

## **Nerrena/Tarwin Valley Landcare Group**

### **Farm walk and meeting**

held on the Saturday 24 November 2018 at 4.00 pm

at the Blue Tree Honey Farm

120 Sweeneys Lane, Dumbalk Victoria 3956

WELCOME; Rob and Sharon welcomed the attendees to the honey farm. Sue thanked Rob and Sharon and opened the meeting at 4.05pm.

ATTENDEES: Sue Miles, Coral Hughes, Alex Wildes, Herb Wildes, Kevin Hughes, Phil Galey, Eric Miles, Michelle Tumino, Jill Vella, Rob Fisher, Sharon Fisher, Marijke Horvath, Corné Smit, Jennifer Smit.

APOLOGIES: Stuart and Veronica Greaves; Jill and Greg Edwards, Barb and David Quinn, Susan Neville, Michael Vella, Heather Smith

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held at Milly & Romeo's Cafe Koonwarra, on Sunday 17 June 2018 for both the AGM and the general meeting were circulated and available at the meeting. The general meeting notes were moved; Eric, seconded; Herb, carried.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Name change confirmed with bank and LVI

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes of previous meetings distributed to all members.

Corresponding with Landcare Australia re logo and listing

Bill for training from Wild Melbourne

#### **REPORTS –**

Financial – Coral as tabled

Seconded; Eric, carried.

Black Spur Creek Wetlands Project Update – Kate

Coral, Jill and I walked the rail trail in the project area with Australian Landcare International delegates to the Landcare conference that had been held in QLD the previous week. The two international visitors Nicki and Joy were accompanied by Mary from RMIT. These Landcarers are addressing problems in their countries and learning from us. Belinda Brennan, Matt Bowler and Marnie Ellis from the WGCMA joined the walk.

Vic Roads are planning to plant 64,000 plants in the road works area, manage around the rail trail for 3 years, and the wetlands for 10 years (as an offset)

Coral, Sue, Jill and I supplied answers to questions from Kate McKenzie for a Women in Landcare article.

Deb from Major Roads will get federal approval in March / April 19 (maybe) for the road project.

Have been talking to Professor Ros Gleadow on sweet pittosporum, (who is also on the eucalypt foundation) asking 'is control of pittosporum possible?' Professor says it is and should be done, because without it there will be no euc recruitment.

Ecosystems recover well after infestation; remove all not just females.

Herb would like the minutes to record our thanks to Kate for highlighting the sweet pittosporum problem and dealing with it. Seconded; Eric.

The StopPitt program could be of help because

- They encourage data collection
- Pittosporum is associated reduction of species richness
- Removal of pittosporum is effective for years
- Removal increases of species richness
- Return of other species approaches natural (against a control) after time when pittosporum is removed.

<http://www.stoppitt.org.au/>

Citizen Science and Bird Monitoring Report – Sue

Wild Melbourne, trained us in monitoring for the Blackspur creek project, presenters were very good and we did class work and field work. Second day was specifically bird monitoring with field work. We have decided based on this training to do bird monitoring in the Black Spur project area. We have decided to do linier monitoring along the rail trail. Five sites will be chosen. We have had several meetings to work on the methodology.

Website Report – Jill

Jill showed the group the website that had been developed and asked the meeting whether they thought a website was worthwhile. The need for this came out of the bird monitoring meetings. We need somewhere to make the monitoring method and sheets available to all. The group liked what had been produced so far and agreed to proceed with making it complete and live.

Motion; that we develop a website for the group @ up to \$500 especially for the bird monitoring. Moved; Sue, seconded; Kevin, carried.

Motion; That we subsidise the purchase of bird binoculars for our members up to \$100 per family plus one pair for the group. Moved; Kevin, seconded; Herb, carried.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

Wettenhall Environmental foundation expressions of interest are open. We will go for it, small scale at first.

Roads; Koalas in the Dumbalk are – anecdotally more koalas seem to being killed on road. Maybe get RAV put up signs. Action – Jill to write letter to rural road authority and ask for beware of Koalas signage on Farmers Road.

Moved Rob; seconded Sharon; carried.

Meeting closed 5.30pm

Nerrenq/Tarwin Valley Landcare

5.5.18: Opening Balance 8,934.62.

Memberships

16 @ \$30 480  
for worker. + \$25 505

9,439.62

Outgoings.

Landcare Victoria membership 327.10.  
Hire of Cricket Rooms at Rec 100.00.  
Catering for lunch for 2 days 165.20  
Citizen Science Workshops 4,000.00

4,592.30.

Balance 24.11.2018

4,847.32.