

**FRIENDS OF THE BOX IRONBARK FORESTS (MOUNT ALEXANDER REGION) INC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009**

Minutes

Monday 11 May 2009, 7.30pm, at Castlemaine Continuing Ed.

Present: Frank Panter, Bernard Slattery, Tami McVicar, Kylie McIndoe, Marie Jones, Heather Brown, Doug Ralph, Frances Cincotta, Phil Ingamells, Hans Van Germert, Catherine Jerome, Jan Hall, Polly Woods, George Broadway, Peter Harris, Chris Morris, Neville Cooper, Felicity Faris, Patricia Barrett, Deirdre Slattery, Michael Dwyer, Geoff Hannon, Julia Brown, Bronwyn Silver, Nancy Toohey, Penny Garnett, Graham Williams, Julie Hurley, George Ryan, Kylie Stafford, Elaine Bayes

Apologies: Richard Piesse, Margaret Panter, Ann Van Germert, Shirley Parnaby, John Ellis.

Guest: Brendon Sydes, Environment Defender's Office

Guest Speaker: Phil Ingamells, VNPA

Phil Ingamells spoke about fire, showing the areas burnt in the 2009 fires. With climate change there is a predicted increase risk of fire, both frequency and intensity. More knowledge is needed about the effect of controlled burns in lessening the effects of bushfires and also what the effects of these burns are in times of drought.

Presentation:

Marie Jones made a presentation to Doug Ralph the "Elder of the Environment" who has resigned as President of FOBIF. Doug has been president for ten years and is a founding member of FOBIF.

Minutes: Previous AGM minutes read and accepted (BS/ Hans Van Gemert)

Acting President's Report [Frank Panter]

Thanks to Bronwyn Silver for organising the Bushwalks – these are our most successful activity. Connecting Country has invigorated things in the Community, but has led to more Treasurer's work (Tami's workload has quadrupled). Thanks to Bernard for writing submissions and to Eve Banks and Geoff Hannon for the newsletter. Hans, George and Frank have worked hard on many projects including Diamond Gully, which has involved both FOBIF and residents who found phascogales on the site. Other projects include the Urban Forest Interface Study and Tarran Valley.

Connecting Country Report [Marie Jones]

A project officer was employed to produce the Blueprint, Julie Von Platen. And we now have a new project officer Julia Brown. A Landcare Network meeting last week discussed the fact that funding for Landcare Co-ordinators ends on the 30th of June. We believe an effective network is necessary to secure available funding.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Tami McVicar and passed. (TM/ BS). [attached]

Office Bearers

Frank vacated the chair, and elections for Office Bearers were conducted by Chris Morris, Public Officer.

The following Office Bearers were elected unopposed

President: Marie Jones

Vice President: Frank Panter

Secretary: Bernard Slattery

Treasurer: Bronwyn Silver

The following were elected to the committee:

Tami McVicar
Kylie McIndoe
Heather Brown
Doug Ralph

Statement of Aims

Marie took the chair. The following motion revising our statement of aims, as advised in the February and April Newsletters, was moved by Bernard Slattery and seconded by Julie Hurley. It was passed unanimously:

The Aims of the Friends of the Box Ironbarks Forests are:

1. To work towards a common community approach to a healthy, sustainable and productive landscape through conservation of natural vegetation on public and private land in the Mount Alexander Region and in particular to:
 - 1.1. Promote understanding of the natural values of the Box Ironbark forests and woodlands, their ecosystems and the threats to their preservation.
 - 1.2. Assist with the recovery of threatened species and the natural regeneration of bushland, with research, knowledge and resources.
 - 1.3. Support retention of roadside and remnant vegetation and rehabilitation of streamsides to provide wildlife corridors linking landscapes with high natural values.
 - 1.4. Work for strategic statutory planning decisions to provide improved outcomes for the natural environment.
 - 1.5. Encourage landowners to enter into programs such as "Land for Wildlife" agreements and conservation covenants.
2. To campaign for wise and effective management of the Parks, Reserves and State Forests of the region and to support the inclusion of more crown land in conservation reserves, and in particular to:
 - 2.1. Provide critical support for the management of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, encouraging a balanced approach to cultural and natural values.
 - 2.2. Support action to eradicate weeds and pest animals and discourage their introduction in bushlands.
3. To promote respect for Indigenous culture and understanding of Indigenous land management practices.

General Business

There being no general business, the meeting closed at 9.10