

# FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Folly, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 @ 12.10 pm.

**Present:** Sybille Ims, Ken Crook, Linda Rogan, Artur Muchow, Lynda Gilbert, Peta Cumming, Peter Rogan, Gray Ardern, Jan Falconer, Jason Patton, Val Polley, Judy Green, Cliff Green, Brian James, Alison Thom, Carol Page, Melinda Reaby, Robyn Gillespie, Wolfgang Krause, Marie Krause, Glen Jameson, Conrad Annal, Josh Revell, Diane Baird, John Baird, Albert Mason, Betty Mason, Geoff Speedy, Fritz Uhl,

**Apologies:** Cathy Willis, Caitriona & John Young, Kelly Wooster, Alywnne Buntine.

**Chairman:** Jason Patton

**Minutes:** Jan Falconer

### **Welcome by Chairman:**

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed all to the meeting.

### **Minutes of the Previous AGM:**

Artur Muchow moved, and Gray Ardern seconded that the minutes of the 2011 AGM be accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings of the 2011 AGM, after the addition of Linda and Peter Rogan had been made to the attendance list.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **FOWSP - The Chairman invited Gray Ardern to present "The Year in Review"**

#### **Gray spoke of several projects undertaken during the year:**

- **The Building Project - Building of the new education centre** is underway - the frame is up, the roof is on and there are photos on the Website. It is being built by apprentices at Holmsglen TAFE and will be erected on site in the New Year. Painting will be carried out by volunteers. Gray outlined a brief history of this project which was started in 2008 after a letter was received from Ray Clarke (now deceased) suggesting a revamp of the nursery. The need was recognized because the nursery manager has no office, the nursery staff work under cramped conditions, there are increasing numbers of volunteers and there is nowhere to house the education programme. Architect, Dianna Crawford, worked pro bono, to design the new development. In addition Parks Victoria has donated a small building which will become a new shed and a Commonwealth grant has been received to provide furniture for the new building.
- **Plantings**  
Boys Road planting was completed this year.  
The lower orchard track plantings are coming along well - with additional help from 60 volunteers from the ANZ Bank, Bush Care and students from Swinburne University.
- **TAGs/WAGs**  
TAGs are held on Thursdays with ranger support. As a result of the member survey completed last year we now also have WAGs - weekend activity groups - which Kelly Wooster manages. Kelly successfully applied for a grant from the City of Manningham for this. Thanks also to Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria for their support.
- **Thanks**  
Gray expressed thanks to Conrad and senior Parks Victoria Officers for allowing FOWSP to continue to contribute to the wellbeing of the Warrandyte State Park

Thanks to Jason for the new irrigation system and thanks to Lyndy for delicious morning teas for the Thursday morning volunteers

Thanks also to Sybille for amazing cakes for special occasions, and to Peter Curry for towing the trailer to the market each month.

Thanks to Josh and the nursery staff - particularly for Josh's energy, expertise and skill which enables FOWSP to have financial independence and finally, thanks to all the help from all of the volunteers who continue to turn up week after week.

**Gray moved that his report be accepted, seconded by Artur**

#### **Treasurer's Report - Lynda Gilbert - Circulated to members.**

There was a total income for the year of \$49,058.81. Expenses amounted to \$45,308.41, resulting in a surplus of \$3,750.40 for the year.

An amount of \$ 42,096.67 was held in fixed deposit. Most of money in fixed deposit will be used for to pay for the new building.

**Lynda moved that the full audited accounts be accepted - seconded by Albert.**

#### **Nursery Manager's Report - Josh Revell**

Josh summarised the work of the nursery for the year as follows:

- A noticeable increase in volunteers in 2012 has led to over 3,000 volunteer hours through TAGs, WAGs and general nursery volunteering.
- Approximately 55,000 plants were produced over the year, with around 2,500 planted directly into Warrandyte State Park by our volunteers.
- 2012 was our first year of running weekend activities for volunteers. It was very successful and contributed to a lot of the planting in the park.
- Museum Victoria have continued their support - our orchids will be on display again in their forest exhibit by mid 2013. ANZ continued their corporate outings with FOWSP through helping to plant out the orchard track bio-link.
- A consignment of nest-boxes were made and delivered to Parks Victoria, and some to wildlife carers.
- A new igloo, to be used for for seed raising, has been purchased to replace the existing hot house. The new education centre will be sited where the old hot house was.
- Kay Williams was employed while Annette Lion was on maternity leave. Subsequently we decided to keep Kay on board when Annette returned, and all staff are now operating on a roster system.
- An 8 week trial of selling plants at Aumann's nursery went well
- Our Nursery relies on its dedicated volunteers to keep going. Thanks to all the volunteers who come week after week and thanks also to those who go out on TAGs and WAGs.
- Thanks to the nursery staff and thanks also to Conrad and the Parks Victoria staff.

#### **Ranger's Report - Conrad Annal**

Conrad highlighted some of the year's news and activities including:

- The restructure of Parks Victoria is ongoing.
- Environment land and water - urban weed initiative program,
- The Good Neighbourhood Program,
- High threat pest plants
- Rabbit extermination,
- Phascogale trapping program,
- Support for Middle Yarra Land Care programs,
- Threatened species program,

- Partnership with Sporting Shooter's Association for pest control,
- Deer population in the Park being investigated,
- Habitat tree protection,
- Successful program with university students who attended 5 days of the year,
- Eltham copper butterfly program - money received to improve the population,
- Work with land care groups to improve habitat for threatened species,
- Repair of flood damage to various parts of the Park,
- Repairs to Whipstick Gully and work to start on Victory Mine,
- Board walks etc and viewing platform erected at Mt Lofty,
- Poppet head at Whipstick Gully removed because of white ant damage,
- Pound Bend - small fence around manna gum and new automatic gate installed at entrance,
- Compliance program with properties on park boundary improved,
- Fuel reduction - 5 seasonal project fire fighters have been employed and, together with other agencies they are busy preparing for summer
- **Staff**
- Several PV staff are doing training
- Welcome back Jodie and Janaya from maternity leave and welcome to Bernie van Lith
- **Thanks to FOWSP**
- Conrad ended his report with thanks to Josh and the nursery staff, to the FOWSP committee and to all of the FOWSP volunteers.

#### **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. Jason Patton and Kelly Wooster did not nominate for re-election. All other existing Committee members have agreed to be nominated for re-election. They are:

Artur Muchow, (Secretary),	Lynda Gilbert (Treasurer),	Linda Rogan (Newsletter Editor),
Gray Ardern,	Jan Falconer,	Sybille Ims,
Cathy Willis		

In addition Caitriona Young agreed to be nominated for election.

As there were 8 nominations there are therefore two vacancies 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 closed the meeting at 12.35 pm.