

FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Folly, Tuesday 15th November 2011 @ 6.15pm.

Present: Jason Patton, Peta Cumming, Gray Ardern, Lynda Gilbert, Ken Crook, Andy Walters, Olive Walters, Jan Falconer, Sybille Ims, Judy Green, Cathy Willis, Kelly Wooster, Mike Coupar, Pat Coupar, Josh Revell, Brian James, Joan Broadberry, Conrad Annal, Geoff Speedy, Lee Speedy, Ann Penrose, Artur Muchow, Annette Lion, Sam Eadie, Rod Clarke, Robyn Gillespie, Bev Hanson, John Hanson, David van Bockel.

Apologies: Catriona & John Young, Belinda Christie, Ben & Margaret Gotlib,

Chairman: Jason Patton

Minutes: Jan Falconer

Minutes of the Previous AGM: A small amendment to 3rd dot point in Manager's Report was requested - the removal of a reference to "male"

With this change to be made Cathy Willis moved, and Peta Cumming seconded that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings of the 2010 AGM._

REPORTS:

FOWSP - The Year in Review - Gray Ardern

Gray reported on another busy and productive year for FOWSP and mentioned some highlights.

- **Membership:**
is now over 365 - many are family memberships.
New members joined at the rate of one per week during the year.
- **Plantings:**
In excess of 4,000 plants have been planted during the year - mostly at the Boys Road and Orchard Track re-vegetation sites.
- **Grants:**
Substantial grants for the re-vegetation of the above sites were received from Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria.
In addition Melbourne Water, the City of Manningham and Parks Victoria have given funds and materials for the FOWSP education program.
- **Education Program:**
This was started by Lyndy, who was joined by Jason Patton, Peta Cumming, Ian Penrose and more recently by Sybille Ims.
Gray particularly acknowledged the enormous contribution of Ian Penrose to the primary school program and Sybille's involvement with secondary students at the Sustainability Expo organized by the City of Manningham.
Gray noted that the growing Education Program needs more space for storage of displays and resources.
- **Building Program:**
The increasing number of volunteers on Thursdays means that the nursery has been outgrown. An architect designed a more rational, expanded nursery layout. Parks Victoria has given a small building and Holmsglen TAFE is building another, which will house the Education Centre. Local

architect Ron Henry is drawing up the plan for Council and once approval is received it is anticipated that building will soon commence.

- **New Website:**

Jason Patton has brought FOWSP into the 21st Century by creating and managing a new website, the crowning glory of which is that the *Flora of Warrandyte* (by Pat Coupar and Dave van Bockel) is now on the website in a fully searchable form.

The FOWSP library can also be browsed on line at fowsp.org.au

- **Members' Survey:**

Congratulations to Belinda Christie for her highly professional and rigorous report of the Members' Survey. The results will assist the committee to respond to what the FOWSP members would like.

Gray moved that his report be accepted, seconded by Cathy Willis.

Treasurer's Report - Lynda Gilbert

Lynda distributed a full copy of the auditor's report to those present and highlighted some points:

- She thanked Josh and the nursery staff for their efforts in producing plants, to Ken Crook for his help and support, and to Parks Victoria for their great support.
- Lynda noted that:
 - audit fees were down thanks to Artur who found an alternate person, saving \$300
 - Wages had fallen, thanks to Josh for his staff management,
 - Newsletter costs were going down because most are now emailed, and that
 - Administration expenses were also down.
- Lynda commented that the term deposit of over \$42,000 has been supporting FOWSP in years when profits are down and that \$25,000 of it is earmarked for the new Education Centre.

Lynda moved that the full audited accounts be accepted - seconded by Gray Ardern.

Nursery Manager's Report - Josh Revell

- A very successful year with around 40/45,000 plants being propagated
- Continuing with the Manningham/Nillumbik incentives i.e leaf scheme which is being advertised widely
- Manningham bought over 1,000 plants for giveaways at their sustainability seminars and to schools.
- Continuation of the 50 free plants to local schools program
- TAG's have been successful including the planting of rare plants back in the northern reserves
- Melbourne Museum received a range of species for their rain forest gallery
- Belinda has completed the Members' Survey
- Since the computer died concise plants totals are not available, but over 4,000 plants have been planted in the Park, including grant sites and Tree Day.
- Belinda has been involved in different days like Planet Ark and it is good to have interests outside Warrandyte.
- Donations including benches, pots, heat beds and tools and plants were received from Joe Wilson, Jane Pammer and Michael De Vincentis and plants were received from Alan Noy. Some have been used as giveaways to entice people to nursery
- Fred ran two bus trips this year - one to Badgers Weir and one to Cranbourne Gardens
- There were several informal walks - which were well attended and some members attended the Manningham walks on the 4th Thursday of the month.
- Thanks go the following:
 - Conrad and Parks Victoria staff for their support with TAGs and their over-all help and cooperation.

- Belinda, Kelly and Annette for the great job they do in balancing sales, volunteers and their nursery work.
- Artur for his efforts in arranging TAGs and for organising the day with 65 ANZ Bank employees
 - Jason for being the on-call IT person
 - Jason and Kelly for making FOWSP “out there”
- Lyndy for her great job as treasurer and for providing morning teas
- To the committee and to all volunteers for their Thursday efforts.

Ranger’s Report - Conrad Annal

- Conrad remarked that there have been many changes during the year, including a new Prime Minister, a new Victorian government, a new Minister for Parks, a new CEO for Parks Victoria with a resultant restructure, and a new Chairman of Parks Victoria.
- He gave thanks to FOWSP which he acknowledged as an organisation with an amazing reputation both within Parks Victoria and within the community, which is testament to the longevity of the group and the accumulated knowledge of the members.
- He said that Parks Victoria would not be able to achieve so much without the large number of volunteer hours provided through FOWSP.
- He gave thanks to the Committee, not only for their work at meetings but for their behind the scenes contributions and he thanked Josh and the nursery staff for their paid and unpaid work

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their reports and mentioned that as of today there are 320 active FOWSP members. There were 56 new members in last the 12 months but also some were lost. He noted that 155 of the current members live in Warrandyte. He then conducted the election of committee members.

Election of committee members:

Under Section 6.3.1 of the FOWSP Constitution there is an entitlement of 10 members on the Committee of Management. All existing Committee members have agreed to be nominated for re-election. They are:

Artur Muchow, (Secretary),	Lynda Gilbert (Treasurer),	Linda Rogan (Newsletter Editor),
Gray Arden,	Jan Falconer,	Sybille Ims,
Jason Patton,	Cathy Willis and	Kelly Wooster.

As there were only 9 nominations there is one vacancy and the Chairman called for nominations from among those present. As there were none he declared those named above as the new committee.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and gave special thanks to those who had moved the resident frogs and possums out of the Folly, and cleaned up their mess, to make the Folly useable for the meeting. He then invited everyone to stay for a BBQ, followed by a presentation by Pat and Mike Coupar on chimpanzees.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.45 pm.