

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Folly, Sunday 12th November 2017 at 5.10pm

Present: John Blake, Bev and John Hansen, Peter Lynch, Lee Deacon, Graham Deacon, Mario and Corin Sene, Sam Trollope, Marie Krause, David Vass, Joan Broadberry, Faye Williams, Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, Lynda Gilbert, Caitriona Young, John Young, Cathy Willis, Gray Ardern, Brian James, Alison Thom, Artur Muchow, Sharon Mason, Jane Pammer, Ken Crook, Annette Lion, Kelvin Watkins,

Apologies: Josh Revell, Michelle Tumino, Jan Falconer, Carolyn Noel, Joy Hick, Wolfgang Krause, Ben & Margaret Gotlib

Chairman: Artur Muchow **Minutes:** Lynda Gilbert

Welcome by the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of the previous AGM

The draft minutes of 2016 AGM were tabled. Moved John Blake that the minutes were an accurate record of the proceedings of the 2016 AGM. Seconded by Linda Rogan.

Reports:

Year in Review

Gray Ardern thanked Parks Vic, in particular Faye, Warren and Janaya for their support. The Wolert Grant is being signed off by Parks Vic for a major rehabilitation project. A defibrillator unit was purchased with a Bendigo Bank grant and another grant from the bank has been granted to the value of \$7555 to pay for a new watering & net system. The Field Naturalists granted funds to purchase a second computer. Thanks to the committee, TAG team and Josh Revell for all the work that they do.

Report moved: Gray Ardern. Seconded: John Blake

Nursery report (See Appendix 1)

Annette Lion thanked staff and volunteers for their contributions to FOWSP and detailed some of these contributions. During the year, there was some 4000 volunteer hours, the equivalent of 25 volunteers per week. The Square reader has made the work a lot easier. Thanks to Michelle who has documented every plant in the nursery, making it easier to have an overview of numbers.

Report moved: Annette Lion

Seconded: Caitriona Young

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: Marie Krause

Ranger's Report (See Appendix 3)

Cam Beardsell presented the report on staff movements and programs and the challenges facing Parks Vic.

Report moved: Cam Beardsell

Seconded: Artur Muchow

Election of Committee of Management

The following members were nominated as committee members for 2017/8. There being no other nominations, the following were duly elected:

Secretary: Artur Muchow Treasurer: Lynda Gilbert

Ordinary members: Annette Lion, Gray Ardern, Kelvin Watkins, Linda Rogan, Caitriona Young, Joy Hick, John Blake, Jeff Cranston. All committee places were declared filled.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm

Appendix 1: Nursery Report

Welcome everyone to another AGM.

Another year of reviews.

Another year of hearing about all the wonderful work that has been done.

Plants propagated

The nursery now has a system (thanks to Michelle) where we keep track of the plants that have been propagated. And since the last AGM approximately 35,000 plants were propagated either by pricking out, dividing or taking cuttings.

Volunteer hours

Our wonderful volunteers (all you guys) have clocked up about 4000hrs averaging about 25 volunteers every week.

In the nursery

- Thanks to the very patient Kelvin, we now have a Square Reader. For those digitally challenged, like me, this is a machine that enables customers to pay with their credit cards. This means much fewer unpaid invoices need to be checked.
- As Gray mentioned/will mention, we have been successful in applying for a grant to build a frame over the sales area to install a better watering system and also to have permanent netting and shade cloth in areas. This means no more cockie damage! The staff spend many hours netting and removing the nets each Thursday to protect the plants from being 'played with' by the bored cockatoos. This is certainly a job we won't miss.
- Also the frame will provide more protection from frost. This year was a bad year for frost and plants that are usually ok were quite burnt. We had quite a little 'first aid nursery' for a while.
- Every spring we have our yearly clearance sale. It's always a popular and busy time and this year was no exception. With the combination of emailing members, advertising on facebook, the ability for customers to pay by credit card and dropping the price of all the plants to \$1, it made for the busiest day I've ever had in the ten years I've been here. Last open Saturday we sold approximately 1500 plants in a space of 5hrs!

Thanks yous

- **Parks Rangers** for helping us with our TAG's
- **Col** for always making sure the tank has enough water
- **Janaya** for so many things that Gray will go into
- **Linda** for doing such an amazing job month after month with the newsletter.
- **Linda and Marie** week after week you tirelessly get on your hands and knees and weed, plant and look after Frogland like it's your little baby. Many other volunteers have helped too.
- **Carolyn** has created such a beautiful wildflower garden in a space where there was nothing. And the mosaic sign is just gorgeous.
- **Alwynne, Marion, Irene and Louise** have their own table and come in almost every single week and take such good careful care of our stock plants and always let us know if there's a dry spot.
- **Artur and Lyndy** for applying for the grants
- **Jan** for taking on the trailer each month and making sure the roster is filled, choosing the best plants, and ensuring the trailer is always stocked up with the appropriate fliers and information. And thanks to all the volunteers who help fill the rosters and work at the trailer no matter what the weather.
- **John** for bringing the trailer to and back from the market.
- **Dick** who maintains and openly shares his knowledge of the orchids. He also takes pride in stacking the trays with pots for propagation. It's a simple but very important task.
- **Gloria and Lyndy** for taking the initiative to reduce the use of plastics by making 'Boomerang Bags'. These are cloth bags that have been made by Gloria and Lyndy to give to customers instead of plastic bags. The idea is once they've used the bag for their plants then they return the bag to us hence Boomerang.
- **Gray** for all his jokes – good and bad. For leading the TAG's, STAG's but no longer any WAG's. And for always being so light, cheerful and never failing to make us laugh.
- **Customers** who keep us afloat

Special Thanks

- **Jason and Kelvin** for all things technical, digital and computerish. Poor Kelvin is usually greeted by Michelle, Josh or I with 'Hi Kelvin! The computer's not working! The internet won't connect! The printer won't talk to the computer! We can't open the email!' He always patiently and calmly sits down and nuts it out! Thank you!
- **Cathy** endlessly helps out within the nursery, attends committee meetings, leads walks, composes and prints plant signage for us. She always helps where she can and we're very grateful to her.
- **Lyndy** the list is endless what Lyndy does!

