

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Inc.

71 Napoleon Crescent, White Hills 3550
Samuel Gadd Centre, Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 16th July, Time 11:30 am

Location: Samuel Gadd Centre

Present: Pam Sheean, Jan Bobin, Judy Milner, Lyn Winn, Lindy Sloan, Annie Clark, Joy Clusker, Mandy Scott, Helen Musk, Kirstie Paterson, Anne Aston

Apologies: Deb Degenhardt

Minutes of previous meeting held 21st May 2024

That the minutes of the previous meeting are a true and accurate record:

Moved: Mandy Scott Seconded: Annie Clark Accepted

Business Arising:

1. Participation in APS Flower Show: We have once again been invited to participate in the show on 28-29th September. Happy to do the same as last year with Artworks, Cards and a sample of plants from the nursery – discussions re having extra plants was decided against due to practicability of transport and also because of competition with retailers on site. Pam will take charge of organising and to include a roster for set up and manning the stall on the 2 days.

2. Next stage of Master Plan: As far as Kirstie is aware, any work on the next stage of the master plan has been put “On Hold” due to the rebuild of Omari. The pool at this point to remain. Work has started to make some upgrades to Hamlin Street on the other side of Bendigo creek to allow for extra parking, especially for Café traffic. It needs to be emphasised the Master Plan as adopted should be adhered to – any changes to the original would need Heritage Victoria approval at the very least.

3. Letter from Council re non-allocation of funding: Its very disappointing that our application for funding for redevelopment of the Samuel Gadd Centre and Nursery was unsuccessful: Moving forward, do we follow up and put pressure on Council for next budget? Helen will draft a letter expressing our disappointment and asking what to do next. i.e. do we have to put in a new submission?

4. Sculpture donation to the Gardens: There will be no money from Council for Sculptures. We would need support from the Parks dept. Which garden would we look at putting a sculpture in? – keeping in mind that any sculpture in the Heritage gardens would require Heritage Victoria approval. Judy will investigate possibilities of running a sculpture exhibition instead.

5. Sister organization arrangement with Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens: Happy to invite members to take part in Illustrators workshops, exhibitions and visit as a garden group.

6. 25th Anniversary of FBBG next year – planning: Tentative booking has been made for an exhibition at Dudley house from 1st to 7th October 2025. We need to decide if we apply for a grant to cover costs of this? Pam has made contact with Rohan Phillips from Council re booking of the venue and grants available. Other ideas – A Bumper edition of Dovyalis; Garden &/or Illustrators workshops to be spread over the month of October to coincide with the above exhibition rather than the whole year.

7. Defibrillator training – need to ask Kirstie to give us a run through – next Tuesday at 9:45?

06.07.24	Annie Clark	Renew Membership Notice
06.07.24	Jan Bobin	Tyro Machine replacement
11.07.24	Pam Sheean	Re: Draft Agenda

SENT

Date	To	Subject
17.05.24	Pam Sheean	Draft Agenda
19.05.24	Fwd: FBBG Committee	AGHS National ENews – Future Directions
20.05.24	Judy Milner	Draft Agenda
21.05.24	FBBG Committee	Draft Agenda and notice of meeting
22.05.24	Simone Carmody	Advertising Flyer
24.05.24	Fwd: Pam and Judy	May Newsletter for environmental volunteers
24.05.24	Fwd: Pam and Judy	Cultivate #128
24.05.24	Fwd: Pam and Judy	Book News
28.05.24	FBBG Members	Book News
31.05.24	Jan Bobin	Re: Meeting Minutes
31.05.24	Anne and Kirstie	Fwd: VCC Walking Tour
31.05.24	Anne and Kirstie	Fwd: Re VCC Walking Tour
31.05.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: Climate Adaptation
31.05.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: COGB Budget 24/25 response
31.05.24	FBB Committee	Fwd: BGANZ Botanic Gardens Day
31.05.24	Pam Sheean	Draft Minutes
03.05.24	FBBG Members	Fwd: AGHS Webinar: Big Hearted Gardens
06.06.24	Jan Bobin	Fwd: Remittance advice
06.06.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: AgHS Project Activity
10.06.24	Pam Sheean	Thanks May Minutes
10.06.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: Advertising Flyer and Invitation
10.06.24	Simone Carmody	Thanks: Advertising flyer
10.06.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: June newsletter DEECA
10.06.24	FBBG Committee	BGANZ News
10.06.24	FBBG Members	Minutes from May Committee Meeting
21.06.24	Kirstie Paterson	Fwd: Year 10 Work Experience
21.06.24	Annie Clark	Fwd: Membership application, Deborah
23.06.24	Pam & Judy	Fwd: Volunteering information
24.06.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: June News, Bot Gardens Conservation
26.06.24	Jan Bobin	Fwd: Remittance advice from Kirstie
01.07.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: BGANZ June news
05.07.24	Annie Clark	Fwd: Membership form
05.07.24	Judy Milner	Fwd: Managed Growth Strategy
09.07.24	FBBG Membership	Membership subs are due
09.07.24	FBBG Committee	Fwd: Tyro Machine Replacement
09.07.24	Pam & Judy	Draft Agenda for approval

That the correspondence as circulated be accepted:

Moved: Annie Clark Seconded: Lyn Winn Accepted

Motion: FBBG will contribute \$10,000.00 towards the Labelling engraving machine for the gardens as recommended by Kirstie.

