



**Annual General Meeting 2023
Saturday 18 November, 4 pm,
Qdos Gallery, Allenvale Rd, Lorne
MINUTES**

1. **Present:** Graham Brawn, Trish Brawn, Louise Buchanan, Deb Burns, Keith Edwards, Ian Farran, Robyn Farran, Penny Hawe (Chair), Alan Shiell, Colin Leitch, Ute Martin, Dieter Martin, Rhyll Nance, Lindy Pearce, Graeme Wilkie, Gillian Oliver, Heather Rice, Jim Quinn, Andrew Stobart, StJohn Sutton, John Wilson, John Wison, Wendy Wilson, David Worth, Eva Youl, Bill Youl, Mary Rose Yuncken, Joy Dwyer, Karen Pitt, Jane Orr, Charlotte Allen (Guest from Aireys Inlet and District Association) and Ian Laging (Guest from Aireys Inlet and District Association)

Apologies: Jack and Cynthia Wynhoven, Geoff and Benita Buchanan, Gary Allen, Jane Campton, Mary Lush, Malcolm Cocking, Kevin and Suzanne Diviny, Tom Crossland, Mark and Bronwyn Stephens, Lorna Pitt, Janet Goud, Chris Cairns, Helen Clarke, Elaine Cleary, Janine Haddow

Proxies and/or specific instructions for voting were received from Geoff and Benita Buchanan, Mark and Bronwyn Stephens, Mary Lush, Elaine Cleary, Helen Clarke, Janine Haddow, and Kate Yuncken

Penny Hawe welcomed everyone and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional lands of the Gadabanud people. She gave special thanks to Graeme Wilkie and Gillian Oliver for allowing us the host the meeting at Qdos, which was new for us to do. Being somewhere beautiful was intended to lift our spirits.

2. **Minutes of the AGM of 29 October 2022.** These had been posted on the website four weeks prior to the meeting and were made available at the meeting. Proposal to accept: StJohn Sutton. Seconded: Eva Youl. Carried.
3. **Approval of financial statement for 2022-2023 (Treasurer's report)** Lindy Pearce (Treasurer) presented the financial statement and Treasurer's report. This had been [posted on the website](#) four weeks prior to the meeting and was made available at the meeting. We have 118 financial members. We currently hold \$11,676.37, an increase since last year due to increased memberships and donations, for which the Treasurer expressed her thanks. Proposal to accept the Treasurer's report: Moved Lindy Pearce. Seconded: Ian Farran. Carried.
4. **President's report.** The President's full report on the year's activities (6+ pages) had been [posted on the website](#) four weeks prior to the meeting and was made available at the meeting.

Penny Hawe spoke briefly to it, starting by summarising our purpose. That is: to *conserve and protect Lorne's natural environment* and work out ways to meet the service and activity needs of full-time residents, part time residents, visitors and campers *through good planning*.

All the dot points on the second page of the full report describe what we do day-to-day in Friends in Lorne. We hold committee meetings, write submissions, go to meetings of other organisations and groups, and get involved in hosting and/or leading public education or discussion on matters related to our mission.

Some of the big areas of focus this year have been affordable housing, Pt Grey, and the tea tree removal.

Housing. The Committee for Lorne has put together some proposals for affordable housing. Friends of Lorne saw our job as promoting public understanding of the options and to create sufficient engagement so that there can be a process of deliberation about choices and tradeoffs. We also see it as our job to promote solutions that will have the least impact on the environment. Two public webinars have been held so far, both very well attended. We have asked the Committee for Lorne to put together a “You Are Here” guide to what we have learned so far and what comes next.

Pt Grey. We took part in the community co-design group that came up with a plan for the co-op building and we’re hoping that we’ll be represented on the next group that is doing whole-of-precinct planning. The big game changer now is the sea level rise. It was originally projected that the sea level will rise to 0.82m by 2100. That would leave Pt Grey relatively OK, but wipe out the Swing Bridge cafe. More recent projections are for much higher levels and the new plans will need to take this into account.

