

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK
Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Held at the Folly, Warrandyte State Park, Sunday 5th November 2018 at 5.00pm

Chairperson: Artur Muchow

Minutes: Lynda Gilbert

Present: Marie Krause, Linda Rogan, Peter Rogan, Lynda Gilbert, Carol Page, Gray Ardern, Brian James, Alison Thom, Artur Muchow, Ken Crook, Jeff Cranston, Kelvin Watkins, Carolyn Noel, Don Vincent, Joy Hick, Barrie Taylor, Jan Davies, Diane & John Baird, Kay Williams, Bruce McMahon, David Vass, Lisa Jenkins.

Apologies: Josh Revell, Jan Falconer, Wolfgang Krause, Ben & Margaret Gotlib, Bev and John Hanson, Kelly Wooster, Annette Lion, Michelle Tumino, Belinda Christie, Gloria Moore, Faye Williams, Warren Murphy.

1. Welcome by the Chairperson:

Artur welcomed all to the meeting and asked Ken Crook to say a few words in recognition of Remembrance Day which honours the fallen in World War I and the voluntary Indigenous People's contribution to the war.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The draft minutes of 2017 AGM were tabled. Moved Linda Rogan that the minutes were an accurate record of the proceedings of the 2017 AGM. Seconded by Kelvin Watkins.

3. Reports:

Year in Review (*See Appendix 1*)

Report presented and moved by: Gray Ardern. Seconded: Joy Hick

Nursery report (*See Appendix 2*)

Gray Ardern presented a report prepared by the Nursery Manager, Josh Revell.

Report prepared by Josh Revell and moved by: Gray Ardern Seconded: Carol Page

Treasurer's report (*See Appendix 3*)

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

Report presented and moved by: Lynda Gilbert Seconded: Ken Crook

Ranger's Report (*See Appendix 4*)

Tabled after the AGM as it was overlooked at the meeting.

Report moved by : Gray Ardern Seconded: Lynda Gilbert

4. Election of Committee of Management

The following members were nominated as committee members for 2018/9 including one new nomination, Lisa Jenkins and regretfully, one retiring committee member, Joy Hick. Joy was thanked for her significant input into savings on the cost of the newsletter. The following were duly elected unopposed.

Secretary: Artur Muchow. Treasurer: Lynda Gilbert

Ordinary members: Annette Lion, Gray Ardern, Kelvin Watkins, Linda Rogan, Lisa Jenkins, Jeff Cranston, Carolyn Noel. All committee places were declared filled.

5. Any Other Business.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 5.45pm.

A presentation was given by Linda Rogan on native bees.

Appendix 1: Year in Review – Gray Ardern

Firstly, we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to play our part in making Warrandyte State Park and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Reserve such a priceless asset. We thank Faye Williams, Area Chief Ranger for Plenty Gorge and Warrandyte, and Warren Murphy, the Warrandyte Ranger Team Leader, and Warren's team of Rangers.

This year we lost our Contact Ranger Janaya O'Dempsey, who has left Parks Victoria and joined Aboriginal Victoria as a Heritage Registry Information Officer.

We are particularly grateful to Ranger Phil Rance, who has stepped into the breach to help us. We greatly appreciate his knowledge, enthusiasm, and willingness. He is extremely busy doing the job for which he was formally engaged, but somehow, he finds the time and energy to go the extra mile for us!

We thank Ranger Cam Beardsell for his leadership of Thursday Activity Groups – always an education and an inspiration!

We also thank Ranger Colin Bromiley for keeping the river-water pump going. This pump is aging, and has its idiosyncrasies, but we are entirely dependent on it for water for our Nursery. Col has put a huge amount of time and muscle into repairing and maintaining the pump.

I don't usually acknowledge our Office Bearers, but I wish to thank our Treasurer Lyndy Gilbert for producing delicious and varied Morning Teas week after week – the TAG Team particularly enjoys the portable morning tea that Lyndy provides!

Turning to this year's achievements, the most salient is the Nursery Frame, supporting both an improved watering-system, and netting to keep the wildlife from destroying our stock. This project was funded by Bendigo Bank and a Strong Communities Grant from the Federal Government. For the building of the frame we thank Kelvin, Josh, Paul and Pete whose sustained effort, ingenuity and problem-solving overcame so many seemingly intractable difficulties.

Bendigo Bank also funded a 33,000 litre water tank, to provide backup in case of failure of the aging river-water pump that I have already mentioned.

The Walert Creek Habitat Restoration and Protection Project is now in its second year, and has a lot to show for its first year. There is already a very noticeable reduction in weeds, and several hundred plants of local provenance have already been propagated and put in.

Most excitingly, Cam and Phil and I have found two colonies of *Chiloglottis* orchids. At the time of our grant application these colonies were believed to be of *C. jeansii* [Mountain Bird Orchid] but re-examination of the orchid, when it bloomed in September, has shown it to be *C. sp. aff. valida*. [Please see Phil's article on p.9 of the FOWSP Newsletter of November 2018]. Much of the remaining term of the Walert Creek Grant will be spent on support and recovery of this orchid, which is possibly one of our rarest.

Other grants received this year are:

- A grant from Melbourne Water for revegetation of PV land beside the Yarra. 1000 plants have been put in, mainly within deer and kangaroo 'exclosures', on Endeavour Bank – part of the alluvial terrace below the Work Centre.

- A Volunteer Activity Support Grant from PV provided tools and equipment, as did a City of Manningham Small Grant. Another Manningham Small Grant provided funds towards a new BBQ, and table.
- Middle Yarra Landcare Network gave us funds towards First Aid and CPR Training, and a grant came from the Wettenhall Environment Trust, to pay for signs for Frogland and for the Pollinator Garden.
- The tenth grant we received this year was from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, which funded the fencing of two sites on Fourth Hill to protect rare and threatened orchids.

