

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Folly, Sunday 23rd November 2014 @ 6.05 pm.

Present: Peta Cumming, John Blake, Linda Rogan, Diane Baird, John Baird, Gloria Moore, Lee Deacon, Graham Deacon, Brian James, Judy Green, Cliff Green, Jan Tindale, Dick Davis, John Young, Gray Ardern, Kelvin Watkins, Peter Rogan, Jan Davies, Artur Muchow, Geoff Speedy, Keira Speedy, Joy Hick, Barrie Taylor, Ben Gotlib, Margaret Gotlib, Meg Downie, Jan Falconer, Lynda Gilbert, Ken Crook, Jason Patton

Apologies: Caitriona Young, Cathy Willis, Josh Revell,

Chairman: Jason Patton

Minutes: Jan Falconer

Welcome by Chairman:

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed all to the meeting,

Minutes of the Previous AGM:

Judy Green moved, and **Gray Ardern** seconded that the minutes of the 2013 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. Gray then proceeded:

“This year our activities have focused on Pound Bend - by that I mean the big chunk of land bounded by the Tunnel and the Yarra.

At the Lower Orchard Track site, we put in 3 maintenance mornings plus 3 planting mornings, including National Tree Day. On that day there were over 80 volunteers, including a very large number of corporate volunteers. Hundreds of trees went in, and thousands of grasses.

At Boys Road there was a planting morning and a maintenance morning. There was also another planting morning at Pound Bend Reserve.

Our new planting this year is also at Pound Bend - it is between our Boys Rd site and the Yarra. We seem to have settled on *Three Bridges* as its name - after the first three bridges on the riverside track which passes through the planting. This planting, which was done on three work-days, is dedicated to the late Joan McMahon - a long-time and much loved FOWSP member.

Also within Pound Bend, but much closer to our Nursery is Frogland. Frogland was set up about 20 years ago, but the old boardwalk had become unsafe, the site had become weedy, and the new plantings were due. Under Linda Rogan’s leadership Frogland has been thoroughly rejuvenated. The boardwalk has been replaced by a new path - one which enhances the bushland character of the site. Our thanks to the many members involved, especially Jason and Kelvin.

Every planting needs follow-up, and that is one of the main aims of our TAG (Thursday Activity Group) program. Sometimes a TAG will take us into a more distant part of the Park network, perhaps even to a part of the Park that is not open to the general public - two woody-weeding days and a planting day at One Tree Hill were such occasions.

On Thursdays when there is no Ranger-led TAG, a group of us will do follow-up work, especially woody-weeding. This year we concentrated on ‘woodies’ within Pound Bend.

While the Woody Weeders are out in the bush, the main body of Thursday participants is busy in the Nursery producing the thousands of indigenous plants that come out of the Nursery every year.

At the same time Noel and team are down here in the Folly building nest-boxes - this year including great big boxes for Powerful Owls to nest in, since so many old trees with big hollows were destroyed in the bushfires.

Thursday mornings at the Nursery are always great fun, and this year we have been joined by lots of new faces. We welcome all our new members. We are happy that you have joined us and brought your talent and energy with you!

A highlight of Thursdays is morning tea, as Lyndy continues to provide delicious things to eat week after week.

A recurrent publicity and fundraising exercise is the Market Trailer; organised this year by Caitriona and staffed every Warrandyte market day by a dozen rostered members.

Another fundraiser was a sausage sizzle and stall at the local IGA. This event was a great success, thanks to the efforts of Lyndy and at least a dozen other members, and to Julie Quinton.

While I think of it, I would like to acknowledge all the hard work that Linda - and Joan - put into the Newsletter month after month.

As you have seen, the biggest change here at the Nursery this year is the arrival and completion of the Education and Resource Centre. A good proportion of the funds used in the construction, transport, completion and fitting-out of the building came from the sale of the book - "*Discover Warrandyte*". *Discover Warrandyte* was published by FOWSP in 1992, and its sales put FOWSP on the sound financial footing which has enabled us to go ahead with this building project all these years later. We remember with gratitude the work of those early members of FOWSP.

The completing and fitting out of the building has been achieved by the investment of much time, effort and skill by many members - particularly Kelvin, Jason, Josh and Brian. We are extremely fortunate in having such depth of talent and such tirelessly generous members!

A final thank-you and a very heartfelt one it is too - is to Josh, our Nursery Manager, and his staff. It is no exaggeration to say that without Josh FOWSP would be much the poorer, in every sense. Josh's knowledge, energy and skills result in the production of a very large number of indigenous plants. These plants are propagated for planting-out in the Park, and also for sale. It is these sales that give FOWSP a degree of financial independence.

I know that I have neglected to give all the thanks that are due, but please forgive, and be assured that we really are grateful for all the help we have received this year. We couldn't have had such a productive year without every single one of your contributions.

