



FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held at The Folly, Sunday 14th November 2021 at 5pm

1. **Welcome:** The Chair Artur Muchow welcomed attendees and thanked PV Ranger Phil Rance for attending.
2. **Attendees:** Artur Muchow, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook, Gray Ardern, Carolyn Noel, Don Vincent, David Vass, Jeff Cranston, Jan Falconer, Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, Austin McLaughlin, Lynda McLaughlin, Phil Rance, Lyn Moore, Leon Moore, Lisa Jenkins, Kelvin Watkins.
3. **Apologies:** Joy Hick & Barrie Hick, Gloria Moore, Jacqui Murphy, Martin Hiley, Tony Oliver, Patricia Blackman, Carol Page, Josh Revell, Cathy Willis, Caitriona & John Young.
4. **Minutes of Previous AGM 14th March 2021:**
Moved Jan Falconer that the minutes be accepted. Seconded Lyndy Gilbert. Carried. Business Arising - nil (note: due to COVID restrictions, it was not possible to hold an AGM in November 2020 as in previous years).
5. **Reports 2021:**

Parks Vic Report	- Phil Rance <i>Attachment 1</i>
The Year in Review	- Gray Ardern <i>Attachment 2</i>
Nursery Report	- Gray Ardern/Josh Revell <i>Attachment 2</i>
Treasurer's Report	- Lyndy Gilbert <i>Attachment 3</i>

Moved Lyndy Gilbert that the reports be received. Seconded Gray Ardern. Carried.
6. **Any other business:**

6.1 Election of Committee of Management

Jan Falconer took over from the Chair and declared that the number of vacancies to be 8. She asked for further nominations. There were no further nominations from the floor. The committee was therefore re-elected and comprises:

Artur Muchow – Secretary

Lyndy Gilbert – Treasurer

Linda Rogan – Newsletter Editor

Committee members - Kelvin Watkins, Jeff Cranston, Gray Ardern, Lyn Moore & Lynda Chambers.



ATTACHMENT 1 – PV RANGER'S REPORT

Parks Victoria Management changes

- No changes

CHALLENGES

- Covid 19 lockdowns.
- Increased visitation and associated issues right across the PV estate and particularly metro Melbourne due to restrictions etc. Local – Mt Lofty, Pound Bend and Jumping Creek, more remote sites - Glynns.
- Illegal Mountain bike tracks created – eg Fourth Hill.
- Public bringing dogs into no-dog areas – eg Glynns Reserve, Mt Lofty, Pound Bend.
- General pressure on the parks due to lockdowns and limited range of travel.
- Several storm-damage events – causing the loss of many mature trees.

PEST PLANT PROGRAMS

- Peri Urban Weed Management Initiative. (extension). Weed control throughout habitat corridor including Northern Reserves, Panton Hill & Warrandyte State Park. This program focuses on achieving a landscape approach to weed control. It also incorporates works through Kinglake National Park and Plenty Gorge Parklands.
- Good Neighbour Programs
 - o O'Briens Lane/Candlebark – Templestowe – Woody Weeds – Broom, Hawthorn, Boneseed removed.
- Blackberry control – Warrandyte State Park & Yarra Valley Parklands.
- Threatened Species/Biodiversity protection – Grassy Weed control.
- Native Vegetation offset program (pest plant & animal control) – Timber Reserve & The Common.
- Sugarloaf Link BRP – Yanakie, Ironbark & Ridge.
- Post burn weed control
 - o Fiddler Gully
 - o Sutton St – St Andrews
 - o Flora Crs – St Andrews
- In-house weed program (including new & emerging weeds, annual weed follow-up) right throughout Middle Yarra – Chilean, Serrated, Patto, Blackberry, Woodies, Capers spurge, Gorse, Briar etc.

PEST ANIMAL PROGRAMS

- Annual rabbit control program throughout the Yarra corridor – Feb and May'ish (Good Neighbour programs).



