

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Folly, Sunday 13th November 2016 at 5.10pm

Present: Jason Patton, Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, Lynda Gilbert, Caitriona Young, David Vass, John Young, Cathy Willis, Gray Ardern, Brian James, Alison Thom, Joy Hick, Artur Muchow, Sharon Mason, Jane Pammer, Ken Crook, Annette Lion, Kelvin Watkins, John Blake, Carol Page, Carolyn Noel, Janaya O'Dempsey, Steve Anderson

Apologies: Josh Revell, Gloria Moore, Michelle Tumino, Faye Williams, Jan Falconer, Diane and John Baird, Don Vincent, Bev and John Hansen

Chairman: Jason Patton **Minutes:** Caitriona Young

Welcome by the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the clean-up crew for preparing the venue.

Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes of 2015 AGM tabled. Minutes passed subject to Kelvin Watkins name being amended from Watson to Watkins.

Minutes moved by Artur Muchow and seconded by Cathy Willis as an accurate record of the proceedings of the 2015 AGM.

Reports:

Gray Ardern presented 'The Year in Review'. (*See Appendix 1*)

Report moved: Gray Ardern. Seconded: John Blake

Treasurer's report – (*See Appendix 2*)

Lynda Gilbert tabled the audited Annual Report, with additional copies available for those interested in reading the whole report.

Report moved: Lynda Gilbert Seconded: Gray Ardern

Nursery manager's report: (*See Appendix 3*)

Annette Lion spoke about plantings in various locations around Warrandyte and the numbers of plants propagated. She also thanked staff and volunteers for their contributions to FOWSP and detailed some of these contributions.

Report moved: Annette Lion Seconded: Janaya O'Dempsey

Rangers' Report: (*See Appendix 4*)

Janaya presented the report and thanked FOWSP and volunteers for their work with Parks Victoria and spoke about the works undertaken by volunteers and Parks Vic.

Report moved: Janaya O'Dempsey Seconded: Annette Lion

Amendment to the FOWSP constitution:

Artur Muchow has investigated insurance cover and prices for FOWSP. This includes public liability insurance, directors' insurance and insurance for the market trailer on Manningham land. The FTLA (Farm Tree Landcare Association) covers the insurance for approx 600 land care groups in Victoria and provides economies of scale for insurance purposes. The proposal is that FOWSP join FTLA. Joining FTLA means that a list of FOWSP members and their addresses are held by FTLA as a legal requirement.

A discussion ensued about the benefits of membership of FTLA versus the possible disadvantages. The consensus was that there would be no imposition from FTLA on FOWSP. It was also noted that FOWSP members would need to be informed that their names and addresses were being passed onto FTLA.

Cathy Willis moved that FOWSP join FTLA and get insurance through them.

Seconded: Brian James

The motion was passed on a show of hands – 16 for; 1 against; 1 abstaining

Election of Committee of Management

The following members were nominated as committee members for 2017.

Secretary: Artur Muchow

Treasurer: Lynda Gilbert

Ordinary members: Annette Lion, Gray Ardern, Kelvin Watkins, Linda Rogan, Caitriona Young, John Blake

It was noted that 2 committee positions were still vacant. There were 2 nominations from the floor:

Carolyn Noel Vincent

Nominated Carolyn Noel Vincent Seconded Lynda Gilbert

Joy Hick

Nominated Joy Hick Seconded Ken Crook

All committee places were declared filled.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm

Appendix 1: The Year in Review

Firstly we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to play our part in making Warrandyte State Park/Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Reserve the priceless asset that means so much to us. We thank Faye Williams, Area Chief Ranger for Plenty Gorge and Warrandyte, and closer to home, Warren Murphy, the Warrandyte Ranger Team Leader. We thank Warren's hard-working team of Rangers, especially Cam Beardsell OAM for his inspiring dedication and seemingly unending stream of informal ecological education. We did invite Cam to address us today, but in the end had to accept that he just has too much on his plate.

We particularly thank Janaya O'Dempsey, whom we call our 'Own Ranger', as she works so very closely with us – sometimes even out-of-hours. When I say closely, recently I rang Janaya [at home, as it turned out] to ask her to organize the completion of an unfinished volunteer project – only to find that she had already done it!

Janaya has just let us know that FOWSP put in nearly 5,000 hours of voluntary work during the last financial year. This figure, although impressive, is a very conservative figure. It certainly doesn't include the unpaid work that Josh Revell puts in, nor that of Jason Patton and Kelvin Watkins, keeping systems going in and around the Nursery, and on such projects as the refurbishment of Frogland.

