

# AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday 15th November 2020

Time: 9.30am AEST

Venue: Via ZOOM online



## Minutes

Present: Stuart Read, Bronwyn Blake, Lisa Tuck, Anne Claoue-Long, Sandra Pullman, Tim Entwisle, Christine Hay, Robin Jackson-Stepkowski, Ruth Bailey, Coleen Morris, Francesca Beddie, Lynne Walker, Richard Bird, John Maurer, Ann Maurer, Patsy Vizents, Dr Alicai Teska, Peter Watts, Susan Stratton, Steven Halliday, John Viska, Anne Mc Cutcheon, Lyn Barrett, Max Bourke, Margie Bourke, Lynne Paul, Jeff Jenkinson, Roslyn Burge, Kathy Wright, Karen Pyke, Ian Alexander, Jan Knight, Marie Wood, David Low, Angela Low, Dar Brookes, Anne Wallace, Gerri Nicholas, Annie Woodside, Helen Oates, Bill Oates, Janet Thomson, Meg Probyn, Gina Plate, Lois and Jim Keipert, Jocelyn Cox, Tom Hogg, Lyn Oliver, Gil Teague, Elizabeth Comeadow, Jeanette Noy, Rosie Mackinnon, Carol Paech, Caroline Fitzroy, Ros Savio, Jessica Hood, Meg Lee, Roberta Blake, Liz Thwaites, Frances Millar, Rosia Pasteur, Judy Pearce, Kirsten Binns-Smith, Sue Rattray, Graham and Helen Wilson, Jude Laird, Dot and Mike Evans, Prue Slatyer, Peggy Muntz, Malcolm Faul, Elizabeth Teed, Anne and Graham Smith, Wendy Dwyer, Tim Gatehouse, Carmel O'Halloran, Greg Johnson.

Apologies: John Dwyer, Ann Wegener, Lynda Entwistle, Jo Watts, Mark Dwyer. Richard Bird, Graham & Helen Wilson, Bill & Helen Oates

Stuart welcomed everyone and acknowledged Naidoc Week.

### 1 Previous Minutes: Monday 26 August 2019

Previous minutes moved by Stuart Reed Second Peggy Muntz All Agreed

Business Arising; Christine asked that her name be added to those who attended the last AGM in 2019

### 2. Co Chair's Annual Report 2019/20

What a year!

It started on a high note last October with our first overseas conference, in Wellington, where the committee presented a rich array on the theme of 'Expanding our Horizons'. Held at Te Papa Tongarewa, New Zealand's national museum, it was an outstanding success in numbers, richness of experiences and eyebrow-raising, among our more modest kiwi friends. Geologist Dr. Hamish Campbell alone had delegates on the edge of their seats, in his paper on the 'awesome forces' that shape Aotearoa and over the conference dinner.

Pre- and Post-conference tours were run in both the North and South Islands, allowing some to become more familiar with both public and private gardens. On top of the variety visited during the conference, all were amazed and impressed at what kiwi gardeners do! We thank the conference committee, helpers and friends for this truly memorable experience, so-well organised and run. We hope, as many expressed, that this is the beginning of a rich and mutually beneficial connection.

At the 40th AGM, a number of Branches changed their representatives on the NMC (it is 9 positions in all) and we welcomed: Dr Jeffrey Jenkinson (SA) and Prue Slatyer. We also welcomed Steven Halliday as an elected NMC member.

The annual planning weekend for the National Management Committee (NMC) was held in February in Melbourne. We broke into groups to work on topics focusing on a strategic plan, use of social media and website, updating the Constitution, manual of procedures, conference, tour and grant

guidelines, risk management plans as well as succession planning and strategic partnerships with like-minded groups. Projects on the national program also advanced including the Oral History Collection, the 'Many Dreams, One Landscape' Sydney conference (now postponed to spring 2021), 2022 conference in Hobart and 'The Blade', a touring exhibition originating from the Museum of Gardening, in South Australia. A busy and productive weekend with many of these strategies, policies and procedures now finalised and adopted.

Then COVID-19 struck, and suddenly we couldn't meet, visit or travel!

COVID-19 has had a major impact on our activities, and, regrettably, Society income. Many 40th anniversary garden parties had to be cancelled and projects delayed or reshaped. We have all had to adapt very quickly to the 'new normal' mode of operation with branches running meetings, digital talks and webinars online. Monthly national e-Newsletters to members and national initiatives such as Voluntrove and the Photography competition have helped bridge the gap and we're grateful for this welcome out reach and interaction. While not the same, they're stimulating and welcome and have helped us remain connected and alert to advocacy issues.

Until national and state outbreaks are controlled and rules relax, we have to remain flexible and creative about what we do and how we do it.

All involved were devastated at having to postpone the much anticipated Sydney conference 'Many Dreams, One Landscape' and we take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for the enormous amount of time and energy the committee have poured into ensuring an outstanding experience for us all, in particular, convenor Christine Hay. We acknowledge that this decision has serious implications for the ongoing work required to reschedule for next year, for which we are so grateful. We also acknowledge the generous spirit in which the Tasmanian conference committee offered to postpone their plans until 2022

This decision also has significant implications for the Society's finances as the annual conference is our major fundraiser. Managing the loss of income normally generated by the conference will now be the focus of the NMC. We fear there will be some difficult decisions to make regarding the Society's operations in the near future.

**- NZ Report**

**- The Blade Exhibition**

**- Oral History**

**- Trove**

**- Thank you to current AGHS Journal Editor Francesca and former Editor Bernadette Hinze for doing such a terrific job**

**- National Photographic Exhibition**

**- Advocacy**

**Stuart moved that the report be accepted. Second; John Maurer**

**3 Treasurer's Report - See 2019-20 Annual Report – Elizabeth Teed**

**Moved; Elizabeth Teed Second. Malcom Faul**

**Elizabeth also recommended the re appointment of Pascoe Whittle for next financial year.**

**Moved; Elizabeth Teed. Second; Malcom Faul**

#### **4. NMC Elections**

**There being no resignations no elections were necessary**

#### **5. General Business**

**There being no further business Stuart closed the meeting at 10am.**