

Friends of Lorne
Annual General Meeting MINUTES

23 June 2019

4-5pm at Lorne "Figtree" Community House

The meeting was held in association with long time FoL member and Guest Speaker, Dr John Agar, who gave a talk on reducing waste and promoting sustainability, as a way of responding to the threat of increased global warming. John spoke to examples from Barwon Health Renal Unit. It provided a model lesson on how seemingly large and unchangeable institutions can develop appropriate policies and practices in (re)use of plastics and saving water.

Ian Brown thanked Dr Agar for his informative and entertaining talk. Many people know John from his regular column "From the Deck" in the *Lorne Independent*, where he invites readers to enjoy, learn, and think more about the environment and world around us.

Present: Leo Dwyer, Joy Dwyer, Stephen Bayley, Vivian Scheffer, Loris Yorke, Lindy Pearce, Lawrie Baker, Carol Baker, Robyn and Ian Farran, Penny Hawe, Graham Brawn, Mary Lush, Wendy Wilson, Ross Dimsey, Heather Spooner, Jane Orr, Cynthia Wynhoven, Jade Wynhoven, Anna Mc Ildownie, Ian Brown, Philip Newman.

Apologies: Rhyll Nance, Alan Nance, Ian Stewart, Janet McLeod, Marian McIldownie, Sue Godwin.

2. The meeting of the minutes of the AGM on 24 June 2018 were accepted. (Proposed: Ian Brown. Seconded: Lindy Pearce)

3. Election of Office Bearers

Retiring president, Ian Brown, led the election. Elected president: Penny Hawe (proposed Ian Brown, Seconded Lindy Pearce). Elected Secretary: Mary Lush (proposed Penny Hawe, Seconded Lindy Pearce). Elected Treasurer: Lindy Pearce (proposed Ian Brown, Seconded Cynthia Wynhoven)

Penny Hawe then took over as Chair of the meeting. Lindy Pearce and Penny Hawe thanked Ian for his tireless work for friends of Lorne, in particular his connecting us to other groups around the town and representing us on Committee for Lorne and in consultations with the Shire on planning.

4. (Retiring) President's Report: Ian Brown

"Before mentioning matters arising since the last AGM, I would like to thank all our loyal members for their ongoing support. I would also like to thank all the committee members for their work and input to the Friends of Lorne society. We have had a number of very loyal committee members who have contributed a great deal over the past years and through the Friends have confronted a number of important issues. In particular I wish to thank Rhyll Nance, who has carried the secretarial load during my period of office. And Rhyll and Alan Nance were always available when there was a need for a large letter filling task! Rhyll left the committee this year after putting in a long and important contribution. So why would like to thank Rhyll and all of our committee members for their excellent support.

Now, much of what has occupied the committee this year was mentioned in the Newsletter that went out to members in October last year. This included a number of developments under way that affect Lorne. These include planning relating to the whole of the Great Ocean Road being undertaken by task force set up by the State government, planning related to the structure of law

that was initiated by the Surf Coast Shire Council, and planning relating to the development of Pt Grey, being undertaken by GORCC and its development partners. All of these initiatives impact on Lorne and require someone to consider the environment and Heritage values of Lorne. All of these issues also impact the environment, and yet very little is often included in discussions of what is planned.

Governance of the Great Ocean Road - Issues paper

The great Ocean Road task force was established in September 2018 by the Victorian state government Minister for Planning, Minister for Regional developments and the Minister for Tourism. A presentation was made to the committee for Lorne in May of this year. The task force consists of two co-chairs (Hon Peter Bachelor and Hon Terry Mulder), two nominees from the traditional owners of the land, three members with expertise in tourism and coastal management, and the CEOs of the five local government authorities.

Lorne structure plan 2018/22019. The Surf Coast Shire

this financial year the majority of the structure plan work will occur including

1. community engagement and consultation
2. land supply and analysis
3. demographic analysis and population forecasting
4. bushfire assessments
5. traffic and car parking assessments
6. climate change impacts

I should say that one thing I became aware of when I came to Lorne was the very large number of interest groups and any issue being at the cinema, housing, signage are all of interest to one or more groups. The Friends of Lorne has concentrated its interest on preserving the environment and the special nature of Lorne.

Other issues mentioned in the October newsletter includes signage clutter, which is an issue that Penny and others feel passionate about. Affordable housing has also been on the Friends agenda. There is a lot to keep up with, a lot to pass on to our members/friends and if the FoL doesn't do it who will.

So it's been a busy year. I have been away from Lorne for the second half of year and Penny, Mary, and others have done a really good job in handling things. Thank you again for your support, Lorne certainly needs its friends."

