

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at The Folly, Sunday 17th November, 2024

- 1. The Chair, Artur Muchow, welcomed everyone**
- 2. Attendees:** Artur Muchow, John Young, Gray Ardern, Tony Oliver, Lyn Moore, Leon Moore, Joy Hick, Jan Falconer, Cathy Willis, Jeff Cranston, Marie Krause, Don Vincent, Lynda Gilbert, Ken Crook, Joan Broadberry, Josh Revell,
- 3. Apologies:** Phil Rance, Diane and John Baird, Carolyn Noel, Robyn Hull, Joy Dahl, Sharon Mason, Caitriona Young, Barry Taylor
- 4. Minutes of Previous AGM – 19th November 2023**
 - a. Moved Artur that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Tony Oliver. Carried.**
 - b. Business arising – Nil**
- 5. Reports – all attached in full**
 - a. PV Rangers Report – Gray Ardern for Phil Rance**
 - b. The Year in Review – Gray Ardern**
 - i. TAGs – Don Vincent**
 - c. Nursery Report – Josh Revell**
 - d. Treasurer’s Report – Tony Oliver**

Moved Artur Muchow that the reports be received. Seconded Marie Krause

Other Business

Election of Committee of Management

Jan Falconer took over from the Chair and declared all committee positions vacant. Nominations were received from Arthur Muchow, Tony Oliver, Jeff Cranston, Gray Ardern, Lyn Moore, John Young and Robyn Hull. There were no further nominations and the committee comprises

Artur Muchow -Secretary

Tony Oliver – Treasurer

Committee Members – Robyn Hull, Joy Hick, Jeff Cranston, John Young, Gray Ardern and Lyn Moore.

With the business of the meeting completed, Artur closed thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Parks Victoria Management changes

- Organisational-wide restructure currently underway. Watch this space!!

CHALLENGES

- Fairly wet year has led to high weed growth, primarily weedy grasses in the park
- Rubbish dumping in the park increased again this year – particularly building type waste – , rocks, dirt, cement sheeting and concrete
- Visitor pressures along the river – degrading vegetation, compliance issues etc in addition to increase visitor incidents on the Yarra

PEST PLANT PROGRAMS

- Peri Urban Weed Management Initiative. Weed control for this program commenced within the Warrandyte-Kinglake NCR, Boomers Reserve & Warrandyte State Park. This program focusses on achieving a landscape approach to weed control.
- Good Neighbour Programs
 - Spadonis Blackberry
 - Mt Lofty and JC
 - Flora Cres/Proctor St woody weeds
- Final year of Mullum Mullum and Hochkins Ridge weed control grant
- Threatened Species/Biodiversity protection – Grassy Weed control
- In-house weed program (including new & emerging weeds, annual weed follow up) right throughout Middle Yarra – The usual mix - Chilean, Serrated, Patto, Blackberry, Woodies, Capers spurge, Gorse, Briar, Disa, grasses at various locations

PEST ANIMAL PROGRAMS

- Bunny fumigation conducted at Pound Bend tunnel downstream
- Fox control program in One Tree Hill & Rifle Range (contractor based) conducted in Dec 2023. 10 foxes removed during juvenile-Phascogale dispersal window
- Deer control program (contractor based) conducted between July and Sept. at Mt Lofty, Jumping Creek, Pound Bend, Fourth Hill, The Common, Glynnys, Laughing Waters, Yanakie, One Tree Hill and Rifle Range – 111 deer removed over 14 nights

ENVIRONMENTAL/THREATENED SPECIES PROGRAMS

- Southern Toadlet program continuation. Conducted our own in-house monitoring and management
- Continuation of programs on rare and threatened orchids – Sickie Greenhood, Rosella Spider Orchid, Wine-lipped Spider Orchid, Woodland Plumed Orchid, Mullum Bird Orchid, Bronze Bird Orchid and Emerald-lip Greenhood

PLANNED BURNING

- Sutton St – St Andrews
- Brackenbury St - Warrandyte

FOWSP related activities

- 20+ TAGs conducted this year. Woody weed control, grassy weed control, planting rarities and pollinator plants, reveg maintenance, South African Orchid anti-incursion patrols and thinning of burban and cassinia
- Numerous autonomous TAGs
- Approx 3345 volunteer hours contributed last financial year
- Several hundred FOWSP grown plants installed in the park – some locally rare and threatened.
- Facebook articles and newsletter – invaluable community engagement and representation

OTHER

- Working closely with Melbourne Water to identify MW capital works programs along the Yarra River
- Application for MW Liveable Communities grants – Yarra Valley Parklands, Warrandyte State Park & Mullum Mullum Park
- Longridge Driveway upgrade completed by contractors.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

NOTES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW presented by Gray Ardern

As always we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to continue to play a part in the preservation and enhancement of Warrandyte State Park and adjacent Parks Victoria lands. We particularly thank Ranger Team Leader Warren Murphy and his team of Rangers – especially our invaluable contact Ranger Phil Rance and the ever-willing Col Bromley.