- Fox control program in One Tree Hill & Rifle Range (contractor) – Jan – 6 foxes removed and May/June – 7 foxes removed
- Sugarloaf Link BRP – Fox control Yanakie, Ironbark & One Tree Hill – Jan – 10 foxes. May – 2 foxes
- Deer control program (also BRP funded) – Yanakie (contractor based) – 21 deer from 4 nights in our 100 Ha.
- Continuation of Biodiversity Fence construction/raising due to herbivore grazing impacts - fixed up skirt on Fiddler fence, contractor-built fences at Flora Cres, Dodds St, OTH, Boomers (1 fence raised, 2 new ones created) and 2 new fences at Rifle Range – all protecting incredibly rare plants and veg types – many listed plants. 3 fences are 1 Ha in size.

ENVIRONMENTAL/THREATENED SPECIES PROGRAMS

- Nillumbik Council – Forest health monitoring program - song meters and trail cameras. I also deployed several audio-moths through the Northern Reserves targeting White-throated Nightjars – confirmed them at OTH but added Ironbark reserve as a new site.
- Melbourne Water funded Southern Toadlet research program with Ecology Australia at One Tree Hill. We also conducted our own in-house monitoring and management – fence construction, cage installation, weir building and watering
- Continuation of Cam Beardsell's orchid recovery program as follows:
 - Wine-lipped Spider Orchid post-burn at Dodds St, St Andrews. Large increases in population flowering – 350! Approx 1000 plants within our fences there – world's biggest population. 2017/18 – no natural pollination. This year however, approx. 20%. This combined with hand pollination by Cam – roughly 200 pollinated.
 - 2 came up post-burn at Fiddler fence at Fourth Hill – first Wine-lips seen in WSP in over a decade. Single flowering plant cross-pollinated and was allowed to drop seed naturally.
- Rosella – 40 up at OTH – 10 flowered (1 capsule given to RBG). Morrisons's – 210 plants – 30 flowered. In addition, we received 45 plants for OTH and 50 for Morrison's from RBG – majority in flower). All were flowering individuals pollinated. There is growing research that to have a genetically healthy and self-sustaining population at a single site – 200 individuals are the minimum number you should be aiming for.
- Pterostylis plumosa – good numbers flowering at Boomers Reserve, some at Fourth Hill and 1 at Timber Reserve. Most pollinated. However, Boomers Reserve stock suffered from rust and some aborted.
- Cam Beardsell is doing a 20-year review of the book, ***The Flora of Warrandyte*** – a work started by Cathy Willis, Pat Coupar & David Van Bockel – ultimately long-term collaboration.



- The critically endangered short list currently being reviewed by Cam, myself and Josh Revell to determine what management actions we can put into place eg collect seed/cuttings or individual plants, build fences etc.

FOWSP-related GRANTS

- Completed Fourth Hill Betton Track – in conjunction with FOWSP; weed control and enrichment planting.
- Installed Olearia & Craspedia fences Fourth Hill & weed control.

PLANNED BURNING

- Fiddler's Gully – Completed in Autumn.
- Pindari – St Andrews – late Nov 2021.
- Scheduled – eco-burns within the next month – within our new fences at Beardsell Track and 2 at Rifle Range.

OTHER

- Pound Bend house removal.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

- Tegan Dalman – secondment into District ELW coordinator position based at Westerfolds.
- Chris Vassos – Ranger in Charge F&E – returned from stint at CFA.

VOLUNTEERS

- It was a hard year for all. However, we still managed 7 ranger-led TAGs and numerous autonomous TAGS in a very interrupted year. Once again, the main focus was on high conservation value work and sites, a lot of which FOWSP have historically been involved in. We also focused on locally rare species being planted or protected.

In closing, I'd like to say thanks both personally and on behalf of PV for:

- Approximately 1500 hours contributed by FOWSP volunteers, despite the lockdowns.
- Several hundred FOWSP grown plants installed in the Warrandyte State Park, including some locally rare and threatened species.
- Joint management of projects in the park.
- Applications for grants.
- Invaluable community engagement and representation.



ATTACHMENT 2

Year In Review

Firstly, we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to play a part in making Warrandyte State Park [and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Link] the priceless asset that means so much to all of us. We thank Faye Williams, our Area Chief Ranger, and closer to home, Warren Murphy, the Warrandyte Team Leader.