Moved that the report be accepted: Carol Baker. Seconded: Mary Lush

5. Financial report

Ian Brown circulated the financial report. We have 120 paid-up members and a balance in the bank of \$ 8,831

Moved that the report be accepted: Lawrie Baker. Seconded: Graham Brawn

6. Remarks from incoming President: Penny Hawe: some issues and tasks ahead.

Penny introduced herself as someone living permanently in Lorne since 2010, their home having been their holiday house before that. Her job is in Sydney, which she manages by working from home and telecommuting, and travelling once a month for a few days at a time.

Particularly for the benefit of newcomers, she *gave a quick description of Friends of Lorne and the significant legacy* left by the hard work of others. FoL is one of the largest community agencies in Lorne. It was the biggest until got eclipsed by membership drive by the Aquatic Club. She drew the attention of the meeting to the leaflet about FoL circulated at the meeting:

Our mission is:

- To encourage and contribute to the planning and development of the environment within Lorne and its environs consistent with the need for preservation of the natural features, flora and fauna of the district; and
- To encourage and contribute to the planning development and maintenance of community services and activities within Lorne and its environs consistent with the balanced needs of permanent residents, holidaying residents, campers and tourists.

Penny explained that FoL is now in *the process of renewal, regeneration and reactivation of the organisation*. To address the challenges and opportunities ahead, the Committee needs to be more active and organised. We are committed to keeping members more informed and to create ways to involve the membership more in the business of the organisation. Members will see changes on the website. We will be more active in the community as well, such as in organising events like today - environmental education and awareness raising. So being involved with FoL won't simply suit people who like going to committee meetings or writing (cranky!) letters. FoL will remain the go-to place for preserving and protecting the natural environment. As well as this we recognise that Lorne needs critical threshold levels of population and visitation to retain vital community assets (e.g., the school, the CFA, medical care).

Planning philosophy. Penny noted the number of consultations in the last year where members of the committee attend events, interact with the Shire, or GORCC etc and try to comment on what "we" think Lorne needs, or we comment on what others propose Lorne needs. The more this happens, she suggests, the more we have to get the question right. Perhaps it is not simply about assembling people to compile a 'wish list' of what Lorne needs (e.g, lights for the footy, a pop-up ice rink) . An alternative question could be: *What will we give and what are we willing to give up to maintain the special place we have here?* She noted Mary Lush as saying " *if it's true that FoL wants Lorne to be a place with a self-selecting population of residents, non-residents and tourists who come to see, or live close to, the natural world, then what compromises are we prepared to make?*"

Penny proposes that we thus reframe the focus of planning discussions. Or we could end up looking and feeling like a suburb by the sea.

Activities and issues of immediate interest:

- There is a proposal to establish a *pump park (a hilly, sculptured, tarmac bicycle track)* on Erskine Paddock i.e., the passive foreshore green space bounded by Cypress Avenue, the Mantra and the caravan park. FoL are concerned about losing passive green space on the foreshore. We are in discussion about the best ways to meet recreational needs of young families and visitors.
- The Committee for Lorne (CfL) is updating its *Aspirations* document (which articulates the values, common interests and needs for Lorne). Friends has asked that more of this document be devoted to preserving and protecting the natural environment. Without active management, we lose it. We have also asked for CfL to request that the Surf Coast Shire to make the logic of *demographic and population forecasting* clear/able to be inspected.

- The *GOR Action plan and the significance of the creation of the GOR Parks Authority*. At a recent community consultation it was announced that the Great Ocean Road gets more visitors per year than Uluru and the Great Barrier Reef combined. Large parts of a National Park adjacent to the GOR and the marine park will be taken back and managed by this new authority. The new organisation will address three aims: the environment, livability for residents/ratepayers, and the tourist experience. Speaking from the point of view of the environment, what was guaranteed as a priority if something was funded and managed by *Parks Victoria* is now one third of the daily considerations of the new GOR Parks Authority. We will continue to have input to consultation processes. The financial model for this new organisation is unchanged from GORCC (which itself will be disbanded and subsumed into this new authority). Currently, to conduct its activities, GORCC has to raise its own funds (by leasing and/or developing coast land). It gets no funding from government. This sets up the following conundrum: to protect the coast the agency has to develop coast.
- FoL rests on the legacy of the Lorne Planning and Preservation League. As part of our renewal, regeneration and reactivation we will *be compiling and publicising more about our legacy and our history*. We hope to raise our own profile and celebrate the achievements of particular people in Lorne (residents and non-residents) who have tirelessly worked to keep Lorne a special place.

7 Election of the Committee

The following people agreed to serve on the committee for the next year: StJohn Sutton, Graham Brawn, Carol Baker(as an observer), Steve Bayley, Ross Dimsey. We will check whether Sue Godwin wishes to continue on the Committee.

8 Other business

It was noted that StJohn Sutton and Graham Brawn are drafting a proposal for creating working groups. This will allow members to be active on topic areas of interest, should they so choose. It will also be a more efficient structure for getting work done. We shall report on this to members in the next Newsletter.

The meeting ended at 5pm with drinks and home-made goodies.