

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held at the Folly, Sunday 22nd November 2015 at 5.10pm

Present: Jason Patton, Gray Ardern, Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, Artur Muchow. John Young, Caitriona Young, John Blake, Brian Jones, Annette Lion, Lynda Gilbert, Ken Crook, Joy Hick, Barrie Taylor, Alison Thom, Judy Green, Kay Williams, Cathy Willis, Margaret Gotlib, Ben Gotlib, Carol Page, Josh Revell, Kelvin Watkins, Meg Downie, David Vass, John Hanson, Bev Hanson, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook

Apologies: Gloria Moore, Michelle Tumino, Faye Williams, Jan Falconer

Chairman: Jason Patton

Minutes: Caitriona Young

Welcome by the Chairman:

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of the previous AGM

The Chairman apologised as a copy of the minutes was unable to be located in time. He proposed that the minutes be circulated to the 2014 and 2015 attendees for individual approval the following week.

Reports:

FOWSP: Gray Ardern was invited to present 'The Year in Review' Gray thanked Parks Victoria for giving FOWSP a home and expressed gratitude to the rangers involved with FOWSP. His speech covered many aspects of the FOWSP year including **TAGS**, the **Nursery, Fundraising, FOWSP Newsletter, Frogland, Visitors, The Phascogale and Koala counts** and the **Education Centre**. He finished with a special thank you to Josh, the nursery manager.

(For a full account of Gray's presentation, see his report on page 4.)

Gray moved that the meeting accept his report. Carried by a show of hands.

Treasurer's report - Lynda Gilbert

The Auditor's annual report was presented at the AGM and is available to members on request. Total cash and non current assets stand at \$56,703 as at the end of June 2015.

Lynda also spoke about

- The committee's gratitude to staff and volunteers for a fantastic year
- Significant cost savings due to the increase in number of emailed newsletters
- Public Liability Insurance which has been renegotiated

Lyndy moved that the accounts be accepted. Carried by a show of hands

Nursery manager's report: Was delivered by Annette Lion
Annette noted that volunteer attendance was in excess of 3,750 hours.
Activities included

- TAGS
 - Weeding, planting, new path, fence extension, identification signs in Frogland
 - Warrandyte Market Trailer promoting the nursery and selling plants
 - A Wildflower garden created to attract bees, butterflies and moths
 - Water plants relocated and neatly set up in bath tubs
 - New signage around the nursery
 - New stock plant area to keep out the kangaroos. Netting for cockatoos
 - Approximately 60,000 plants produced for Parks Vic, council, community, local schools, environmental groups and for public sale.
 - Many birthdays celebrated, including some milestones.
 - Several special sales were held and were very successful
 - Scout groups attended planting and propagation days
 - Plants were supplied to Museum of Victoria
- Michelle Tumino was welcomed and Sarah Bond farewelled during 2015

Annette thanked:

- Ranger Collin for keeping the water tank full.
- Rangers Bernie and Cam for their help on TAGS and various projects.
- Ranger Janaya for organising TAGS & for being our patient and understanding Parks Victoria Liaison.
- Jason and Kelvin for endless hours of work after hours
- The Committee
- Our wonderful volunteers
- Lyndy, our treasurer, for the magnificent diversity of morning teas
- Members who volunteered with co-ordination and staffing of the market trailer
- Our staff, for their dedication and support to our volunteers & FOWSP nursery
- Josh for being flexible, thoughtful and always 'there' for his staff

Annette moved that the report be accepted. Carried by a show of hands

Ranger's Report: Presented by Kylie Tenace.
Kylie presented an overview of the year. See report on page 5.

Acceptance of the report was moved. Carried by a show of hands.

Special Resolution

That the following changes be made to the Constitution (additional words are in *italics*)

5. Membership

5.1.1. Persons who have an interest in the Warrandyte State Park and its vicinity, *and that interest is consistent with the FOWSP Objectives 3*, are eligible for membership.

