



Annual Report

October 2017



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Statement of Purpose

To create a nurturing environment which encourages women to embrace and realise their dreams

Our aim is to:

- improve holistic health and well-being for women
- improve community connectedness
- build individual, community and organisational capacity
- value and share our lived experience with other communities
- respond to change and disruption.

Our objectives are:

- To maintain the legacy of disaster response and recovery through the lived experiences of women and communities.
- Empower women to organise regular events and gatherings for their community
- Nurture women to identify and develop their gifts, strengths, talents and resources
- Maintaining and nurturing a database
- Use information technology and social media to link women
- Provide a platform for women's voices

Thank You

The Board and members of Firefoxes Australia would like to thank the following for their invaluable contribution throughout the past year.

None of this is possible without the amazing work of these dedicated people.

Kinglake Ranges Foundation
Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House
Whittlesea Community House
Kinglake Historical Society
Kinglake & Kinglake West CFA
Kinglake SES
Kinglake Police
Kinglake CERT
Kinglake Hotel
Flowerdale Hotel
Greg Donaghue
Fiona Miller
Dee Brookes
Megan Buntine
Rivers & Ranges Community Leadership
Jemima Richards
Kate Riddell
Holmesglen at Eildon
Wendy Dixon

And finally...the women of Firefoxes who make it all worthwhile.

Annual General Meeting for the Firefoxes Australia

Monday 10th October 2017, 7:00pm @Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House

Item	Responsible person
1. Welcome and Introductions	Chair
2. Apologies	Secretary
3. Conflict of Interest Declaration	Chair
4. Minutes of previous AGM Minutes Moved: Second:	Chair
5. Reports Chair – Moved: Second: Treasurers – Moved: Second:	Chair Treasurer
6. Election of Board – Positions Vacant Chair: Accepted Moved: Second: Vice Chair: Accepted: Moved: Second: Secretary:	All

<p>Accepted: Moved: Second:</p> <p>Treasurer: Accepted: Moved: Second:</p> <p>General Members: Accepted: Moved: Second:</p>	
<p>7. General Business</p> <p>Guest Speaker – Lisa Linton – Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>8. Date of next ordinary meeting Monday November 7th 8pm @KRNH</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>9. Closure of meeting</p>	<p>Chair</p>

Firefoxes Australia AGM Minutes November 2016

Date	Monday November 7 th 2016
Time	7pm
Location	Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House
Present	Michelle Dunscombe, Karen McDonald, Jennifer Martin, Diana Falla, Margaret Main, Julie Reeves, Vicky Mann, Linda Hagggar, Kate Riddell, Nicole Sevenich

Item	Description	Responsible
1	Welcome and introductions	Chair
2	Apologies – Sue Holmes, Courtney Hall	Secretary
3	Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM Moved: Kate Riddell Second: Diana Falla	Chair
4	Chairperson’s report (distributed at meeting) Moved: Michelle Dunscombe Second: Karen McDonald	Chair
5	Treasurer’s Report (distributed at meeting) Moved: Nicole Sevenich Second: Jennifer Martin	Treasurer
6	Election of Board – All positions were uncontested Chair: Michelle Dunscombe Vice Chair: Karen McDonald Secretary: Jennifer Martin Treasurer: Nicole Sevenich General: Margaret Main, Julie Reeves, Pamela Young, Diana Falla, Linda Hagggar, Sue Holmes	Returning Officer

7	Motion: I move that the revised Rules of Association for Firefoxes Australia (as circulated) be adopted under the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act Moved: Nicole Sevenich Second: Margaret Main Accepted	Chair
8	Date of next ordinary meeting Monday November 7 th 7:30pm @KRNH	Secretary
9	Meeting Closed – 7.30pm	Chair/Chair

Chair's Report

Wow! What a fabulous year the Firefoxes team has had. Yes, the road has been bumpy along the way but I think we have navigated it full of grace.

Our funding partners, the Kinglake Ranges Foundation supported our dinners and retreats over during the 2016/2017 financial year and we are grateful for their support of women across the Kinglake Ranges. We know the importance of supporting women and the flow on impact that has in supporting a stronger more resilient Kinglake Ranges.

The 2017/2018 period is going to be challenging for Firefoxes as we enter it without a funding partner but we are confident we will (as we always have) find supportive partners moving forward.

I'm continually inspired and motivated by every woman across the Kinglake Ranges and beyond and the fabulous contribution they make to our community. At this years retreat the following statement was developed by the strong women from across Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires that came together to support each other, learn new skills and just connect with like minded women.

As Women We:

- **Acknowledge that choice is a deliberate mindset**
- **Actively seek, connect and support our tribe**
- **Empower ourselves and each other to motivate each other through our hopes and dreams**
- **Trust that life's curveballs will present opportunities**
- **Are aware and acknowledge ourselves and from this choose a positive change and seek a new direction**
- **Give ourselves permission to choose to prioritise ourself, our health and balance our mind, body and spirit.**

We will continue to partner and collaborate with many local groups throughout the year and look forward to deepening these relationships and nurturing more in the future.

On behalf of the board, I would personally like to thank our Emergency Services organisations - Kinglake and Kinglake West CFA's, Kinglake SES, Kinglake CERT for their contribution not only to our Emergency Services dinner but the community more broadly. We are grateful to the contribution of Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, Whittlesea Community House, Greg Donoghue, Kinglake Historical Society, our local traders, Fiona Miller, Nexus Primary Health, Whittlesea Bowls Club, Glenburn Hall and Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership for the contributions to our year.

At this years AGM, there is an opportunity for women from across Murrindindi Shire to join the board and continue the great work of the current board. I would like to acknowledge our retiring board

members Margaret Main and Pam Young, thank you for your help and support of Firefoxes over many years.

