

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Minutes

**Monday 2 October 2023, 7.30pm - 9pm.**

**In person:** Royal Society of Victoria, 8 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

**Online:** via Zoom

Attendees	Online: Louise Nicholas (Returning Officer), Fiona Murdoch (Secretary), Phillip Vaughan, David Cummings Claudia Schulz, Louise Spensely, Tim Budge, Corey Hague, Penny Richards, Clive Carlyle, Peter Morison, Sian Turner, Tuesday Browell, Sue Bendel, Christiane Jaeger, In person: Peter Mulherin (Chair), Diana Droog (Treasurer), Rob Youl, Gavin Wigginton, Andrej Hohmann, April Newton Apologies (registered but unable to attend): Nelson Burand-Hicks, Simon Jolly, C Peters, Jyoti Kala, Giselle Roux, Louise Barton, Sarah Patterson, Peter Kelly, Marnie Hawson, John Temby, David Cummings, Barry Lowe, Gary Wallis, Lincoln Kerr
Guest	Sam Marwood (Odonata)

### Opening

- Chair Peter Mulherin welcomed all to the meeting
- Committee Member Rob Youl provided an Acknowledgement of Country, including artwork and additional verses to include a First Nations perspective to the poem Kiley's Run (Banjo Paterson)

### Elected Committee

- Returning Officer (Louise Nicholas) advised all current Committee members had been returned. As the number of duly nominated candidates was equal to the number of vacancies, the nominated candidates were declared elected without needing an online vote.
- Peter Mulherin - President
- Corey Hague - Vice President
- Fiona Murdoch - Secretary
- Diana Droog - Treasurer
- Committee
  - Clive Carlyle
  - Gavin Wigginton
  - Penny Richards
  - Peter Morison
  - Rob Youl

### Annual General Meeting

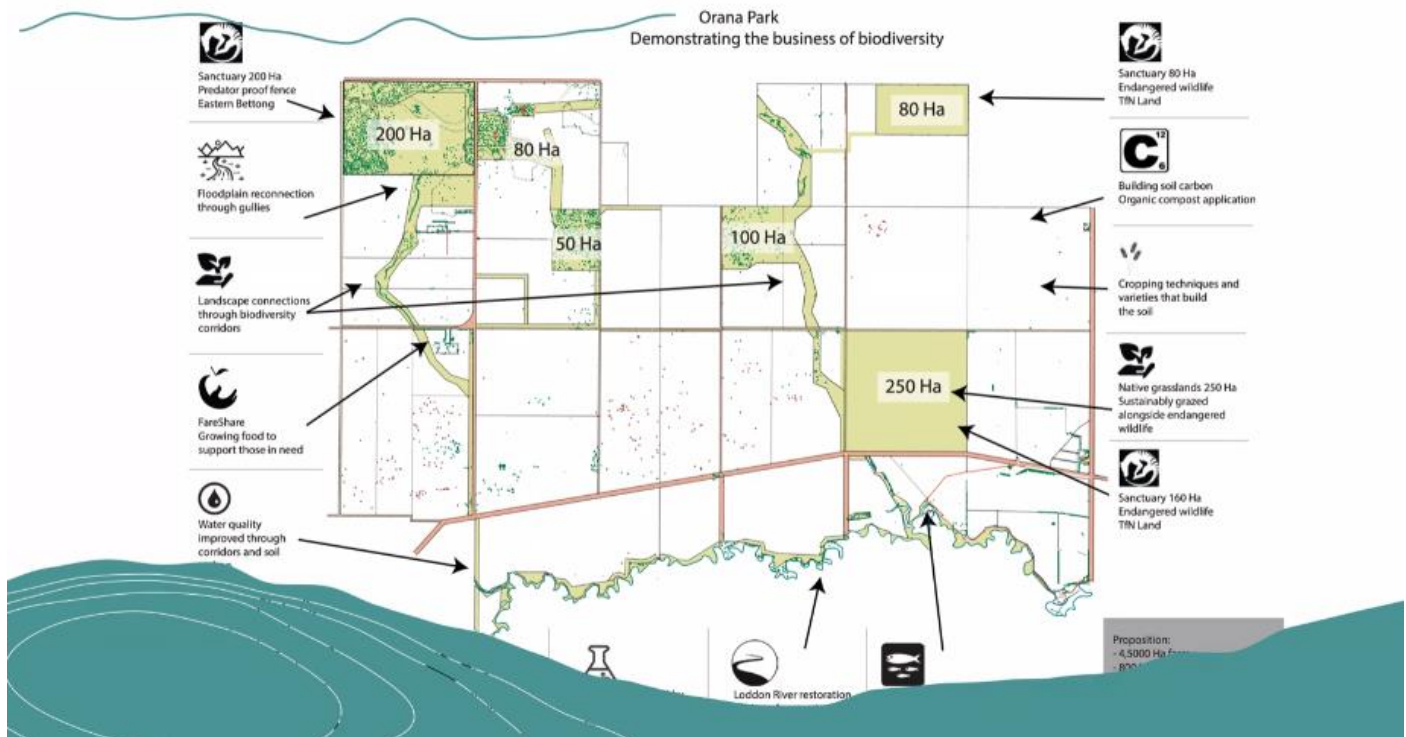
- Previous AGM minutes 3/10/2022: Moved Gavin Wigginton and seconded Diana Droog.
- The following annual reports were tabled to be distributed with AGM minutes:

