many of you attended a celebration to mark the installation of interpretative signs in Frogland - signs that were funded by the Wettenhall Environment Trust. We had a perfect spring day to admire all the work that Linda Rogan, Marie Krause and scores of other FOWSPians have put into the rejuvenation of Frogland.

The Nursery Manager's Report ably expresses appreciation of our knowledgeable and industrious Nursery staff, Michelle Tumino and Annette Lion so I will not repeat those thanks here. Behind the scenes Kelvin Watkins and Jason Patton are forever toiling to keep essential systems going, for which we are extremely grateful, and I will take this opportunity to express our thanks to Josh. So many tasks fall to the obliging and uncomplaining Josh. It is Josh who keeps track of the life-cycle of the countless species of plants we propagate, predicts the precise moment to harvest the seeds of all those species, and gets out there to collect them. And of course, it is Josh's expertise which ensures the successful propagation of those plants! Every Thursday morning there are countless demands on Josh, but everybody gets his full, courteous and helpful attention. Somehow Josh manages to combine knowledge with patience and the ability to communicate well.

Thanking people is in itself a thankless task because one is bound to neglect to give all the thanks that are due – but be assured that we are very grateful for all the help we've had this year. We couldn't have had such a successful year without every single one of your contributions.

FOWSP turned 37 this year, and I'm sure you will agree that this has been yet another successful and productive year!

## **Appendix 2: Nursery Report – Josh Revell (presented by Gray Ardern)**

This year the nursery produced 30,500 plants. About 10,000 of these have gone into the Park - mainly into Melbourne Water and Anderson's Creek plantings.

Many more of these plants were put into the park by the Thursday Activity Group.

These plantings included:

- Re-vegetation at Walert Creek
- Rare plants for Wildcat and Betton's Tracks on Fourth Hill
- Threatened orchids for Burgan Bend
- Pollinator food plants for one tree Hill and Chaim Court
- Plants for Melbourne Water grants and National Tree Day.

(Josh comments that there's been about a 90% success rate for plantings within browser-exclusion fences.)

Apart from plants that were paid for by various grants, FOWSP donated about 1100 plants for various projects within the Park.

We also continued our support for local schools and kindergartens with our annual gift of 50 free plants per school.

Josh notes that there has been a lot of praise for Frogland, the Pollinator Garden and for Alwyn's garden, above the car-park. These are a great source of propagating material, and a useful exhibition of mature plants.

Josh notes that the Nursery's water-plants, orchids and ferns have also been productive.

He also notes that we have a great team of dedicated volunteers, many of whom are willing to stick to tedious but essential tasks. He praises the new volunteers who joined this year, bringing with them their skills and personality to add to the great vibe in the Nursery. He singles out Darren, the scourge of thistles!

Josh wishes us to remember members who can no longer attend on Thursdays - they might be absent, but they are not forgotten.

Josh also thanks PV, Cam, Phil and Col, the Committee and the Morning Tea Lady [now who might that be?]

## **Appendix 3: Treasurer's Report – Lyndy Gilbert**

FOWSP's audited income for 2018-9 was \$53,901, some \$15k lower than last financial year. Expenses were \$69,339, due to expenditure of grants from the previous financial year.

Memberships were up slightly in comparison with last year: 169 Full members, 56 Complimentary & 52 Concessions.

Grants received last year were spent this financial year. Volunteers erected a frame over the sales area, installed deer fencing, embedded a 30,000 litre water tank and installed plumbing fittings to the new tank as well as the watering frame over the sales area. The Wettenhall grant provided new signage for Frogland at a cost of \$2,970. A DSS grant provided a new Epson screen & projector and the Manningham City Council funding provided a new bbq.

Catering costs have gone up due to increase in the price of food, but other line items are fairly constant.

Thanks to Parks Vic for reimbursing FOWSP for the purchase of a quantity of tools and some administration expenses. We really appreciate their ongoing support of our activities.

