

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Inc.

71 Napoleon Crescent, White Hills 3550

Samuel Gadd Centre, Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 19th December, 2023. Time 11:30 am

Location: Larni Garingilang Precinct, Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Present: Pam Sheean, Jan Bobin, Judy Milner, Lyn Winn, Lindy Sloan, Deb Degenhardt, Annie Clark, Joy Clusker, Mandy Scott.

Apologies: Helen Musk, Kirstie Paterson, Anne Aston,

Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 21st November, 2023.

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

Moved: Lindy Sloan Seconded: Joy Clusker Accepted

Business Arising:

1. Garden History Group Membership – The subscription for membership with a Digital copy of their journal (4 per year) is \$121.00. Jan will check if we are able to forward the digital copy to members. For Hard Copy the membership is \$141. If necessary, pay for the higher membership.
2. BSG Sustainability Festival – Pam advised that registration for the festival is quite complex and needs to include additional material. Final registration is due on 10/3/24. Pam, Helen and Judy will meet before next meeting to formulate the registration.
3. Samuel Gadd Upgrade Project: At very short notice, Pam was given the opportunity to make a ten-minute presentation to Council, which included background on FBBG, what we do, and the importance of the Samuel Gadd centre redevelopment. One question from councillors present concerned the budget required for the project. Director Presentation and Assets, Brian Westley advised the councillors that he was in possession of the details & costing.
4. Draft Policy on distribution of funds –to be worked on prior to the next AGM. Jan will work on the Asset register in the meantime.
5. Plan for induction of Tour Guides: Following our call for volunteers, the 5 Members to show interest are Peter Fountain, Judy Lee, Anne Bridley, Helen Dallas and Anne Aston. Anne Aston has organised an introductory meeting for 10th January with these volunteers. Judy Milner has sourced the information sheets previously prepared. There will be more meetings and training to follow. Any other interested members are welcome to join in.

New Members: None this month.

Reports:

1. **Correspondence:** Helen Musk & Judy Milner

Accounts to Pay:

Bendigo Bank - Tyro fees November	\$	15.50
Bendigo Copy Centre - printing	\$	228.00
Omari Bendigo - EOY Celebrations	\$	300.00
Reimbursement - Lindy Sloan Guillotine	\$	49.89
		<hr/>
	\$	593.39

That the accounts for payment be accepted

Moved: Jan Bobin Seconded: Mandy Scott Accepted

3. Gardens Staff Report: Kirstie Paterson unable to attend. Both Kirstie and Sandra will be on leave for most of January.

4. Growing Friends Report: Judy Milner – last day of work in the nursery today with a few attendees doing basic tidy up jobs. We need a new storage cupboard for the veranda as the existing one is falling to bits. Judy & Jan to have a look at Bunnings to purchase a replacement similar to the existing one, which can be transferred to the new areas after renovations. Those members on the Saturday sales roster during the break, are asked to check on watering of plants especially those on the veranda and the succulent area, check for and remove dead plants and generally keep the weeds at bay in the nursery. Judy has asked Kirstie if the weeders can have dedicated areas to look after – but not any of the areas with ‘Spiky’ plants due to health & safety concerns and lack of appropriate safety equipment/clothing. Return from break on 16th January, 2024.

5. Botanical Illustrators Report: Pam Sheean – no new members and attendance has been a bit up and down of late. Wednesday is the most popular, so Pam has asked Kirstie if it is possible to have Wednesday afternoons back as before Covid. They would take a lunch break to coincide with the staff lunch time. Workshops for next year in the planning stage. Hopefully the exhibition at Omari will continue as planned for April/May, also tentative plans for a Spring exhibition.

6. Walks & Talks report: Anne Aston – not available – Meeting planned as per Business arising.

7. Dovyalis Report: Judy Milner looking for articles for next edition – a couple already on the go from Peter Fountain and Anne Aston. Back copies of Dovyalis are available for give away to members that would like them. All are marked in the store room.

8. Website Report: Pam Sheean has printed ‘C’ Panel which shows a slight drop for December. The website needs some refreshing and the addition of new photos. Discussions re the possibility of setting up a roster for taking photos each month to add. Lindy to draw up.

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2023	10	10	11	178	111.13 KB
Feb 2023	2	2	10	10	128.01 KB
Mar 2023	5	8	17	53	137.39 KB
Apr 2023	15	16	19	20	130.57 KB
May 2023	5	5	8	9	1.97 MB
Jun 2023	4	4	8	45	1.26 MB
Jul 2023	14	14	17	17	111.82 KB
Aug 2023	14	14	17	60	9.41 MB
Sep 2023	7	7	14	16	1.86 MB
Oct 2023	3	3	10	13	3.37 MB
Nov 2023	15	15	87	133	15.52 MB
Dec 2023	9	14	116	116	399.54 KB
Total	103	112	334	670	34.38 MB

Moved: Annie Clark Seconded: Lyn Winn Accepted

General Business:

1. Reply to Jareth re 'significant breach'. The matter was thoroughly discussed and Pam's response approved by the committee to be sent immediately.

Moved: Lindy Sloan Seconded: Annie Clark Accepted

2. Meetings 2024: Jareth has asked for a list of access dates for next year. Pam has prepared a list of dates to be forwarded. There is hesitation among the committee as to whether we continue meeting at Larni Garingilang or return to Samuel Gadd, however due to the possibility of being shut out from there during renovations, the list will be sent – with the possibility of cancelling if need be. Christmas break up to be held in the Pavilion.

3. Written documentation from Council re Friends access to Omari Function Centre – Pam advised that this is on the Lap Top.

4. Information from Council re lease arrangement with Omari Central Hub. (Toilet use, visitor information etc.) It was discussed that this information would be confidential and therefore not publicly available. It was decided though, that the Committee should invite Chris Mitchell, Director of Parks and Open Spaces, to our February meeting, to give us an update and answer any Committee queries.

5. Possibility of providing hard copies of Dovyalis newsletter for those willing to pay cost of printing. Discussions revolved around the possibility of a membership category – if so, this needs to be an item for the AGM. Basic enquiries with members will be made but any change will be left for next AGM.

6. Visit to Girgarro Botanic Garden – decision made for Wednesday 10th April. Annie will book the café for lunch, limit of 20. More info next meeting – transport, numbers etc.

7. Labelling Machine – Kirstie thinks she has decided on the machine but no quotes available yet. More next year.

8. Defibrillator: no further information has been received. Discussions regarding why we should purchase – Council has already said no – Members are likely candidates for use!!

With no further business Pam closed the Meeting at 12:55p.m.

Next Meeting : Tues 20th February at the Larni Garingilang Precinct, Bendigo Botanic Gardens.

