

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Inc.

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 18th October, 2022, Time: 11:30 am

Location: Samuel Gadd Centre, Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Present: Pam Sheean, Judy Milner, Anne Aston, Delene Commerford, Lyn Winn, Jan Bobin, Kirstie Paterson, Jane Cleary

Apologies: Annie Clark, Lindy Sloan, Deb Degenhardt, Gerry Cox

Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 16th August, 2022

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

Moved: Lyn Winn Seconded: Jan Bobin Accepted

Business Arising:

1. **Bendigo Native Plant Group Flower show - feedback** – Pam reported that the illustrators borrowed Display Boards and set up a “U” shape stall with displays of artwork on the boards, membership pamphlets and cards for sale on the table in front. Promotionally it was a very good event with all membership pamphlets being handed out. It would be better if we could have our own display boards and banners for future stalls. A big thank you to all the members who assisted on the day and in setting-up. One artwork & many cards were sold over the two days.

2. **Life Membership – Jan & Rod Orr** - Judy has prepared a lovely certificate. Jan and Rod were made aware of the Life Membership during a visit by Judy, shortly before Jan’s passing. A presentation of the Certificate to Rod will be arranged at a future time – perhaps at the Christmas break up.

New Members: Kerrie Green & Jan Bayliss

Moved: Judy Milner Seconded: Anne Aston Accepted

That the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens accept the above applicants to be members of the club.

Reports:

1. Correspondence: Pam Sheean

Dates: 10th August – 12th October 2022

Email

IN	FROM	DETAILS
11.08.22	Jim Rolfe	Request for a Guest Speaker @ Rotary
17.08.22	Mark Hall	Acceptance of AGM Guest Speaker invite
18.08.22	Jan Bobin	Draft August meeting minutes
19.08.22	Judy Milner	IMMIJ tax Invoice for plant labels
20.08.22	Judy Milner	Suggested draft letter to Councillors
22.08.22	GardenDesignFest	List of open Gardens
23.08.22	WordsWorth	Tax Invoice for web hosting
31.08.22	Anne Bridley	2022 Presidents Report
31.08.22	GCA	AGM agenda & previous minutes
01.09.22	FBallartBG	Ballarat Botanical Group Exhibition
01.09.22	GCA	GCA August Bulletin
05.09.22	H & F Musk	Apology for FBBG AGM
12.09.22	Annie Clark	Updated latest membership list
14.09.22	Kyneton Hort Society	Invite to Simon Rickard talk
16.09.22	Kerrie Green	Online membership submission
16.09.22	Annie Clark	Membership list with new member added
17.09.22	APS Bendigo	Flower show stallholder information
19.09.22	C & E Tyler	Apology for FBBG AGM
20.09.22	Lindy Sloan	News item & photos for website
21.09.22	J. DiBella Fernandes	Request for list of trees in Gardens
22.09.22	Jan Bobin	FBBG AGM Minutes
25.09.22	Jaime Cail	Official Invite to Hub Opening
25.09.22	Maddie Bucciol	Membership enquiry
27.09.22	John Hart	Eucalypt ID request
29.09.22	GCA	AGM Minutes & forms
29.09.22	Lindy Sloan	Upcoming meeting agenda items
30.09.22	Judy Milner	Life Membership Certificate
04.10.22	Open Gardens	Open Gardens Buninyong
07.10.22	Mark Hall	re Dovyalis article
08.10.22	Anne Rawson	Request for an article for Eucalypt magazine
10.10.22	Memories	Bendigo Advertiser condolence message published
10.10.22	Laura (DELWP)	Plant sales enquiry
10.10.22	Taylor Oakes	Pesticide use & Health & safety link

