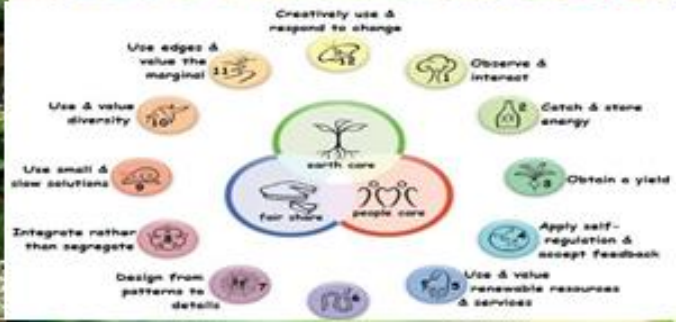


# Ballarat Permaculture Guild Inc.

## 2020 Annual Report



## Contents

<b>President's Report</b> .....	3
<b>Financial Report 2020</b> .....	4
<b>Part A: Balance Sheet</b> .....	4
<b>Part B: Income Statement</b> .....	5
<b>Part C: Notes to the financial statements</b> .....	6
<b>Events Team Report</b> .....	7
<b>Permablitz Report</b> .....	8
<b>The Hidden Orchard Report</b> .....	9
<b>Membership Report</b> .....	9
<b>Website Report</b> .....	10

This report covers the period from 15 November 2019 to 10 November 2020.

The BPG Inc. committee at the time of the report comprises:

President: Steve Burns  
Vice President: vacant  
Treasurer: Karen Fitzpatrick (also Memberships Officer)  
Secretary: Lisa Hofler  
Ordinary Members: Ellen Burns (The Hidden Orchard), John Moss (Permablitz), Elizabeth Moss (Membership, T-shirt organiser), Liz O'Dwyer (Permablitz, Ballan group rep), Sarah Ryan (resigned Sept 2020), Jude Porteus (Events, Ballarat Regional Beekeepers liaison)

Mick & Jackie O'Meara are not formal committee members, but organise Permies at the Pub and Permies at the Market each month. Although those activities have been in recess since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we thank Mick and Jackie for their work and long-term commitment to BPG programs.

## President's Report

Greetings and welcome to the BPG AGM! What can you say about 2020?

BPG activities have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 has looked very different to other years. Permacultures, workshops, courses and social gatherings were stopped in March. Our PDC made it to weekend 3 (of 8) then was suspended and eventually, reluctantly, cancelled. Committee meetings shifted to Zoom (and we discovered that that was quite OK!).

Many members enjoyed the initial shutdown as they processed garden produce or got a few DIY jobs done before Winter set in. The second lockdown tended to be tougher as social isolation took its toll. Fair to say that experiences have varied widely; some have talked about enjoying living in the post-Apocalypse world that years of permie prepping set them up for, while others have struggled with pressures of having everyone at home, home schooling or losing jobs or working hours. Many business and personal plans have been transformed and not always by choice.

One of the initiatives the Committee took up early was to negotiate a 25% discount for BPG members enrolling in the Milkwood Permaculture Living Course. This 12 week course provided a great structure for intellectual stimulation and weekly practical activities. The discount offer with Milkwood is on-going so if you haven't checked out their course, I highly recommend it.

The PDC is our major educational offering and provides a key income stream to support other activities. A small team has been working for several months on revamping the PDC. Our goal is to build a model that works contact-free so that we can offer it during any future shutdown. Once that foundation is laid, we will integrate contact events like site visits, classes, games and social times together. Having the core content of the PDC available online (using LearnDash on our WordPress website) frees us from some previous constraints. Students will be able to review lessons in their own time and watch them again whenever they want. We'll be able to have guest speakers from all around the world join us live. Instead of having a single commencement point at the start of the year, we can have multiple cycles of students starting throughout the year. Although there is quite a bit of work to do to transfer the PDC, we have a solid decade of experience and resources to build on, with many of the resources easily inserted into the online platform. One of the options we are keen to implement is having all BPG members able to access this resource material. Whether or not you've done a PDC, all financial members will be able to review the PDC resources. This will be a great opportunity for graduates to 'refresh' their knowledge. Members who haven't done a PDC might be tempted to enrol once they see the quality and breadth of what's included. (If you'd like to join the group reworking the PDC, please contact me. We need help!)

Thanks to the BPG Committee for their engagement and commitment in 2020. There has still been much to do, even if there were fewer visible events. Please take the time to personally thank any committee members you know: their volunteer time is what enables BPG to function. Special thanks to Sarah Ryan who retired from the committee during the year and Jude Porteus who has notified us that she will be stepping down at this AGM.

Could you be our next Treasurer? Karen Fitzpatrick is resigning from this position after many years of service in multiple roles. She plans to continue on the committee but prefers to reduce her 'hats' to Membership and Librarian. Our financial systems and processes are well documented and we use accounting software to manage our business, so our new Treasurer will have a smooth transition. You don't need to be an accountant or have any bookkeeping experience. An orderly mind and the ability to attend to details are important. Our cashflow is currently light due to the pandemic, so maybe this is the easiest time to become Treasurer. Please consider this seriously – we have to fill this position!