To all our incredible Firefoxes ladies this year has been a pleasure and I encourage you all to explore what is possible and how you can contribute to a safe and healthy Murrindindi. As Margaret Wheatley says “I think a major act of leadership right now, call it a radical act, is to create the places and processes so people can actually learn together, using our experiences”.

In the coming year, my hope is to see Firefoxes grow, for more women to be a part of Firefoxes future and for women across Murrindindi come together to share their skills, experience and knowledge to develop stronger relationships across the entire region.

Thank you all for a great 2017 and I am looking forward to the emergence of great initiatives in 2018.

Regards

Michelle Dunscombe

2016/2017 Dinners

July 2016 - Flowerdale Hotel our theme *Exploring a Positive Life* with guest speaker Greg Donoghue

August 2016 - Lawsons, Kinglake Pub our theme *Emergency Services* where we were joined by our local Kinglake CFA, SES, CERT and Police

September 2016 - Lawsons, Kinglake Pub our theme *Women in History* we were joined by Deidre Hawkins from the Kinglake Historical Society

October 2016 - Lawson, Kinglake Pub our theme *Reflect and Plan for 2017*

November 2016 - Bollygum Park, Kinglake our *Family Christmas Food Truck Style* with Bec Cassar from Bowl Full Of Soul, Angela Poulter from My Little Country Kitchen and Mindi with her Indian Cuisine.



Family “Food Truck” Christmas Party



February 2017 - Lawsons, Kinglake Pub *Welcome Back and To 2017*

March 2017 - Barefoot Bowls at Whittlesea Bowls Club for *Women's Health* and we were joined by Suzanne Miller CEO Nexus Primary Health, Women's Health and Services



April 2017 - Lawsons, Kinglake Pub our them *Local Woman within the Food Industry* last minute relocation Food Truck style with Bec Cassar from Bowl Full of Soul and Maria Hodgins from Curly Spuds

May 2017 - Lawsons, Kinglake Pub for our *Winter Wonderland* where we were joined by Greg Donoghue, Murrindindi Beanie Festival and Boomerang Bags



June 2017 - Glenburn Hall catered by Angela Poulter from My Little Country Kitchen joined by Tanishka (Moon Woman) from Red Tent for our *Mother Earth* theme

What else did Firefoxes do this year?

Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative July 2016

Our Chair, Michelle Dunscombe speaking at Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative (MUDRI) Progressing Community-based Resilience



Women's Retreat September 2016

Kinglake Ranges Resident Penelope Forde sharing her journey of recovery and personal resilience at the opening of the Retreat



The retreat featured a range of skills based workshops to enable participants to explore possibilities for their personal development.

Skills-based Workshops

- Owning Your Money Story
- Dare to Dream
- Getting Unstuck - The Positive Psychology of Possibilities
- Eating organic. Can we afford not to?
- Social Enterprise & giving back
- Community is everything
- Dipping your Toes into Community Leadership

Grassroots Governance Training - September 2016

The Firefoxes board take their roles very seriously and to support our individual governance skills we undertook Grassroots Governance Training with Megan Buntine from MJB Consulting in September 2016.

Living with Bushfires Conference 7-8 October 2016

From the Conference organisers.

The Conference is an opportunity to build and share knowledge across the community. Get advice, share stories and gain practical insights about living in a high fire risk area. Victoria is one of the highest fire risk areas in the world.

The conference is a joint initiative of The Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, CFA, MFB, Melbourne Water, Victoria Police, Vic Roads, Parks Vic and Yarra Ranges Council) in partnership with Box Hill Institute Lilydale Lakeside Campus.

Firefoxes intention in participating in the conference as part of the panel conversation alongside the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, MCRAG Foundation and Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership program was to share our experiences of what is possible during recovery and in community working together to build resilience. The event was attended by government agencies, local government, emergencies services, and community members from across Victoria.

Femergy Rising Retreat March 2017



Mandy McCracken sharing her remarkable journey at Femergy Rising. Mandy is an inspiration to everyone proving that even the most challenging times in life can provide an opportunity to learn, reflect and triumph.



'Dress as a woman you admire from a book you love'

2016/2017 Financial Reports

Profit and Loss

July 2016 - June 2017

	Total
INCOME	
Donations Income	4,269.30
Sales	6,165.00
Total Income	10,434.30
GROSS PROFIT	
	10,434.30
EXPENSES	
Accountancy	240.00
Bank charges	41.50
Board Training	330.00
Community Events Support	936.00
Dues and subscriptions	85.00
Insurance expenses	1,891.74
Legal and professional fees	285.90
Monthly Dinners	11,861.70
Office, general and administrative expenses	479.49
Planning	550.00
Printing, stationery & supplies	398.32
Project Management Expenses	4,224.20
Retreats	
March 2017 Retreat	15,662.00
Sept 2016 Retreat	19,701.85
Total Retreats	35,363.85
Telephone & internet expenses	792.34
Uncategorised Expense	439.50
Total Expenses	57,919.54
NET EARNINGS	A\$ -47,485.24

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2017

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Accounts receivable	
Accounts receivable	600.00
Total Accounts receivable	600.00
Cash and cash equivalents	987.00
Firefoxes Inc and VBAF money	2,391.30
Grant Funds	7,880.47
Transaction Account - Mastercard	15,156.83
Total Current Assets	27,015.60
Total Assets	A\$27,015.60
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	
Accounts payable	960.00
Total Accounts payable	960.00
Total current liabilities	960.00
Shareholders' equity:	
Net Income	-47,485.24
Opening Balance Equity	6,518.76
Retained Earnings	67,022.08
Total shareholders' equity	26,055.60
Total liabilities and equity	27,015.60