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

Treasurer's Report - Lynda Gilbert

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

- She thanked the committee for their support, Josh and the Nursery staff for their assistance and so-operation, and Caitriona for her efforts with the market trailer which have resulted in a 400% increase in sales.
- A new notebook has been purchased for the staff and the newsletter has been more expensive this year but overall it has been a very pleasing year ending with a surplus of \$8,000.00.
- Thanks also, to Quinton's IGA for allowing rewards points to be used to supply the morning teas for Thursday mornings.
- Lynda finished by thanking Ken Crook for his support.

Lynda moved that the accounts be accepted - seconded **John Blake**. **All in favour**

Nursery Manager's Report - Josh Revell - presented by Sarah Bond (in Josh's absence)

Sarah reported on the year's activities as follows:

- TAGs have been held fortnightly, both Ranger and volunteer lead,
- Two propagation courses have been run by Cathy and Josh,
- There have been 2500 plantings in the lower orchard area and 2000 in the three bridges area.
- Melbourne Water and other corporate groups have been assisting with the plantings.
- Tills Road and the Black Flat area were also included in late plantings.
- Support for local schools has continued with each being given 50 free plants - several schools have bought more plants later.
- Several projects at Jumping Creek have been supported.
- Improvements around the Nursery have included new signs, a new shed, the completion of the Education Centre, and stock plants have been moved to a new area.
- Nest box building has continued,
- banksias have been grown from seed and cuttings.
- In all in excess of 55,000 plants have been grown during the year.
- The FOWSP library has been moved to the Education Centre.
- Grants will continue to be applied for to complete improvements to Frogland, and the Native bee installation
- The spring sale went well
- The market trailer works well. It is rewarding to see empty trays being returned.
- Thanks were given to Parks Victoria, in particular to Janaya, Col and Justin, to the FOWSP Committee, to Lynda for providing delicious morning teas, to Manningham Council and to all volunteers who have provided over 3,500 hours of their time up to November.

Sarah moved that the Nursery Manager's report be accepted, seconded by **Ben Gotlib**. **All in favour.**

Ranger's Report - Conrad Annal

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

- Completion of a 4 year Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative - Northern Reserves \$170k works) - potential new 4 year program.
- Multiple Good Neighbour programs completed this year or continuing (includes Blackberry, Chilean, Rabbits, Spanish Heath)
- Annual Brush Tailed Phascogale trapping and camera monitoring program.
- Rabbit Warren Implosion works - Pound Bend (part of the Urban Rabbit Control Initiative Program).
- Sporting Shooter Association of Australia Fox Whistling program. This is a program in the northern reserves to reduce fox numbers.
- Ecological Burn at Morrisons for Clover Glycine was done with good results so far.
- Exclusion plot fence raising - protection from large herbivores - many fences around the Park.
- New fence at Spadonis Reserve - this is for the protection of the rare Yering Silver Gum (Buxton Gum)
- The Fire Program and Flood Recovery Program has spent in excess of \$250k on track surfaces, drainage & water point upgrades across the Parks Victoria estate in and around Warrandyte.
- Fuel break and slashing program treats approx. 126Ha or 81km annually.
- Ongoing Fire Program upgrades to new tracks (particularly in the Pantom Hill Reserves), woody weed removal, fuel modifications and continual improvement to the Management Vehicle Only tracks.
- Wurundjeri Eel trap Project - 2 yr grant focussing on Environmental program and rare species. The Eel trap will be re-built and other cultural protection works are planned for the site.
- Eltham Copper Butterfly Grant - Significant increase in the species numbers this year due to environmental modifications.

- Diamond Valley Bushealking Club partnership - works to date have been the improvement of the Sugarloaf Walking Track and the Jumping Creek Nature Trail.
- New sheds around the Depot have been installed.
- Reynolds Rd/Morrison's entrance reconstruction which included new fence, gate and rock work along the road to manage illegal access. A number of fines have also been issued in this area to offenders through some of our covert camera operations.
- Improvement to the dog signs along the Main Yarra Trail.
- Jumping Creek Reserve upgrade, which included resurfacing the carpark, painting of picnic tables, improved signage, and garden bed maintenance.
- New steps at Pound Bend were installed this year, leading from the entrance gate down to the exit of the tunnel.
- New Wurundjeri Stories signs at Pound Bend were installed this year which was a partnership with Manningham City Council."
- In concluding Conrad announced with some sadness, that he would be moving on next year to a position of leading the fire program. He thanked all members of FOWSP for their work with Parks Victoria and the community.

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

Election of committee members:

The Chairman said that under Section 6.3.1 of the FOWSP Rules there is an entitlement of 10 members on the Committee of Management.

Current Committee members have agreed to be nominated for re-election. They are:

Artur Muchow, (Secretary),
 Lynda Gilbert (Treasurer),
 Linda Rogan (Newsletter Editor),
 Jason Patton (Membership Officer),
 Gray Ardern, Caitriona Young, Kelvin Watkins, John Blake, Sarah Qualtrough and Cathy Willis (General Members).

The Chairman declared all position as vacant and called for any other nominations from among those present. As there were none, he declared the aforementioned members elected to the Committee of Management for the forthcoming year.

In closing the Chairman gave thanks to Jan Falconer for minuting the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance before closing the meeting at 6.40 pm and inviting all present to remain for the opening of the Education Centre.