- She is most famous for making delicious morning teas every week even if she can't attend the nursery that day, Ken often delivers it.
- She cleans, cooks, organizes bbq's, is our treasurer, applies for grants.
- Recently Lyndy and Ken have been attending kindergartens and giving talks about FOWSP.
- **Volunteers** make the nursery! There is never a dull moment in the nursery and out in the field.
- Regular taggers
- Regular pricker-outta-rers
- Regular froglanders
- Regular weeders
- Regular whatever-needs-to-be-doners
- And some just come for the great company, chats and of course Lyndy's famous morning teas.

Last of all

- **The staff.** Since I'm delivering this report and I'm the only one here, I can say what I want! Michelle, Josh and Sarah are really the best workmates. They're understanding, fun, patient, clever, capable, and just really great friends to work with. And they seem to understand that my clocks at home seem to somehow run 5mins behind the nursery clock!
- **Josh** is patient and very tolerant of being the only male. He does cop some flack from us strong women but it's always in fun and he's well looked after. He's very generous of his time and knowledge, of which we all know, he has so much of.
- **Michelle** is the best problem solver! I love her ability to cope with anything and make everything work. We've become quite close and it's special to work with such a good friend.
- **Sarah** is a computer whiz. If we know Sarah is coming in to work then we have special tasks we ask her to do. What takes me hours, she whips up in minutes. Everything seems easy when Sarah's on board.

Thanks to you all for coming!

With the formalities over let the festivities begin!

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report

FOWSP income for 2016-7 has been \$57,569, some \$11,000 lower than last financial year. Expenses were \$59,812. There was a deficit of \$2,243 this time around.

Membership for the last financial year was as follows: 164 Full members 50 Concessions 50 complimentary. Some 30 members have not renewed their subscriptions.

Administrative expenses appear to be higher than last financial year, but this included a defibrillator unit cost which was offset by the Bendigo Bank grant of \$2600, and the First Aid training cost of \$2150 which was subsidised by Parks Vic to the value of \$800.

Parks Vic have reimbursed FOWSP for the purchase of a quantity of tools and some admin expenses.

Wages were lower than the previous financial year due to the extra volunteer hours worked by Josh Revell – Thank you Josh.

The introduction of the Square credit card reader has been a great bonus this year as people carry less cash on them - and is working well.

Orders for 2018 are looking very promising so next year promises to be a good year.

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: Parks Vic Ranger's Report

PARKS VICTORIA MANAGEMENT CHANGES

We have a new CEO Matthew Jackson — was the CEO of the Phillip Island Nature Parks (Penguins) o New Regional Director— Bryan Welch

PEST PLANT PROGRAMS

Peri Urban Weed Management Initiative. (3yr program) Weed control throughout habitat corridor including Northern Reserves, Panton Hill & Warrandyte State Park. This program focusses on. achieving a landscape approach to weed control. It also incorporates works through Kinglake National Park and Plenty Gorge Parklands.

Good Neighbour Programs

- Pound Bend cliffs
- Sweeneys
- Riparian Weeds (Normans Reserve & Koornong)
- Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve.
- Blackberry control - WSP & WP
- Native Vegetation offset program (pest plant & animal control) — Timber Reserve & The Common
- In-house weed program (including new & emerging weeds, annual weed follow up) right throughout Middle Yarra

PEST ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Annual rabbit control program throughout the Yarra corridor of our managed land.

Fox control program in One Tree Hill & Rifle Range (contractor & SSAA)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- Powerful Owl — Deakin University o BTP Delwp/inhouse
- Fish surveys by Arthur Rylah Institute. Determine effect of Dights Falls fishway on fish communities of tributaries of the Yarra River.
- Continuation of Cam's orchid recovery program

STAFF MOVEMENTS

- Bernie Van Lith has retired.
- New Ranger starting late November - Phil Rance
- Aidan O'Dempsey has moved work centres.
- Robert Box has been appointed **into his Fire FSO position**

VOLUNTEERS

- Green Army program — 6 months over winter/spring period — focus on fence construction/removal, pest plant control & revegetation.
- Student program — 2 students for 5 months over winter/spring — various tasks
- FOWSP — TAG's — numerous activities over the last 12 months
- Other volunteer groups/activities — Osborne, ACCA, Friends of Yarra Valley Parks, Friends of Eltham Copper Butterfly, Diamond Valley Bushwalkers etc.

CHALLENGES

We have had to deal with a lot of illegal dumping within the park, both domestic and industrial
Illegal Mountain Bike tracks & jumps being created throughout and large amounts of vandalism.

TIKALARA MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

Marked out & assessed by geomorphological/enviro consultant as well as walk through with staff. Faye has also met with Friends of YVP to update them on this. Early stage of this Trail being developed.