We also have vacancies for Vice President and Ordinary Committee members. Our Secretary *may* need to move interstate next year so that position may also be vacant. Further updates on that will be given verbally at the AGM.

# Ballarat Permaculture Guild Inc.

## Financial Report 2020

### Part A: Balance Sheet

BPG Inc.

#### Balance sheet for the year ended 30 June 2020

As of 30/06/20 (in Australian Dollars)

#### Current Assets

Notes	Account	30/06/19 Balance	30/06/20 Balance
1	<i>Bank Accounts</i>		
	ASPDC Account	\$18,338.77	\$27,750.85
	Membership Account	\$7,312.53	\$7,862.66
	New General Account	\$4,805.81	\$1,160.11
	<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$30,457.11</b>	<b>\$36,773.62</b>
	<i>Investment Accounts</i>		
	Term Deposit	\$39,263.35	\$40,415.60
	<b>TOTAL Investment Accounts</b>	<b>\$39,263.35</b>	<b>\$40,415.60</b>
	<i>Petty Cash</i>	\$61.65	180.65

#### Non Current Assets

2	Trailer	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Trailer Contents	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
4	Library Books	\$6,000.00	\$6,300.00
5	Books on hand for Sale	\$554.20	\$579.20
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,336.31</b>	<b>\$85,249.07</b>

Report prepared by: Karen Fitzpatrick, Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Part B: Income Statement

**BPG Inc.**  
Income statement for the year ended 30 June 2020

**INFLOWS**

	Student Loan repayment	\$256.74
	Unidentified	\$161.12
	Interest Income (incl. Term deposit)	\$772.57
	Membership	\$2,265.69
	PDC fees^	\$16,445.00
<b>Sales</b>	Books	\$165.00
	Other Sales (T-shirts)	\$38.00
	Workshop Fees	\$2,946.25
	<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$23,050.37</b>

**OUTFLOWS**

	<b>Permablitz</b> Equipment for trailer	\$80.00
	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>

	<b>BPG Admin</b> Bank charges	0.00
	AGM Catering	\$86.11
	Consumer Affairs Victoria	\$59.20
	PO Box	\$139.00
	Venue Hire (Committee meetings)	\$226.95
	Exec Committee Member Payments	\$450.00
	Insurance (Trailer & Members)	\$510.00
	IT Services (Website/Zoom subscription)	\$230.89
	Library Books	\$631.50
	Donation of firewood to sick member	\$335.00
	Trailer registration	\$60.50
	<b>TOTAL BPG Admin</b>	<b>\$2,729.15</b>

	<b>PDC</b> Admin, bookings/payments, offsite coordination	\$500.00
	Catering	\$554.55
	PDC Refunds	\$395.00
	PDC Student Books	\$1,285.20
	Presenter Fees	\$4,786.25
	Student membership to PA	\$240.00
	Student subsidy to Milkwood course	\$311.20
	Student loan for Milkwood course	\$256.74
	Printing, Folders etc	\$351.06
	Site Visits	\$900.00
	Venue Hire	\$100.00
	<b>TOTAL PDC</b>	<b>\$9,680.00</b>

<b>Purchase of items for resale</b>	Books	0
	T-shirts	0
	<b>TOTAL Purchase of items for resale</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Member benefits</b>	Calendars, Straws, envelopes & postage	\$1,746.47
<b>Member training</b>	Website training	\$149.00
	<b>TOTAL Member benefits</b>	<b>\$1,895.47</b>
<b>Workshops</b>	Consumables	\$45.60
	Presenter Fees	2,542.50
	Refund of workshop fees	0
	Venue Hire	\$490.00
	<b>TOTAL Workshop</b>	<b>\$3,078.10</b>
<b>The Hidden Orchard project</b>	Equipment	<b>\$853.94</b>
	<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$18,316.66</b>
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,733.71</b>

## Part C: Notes to the financial statements

BPG Inc.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

### Part A:

1) As this is the third report for Ballarat Permaculture Guild Inc. there is now the previous year for comparison.

### Non-Current Assets

#### 2) Trailer

The value of the trailer is assessed at \$0 as it is fully depreciated however for insurance (replacement) purposes it is valued at \$1,000.

#### 3) Trailer Contents

The contents of the trailer, tools etc. is currently valued at \$1,000 and for insurance (replacement) purposes is also valued at \$1,000.

#### 4) Library Books

For the purposes of these statements, all items (e.g. books and DVDs) in the library are notionally valued at \$20 each

#### 5) Books on Hand for sale

Unsold books purchased for resale. Valued at cost.

### Part B:

^ Note that refund of PDC fees to students took place in the 2020-2021 financial year and will be reported on at the next AGM. 5/8ths of fees were returned to students.



## Events Team Report

To begin this year, a very enthusiastic band of three Events Team members, Jude Porteous, Janet Coulson and Karen Abramovich, met to plan out the year and put together an exciting program; much of which remained in the planning stage due to Covid-19. Janet left the team and we were joined by Kirsten McCracken just before all of our planning changed. Meetings were over the phone or online, a very different situation. Thank you to all team members and particularly to Janet who has contributed to our BPG team for some time.