We know Phil as more than enough to do without attending so conscientiously and effectively to our needs.

Without Col's keeping an eye on our water supply and running of the pump, our plants would not survive – especially during Josh's absences.

Our bush crew, the Thursday Activity Group, has this year enjoyed several work days led by Ranger Cam Beardsell. As well as the satisfaction of completing a worthwhile task, Cam's enthusiasm about botany, ecology and local history is itself a good enough reason for attending.

We are most fortunate to have devoted, talented staff in our Nursery Manager Josh Revell and our Nursery Assistant Lynda Chambers.

I want to emphasise how grateful we are for all that Josh does for us, in his cheerful unassuming way. Countless thankless tasks fall to Josh, and are quietly dealt with without fanfare – or indeed anyone else being aware of them, for the most part.

I'd also like to thank Lynda Chambers, our Nursery Assistant, for service beyond the call of duty – she, like Josh, somehow manages to cope calmly and effectively with the many simultaneous demands of customers and volunteers.

As I say every year, thanking people is a thankless task, as I will inevitably forget somebody, and even if I didn't, there are always more people to thank for contributing to the great year that we have had.

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TAG Report for 2024

2024 has again been a full year for the Thursday Activity Group. By year end we will have conducted 50 TAGs, of which 22 were led by either Phil or Cam to many of the fenced enclosures in the WSP. Some of the highlights for the year:

- Pauline Toner Reserve, planting *Busaria* and improving habitat for the Eltham Copper Butterfly and orchids;
- Morrison's in Eltham to care for the enclosures there, with a regular patrol to find the south African weed orchid *Disa*, and perhaps some clearing up around the heritage trees including the Portuguese Oak and Canary Island Oak
- Boomers Reserve in Panton Hill, building planting beds for *Caladenia amoena*, the Charming Spider orchid, and
- Since the last AGM, two trips to Spadoni's in Yarra Glen to plant the rare *Eucalyptus crenulata* Yarra Silver Gum and *Pimelea puaciflora*, the Poison Riceflower.

Other areas regularly attended are various enclosures on Fourth Hill, Longridge Farm, Rifle Range, Walert Creek, and especially here on Pound Bend to maintain the many plantings and enclosures.

As part of a grant acquittal from Melbourne Water, under Artur's guidance, we've commenced extending the enclosures (or exclosures) on Pound Bend, which have been reasonably successful in re establishing the indigenous vegetation.

We will be trialing other methods to enlarge guards to increase our rate of getting plants to maturity. We treat every plant we get from the nursery as precious, as we know the effort that has gone into their production. Hence, we are carefully planting and allowing for follow up watering, as well as increasing our focus on maintenance of previous plantings.

The TAGgers are a very enthusiastic lot, and energetically attack every task, especially some of the more difficult ones, I think. TAGs are very productive, but the task is increasing all the time.

Thanks to Josh for his guidance and, to both Josh and Linda for keeping us supplied with appropriately selected plants for our planting expeditions.

Much appreciation to Phil for his coordination and leading of the TAGs to the Parks enclosures, with interesting background information, and plant identification. Thanks also to Cam for his outings and chats, especially showing us hand pollination of rare orchids and explaining the symbiotic relationships of the orchids in their environment.

Also thanks to Sybille with Kay's assistance, for the delicious morning teas provided throughout the year. Even when Sybille was away, she had prepared and dated food for the whole time.

We didn't have too many unexpected events, unlike previous years when David decided to head butt a deer, and also, again David, who was walking along Walert Creek, suddenly seemed to levitate, as a large Tiger Snake did the same in the opposite direction.

Despite these occasional minor mishaps, we always enjoy getting out into the Park and seeing the improvement over the years.

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JOSH'S NURSERY REPORT

Projects

1. Threatened species project – plants have now gone to several sites
2. Southern Toadlet and Glycine Latrobeana projects have been supported
3. Platylodium infucundum project – plants were grown at the Nursery for identification by a senior botanist (David Cameron). Since being identified more have been sited.

Orders

1. Positive feedback of good quality plants has led to more orders being received from regular customer, Melbourne Water
2. There were orders of 2,500 plants from Parks Vic for planting in the Park, including Endeavour Bank
3. Andersons Creek Landcare placed orders for 7,000 plants this year
4. There is a projection of 40,000 plants being grown in the Nursery in 2025.

Thanks

A big thank you to my able assistant Linda, to Phil, to Gray, to the committee and to all the volunteers. Everyone's contributions over the year help to make the Nursery a very productive one, as well as a very pleasant place to work in.