

# **Friends of Glenthorne National Park Inc**

## **Annual General Meeting 2023**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 7.00 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 20 Ragamuffin Drive, Hallett Cove

### **MINUTES**

**Attendees:** As per the AGM sign in sheets. 30 attendees.

Kathy Ariffin	Peter Griffiths	Peter Miles
Catherine Beer	Chris Hann	Sue Milnes
Karen Bostock	Kris Hanna	Karen Peake
Garry Brook	Jean Haselgrove	David Roberts
Alan Burns	Christopher Ide	Martin Schumacher
Sam Chesson	Hanne Ide	David Speirs
Judy Clarke	Patrick James	Wayne Turner
Jeff Dougherty	Bob Kirby	Garry Veroude
Angus Droogan-Turniski	Laima Kosiol	David Vinall
Jarrad Eaton	Jana Mates	Margaret Wheadon

**Apologies:** Dr Pamela Smith, Patron Jane Brummitt (in hospital), Garry Fogarty and Erin Thompson MP who sent a letter of thanks to the Friends of Glenthorne for all their great work.

**Welcome:** Chairperson, Martin Schumacher, opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement to Country followed by a greeting to Attendees and Special Guests: Mayor Kris Hanna, Councillor Jana Mates, Judy Clark from the Royal Commonwealth Society, Leader of the Opposition and local MP David Speirs, Revegetation Ecologist, Sam Chesson and Glenthorne Senior Ranger, Angus Droogan-Turniski and the Friends of Glenthorne NP Committee and all its Members and Visitors.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were tabled but not accepted due to an oversight.

#### **Guest Speakers:**

**Angus Droogan-Turniski** (Glenthorne Senior Ranger) and **Sam Chesson** (Glenthorne Revegetation Ecologist):

Sam and Angus presented a summary of the progress to date and future Planting Plan. GNP-IY has progressed quickly in the last 4 or 5 years since revegetation started.

Desired outcomes - Primarily open woodland, scattered trees with denser, diverse understorey plantings, low fire risk and low cost, easier maintenance because of the open habitat. Natural feel using endemic plant species, irregular shapes, random placement of trees, Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*) and Paperbark (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) woodland, open woodland suitable for Nankeen Kestrels and Black-shouldered Kites which inhabit GNP-IY, Grey Box and Blue Gum and connectivity across the landscape. The aim is to mimic other local remnant patches which feature open areas with large trees, grasses, and small shrubs.

A strip running from the north west corner, south along the western boundary would feature Mallee Box and Dry-land Tea Tree amongst native grasses and shrubs with about 70 trees per hectare.

Other areas such as the riparian areas would be planted with suitable plants and woodland to the east would feature Grey Box and Blue Gum. Trees in this area would number 70 – 40 trees per hectare. Grey Box has a more substantial canopy, Mallee Box is more spindly and Blue Gums are quite large trees.

The plan was to have canopies which did not touch, so that the vegetation was open which also reduced the fire risk. Open spaces would include fallen branches, tussocks of native grass and stones, providing habitat for a range of ground dwelling species.

Planting progress – 200,000 seedlings have been planted to date, up from the original plan of 120,000. Climatic change was allowed for by collecting seed from drier climes so that the plantings were prepared for hotter weather to come. Open space is to be maintained for grasslands, with a tree survival rate of 83% achieved to date. It was important not to replace trees which died so that open areas were maintained.

Return of Fauna – Several species had already returned to the property, including the Chequered Swallowtail Butterfly and a number of bird species (Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo and White-winged Triller) and reptiles (Bearded Dragons and the Eastern Long-necked Turtle). Natural regeneration was starting to occur especially around pod areas. Plants which are regenerating include Sheep's Burr (*Acaena echinata*), Bulbine Lilies (*Bulbine bulbosa*) and Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma* sp). It was important to plan to have varying structural elements from flowering plants to shrubs and weeds need to be controlled in the open spaces.

Future Restoration Projects – Across the western side of the property from Majors Road (Zone 1) down, 33 dense plots are planned, this will improve connectivity and staged olive removal and planting under powerline corridors would improve the habitat on that side of the property. Much of this work will take time or money to achieve. The Friends of Glenthorne volunteers have donated around 4,000 volunteer hours and are implementing their work plan and bush care principles, avoiding over clearing and minimising soil disturbance.

The Work Plan is to be used as a guide, to focus on one type of weed at a time, and have a strategy for expanding plots, working towards a common goal. The way to improve habitat was to maintain areas of good habitat and to work outwards from these areas, gradually expanding the good habitat and reducing the weeds as you go.

The Native Plant Nursery is coming and is a great opportunity. There must be a plan, and to grow what is needed and to work with experts. Regular maintenance will be required.

Next Steps – have a plan over 12 months before planting, monitor what is happening on the ground and teamwork will make the dream work.

O'Halloran Hill is an example of what can be achieved.

Question time.... 500-800 cars per day on weekends. Food Truck/Café would be a great community service. Coffee and food vendors starting this weekend with at least one per day and with both on weekends. Discussion about the possibility of Bus Stops to access Glenthorne NP and the RSPCA.

### **President's Report:**

President Martin Schumacher acknowledged the amazing work and passion of the dedicated volunteers that have achieved amazing results restoring native habitat for our wildlife with a special thanks to all the regular bush carers. Angus Droogan-Turniski replaced Bec Brown as Senior Ranger. Sam Chesson (Reveg Ecologist) assisted with grant applications (Butterfly) but his contract is finishing shortly. Max McQuillan's Community Grassland Project is going well. Local school groups have been assisting with planting, weeding and mulching and will continue to do so into the future. We have a good partnership with the Riding for the Disabled Association allowing office space for FoGNP committee meetings and the Nursery collaboration. Funding - Marion Council Conservation Dividend (\$5K annually) to compensate for the Soccer and BMX Clubs using National Park land. \$1,200 Equipment Grant from Marion Council. Very grateful to all our donors. The History Group will be promoted through the City Limits magazine. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Glenthorne Book is in the pipeline. Martin thanked everyone for attending this evening.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Karen presented the Financial Report for the 2022/2023 Financial Year. Net income for the year was \$13,037.27 comprising of Memberships (\$676.52), Sponsorships (\$510), Grants (\$11,784.78) and Donations (\$896). Expenditure for the year was \$830.10. Audit cost \$50, AGM costs were \$140, Friends of Parks membership \$20 and venue fees and equipment purchases \$500. Copies of the Report were tabled on the night. Accounts going to Auditor next week.

### **Election of Office-bearers:**

Leader of the Opposition David Speirs acted as Returning Officer and declared all positions vacant.

David thanked the outgoing committee members. 2,000 people will have attended David's tours of Glenthorne by January 2024 with 1,000 on the waiting list. David did a tour today and saw the volunteers weeding. Glenthorne is a sanctuary in the midst of urban sprawl (the lungs of the south). David is keen to see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Book as 1<sup>st</sup> Edition only goes up to 2018 and the last four years have been phenomenal. David said that the 1<sup>st</sup> edition was missing the good part of the story. 362 National Parks in SA covers 21% of the State.

The following people were elected unopposed:

President: Martin Schumacher

Vice President: Alan Burns

Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Peake

Committee Members: Bob Kirby, David Vinall, Margaret Wheadon, Chris Ide and Laima Kosiol (minutes secretary).  
Judy Clarke and Chris Hann join the committee as non-voting members.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm and supper was served.

Minutes Prepared by: Laima Kosiol & Alan Burns

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_