## **Appendix 4: Parks Vic Ranger's Report - Phil Rance**

There have been no local management changes and Parks Vic in Warrandyte is a "steady ship".

Activities this year have included the following.

**Pest Plants removal** – eg peri-urban weed control with DELWP funding.

- **Good Neighbour Program** – this is a broad-based weed control program including Hodgson's Ridge & O'Brien's Lane (eg blackberry removal).
- **Rabbit & Fox Control** – baiting and fumigation of burrows. Fox numbers are being controlled through a soft-jaw trapping program in the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve which will help protect Brush-tailed phascogales, Slender-tailed Dunnarts, Lyrebird, Spotted Quail Thrush and White-throated Nightjars.
- **Biodiversity grant** – A combined Melbourne Water, Nillumbik and Parks Victoria grant that will support weed and fox control on public and private land from Sugarloaf to the Bend of Isles.
- **Weed Projects** – In-house work focusing on removing Chilean/Serrated needlegrass, Pattersons Curse & St Johns Wort, Blackberry, South African Orchid (Disa).
- **Conservation Futures Grants** – grants are being used to erect the new dunnart fences, control fox numbers and carry out weed control.
- **Fences** - New fences were built or old ones raised to exclude browsing pressures on park values; this includes; Fiddler Fence, Burgan Bend, Glynns, Stopes, Candlebark, Scotchman's Hill, Mt Lofty and Rifle Range.
- **PHD student** – From Deakin University, is studying Powerful Owls using a GPS tracking system which will demonstrate the importance of Warrandyte's trees to their survival.
- **Phascogale trapping and monitoring program** – this is the 19<sup>th</sup> year that this program has been going.

- **Southern Toadlet** - The Southern Toad is listed as vulnerable and has disappeared from the majority of our park. Craig Cleeland, a local expert has been surveying for them and assisting with a recovery program.
- **Threatened Orchids** - Cam Beardsell is doing a 20-year review of the decline of species. Fences have helped stop some of the decline, as 90% of our remaining orchids are now fenced. Overall a great year for our threatened orchid recovery with lots of flowering events and lots of natural pollination
- **Walert Grant** - will finish in 2020.
- **Fourth Hill** - - this is in its second year of grant for fencing, planting, weed control.
- **Planned Burns** A fuel reduction burn was conducted in Whipstick Gully and a 'Cultural' winter burn was carried out in conjunction with Wurundjeri at Flora Crescent, St Andrews.
- **Bike Trails** - a Bendigo Bank grant was awarded to Warrandyte Mountain Bile Club to help fund assessments of the proposed bike trail in Tikalara
- **New Ranger** - Josh Berick is our new Ranger (Designated Aboriginal Position) replacing Janaya O'Dempsey.
- **Volunteering** - 13 Thursday Activity Groups have replaced fences, installed dunnart hotels, planted in various parts of the park and conducting weed control.
- **Illegal dumping** - still happening at various places; Gold Memorial Picnic area and Glynns.
- **Vandalism and graffiti** - is an ongoing issue; Whipstick gully, Mt Lofty, Yarra Brae, Wittons, Fourth Hill.
- **Dogs in Parks** - still an on-going issue. New signage has gone up to inform park users of the parks 'no dog' regulations
- **Illegal land clearing** - eg the Northern Reserves.
- **Illegal removal of firewood** - wood is being taken from areas eg Black Flat, Northern Reserves.
- **Increased visits to Pound Bend** - this is creating challenges and issues for Parks Vic, community and council.
- **Browsing Pressures** - protective fencing is one solution, but the issue has been raised with DELWP and specialist advice is being sought, especially on deer management strategies. Professional hunters are currently being employed at Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Cardinia, Yarra Ranges, Jumping Creek and Brushy Creek.
- **Volunteers** - Thanks to volunteers for their contribution of 4000 hours of work, as well as their community engagement on the values of the Parks.