



Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of the Tree Veneration Society was held at 33 Creek Street, Forest Lodge on Tuesday, 11 December 2018.

Attendees

Attendees included Louise Fowler Smith, Elizabeth Gervay, Amanda Farquharson, Liz Perfect, Jane Green, Peggy Wallach, Sue Stevens, Paula Broom (taking minutes/acting as secretary)

Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included Haruka Kokobu, Tamryn Bennett, Guillermo Batiz

Approval of minutes

Not applicable - no previous minutes to approve.

Reports

Presidents Report

Louise gave short overview of the year - past events include Science in the Swamp at Centennial Park, National Tree Day with only Amanda and Elizabeth running workshops for that, the Children's Sensory Garden Opening with Settlement Services International (SSI) at Auburn, and the exhibition and workshops, again run by Amanda and Elizabeth, at Glenaeon.

Next year we are planning to participate in:

1. The Sydney Science Festival again, but only if we have proper recognition or at least appear on their website. We may need to meet with the organisers to arrange this properly. We were agreed that we like to partner with Centennial Parklands because it is local and easy for us; and the Botanic Gardens are good to partner with for our profile.
2. SSI's proposed cross cultural workshops, four in total, for the year to engage refugee communities via nature (trees and plants). This is dependent on SSI gaining a grant for these. The grant has been applied for but it was unclear when we would hear back about this.

3. Grace Cossington Smith Galley's exhibition and "Getting to know Trees via your Senses" educational workshops. The exhibition will take place in October and also includes Janet Lawrence, Ian Grant and we are still hoping that Maria Fernanda Cardoso will be in it too. All details about this will be dealt with later next year. Louise has invited an ex student Amy Sharp to curate it. Louise sees this exhibition as a test run for a possible regional gallery travelling exhibition in future.
4. Elizabeth is particularly keen for us to keep our connection with Glenaeon in the form of both the exhibition and the workshops. She is hoping we can negotiate either our own exhibition, or at least our own wall space for the next exhibition.

Treasurer's Report

Louise reported that we have \$30. She is still trying to find out if we need to do a tax return although she was advised simply to return No Income online.

Unfinished and New business

It was decided that we need to have flyers to handout when we are running workshops, explaining who we are, what we do and why trees are important to us. Paula will update the previous flyer she produced with input from other members.

Elizabeth also acknowledged that our Discovering Trees using Our Senses workshops have already gained some respect, so it was decided that future workshops should build and expand on that model rather than move away from it.

Peggy suggested that we need to revisit our mission statement so we have clearly stated objectives, as part of our profile raising endeavours.

Election of Committee for 2018/2019

All nominated and seconded:

Louise Fowler Smith - President

Elizabeth Gervay - Treasurer

Jane Green - Secretary and Website

Paula Broom - Social Media

Peggy Wallach - Public Relations and Marketing

Membership

We discussed charging a nominal fee for membership that would give non active members a support role for us. We decided that since they would need to receive something in return such as bi-annual newsletter and access to workshops, we would be better to broach this when we have the exhibition at Grace Cossington Smith Gallery in October via a sign up sheet.

We touched on getting a donation button on our website. This needs to be discussed further.

Announcements

Next meeting in January. This will be finalised once Paula has emailed the minutes to everyone so that we can all flesh out some ideas for all of the ideas - see below:

This meeting is to discuss:

1. Sydney Science Festival
2. The mission statement - more structure
3. Charging for membership - potentially to be implemented later in the year
4. Donation button on website.

Paula Broom

Secretary

12 December 2018

Date of approval