OUT TO

DETAILS

08.08.22	FBBG Members	fwd-Anglesea Wildflower show details
09.08.22	FBBG Committee	Draft August meeting agenda
09.08.22	Anne Bridley	Draft Special Meeting minutes
09.08.22	Brian Westley	Invite to Brian & Chris to attend our August meeting
13.08.22	FBBG Committee	FBBG Agenda & previous Minutes
16.08.22	FBBG Members	Special Meeting Minutes
16.08.22	Chris Mitchell	Special Meeting Minutes
16.08.22	FBBG Illustrators	Request for helpers @ Flower Show
17.08.22	Bev Ormerod	Photos for website
17.08.22	Mark Hall	Invite as Guest Speaker @ our AGM
23.08.22	Jan Bobin	fwd-Tax Invoice for payment
24.08.22	FBBG Members	August Meeting Minutes & News page
27.08.22	Jim Rolfe	Response to Speaker request
05.09.22	APS Bendigo	Flower Show registration
05.09.22	FBBG Members	Documentation for FBBG AGM
12.09.22	Mark Hall	Details of AGM arrangements
13.09.22	FBBG Members	Reports for FBBG AGM
15.09.22	Chris Mitchell	Request for update on Samuel Gadd Centre
15.09.22	FBBG Members	fwd- Simon Rickard talk
15.09.22	FBBG Members	Flower Show helper's roster
16.09.22	FBBG Committee	Motion to pay urgent accounts
24.09.22	FBBG Illustrators	Notice of resumption Wednesday mornings
26.09.22	FBBG Members	FBBG AGM & Hub opening invitation
26.09.22	Judy Milner	Info request & photos for Dovyalis article
26.09.22	Kirstie Paterson	fwd- Eucalypt ID request
29.09.22	Maddie Bucciol	Information regarding joining the Friends
29.09.22	FBBG Members	Amended Hub invitation
04.10.22	Kirstie Paterson	fwd – request of list of trees
05.10.22	Mark Hall	Request for Dovyalis article
06.10.22	FBBG Members	fwd – Buninyong Open Gardens
08.10.22	FBBG Members	Notification of Jan Orr's passing
11.10.22	Judy Milner	fwd- Plant sales query
12.10.22	FBBG Committee	Draft October meeting agenda
12.10.22	Bgo Copy Centre	Certificate for printing

POSTAL MAIL

OUT	TO	DETAILS
30.08.22	FBBG Members without email reports	Meeting Minutes, News Page & AGM
05.10.22	FBBG Members with no email	AGM Minutes & Hub opening invitation
11.10.22	Rod Orr & family	Condolence card

That the correspondence as circulated be accepted:

Moved: Judy Milner Seconded: Jan Bobin Accepted

2. **Treasurers Report:** Jan Bobin

1/08/2022	Opening Balance	\$27,438.59
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Income:

Plant Sales	\$1,120.00
Membership	\$ 300.00
Illustrators Paper, Sales at NPS	\$ 431.00
	\$1,851.00

Expenses:

Plants/Tools/Materials	\$ 460.28
Admin: Website & Audit	\$ 484.00
Admin: Bank Charges x 2Mnths (Tyro Settlement)	\$ 10.75
	\$ 955.03

31/07/2022	Closing Balance at Bank	\$28,334.56
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Illustrators Account	\$618.38
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That the Treasurers report be accepted:

Moved:	Jan Bobin	Seconded:	Lyn Winn	Accepted
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Accounts for Payment:

Accounts to Pay:

GSG Farms p/l (B&B Basil) Perlite	\$ 25.00
Bendigo Copy Centre Printing	\$ 20.50
Bendigo Bank – TYRO fees August d/debit	\$ 5.92
Bendigo Bank - TYRO fees September d/debit	\$ 12.28
Bunnings	\$ 103.38
Garden City Plastics	\$ 172.51
Reimbursement to Illustrators owing from NPS stall aprox	\$ 402.00
Reimbursement to Judy for Adobe aprox	\$ 45.00
Consumer Affairs Vic - Annual statement	\$ 61.20
	\$ 847.79

That the accounts for payment be accepted

Moved:	Jan Bobin	Seconded:	Anne Aston	Accepted
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3. Gardens Staff Report: Kirstie Paterson

Kirstie reminded us that all new members need to be inducted before they work on site. The decision was made for Delene Commerford to be made our induction officer so she will make sure the correct procedure is followed. A copy of the induction tick sheet will be added to our box at the door for this purpose.

Unfortunately, we have lost a Heritage tree from the gardens as a result of the recent wet weather. Fortunately, the tree, an Aleppo Pine, coming down over a pathway, happened overnight Thursday avoiding any possible injury to staff or public. Staff will capture seeds and try to propagate a replacement for re planting. The timber will be dried and milled into furniture or something appropriate if possible. The council have a contract with a company for this work,

The gardens have come through the recent flood okay with some flooding of the GFTF but the Hub area wasn't affected. The Bendigo wine festival booked to happen this weekend has been postponed till November, due to the conditions.

There has been an "Open House" advertised for this weekend run by Open House Melbourne. The Age newspaper recently interviewed Kirstie regarding the opening of the Central Hub. Enormous enquiries for bookings are being received for the GFTF for weddings and the function centre for meetings, conferences etc.

Unfortunately, we have lost our latest apprentice – Cohen Nelson. Hopefully another apprentice will be found soon with a link to Dja Dja Warrung or other local indigenous groups.