We are particularly grateful to Faye and Warren for allowing us to continue keeping the Nursery going during lockdown, and for allowing us to continue trading on a contactless “click and collect” basis. Without the click and collect sales, we would certainly have found ourselves in a worrying financial position - not to mention the outright waste of thousands of valuable plants.

A third value has been the joy and purpose that these plants have given our members and customers during the bleak days of lockdown.

We also thank Warren’s hard-working team of Rangers, especially Phil Rance, Cam Beardsell, and the invaluable Col Bromiley.

We particularly thank Phil Rance, our Contact Ranger, who always makes time for us, even though he clearly already has more than enough to do.

This is going to be a short report – firstly because it is only eight months since the last AGM, and secondly because our activities have been severely curtailed by a certain virus; but while I’m expressing the Committee’s thanks, I turn our attention to our staff.

I’m going to get into trouble for saying complimentary things about our excessively modest Nursery Manager, but here goes:

Countless thankless tasks fall to the obliging and uncomplaining Josh: Who but Josh keeps track of the life-cycle of the hundreds of species of plants we propagate? Who but Josh is able to predict the precise moment to harvest the seeds of all those species and get out there to collect them?

All our volunteers and customers receive Josh’s full and courteous attention - it is a rare quality to combine knowledge with patience and the ability to communicate well.



Our Nursery Assistant, Michelle, is currently working from home, but we can't wait to have her back at the Nursery. She is quite incredibly organised, efficient, dedicated and knowledgeable – and I can tell you, from having worked with her for over a year: a delightfully warm and generous colleague.

In past years I've thanked members of the Committee for their various valuable contributions, but as I thought about it, I suddenly realised that since this report is on behalf of the Committee, there's something rather silly about the Committee thanking itself - especially as you will already be aware of all that each of its members contributes.

Thanking people is in itself a thankless task because one is bound to neglect to give all the thanks that are due – however I can assure you 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.

Gray Ardern

Nursery Report

- Thanks to all who volunteered this year. The rostering system worked well to keep the nursery going during COVID lockdowns.
- The Click and Collect system put in place was very successful and it may continue in a lesser form next year.
- The nursery is working with Melbourne Water to resolve issues with orders for the stream frontage program.
- Melbourne Water Capital Works program is going well and several large orders have been placed for next year.
We are delighted to record that the FOWSP nursery successfully grew 38 extremely rare *Glycine latrobiana* for the recovery project.
- The new roof over the orchids is a great improvement, enabling more control over the watering system. Thanks to Kelvin, Jason and Gray for their hard work. Thanks to the builders, repairers, waterers, and everyone else.
- Thanks to PV Ranger, Phil Rance, for his involvement in the Thursday Activity Group.
- Michelle Tumino and Gray Ardern are to be commended for their devotion to the nursery.
- Our thanks to PV Ranger Colin Bromiley for keeping the pump working so that we could continue to water the plants.

Josh Revell



ATTACHMENT 3

Treasurer's Report

Many thanks to Josh, Michelle and Gray for keeping the sales going, despite the difficult circumstances that the COVID lockdowns caused. Michelle devised an efficient contactless Click & Collect system which meant that we could still sell plants despite restricted movements of people and limited access to the nursery. This reduced the possible stock losses that could have occurred.

Income

The audited report shows that plant sales were down nearly \$9,000 in comparison with 2020. This was partially offset by an ATO COVID grant to our charity of \$4,964.

Income for 2021 was \$63,243, lower than 2020 by some \$15,000.

Expenses

Increased expenses were caused by a rise in wages and superannuation due to a Fair Work award of 3% during 2020-2021 and an increase in superannuation of 0.5% to 10%.

Nursery related expenses were higher than 2020 as a new roof was put over the orchid beds, but this was offset by a Bendigo Bank grant awarded the previous year.

Total expenses for 2021 were \$57,770.

There was a net surplus of \$5,473 for the 2021-2022 financial year.