5.1.2a. *Memberships which are either new or not continuous in subscription, shall be subject to Committee approval. Upon approval or rejection, the secretary shall notify the applicant of the decision with as little delay as possible. In the case of rejection, any payment made with the application shall be returned to the applicant.*

Artur moved that the new rules be added to the constitution. Carried by a show of hands

Election of Committee of Management: Members who have nominated for election to the committee (including 9 current committee members)

Artur Muchow (Secretary)

Lynda Gilbert (Treasurer)

Linda Rogan (Newsletter Editor)

Jason Patton (Membership Officer)

Gray Ardern, Cathy Willis, Kelvin Watkins, John Blake, Caitriona Young and Jan Falconer (General Members)

The Chairman declared all positions vacant and called for any other nominations. He declared the above members elected to the Committee of Management for the forthcoming year.

Artur presented Mrs Judy Green with flowers and a thank-you card in gratitude for her wonderful care of the FOWSP library

The Chairman thanked Councillor Downie and all present their attendance and Caitriona Young for minuting the meeting.

Meeting closed at 6pm

The Year in Review. Gray Ardern

We thank Parks Victoria for giving us a home, support, energy [including electricity] and water for our Nursery. We thank Faye Williams - our area Chief Ranger - and Warren, our Ranger Team Leader [aka The Queen and the Governor General, respectively - and respectfully!] for allowing us to play a modest part in making WSP the asset that we treasure.

We thank Cam for TAGs that are unmissable. We not only get a lot done, but go home with our heads reeling from the essence of a course in botany, zoology and ecology being enthusiastically unfolded in one short morning. Somebody here interjected: *Not to mention local history!*

Cam has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal - so richly deserved! In his modesty Cam doubted aloud if he should accept the award - I urged him to take it - after all, I pointed out; the medal contains about an ounce of FOWS gold, and the dress medal about half an ounce; which may come in handy the way things are going!

At work, where there is Cam, there is the ever-practical Bernie - wielding a crowbar or a chainsaw.

Another enthusiastic chainsaw-wielder is our own Janaya.

I say '*our own*' because she has so faithfully supported us on our TAGs and quite a few 'STAGs' [*Spontaneous Thursday Activity Groups*]. For example we recently had a Woody Weeding in Whipstick Gully. We killed many hundreds of 'woodies'; but not all of them, so we decided to return the following Thursday. The '*following Thursday*' was wet, windy and cold, but Janaya, Judith, Lee and other hardy workers turned up all the same!

While the Woody Weeders are wielding weapons; back at the Nursery the rest of the team are busy turning out the tens of thousands of plants that are the main source of our funds.

If you've considered coming along on a Thursday morning - do it! It's tremendous fun, you'll be warmly welcomed as well as being rewarded by one of the legendary Morning Teas made by the ever-resourceful Lyndy. It was Lyndy, too, who organized the recent Sausage Sizzle, which along with our Spring Sale made about \$3000 on a single weekend.

I'm not going to list all the year's TAGs, because you can read about them in our Newsletter - along with lots of other interesting articles - all put together so brilliantly by Linda.

It was Linda, too, who put into motion the rejuvenation of Frogland; and once in it was motion, it was Linda who kept up the momentum. Annette will have more on Frogland in the Nursery Report.

This year we had visits from the MPs for both the State and Federal electorates of Warrandyte.

The Hon. Kevin Andrews informed us of grants we could compete for, and after a quick tour he asked me how many members we had: *about 300 Family Memberships, Mr Andrews* and how many plants we had produced this year: *about 50,000*. He said *What a pity plants don't vote*, to which I replied: *Mr Andrews, if plants could vote they'd vote Green!*

The Hon. Ryan Smith came dressed for action, and energetically pitched in to help us with hand-weeding - his PA pitched too!

I was greatly charmed to see Hon. Ryan Smith get down on all fours to experience the fragrance of the Scented Sundew!

FOWSP is not just about plants: this year a couple of us were privileged to be invited to participate in the annual Phascogale Count - about which Ranger Kylie will be telling us more - and were able to closely observe Phascogales, Dunnarts and Antechinus.