Do make a point of visiting Frogland to admire the results of Linda Rogan's determination to restore this once-tarnished jewel! Linda also puts in countless hours as contributing editor of the FOWSP Newsletter – the last one was a ripper!

Nor do those 5,000 hours include the work of our dynamic prize-winning Treasurer, indefatigable and imaginative morning-tea maker, and sausage-sizzler; Lynda Gilbert. The last sizzle raised about \$400 – in just 3 hours!

You will soon hear Lyndy's account of FOWSP's finances, but one of the costs that she will not be mentioning is the cost to us of ever-increasing bureaucratization and corporate risk-aversion. I'll give you an example: there is a corporatised statutory authority which is one of our biggest customers, but in order to continue to sell plants to it, Josh recently had to fill in a 50-page contract, which required information such as how many fatalities there had been at the Nursery!

So many other thankless tasks fall to the obliging and uncomplaining Josh. Who but Josh keeps track of the life-cycle of the hundreds of species of plants we propagate; predicts the precise moment to harvest the seeds of all those species, and gets out there to collect them? Any Thursday morning you can see lots of volunteers and customers asking Josh lots of questions. I'd be snarling 'Go away and let me get on with it'; but not Josh! Everybody gets his full, courteous and helpful attention. I've done voluntary work elsewhere with 'plant nuts', so I can tell you that they do not all combine knowledge with patience and the ability to communicate well. Sorry if I just implied that Josh is a nut – so much for my ability to communicate well!

Finally we thank our hard-working, knowledgeable and friendly Nursery staff: Michelle Tumino, Annette Lion and Sarah Bond. Kaye Williams is no longer on our staff, as she has promoted herself from employee to volunteer – thanks Kaye!

Thanking people is in itself a thankless task because one is bound to neglect 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.

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report

It has been an exceptional year financially. FOWSP income for 2015-6 has been \$68,686, some \$12,000 higher than last financial year. Expenses were \$63,696

Membership for the last financial year was as follows: 190 Full members 55 Concessions 50 complimentary

There is a surplus of nearly \$5000 after depreciation on the buildings and hothouses.

Thanks to Parks Vic who have reimbursed FOWSP for the purchase of a quantity of tools and some admin expenses. They have also paid \$800 towards first aid training for 15 volunteers and staff.

Interest on the ING deposits has dropped from 4% to 1.6%, hence the lower interest for the last financial year.

No royalties have been earned this year from the sale of plants through Norwood.

Wages were higher due to 100 extra hours worked, which is reflected in the increase in plants for sale.

There was a significant increase in insurance costs as the committee was obliged to take out Directors Liability Insurance. Admin expenses were also higher as the committees sought legal advice on a staff matter.

A donation of \$500 was made to the Warrandyte Character Protection to help pay for barrister's fees at VCAT to fight a proposed service station development which would have threatened Andersons Creek and the Yarra River with chemical pollution. I am glad to say the residents of Warrandyte won against the developer!

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, staff and Parks Vic for your support and special thanks to Ken Crook for his assistance to me in the treasurer's role.

Appendix 3: Nursery Report

Welcome everyone! Another successful year has come to an end! Firstly I'd like to say that as hard as I tried, I'm sure I've left someone out so I apologise in advance. We've had a lot of teams working together this year – some are group teams and some are individuals.

- **Frogland** – Linda and Marie and others
- **Maintenance & Technical Support** – Jason and Kelvin
- **TAGs** – Gray (STAGs), Graeme, Lee, David, Brian
- **Labels** – Sarah, Catriona, Jan, Cathy
- **Market Trailer** – Jan (rosters, plants, signage)
- **Drivers:** (Jason, John) and all the volunteers on the trailer during market hours
- **Library** – Gloria
- **Wildflower Garden** – Carolyn
- **Newsletter** - Linda
- **Propogating** Alwynne, Marion, Irene, Fiona Linda, Lisa, Charles, Lorraine, Alison and many others.
- Dick and Marion for their orchid expertise and sorting pots.
- Others who are happy to do anything that needs doing

Total Plants Produced

Janaya was the driver of plantings. She collected seed and regularly checked in on how the plants were going. Number of plants planted:

- Heads Road 2500
- Becketts Road 2500
- Orchard Track 500
- Deer-proof Fence 300
- Community – ACCA 1000
- MYLN 300
- Also there were plantings at Petty's Orchard and Happy Valley.

