

FRIENDS OF THE WARRANDYTE STATE PARK
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held at the Folly, Sunday 17th November 2013 @ 6.05 pm.

Present: Jason Patton, Catriona Young, Artur Muchow, Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, John Young, John Blake, Alison Thom, Judy Green, Cliff Green, Kelly Wooster, Cathy Willis, Joan Broadberry, Geoff Speedy, Conrad Annal, Peta Cumming, Gray Ardern, Brian James, Ken Crook, Lynda Gilbert, Kelvin Watkins, Sarah Quattrough, Josh Revell, Peter Curry, Jan Falconer

Apologies: Sybille Imms, Ben & Margaret Gotlib, Julie James

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 **Cathy Willis** seconded that the minutes of the 2012 AGM be accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting..

Reports:

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

Before commencing his report of the major activities of the year, Gray thanked Conrad for allowing FOWSP to be part of the Parks Victoria team in Warrandyte.

- **Plantings** - There have been 6 plantings on the lower orchard track this year, the 2 main ones (Bushcare Major Day Out and National Tree Day) each attracting upwards of 50 volunteers. As well there have been 3 planting days in the Boys Road area, 2 in the Pound Bend area, and one each at Jumping Creek Reserve and Murundaka Wetland (a restored wetland project of Ranger Cam Beardsall).
- There have been follow-ups to planting sites to check plants and remove weeds.
- **TAGS** give FOWSP members a chance to visit parts of the Park that are not open to the public
- **Killing woody weeds** is a project that is often undertaken when a Ranger isn't available
- **Propagating** takes place in the nursery each Thursday - Many thousands of plants are produced each year.
- **Many changes** have taken place in the nursery this year including:
 - the installation of a new shade house,
 - the installation of a new shed (provided by Parks Victoria) which now has skylights,
 - a pebbly piazza is now in place (and much appreciated at morning tea time of a Thursday),
 - Refurbishment of the irrigation system has taken place resulting in a new and reliable system,
 - With over 250 memberships, and many activities, qualified first aiders need to be on hand at all functions and activities. With this in mind a first aid training course was held again this year.
- **Fundraising ventures** have included:
 - **Goodwill wines** bottled and labeled with the FOWSP label are available for members to purchase - providing a generous contribution to FOWSP
 - **A sausage sizzle** outside Quinton's IGA in Warrandyte was a big success.
- **Thanks** to the following people for their contributions throughout the year:
 - **Sybille Imms** for managing the market trailer roster,
 - **Lyndy Gilbert** for continuing to provide delicious morning teas for Thursdays, for running new member afternoon teas and for successfully writing a successful application for two water tanks
 - **Linda Rogan** (capably assisted by **Joan Broadberry**) for editing the monthly Newsletter
 - **Jason Patton** for making the early newsletters available one line.
 - **Josh Revell** and the nursery staff for their knowledge, energy and skill in propagating plants.

Gray moved that the meeting accept his Report. Seconded **Linda Rogan**. **All in favour.**

Treasurer's Report - Lynda Gilbert

The Annual Report, audited by David Lovatt CPA, was circulated to those present and Lynda commented on several items as follows:

- It was a very successful year for grants - with a total of \$9,230 received in various grants.
- Plants sales were slightly lower this year,

- Wages were higher than previously due to required superannuation increases,
- There were some one-off additional expenses including a new hot-house (\$2,182) and irrigation and plumbing costs,
- The 30th birthday celebration resulted in additional catering, gift and insurance costs as well as toilet hire.
- Overall the situation is looking good and the decision to increase the cost of concession membership and plant prices in 2014 will continue the positive trend.

Lynda moved that the full audited accounts be accepted - seconded **Artur Muchow. All in favour**