**Potluck dinners** were to be a continued feature of BPG's events calendar, however, only one Potluck was held for the Committee to start the year at Jude's. There were low numbers, as it was holiday season, but the Committee was excited to meet again after the Christmas break and to share all the plans for the year. Continuing at the beginning of the year was **Permies at the Pub**, an opportunity for all BPG members to get together socially, talk about our ideas and plans and look after each other - something that later in the year we had to do online or by phone, to check in to see how we were travelling.

Our commitment to involvement in **Community events** saw a keen contingent of members at the Buninyong Sustainability Expo in February. It's always good to share with people the principles underpinning Permaculture and to spread awareness of how people can engage in a more wholesome lifestyle. It's certainly a great opportunity to showcase our Events Calendar for the year.

Another chance to raise people's awareness of Permaculture is during our **Permies at the Market** days. Members of the public can chat to our members about the Permaculture Design Course, their own gardens and lifestyle, as well as upcoming events.

Our team had many **events in planning**, however, none of these were able to go ahead due to the Covid-19 virus restrictions and the fact that we were unable to gather even to film or interview. No doubt many of these will be held next year as restrictions ease:

### Talks

- Uses of Indigenous Plants and Trees in Natural Medicines
- Edible Weeds
- Milking Goats/Soapmaking
- Regeneration and Biodiversity
- Getting Ready for Winter
- Natural Cleaners and Personal Care

### Skill shares

- Making Wicking beds

### Workshops

- Fermenting
- Seed Saving
- Candlemaking
- Cheese and Sourdough Bread making
- Preserving and Bottling

### Tours

- Sonia's Garden
- Davo's Worm Farm
- Pig and Earth Farm
- Lambley Nursery

Elise MacNamara ('The Chicken Coach') who had been booked for a half day workshop, kindly offered a free Zoom event, including Q and A, and access to follow up workshops for all interested members. As opportunities to meet were limited, team member Karen Abramovich offered to make use of existing resources such as Milkwood and PIP magazine, linking their articles to our Facebook members' page. Jude added notifications of various online courses such as Mushroom Discovery and Brewing and Fermenting as well as posting Gardening Australia segments on Pruning and Grafting, in place of our annual workshops.

We supported another group in promoting the movie 'The Biggest Little Farm' to be held at Showbiz DTC, however, as movie theatres were closed, this movie was offered online to all those who bought tickets.

We have big hopes for a 2020 Christmas Party to be held for all of our members. What a great gathering it would be - a fantastic end to a very difficult year. We look forward to our 2021 program and life getting back to normal - even if it's a new normal! *See you soon.*

*Jude Porteous*

## Permablitz Report

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions our planning and holding of blitzes have needed to be put on hold, so no blitzes were held this year.

Talk to Liz if you'd like to get involved with permablitzes. It is a pleasure to work with both hosts and volunteers, so this is one of our most fun volunteer roles.

*Liz O'Dwyer*





## The Hidden Orchard Report

Due to restrictions we have not been able to run any harvests or pruning events since March. Despite that, we harvested 2,422kg across 22 properties, with another ~2500kgs of 'seconds' fruit being donated to animal sanctuaries.

We unfortunately had a break in at our storage space and around \$1000 of cash and equipment was taken. The silver lining of this was media and social media attention that resulted in a lot of volunteer sign ups and a donation of 6 stick pickers. We now have an incredible list of 220 volunteers!

We are seeking more Harvest Leaders to join our team, to help us run an increased number of small harvests this coming season.

We currently have 126 trees/properties on our register so it would be great to be able to reach a bigger portion of them next year.

*Ellen Burns*

*(President – The Hidden Orchard)*



## Membership Report

At the end of the 2019-2020 financial year (June 30 2020) BPG had 128 memberships, with many of those being couples or family memberships.

Although membership has grown slowly in 2020, it *has* continued to grow which is pleasing. People can now join, renew and pay online, which is a major step towards efficiency for membership management. Automated renewal notices are sent to members shortly before their membership expires. This function has had a few issues of late, resulting in several long-time members not receiving their renewal notice. BPG will be emailing those people individually to check if they wish to renew.

All members who renewed by September 30th, 2020 will receive a free Permaculture 2021 calendar, valued at \$13.95 as well as a surprise gift.



*Karen Fitzpatrick*

## Website Report

Ballarat Permaculture Guild's new website, launched without fanfare in mid-April 2019, has proved to be very successful once teething problems were resolved.

All BPG events except the PDC are now listed in Eventbrite, which not only manages bookings and collects payment, but also allows our content to be 'harvested' to populate the Events page of the website, with links directly back to booking and payment.

Joining/renewing membership is also entirely via the website, with online payments. No more paper forms to fill out, sort and file. No more manual entry of details by our volunteers. Automated renewal notices. It's a revolution for us!

Finally, there is a Blog, which provides the opportunity for extended news or useful articles. We would really appreciate some writers to contribute to this.

BPG is very happy with the way things work now, streamlining services to members and taking some of the weight off volunteers.



*Karen Fitzpatrick*