Moved: Pam Sheean Seconded: Judy Milner Accepted.

3. Gardens Staff Report: Kirstie Paterson. The Café rebuilding is completed and to be handed back to Council on Monday and will be handed back to the tenants to complete their fit out with possible reopening at the beginning of August.

Staffing: Sandra has retired after many years – Annie suggested that a card be sent to her from the Friends to congratulate her – Pam will organise. Her position will be advertised shortly. Apprentice has completed her apprenticeship and will finish this week having decided to seek different employment opportunities. Advertising for a new apprentice will be done shortly.

Kirstie is very pleased to report that the gardens budget has been doubled for first time in 18 years. This will enable extra maintenance to be undertaken. Kirstie thanks the FBBG for keeping the gardens supplied with plants over time.

Kareena McIntyre has been appointed as the new Director of Parks and Open spaces replacing Orrin Hogan. Kareena is keen to meet the friends and will be invited to our next meeting.

Labeller: Kirstie enquired with Gargarro Botanic Garden re their Laser labeller but with the cost coming at over \$40,000 we decided it would be too expensive for us. She has decided to go with a standard type used successfully by Geelong, Ballarat and Melton gardens which will be approx. \$15,000 preferably will use Metal /Aluminium for signage although plastic is an option. FBBG will contribute \$10,000 towards the cost. (see motion in Treasurers Report)

BGANZ news – John Arnott has retired from Cranbourne Gardens but will remain as a committee member of BGANZ. Their next meeting is likely to be at Parliament House with the end of year meeting planned for Bendigo. Membership of BGANZ is paid for by Kirstie which covers FBBG.

Tulips have been planted in the Dahlia beds and other areas of the gardens – there are approx. 9 trays available for the friends to sell at our Saturday sales. No extra advertising to be done, word of mouth should be sufficient! Winter work is progressing with the help of Council staff and a group of Bendigo South East students who mulched the GFTF. Thanks also to the Friends gardening group for their help with pruning etc. Mandy has requested use of some of the pruning tools from the Gardens to assist in their pruning work. Kirstie will arrange to have tools available on Tuesdays.

Kirstie has ordered printing of a new batch of brochures & will include some of the Heritage Trees brochure as well.

Contractors working at the Café rebuild have been driving over garden beds causing damage to plants and irrigation. New plants have been ordered as part of the Insurance claim, but planting is likely to be held off until Function centre rebuild is complete.

4. Growing Friends Report: Judy Milner - We have had a good roll up most weeks considering the weather conditions. Gardening group have been busy with pruning and weeding thanks to Mandy for her organisation of the group. Propagation group has been continuing with cuttings, potting on etc building up our nursery stock.

5. Botanical Illustrators Report: Pam Sheean – Numbers have been down with only 5 or 6 regulars attending. Don Leversha is making enquiries regarding having a small exhibition at the Court House in Eaglehawk in Spring this year.

6. Walks and Talks Report: Anne Aston – Anne Bridley and Judy Lee assisted Kirstie with a group of Heathcote school students recently – they had a tour of the gardens searching for bugs learning of their

importance in the environment. Kirstie suggested the cancellation of tours until Spring. Regarding the Flyers prepared by Simone, Helen and Ann will consult on the wording to reflect this plan. 120 to be printed when finalised for distribution to the Visitors centre. Judy will arrange to have the newspaper notice changed and Pam will update the website.

7. Dovyalis Report: Judy Milner – More articles needed for the next edition due in a couple of months. Joy has one prepared.

8. Website activity: Pam Sheean – not a lot of movement at present. Simone has shown interest in taking over maintenance & updating of the website with seasonal changes and photo updates when she returns. Thanks to Lindy for her work done with the initial set up.

Website statistics June/July 2024

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2024	303	322	899	3,898	1.27 GB
Feb 2024	477	517	1,329	3,800	1.07 GB
Mar 2024	367	410	870	4,086	1.43 GB
Apr 2024	342	394	4,598	8,179	1.53 GB
May 2024	384	440	936	3,759	1.13 GB
Jun 2024	324	378	672	3,207	1.31 GB
Jul 2024	208	233	443	2,060	699.27 MB
Aug 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Sep 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,405	2,694	9,747	28,989	8.43 GB

That the reports be accepted:

Moved: Lindy Sloan Seconded: Annie Clark Accepted

General Business:

1. Planning for AGM – we will book the Samuel Gadd Centre main room for Tuesday 15th October at 2:00 PM. Anne Aston accepted the invitation to be Guest Speaker on the day. Afternoon tea to be provided.

Members of the group who are interested are most welcome to join the Committee. Executive Positions of President, Secretary, Minute secretary are open. It's always good to have new people with fresh ideas coming onto the committee so that our work can continue.

Meeting closed at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday August 20th at the Samuel Gadd Centre, Bendigo Botanical Gardens