And although FOWSP's own Pound Bend koala count produced a nil return this year, one of our members has recently spotted a koala elsewhere in Warrandyte.

It is now a year since the opening of our Education Centre, and already we cannot imagine life without it. If we took a financial risk investing in this project, it has proven to have been fully justified!

I know I've neglected to give all the thanks that are due, but be assured 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. Finally I'd like to express our deep gratitude to our Nursery Manager. Organization Theory may say that nobody is indispensable, but it would be hard to imagine a FOWSP without Josh. He combines fine personal qualities with a deep and broad knowledge of our indigenous flora, plus skill and energy that are absolutely invaluable.

FOWSP AGM - Rangers Report 2015

- Thanks to FOWSP members for contribution to park and the greater community. You are all an amazing team of committed individuals.
- The restructure of Parks Victoria – staff changes
 - Conrad is no longer Ranger In Charge he has moved to Woori Yallock to be the Area Chief Ranger
 - Area Chief Ranger for Middle Yarra & Plenty Gorge – Faye Williams
 - Ranger Team Leader Middle Yarra is Warren Murphy
 - Business Support Officer – Kay Williams is no longer at Warrandyte and has moved to Westerfolds in a district position.
 - John Rush – Team Leader Visitors & Community has moved to a district position based at Westerfolds.

New CEO - Bradley Fauteux, from Canada, was Managing Director of Ontario Parks

- OH&S - 2014 Parks Vic conducted a safety review and it was found that we needed to improve as an organisation; we commenced a two-year Safety Improvement Program looking at OHS policies and procedures & providing safety training to all staff.
PV also looking at volunteer safety and incorporating new policies and procedures around this.

Safety Goal = Zero Injuries.

- The Good Neighbour Program –
 - \$10,000 for rabbit control in the Yarra Corridor
 - Riparian weeds at Norman Reserve
 - Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle grass
 - Boneseed & Spanish Heath in the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve (WKNCR)
- Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative – money secured to control weeds in WKNCR for a final year.
- Post Burn weed money for recently burnt sections of Glynns, Koornong, Timber Reserve, Morrisons, 4th Hill, St Andrews, and Pound Bend - provided by MFEP (Melbourne Fire and Emergency Program)

- Student work experience program – we had 3 great university students go through our volunteer program this year. The aim is for them to get experience in most park activities and will hopefully go on to get jobs in the industry and also support us in delivering park programs.
- Green army team worked with us throughout the year. Activities included weed work, reveg, fence removal, track clearing etc. Worked in conjunction with Nillumbik Shire Council
- Rare and threatened species program-
 - Brush-Tailed Phascogale trapping program – 3 caught this year.
 - Dunnart program continue management with installation of pavers and eco burning in biodiversity fences.
 - Eltham copper butterfly program – Expecting a good fly out this year after extensive management works to aid the recovery of this species
 - Orchids - Threatened species money which will go towards controlling grassy weeds in orchid fences, raising and building of new fences to protect from rabbit & large herbivore grazing.
- Pest animal control programs:
 - Fox trapping control program in Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve. We also undertake a fox program in the Northern Reserves for Phascogale in conjunction with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Fox trapping & shooting program - A total of 21 foxes have been controlled this year.
 - Rabbit control continuing with fumigation and baiting.
- Deer issues on agenda – currently raising orchid fences to restrict deer. Evidence of deer throughout park. They are using corridor to move through area.
- Park signage program, updated park signs at Pound Bend, new dog regulation signs along Main Yarra trail, Koornong and soon to be Mt Lofty.
- Fire – the full contingent of seasonal project fire fighters are now on board. They are busy preparing for summer. Slashing program is about to begin. The fire team held a pump school training day here for fire staff in the district to refresh skills on all fire equipment.

- As part of fire management works the Mt Lofty walking track has had extensive works to the section which runs along the river. The track has been widened, re-surfaced and is now drivable. This will enable vehicle access in case of fire.