

Nerrena / Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

General Meeting

held on Sunday 17 November at 1.30 pm

at Westaways Property Ruby

WELCOME: Kevin and Coral Hughes, Melissa Ellis, Jennifer Smit, Marijke Horvath, Kathy and Brad Westaway, Jill Vella, Eric and Sue Miles, Herb Wildes, Jacob Tumino

APOLOGIES: Michael Vella, Mee Family (present for the farm walk in the morning and lunch) Susan Neville, Kate and Peter Walsh, Corné Smit, Michelle Tumino

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held at Friday 30 May at 7.00 pm at the Meeniyah Hotel, Meeniyah.

Moved; Kevin **Seconded;** Marikje Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING; All actions have been accomplished

CORRESPONDENCE

OUT

Grant Application

Minutes of previous meetings distributed to all members

NTVLC group AGM documents

SGLN AGM documents with request to distribute

Letters in relation to Sign on Rail Trail

Grant acceptance

Newsletters

Black Spur Wetlands updates

IN

Grant offer documents

Account from SGLN

Invitation to attend Presidents Meeting 23 November Leongatha

Request for Annual report for SGLN

REPORTS –

Financial – We have a balance of **\$13,097.84**, which includes the VLG grant income of \$13,200.00.

Moved; Coral **Seconded;** Melissa. Carried

Black Spur Creek Wetlands Project Update - Kate circulated her last update just before she went on holidays. The contractor for the Major Roads Blackspur realignment has still not been announced.

SGLN Board Report - Herb Wildes

Herb reported that he had been to his first board meeting last week. The SGLN board likes the new premises at the RSL and makes them feel independent of the WGCMA. He could not say anything more about SGLN business because of privacy issues, except there was a project officer appointed for the Bunarong fox control project. Also, his soil

improvement trial plot has been established. He was unsure what the additives with the yeomans plowing were going to be. Herbs plot would not be fenced off from animal grazing. He explained at some length about brix readings.

SGLN are working on their strategic plan for the next ten years.

Project Report – Farm visits We did baseline bird monitoring at the Smit revegetation site and we had the farm walk and baseline bird monitoring at Westaways this morning. There were 6 species at Smits and 14 at Westaways.

Website Report Jill update – mapping has been added to under the revegetation tab with a link to the NatureKit website. We have been given a not for profit discount from Rocketspark so the website is even more affordable.

Bird Monitoring Report

The rail trail have indicated our sign has been approved. We should hear formally soon. Kate and Sue gave a presentation of the monitoring project to the Bird Observers club in Foster, late in September. We prepared a banner to inform about our Birddata shared sites. **The group decided placing it in a shop front in Meeniyan could be advantageous, if allowed. Jill to action.** Also the bird monitoring monthly walk was featured in this week's Star paper, so new people may join us.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Autumn planting for members. The group agreed to ask members if they would like 50 tubestock for autumn planting. **Jill to put expression of interest in next newsletter. Coral to contact Strzelecki Plant Farm for an idea of the species available.**

Our equipment for member use has been serviced and catalogued by Eric and Sue. We have a backpack weed sprayer, a trailer mounted 97litre powered spray unit, a BBQ and gas bottle and associated plates, etc. More details on the website soon.

Bill from SGLN for membership. We received a random email, not a tax invoice from SGLN for membership fees.

I would like to invite your group to renew your membership with South Gippsland Landcare Network for 2019/20.

Group rates are \$35 inc GST.

As part of our requirement under our rules we also allow your paid members to vote at the AGM.

To assist with the cost of newsletters, reports, website and general attendance to landcare matters we also ask for an additional \$5 per paid member of your group.

Other benefits include:

Group page on website. Auspicing of grants, access to facilitator services, equipment use such as planters, banners, brochures for field days, trailers, Marque, Koala Suit, Meeting room, Computers, internet access, access to training programs, support for group projects and planning. Participation in network projects as required.

We would like contact details of each of your members to distribute information for our programs and would appreciate if you could forward on this information.

Existing formats such as google sheets or similar would be fine that have the following items:

First Name, Last Name, Address, Phone, Email, Date Joined

Please make payment as follows:

Cheque: Made out to South Gippsland Landcare Network, send to PO Box 419 Leongatha 3953. EFT: South Gippsland Landcare Network, BSB 033-237, Acc # 181867. Please put your group name in the description.

Cash: Please make an appointment with me to organize payment.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any assistance.

Glenn Brooks-MacMillan

Network Facilitator, South Gippsland Landcare Network

There was a robust discussion about this, (we donated the pottipucki planters so to charge us for borrowing them back is a bit rich.)

It was generally felt that the SGLN was not giving us anything we actually wanted, including the koala suit. Given we haven't had a newsletter for over 12 months, we didn't feel any need to pay for them. Also, during the discussion at our AGM it was noted that we had quite a few low income members, so as low a fee as possible was appropriate.

Motion; 'That the group have considered the email from the South Gippsland Landcare Network requesting a membership payment. As we set our fees for the next three years at our AGM (before this email arrived) with regard to our membership of Landcare Victoria Inc and no more, we are unable to accede to this request for the next three years.

Moved Kevin, **Seconded** Jennifer, carried unanimously; with one abstention (Herb).

Action; Sue to write to Jillian Staton (SGLN secretary) to inform her of our stance.

Sue will be unable to attend the upcoming Presidents Meeting on the 28th November as she will be on leave. No one wanted to go in her stead.

NEXT MEETING Smit / Horvarth property, Nerrena on January 9th @11.00am for a farm walk followed by a BBQ lunch. Meeting closed 3.00pm.