

**Minutes
Smiths Gully Landcare
Annual General Meeting
8th October 2012**

160 Black Cameron Road, SMITHS GULLY

Meeting Opened 8.30pm

Present: Pat Reynolds, Trish Ebert, Chris Sanders, John Ryan, Mick Okey, Maria Katsikas, Lynlee Tozer, Delsha Rees

Apologies: Elizabeth Wykes,

Last Years AGM Minutes: Passed Pat Reynolds. Seconded Mick Okey. Addendum noted that date should have read 2011 not 2010

President's Report

Welcome everyone

I would like to present the President's report for Smiths Gully Landcare Group for the year ended 30th June 2012.

This has been another very quiet year. It has been refreshing to have two new members join Gail and Maria. They are very welcome.

Their first introduction to the group was a working bee at Peter Franke Reserve. We gathered on the 19th Feb to collect as much St John's wart seed heads as possible. Although we knew we weren't removing the weed, at least there was not going to be a fresh load of seed in the ground (and we had a nice morning tea that the Smiths Gully Store).

Maria showed some of us around her property not long after. We were able to make some suggestions about her restoration work, but she has already made a big difference to the former pasture property with indigenous plantings and a weeding regime.

We also visited Gail and Alan's place. Quite a different set of problems to solve. It's a bush block with a lot of good indigenous. Species but with quite a lot of non-indigenous wattle species. We were able to offer advice as to how to proceed with clearing the wattles.

This is an appropriate place to announce the Communities For Nature program, as members like Maria and Gail, and the rest of the Smiths Gully Landcare Group, could potentially really benefit from this new program with assistance with weed control and bush restoration.

In a nutshell, DS&E have allocated nearly \$600,000 over four years.

There are several forms now available for members interested in registering interest in the project – these are tabled for the meeting, and can be obtained.

Other achievements of the year have been the completion of the two big signs at each end of the Nature History Trail. Delsha used her design skills to come up with a great new design. Mick supplied the photo of nodding green hood orchids, and I supplied the map. The project was funded by a \$1000 grant from the Bendigo Bank and to acknowledge this I put an article in the Round About Hurstbridge newspaper with a lovely photo the group gathered around the new sign.

Still on the subject of work of the track, once again Parks Vic works crews have been very efficient.

There were two places on the trail where the sides had broken away and needed to be built up with stakes and planks. Due to Parks Vic strict action protesting budget cuts the second spot didn't get done for a few months after I put in the request, but as soon as they were back at work, the job was done. Once again they have responded to several reports of fallen trees over the track with in only a day or two.

It's been quiet on the track this Spring. The pair of brown goshawks that have nested near the track for many years have not been around for two years. Hopefully nothing has happened to them, but it's less stressful waking the track with out being constantly bombed!

The Brens Road T intersection restoration continues to thrive. The good rain has helped enormously, and lots of indigenous species have come up. Many from seeds scattered by our members. There is a patch of about 20 spider orchids in there this year where cars used to park. The indigenous plants that I put in have been slow to become established. The ground was very compacted.

The Hall and Reserve Advisory Committee was dissolved this year. Donna Stoddart was relieved of her duties, and Julie Kelly form the St Andrews Community Centre, who is now employed by Nillumbik, has taken over the rains. It was agreed that I would continue to care for the marked site, and make any works request to either Julie of the appropriate Nillumbik Officer.

This year is the ten year anniversary of the commencement of the restoration works at the market site. It took four years to get to that point. I have taken photos right through the process which I have made into posters. It's quite inspiring to see how a site with such bad erosion and degradation can be turned round so successfully.

The draft Smiths Gully Landcare brochure is nearly ready for approval. The group suggest we have a whole new layout and new text, which presented Trish and Delsha

with more work! As well as this, computer problems have meant that the project has taken longer than expected.

As well as the newly announced Communities for Nature program, there is a proposal to start a new Nillumbik Landcare Network . Nillumbik Landcare Groups have been invited to join.

Pat Reynolds
President.

Treasurers Report:

Balance at 1 st July 2011		\$ 3230.79
Income	Memberships	\$88.00
Expenditure	Vic Roads (trailer registration)	\$38.30
	Consumer Affairs	\$42.40
	Insurance	\$350.00
	Incidentals	\$199.35
	ATO BAS	\$96.00
Balance at 30 th June 2012		\$2593.34

Election of Office Bearers

President: Pat Reynolds

Secretary: Chris Sanders

Treasurer: Mick Okey

General Committee Members: Delsha Rees, Lynlee Tozer, Maria Katsiikas, John Ryan, Trish Ebert.

Next AGM Meeting: 14th October 2013

Meeting Closed: 9.00pm