Tea tree removal on the foreshore. This has been a heart breaker for many in the community. We saw our job as communicating the policy and questioning it (asking for the rationale to be better explained). The tea tree removal is now to be slowed down/more staged. We are waiting to hear back on the answers to some of our questions. Removal of the tea tree is going to have a big impact functionally (privacy screening, shade, windbreak) and on people’s sense of Lorne’s identity, so we need to be convinced that the habitat is improving (that is, that the benefit is worth the cost). This is why we have put our hand up to help promote habitat monitoring through citizen science, so that tangible local evidence can help GORCAPA adjust the plans, as needed. We hope to report more on that soon.

Overall, there is a lot of work happening. It is easy to get exhausted. But there are benefits. Two things, in particular, are growing. The first is our membership. The second is that we are growing our capacity. Old dogs are learning new tricks. Here Penny was referring to the fact that three of us now know how to update and publish pages on our own website. We can’t express how empowering that is!

More and more people are putting up their hand to help too. While people might be reluctant to join (yet another) Committee *that is OK* because it is not deterring people from helping us in other ways. So, for example, Deb Burns is managing our membership lists. Marilyn McKenzie and Mike Anderson will be doing our letter box recruitment drive. Jane Orr is reviewing planning documents and going to planning policy meetings with neighbouring towns. Graham Brawn and Ian Farran are also reviewing planning policy documents. Keith Edwards is going to the solar battery workshops. Colin Leitch is doing the water supply planning with Barwon Water. Eva Youl is doing the Nature Notes for our newsletter.

And we are seeing results – ie, things changing as a result of our influence. The President’s report on activities from 2022 and 2023 document that. Perhaps the most significant example of impact is GORCAPA’s new commitment to developing a dispute resolution process, instead of community vs GORCAPA disputes escalating and ending up in VCAT. That is a huge win for us.

Penny ended by saying that some challenges remain. She then thanked people for coming. Being present tells us that what we are doing, or at least trying to do, is appreciated. Penny thanked the committee for another year of really hard work: Lindy Pearce, Mary Lush, St John Sutton and Mary Rose Yuncken. She thanked the others who have taken part in the work as well, “your energy and enthusiasm has made all the difference.”

5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Penny Hawe stepped down from the Chair and Eva Youl took the chairperson role for this part of the meeting.

Part 1 Office bearers

1. A Nomination for President and Committee was received from Penny Hawe by the nomination date (4 November). There being no other nominations for this position received by that date, there was no need for a ballot, and Penny Hawe was declared elected as President and as a committee member.
2. A Nomination for Secretary and Committee was received from Mary Rose Yuncken by the nomination date (4 November). There being no other nominations for this position received by that date, there was no need for a ballot, Mary Rose Yuncken was declared elected as Secretary and as a committee member.
3. There were no nominations received for Treasurer by the nomination date. Nominations were declared open and called from the floor. Lindy Pearce nominated herself as Treasurer. Seconded: Penny Hawe. There were no other nominations from the floor. The Chair put it to the vote that Lindy Pearce be elected as Treasurer. Carried.

Part 2 Committee

4. A Nomination for ordinary committee member was received from StJohn Sutton by the nomination date (4 November). There being no other nominations for this position received by that date, there was no need for a ballot, and StJohn Sutton declared as elected as an ordinary committee member.
5. Nominations from the floor were called for nominations for two vacant committee positions from the floor. It was noted that these vacancies can be filled by co-opting people during the year.

Eva Youl then stepped down as Chair and Penny Hawe resumed the role of Chair.

6. Consideration of Motions

- a. Motion 1. That annual subscription fees remain unchanged, at \$25 for family membership and \$15 for a single. Proposed: Mary Rose Yuncken. Seconded: Lindy Pearce. Carried.
- b. Motion 2: That new members joining after 1 January in any year pay only half the full subscription fee. Proposed: Mary Rose Yuncken. Seconded: Lindy Pearce. Carried.
- c. Motion 3. That the total number of people coming on to the Committee for the coming year be 5 (including Treasurer, Secretary, President). That is that we have 2 “ordinary” members. Proposed: Mary Rose Yuncken. Seconded: StJohn Sutton. Carried.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.