All of the above adds up to around 5000 volunteer hours, 50,000 plants and a lot more clean air to breath!

- We've also had a couple of talks this year. David Cameron spoke about Professors Hill and Tim Entwistle spoke about the 6 seasons. Both were very informative and enjoyable.
- Lyndy Morning teas, organizing BBQs, fund-raising events and talks and the upcoming Spit Roast at our xmas party. Treasurer, support person and thorough cleaner
- Janaya TAG attendee and co-organise, PV plantings, seed collector, driver, PV support person
- Kay when I left for maternity leave with little Luna, Kay joined our team. It's hard to believe that was more than 4 years ago. Kay finished up with us earlier this year but it's lovely she still pops in to say hi and volunteer occasionally.
- Sarah Computer skills, filling in, musical entertainment
- Michelle has been with us for more than 12 months, diligence and thoroughness, hard working
- Justin and Kelvin – all the little and big things that need doing and fixing and changing around the nursery.
- Cathy Manningham representative, technical support, knowledge of all things council and environmental
- Josh -easy going, supportive, walking encyclopedia
- Volunteers - thanks from Michelle, Josh, myself, customers and plants
 - Weeding is such an important but mostly disliked job that we appreciate.
 - Planting
 - Propogating
 - Seed sorting and collecting
 - And the general running of the nursery.

I hope to see everyone at the end of year xmas party on the 8th!

Appendix 4: Ranger Report

Acknowledgment and thanks for support over the past 12- 18 months

Safety First Zero Injuries program

- Organisation wide priority
- Safety factored into everything we do
- Applies to staff, contractors and volunteers etc

Parks Victoria CEO change

- A new process to select CEO since the departure of Bradley Fauteux
- Margaret Gillespie is Acting CEO at this time

Environmental programs

- \$50k DELWP threatened species grant – focusing on orchids of Middle Yarra & Warrandyte-Kinglake NCR (Morrison's, Boomers & One Tree Hill). Funds went to a management plan, fence raising, new fence construction and weed control
- Large in-house exclusion fence raising program – One Tree Hill, Morrison's, Warrandyte State Park
- Numerous research permit programs – Powerful Owl, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Macrofungi, Woodland birds, Frogs etc
- Continuing to work closely with Multi agency/stakeholders in the landscape – Melbourne Water, Nillumbik & Manningham councils, CMA, DELWP
- Pest Animal – annual rabbit control program throughout the Yarra corridor of our managed land. Fox control program in One Tree Hill & Rifle Range (contractor & SSAA)

- Pest Plant: Good Neighbour programs for Chilean Needle Grass in Pound Bend/Tikalara, Riparian Weeds in Norman Reserve, Spanish Heath/Boneseed around St Andrews.
- Blackberry control in Warrandyte State Park
- Native Vegetation offset program (pest plant & animal control) – Timber Reserve & The Common
- In-house weed program (new & emerging weeds, annual weed follow up) right throughout Middle Yarra

Mullum Mullum

- Trail works for the link track have now been completed at Beckett Rd
- Revegetation of this link track (2000 plants supplied through FOWSP nursery) undertaken by contractor
- Revegetation at Heads Rd after Pine Removal (4000 plants supplied through FOWSP) undertaken by volunteers including FOWSP

Volunteers

- Clear process now for 3rd parties wishing to undertake works on Parks Victoria managed land
- Green Army program – 6 months over winter/spring period – focus on fence construction/removal & pest plant control
- Student program – 3 students for 5 months over winter/spring – various tasks
- FOWSP – TAG's – numerous activities over the last 12 months
- FOWSP – threatened species grant, fence raising at Timber Reserve & Fourth Hill (Fiddler Gully)
- Other volunteer groups/activities – Osbourne, ACCA, Friends of Yarra Valley Parks, Friends of Eltham Copper Butterfly, Diamond Valley Bushwalkers etc

Melbourne Fire & Emergency program

- 1 hectare Ecological burn for Slender-tailed Dunnart at One Tree Hill- 10km of Management Vehicle Track upgrades throughout Middle Yarra
- 50km of annual fuel break slashing program
- Post burn weed control at numerous previously burn sites throughout Middle Yarra – delivered inhouse and through contractors
- 9 hectare Mt Lofty burgan removal. Trial without using fire. Treatment of Burgan regrowth priority
- Fuel modification fire breaks program – weed control across high eco value sites