The Aviary is now closed - a sign has been placed on the fence advising the public that it was part of the "Master Plan" for the gardens that all animals/birds will be removed. All birds have been re-homed with licensed people to look after them – many to the Kyabram Fauna park. The enclosure will be removed but hopefully the area will be retained as an open-air sanctuary. Kirstie is also happy to report that frogs and birdlife are beginning to move into the new ponds and area surrounding the Central Hub. At this stage, there is no Tenant for the café.

Regarding any future development of the Samuel Gadd centre – there has been no update from council to the Friends but Kirstie has requested removal of the wall between the two offices to enable its' use as an additional meeting area for staff when Friends are using the building.

4. Growing Friends Report: Judy Milner reports that there has been increased attendees at our weekly mornings. There was a good group of weeders especially when there was a special weeding day in the GFTF prior to the Hub opening. The nursery has a good stock of plants with weekly sales continuing to be successful despite the variable weather. Weeders are requesting some more tools – the Bunnings card can be used for this purpose. Judy would like to commend the weeding group for the great effort for what is not a great job to do. Currently they are concentrating on the Napoleon Crescent nature strip - some pruning

will be done and will be followed up by some replacement plantings. Nursery stock can be used for this purpose.

5. Botanical Illustrators Report: Pam Sheean is happy to report that Illustrators are now back on Wednesday mornings. There are only about 5 regulars at present but hoping that more will return now that Wednesday is available.

It would still be good to have a display of artworks in the Hub. There is also a need for an interpretive area which is allowed for in the design of the café. We will have to wait to liaise with the new managers of the Hub.

6. Walks and Talks Report: There have been several events in the GFTF of late – Saturday tours are not yet up and running. Anne Aston is continuing with her research and familiarisation of the gardens, plants etc. We will look to start the weekly tours from the 1st week of February. Jane Cleary is preparing a walk through the gardens focussing on Shakespeare era plants.

7. Dovyalis Report: Judy Milner has the next edition all together and ready for editing and proof reading. Judy has included a double page of tribute to Jan Orr and her contribution to the group from the beginning.

8. Website Report: Now included in reports list. Pam has attempted to get into the website but has been unable to get access to the reporting area. She will follow up with Bev Ormerod and Wordsworth regarding the password and process required to get reports out.

That the reports be accepted:

Moved: Judy Milner Seconded: Pam Sheean Accepted

General Business:

1. **Biodiversity Strategy submission** – Pam and Anthony have put together a submission to Mark Hall on the City of Greater Bendigo Biodiversity strategy. Part of the submission recommends the conservation of rare and threatened species in the gardens. Anthony Sheean would be happy to liaise with council, if required. It is important that the employment of an education officer should be pushed. Judy points out that staff don't have the time to attend to rare plants in the gardens.

2. **The Hub – next step.** It was disappointing that although the Friends were mentioned by the Politicians during the opening of the Hub, we weren't a part of the official ceremony.

We will send our requests for access to the hub to Kirstie, as she mentioned bookings will be open soon. We need to review our options as there has been no feedback received from council since our last meeting with representatives in August. This feedback should be in the form of a written response. As mentioned in Kirstie's report, she has put forward a request to council for the removal of the wall between her two offices as she seems to have information that there is unlikely to be any addition to the centre as proposed. The consensus is that the

Samuel Gadd Centre needs some updating and maintenance, and this is a good opportunity for such work to be considered.

If we decide to elevate the issue, Councillors would need to be approached individually and we would have to have something in writing and in place before hand – Anne A, Pam, Delene, Judy & Lynn will meet at SG on Monday 24/10 at 9a.m. to sort out what will be sent to councillors.

3. Defibrillator and training – Kirstie says that it is the Gardens/Council responsibility and has put forward a request to Council for the appropriate funds for purchase. Kirstie herself is a trained First Aid officer and therefore trained in the use of the machine. Future training of members could be considered when the machine is on site.

4. Ideas for Donation of funds – we mentioned to Kirstie that we have funds available to be donated to the gardens. Sculptures for the gardens could be reconsidered as these were in the master plan. The Yvonne George sculpture that was planned could be investigated more. Kirstie will get back to us with suggestions for funding.

5. Transfer of funds to Term Deposit - Jan suggests we look at the possibility of transferring some funds to Term Deposit now that interest rates have begun to increase. Four months is the most attractive short-term interest rate of 1.55%

A motion Moved by Jan Bobin, Seconded by Judy Milner and Accepted

That we invest \$10,000 for 4 months. Jan to speak with Annie regarding the process.

6. End of year celebrations – A decision was made for Tuesday 13th December at 2:00pm be earmarked for our end of year afternoon tea and get together. A request will be put to Kirstie for use of the Hub function centre as the first of our annual access days!

Delene Commerford thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 1:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th November, 2022 at the Samuel Gadd Centre, Bendigo Botanic Gardens.