- President's report Moved Peter Mulherin and seconded Fiona Murdoch
- Treasurer's report Moved Diana Droog and seconded Rob Youl
- Both the President and Treasurer acknowledged the support of Rendere Trust in establishing LCV:
  - *Land Covenantors Victoria, as an organisation, would not be here or as effective without the generous contribution made by the Rendere Trust. They have funded our administration to order of \$30,394. Other donations from generous members totalled \$1,061.*
- Committee Member Clive Carlyle introduced the LCV Strategic Plan 2023-26. The Plan will be distributed with the AGM minutes. Clive welcomed feedback to [info@landcovenantors.org.au](mailto:info@landcovenantors.org.au)
- Other business – Rob Youl advised that in late October LCV is hosting a visitor from Japan, Keiji Akutsu, who is gathering information on the Victorian covenanting process for the Development Bank of Japan. LCV has also recently hosted visitors from Canada and US.
- AGM closed at 8pm

### Guest presentation- Sam Marwood

- Presentation by Sam Marwood, CEO of [Odonata Foundation - New solutions for ending extinction](#).
- Sam's inspiring presentation has been distributed with the minutes. Sam's purpose was to inspire us, share some ideas and encourage collaboration.
- Odonata has the vision to see threatened species thriving "outside the fence". We were introduced to the story of Nigel Sharpe and his purchase of the Mount Rothwell sanctuary, followed by growth and expansion to establish Odonata, centred on making a case for the "business of biodiversity". There is a need to share successful case studies to engage the private sector, as well as advocate for the government to enable private sector investment in biodiversity.
- Odonata currently manage several sanctuaries. The future vision is planning to enable sanctuaries to be located in key locations for target species; proactive rather than reactive. Odonata sanctuaries include:
  - Mt Rothwell - main base sanctuary.
  - Tiverton 1000 ha largest predator-proof area in Vic. Working sheep farm with Eastern Barred Bandicoots and Eastern Quolls. Wool is going to make [Will & Bear](#) hats.
  - Mulligans Flat partnership and Wildbark Centre – 1000ha in Canberra surrounded by suburbs. The Wildbark Building is for like-minded businesses to use – hospitality to support biodiversity
  - Orana (Serpentine) 10,000 acre, large soil carbon contract. Uses liquid biofertilizer to improve soil health and revegetation. Biodiversity focus with some farming

# Orana



- Other Odonata projects include:
  - [Great Australian Wildlife search](#) – platypus initially, now expanded to everything, using eDNA samples from waterways. This can identify animals present within previous two weeks. Could be the largest citizen science sampling program ever. Next week national rollout supported by MDBA. eDNA to identify what you have, can also use camera traps. Enables a different approach of supporting what's there, not just reintroducing species. Some threatened species don't need a fence, eg Plains Wanderer, some species (many mammals) will always need a fence to protect them from predators. eDNA is more cost-effective than on-ground surveys.
  - Rescue Australia – National response strategy for bushfire-impacted wildlife, including breeding in anticipation of impacts and network of supportive sanctuaries.
  - Farm-scale Natural Capital Accounting – Partnership with Latrobe Uni and Landcare – how do farmers build nature into their business model so that revegetation and nature are integrated into farm management, not an add-on driven by ad hoc grants? Working alongside nature.
  - Wild Idea has become Hatch from Taronga Zoo – Nature Business Incubator
  - Business of Biodiversity pilot – Nature Boss – responding to interest in [Taskforce for nature-based financial disclosure](#) 25 businesses signed up in 5 days – big demand coming, need to be ready and need to make it simple for the private sector to invest in biodiversity.
  - Limpinwood Native Nursery – threatened species program for plants, but also exploring legacy and succession planning for conservation properties
- Questions from the floor
  - Do Eastern Barred Bandicoots support vegetation health? – Probably but has only been a year – bandicoots turn over about 1t of soil per year
  - Size and connection of sanctuaries? Guidelines? - Contact Sam Lancaster (Odonata). Could be as small as 10ha. The most important thing is the mindset to do it. A fence is a massive commitment. Currently testing an electric fence for next 3yrs to monitor the effect on foxes.
  - Fences and disrupting movement of animals? – Yes absolutely. Fences are only part of the solution.

- Fencelines in forested areas? – Can be damaging, focus on building off existing tracks. Don't do fencing on floodplains. Bushfire was a key driver of the sanctuary network – the risk of having all animals at one location. Anyone can build a fence but the difficulty is getting a wildlife licence to put many of the threatened species inside the fence.
- Close 9pm