The Nursery Report ably expresses our thanks to the Committee, especially Lyndy, Linda and Kelvin, and to Cathy and Jason, and to the TAG team; so I will not repeat those thanks here. I will however express our thanks to Josh.

So many tasks fall to the obliging and uncomplaining Josh. It is Josh who keeps track of the life-cycle of the 200 species of plants we propagate, predicts the precise moment to harvest the seeds of all those species, and gets out there to collect them. And of course, it is Josh's expertise which ensures the successful propagation of those plants! Every Thursday morning there are lots of volunteers and customers vying for Josh's time. Everybody gets his full, courteous and helpful attention. Not many can combine such knowledge with patience and the ability to communicate well.

Finally, we thank our hard-working, knowledgeable and friendly Nursery staff: Michelle Tumino and Annette Lion.

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.

FOWSP turned 36 this year, and I'm sure you will agree that this has been yet another successful and productive year!

Appendix 2: Nursery Report – Josh Revell

The nursery had a very successful Year with over 22,000 plants gone into the Warrandyte State Park from grant programmes, Melbourne Water capital works, ACCA, enrichment and biodiversity projects, with over 1800 plants donated by FOWSP (down from previous years).

We have continued support to local schools/kinders with donations of plants to those eligible.

Approximately 600 plants sold at the Warrandyte Market along with educational material and PV info at market trailer.

Tags have continued to be very successful.

The Frogland and Pollinator Gardens are creating a lot of interest with regular visitors on weekends and open days. The continued maintenance by volunteers and plant ID signage gets great feedback.

These areas, along with the nursery itself, hold some of our most threatened locally rare and significant plants which are used for propagation without having to impact wild populations. (There is around plant 200 species found in Frogland, Pollinator Garden and nursery).

Large donations of forestry tubes and boxes very much appreciated.

Nursery hosted visits from Victorian geography teachers Association, TAFE students and VNPA, among others.

New irrigation system for the nursery and animal netting frame installed.

The introduction of the square reader very successful and made possible extra plants sales due to convenience for customers.

Preparation already underway for some of next year's PV and MW projects at One Tree Hill Mullum Creek, 4TH Hill and Pound Bend, Andersons Creek etc.

A big Thanks for all the help and support time effort construction advice and fun to

PV rangers and fire crew
Manningham and ACCA
Members
Trailer people
Staff, committee and
VOLUNTEERS

Appendix 3: Treasurer's Report – Lyndy Gilbert

FOWSP's audited income for 2017-8 has been \$73,426, some \$16k higher than last financial year. Expenses were \$60,655.

Membership for the last financial year was as follows: 168 Full members 53 Concessions 50 complimentary.

Administrative costs were lower than last year, due to donations to morning teas either cash or inkind contributions plus \$800 contribution from IGA. There were significant savings in the cost of production of the newsletter as nearly everyone receives it by email and a couple of members have offered to print out extras for mailouts. MLYN contributed to the cost of training 16 people in first aid, a saving of nearly \$2000.

Thanks to Parks Vic for reimbursing FOWSP for the purchase of a quantity of tools and some administration expenses. We really appreciate their ongoing support of our activities.

Wages and superannuation were \$5k higher than the previous financial year due a 3% pay rise granted by the Fair Work commission.

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 - Warren Murphy

Parks Victoria Management changes

- New Executive Director Melbourne Division – Kylie Trott, she was the Executive Director Regional Victoria (Chris Hardman has moved to DELWP).
- New Regional Director Metropolitan Parks – Craig Stubbings (replaces Bryan Welch), he was the former manager of Northern Region

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
 - Hochkins Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve
- Blackberry control – Warrandyte State Park & Yarra Valley Parklands
- 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
- Fox control program in One Tree Hill & Rifle Range (contractor & SSAA)
- Conservation Futures Program (Nillumbik) undertaking fox control, fencing, weed control in the Northern Reserves
- Continuation of Biodiversity Fence construction/raising due to herbivore grazing impacts

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- Powerful Owl – Deakin University – 3rd year of research
- Brush-tailed Phascogale annual monitoring program
- Nillumbik Councils Conservation Corridors program - song meters and remote sensing cameras throughout park estate north of the Yarra River.
- Southern Toadlet research program in conjunction with frog expert Craig Cleeland
- Continuation of Cam's orchid recovery program – including planting of orchids from the Royal Botanical Gardens to enrich populations

GRANTS

- Walert Creek Mullum Mullum Reserve – 2nd year of program in conjunction with FOWSP
- Fourth Hill Betton Track – 1st year of program in conjunction with FOWSP. Fence construction, weed control and enrichment planting.

PLANNED BURNING

- Overbank Rd – North Warrandyte (North of Caitlins Retreat) – Completed in Autumn
- Laughing Waters Rd – Adjacent to Morrisons (Yarra Valley Parklands) – Completed in Autumn

STAFF MOVEMENTS

- Janaya O'Dempsey has left Parks Victoria for Heritage Victoria
- Aaron Domeyer is on secondment to Gembrook until June 2019. Peter Collings has filled his Fire FSO position

VOLUNTEERS

- Student program – 3 students for 5 months over winter/spring – various tasks
- FOWSP – TAG's – numerous activities over the last 12 months
- Other volunteer groups/activities – Osbourne, ACCA, Friends of Yarra Valley Parks, Friends of Eltham Copper Butterfly, Diamond Valley Bushwalkers etc.

CHALLENGES

- We continue to deal with a lot of illegal dumping within the park, both domestic and industrial
- Large amounts of vandalism, particularly gate damage
- Public bringing dogs into no dog areas
- Substantial illegal land clearing