Nursery Manager's Report - Josh Revell

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

- **Museum Plants** - FOWSP has continued to supply the Melbourne Museum with plants for their outdoor area and the order has been increased for next year.
- **Prof. Tim Entwisle**, from the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, paid a visit to FOWSP one Thursday morning.
- **Plants for Parks** - About ten thousand plants have been provided and planted in many areas of the Warrandyte State Park, including Boys Road, Lower Orchard Track, Timber Reserve, Pound Bend, Longridge, Black Flat, and Murandaka, and another 2,000 plants were provided as part of the Mt. Lofty two million trees program.
- **Nesting boxes**, many for phascogales, went out to various places, including wildlife carers.
- **Free plants for Schools and Pre-schools** - The program of providing 50 free plants to local schools and preschools has continued successfully and there are now requests for a similar program from many schools outside our area
- A new igloo has proved a bonus
- The old wooden poly house, built by volunteers over 20 years ago, was removed this year. All parts of it were recycled to vegetable gardens, decks and chook sheds, etc.
- A staff rostering system was introduced when Annette returned from parental leave - to ensure everyone had sufficient time.
- Sarah was trialled as a possible new staff member when Belinda leaves in February after 5 years in the job.
- **Thanks to Conrad**, and the PV team, for his support. Janaya, the usual PV contact Ranger, was seconded elsewhere and unable to help much this year. Thanks also to Lyndy for her morning teas, the committee for their support and to all the volunteers.

Josh moved that his report be accepted, seconded by **Caitriona Young. All in favour.**

Ranger's Report - Conrad Annal

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

- The year started with many staff away at fires, both across the state, and locally. Then it was into another busy Autumn fuel reduction burning season.
- Other achievements this year include the Urban Weed Initiative in the Warrandyte Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve (WKNCR), and the Urban Rabbit Initiative in the Warrandyte State Park, which includes the Pound Bend site.
- Core conservation areas, including improved fencing, weed control, orchid monitoring and cross pollinating, continue to be priorities.
- Other rare and threatened species programs include the Brush-Tailed Phascogale trapping program, (26 animals trapped this year), and the Dunnart program, where numbers have increased, and there is now have a breeding population.
- To protect some of the threatened species, Parks Victoria has partnered with the Sporting Shooters Association to undertake fox shooting in the WKNCR, and also the only fox trapping program.
- Sugarloaf Reservoir has had a 'spruce up', including work on the Sugarloaf Reservoir Walk.
- Many of Fire Trails have been upgraded this year, with assistance from the Flood Recovery Program and the Melbourne Fire & Emergency Program.
- Some degraded assets that were no longer required were removed, and some signage was replaced or updated.
- Mountain biking is an emerging issue state wide, including in the Warrandyte Park, and planning has started to actively manage mountain biking issues in the Warrandyte park area.
- There have been many compliance issues to deal with, particularly around park neighbours clearing land

adjoining the park, and also vehicles entering the park illegally.

- Campfires on the River have also been a big issue. To address the problem a multi-agency education day was held with one of the cultural groups that frequent the park and are known to light campfires. Participants and agencies learned a lot.
- Thanks to FOWSP members for the huge contribution they continue to make each year to Parks Victoria, and thanks also for the support given to himself and the other Rangers.
- Special thanks to Josh, the nursery team and the committee for the tireless work they do, well above what anyone would expect of them.

Conrad moved that his report be accepted by the meeting. Seconded **Gray. All in favour.**

New Rules for FOWSP

Jason said that under the requirements of *The Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012)* the Rules of the Association need to be changed, and he invited Artur to speak to the required changes.

Artur said that the old Rules had remained substantially the same, only being changed in order to comply with the new requirements. He said that the new Rules had been put out on the Web for members to read and he asked if there were any questions relating to the changes that had been made.

As there were no questions Artur moved that the newly drafted Rules, as circulated on the Web, be adopted as the new Rules of the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park.

The motion was seconded by **Cathy Willis. All in favour.**

Jason explained that the new Rules, having been passed by the meeting, would now be submitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria for their approval.

Election of committee members:

Under Section 6.3.1 of the FOWSP Rules there is an entitlement of 10 members on the Committee of Management.

Kelly Wooster, Sybille Imms and Jan Falconer did not nominate for re-election. All other existing Committee members have agreed to be nominated for re-election. They are:

Artur Muchow, (Secretary), Gray Arden,	Lynda Gilbert (Treasurer), Cathy Willis, and	Linda Rogan (Newsletter Editor), Caitriona Young,
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In addition Jason Patton, John Blake, Kelvin Watkins and Sarah Quattrough agreed to be nominated for election.

As there were 10 nominations there were no vacancies and the Chairman declared those named above as the new committee for the upcoming year.

In closing the Chairman gave thanks to those responsible for cleaning up the Folly, to Peter Curry for transporting the trailer to the market each month, and to Kelly Wooster for all her work in introducing FOWSP to social media.

Finally, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 6.35 pm.