

# Ballarat PERMACULTURE Guild INC

Registration no: A0095121B

7 pm Tuesday 9 November 2021

Venue: via Zoom (all financial members invited)

Attendance:	René De Jong, James Hosking, Jean Watson, Breanna Hodges, Ellen Burns, Barry Gibson, Steve Burns, Liz O'Dwyer, Elizabeth Moss, Jenny Tait Murnane, Fiona Williamson, Peter Zoontjens, Craig Jarvis, Jacqui Fernandez, Brodie Lee, Lorna Martin, (John Moss joined late in the meeting).
Apologies:	Jude Porteus
Proxies presented:	None
Chair:	Steve Burns
Minutes:	René de Jong

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

### Chairperson's Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their attendance. There are currently 131 financial members of the Guild, so a quorum is needed 13 or more people in attendance. There were 16 members in attendance and a quorum was declared.

### Confirmation of minutes of previous general meetings

Minutes of previous annual general meeting were confirmed.

"That the minutes of the 2020 AGM be confirmed"

Moved: Steve Burns      Seconded: Elizabeth Moss      Vote: Passed

### Report on Committee Activities

The Annual Report was formally presented. The President and other committee members commented on their reports on the activities of the Guild over the last 12 months. Verbal reports were made by the responsible people of their portfolios summarised in the Annual Report.

From the President's Report, Steve gave special thanks to Barry for his efforts to fix and improve the IT component of BPG's activities.

Barry mentioned a new 25% discount being offered to members for the purchase of Bill Mollison's permaculture books (arrangement made after the publication of the Annual Report).

Liz mentioned that the recent relaxing of pandemic settings will allow Permablitzes to commence in the future so that is a change from the last (almost) 2 years.

Breanna reported on behalf of the Department of Everything and emphasised the desired for more members to be involved in activities. Jacqui made herself available to be involved in plant identification activities via any means (facebook, newsletter content).

Ellen and Jean's reports covered as written.

"That the Report on Committee Activities is accepted"

Moved: Liz O'Dwyer

Seconded: Elizabeth Moss

Vote: Passed

### Annual Financial Statement

The financial statements were approved by committee before being presented to the AGM. At the AGM, the Treasurer briefly reviewed key points of the Balance Sheet and Income Statement. Members' questions were addressed and these were mostly clarifications. BPG Inc. is in a very healthy financial state with assets totalling \$85,249.07 Jean noted 5/8 refunds for the 2020 PDC totalling \$10,228.21 were paid in July 2020, so appear in this year's report, whereas income for the 2020 PDC appeared in the 2019-2020 report. This has resulted in our expenses exceeding income over the current reporting period. Also, THO assets have been included for the first time and separately listed.

"That the Annual Financial Statement is accepted"

Moved: Jean Watson

Seconded: Fiona Williamson

Vote: Passed

### Acknowledgement of Retiring Committee Members

The President thanked outgoing committee member Elizabeth Moss for her contributions to the organisation. Steve outlined that each office bearer role has a term of two years and this being an odd year and means that of the 4 office bearer positions, two are vacated being the President and Secretary roles and two are continued for another year being the Treasurer and Vice President. Steve said he will renominate for this year only and will step away from an office bearer role after this AGM.

Before the elections, Steve formally stood down from the role as President and René stood in to elect a president.

## Election of Committee Members

President

### Nominations

Steve Burns nominated for the role of President. Everyone supported the nomination so Steve is elected unopposed.

Vice President

### Nominations

Fiona Williamson nominated herself at the meeting. Everyone supported the nomination so Fiona is elected unopposed.

Secretary

René de Jong nominated for the role of Secretary. Everyone supported the nomination so René is elected unopposed.

General Committee Members – 8 vacancies

### Nominations

Breáanna Hodges

Liz O'Dwyer

Barry Gibson

James Hosking

There being no nominations in excess of the number of vacant positions, all candidates are elected.

Ellen Burns is noted as a BPG committee member by virtue of being President of The Hidden Orchard, our most active project.

Jenny Tait Murnane offered to assist the Secretary role with discrete support administration jobs.

## Review of Membership Fees

1 year Single Concession \$25

1 year Single Full fee \$30

2 yr Single Concession \$45

2 year Single Full fee \$55

1 year Household Concession \$40

Full Fee 1 year \$45

Concession Household 2 year \$75

Full Fee Household \$85

"That the membership fees for 2022 remain unchanged from 2021."  
(Schedule of fees listed above)

Moved: Steve Burns

Seconded: John Moss

Vote: Passed

## General Business

There were no special motions or other business.

Comments, Questions:

Question to Ellen about timing of picking fruit through THO – depends on the fruit and generally pick only once. Decisions made by predicting and estimating fruit maturity. Usually someone will go out to the client/trees and make an estimate about when the fruit will be ready to pick.

Lorna – has 6 “A” frames to offer to anyone and she will drop off to Steve’s place.

Elizabeth Moss – asked whether the group wants her to continue organising “Permies at the pub”? Yes was the answer. Barry to discuss other things for Elizabeth via direct contact.

Jenny – asked about the payments to committee members. Steve addressed to say that the president, treasurer and secretary are offered a payment of \$150 per annum to reimburse them for office and travel costs. Jenny expanded about the payment offered to the organiser of the PDC (Steve). Steve replied that committee members do what they do because they volunteer their time and don’t expect/want payments. Committee members enjoy the satisfaction of seeing outcomes and progress in people’s lives. Jenny touched on conflicts of interest and Steve answered by saying there is a process for claiming reimbursements and any conflicts of interest are dealt with by excluding the relevant person from decision making regarding a potential conflict.

Brodie Lee and Craig Jarvis both introduced themselves. Both are new to the Ballarat area. Craig is a candidate for a permablitz.

Steve eluded to an impromptu social catchup in December now that pandemic restrictions are easing.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.