

Annual Report

November 2016



Firefoxes 2016 Annual Report

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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

Firefoxes 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
Holmsglen at Eildon
Wendy Dixon
Herconomics
Awesome Womens Collective

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

Firefoxes Australia AGM Minutes March 2016

Date	March 2016
Time	7pm
Location	Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House
Present	Kate Riddell, Jemima Richards, Dave Exton, Craig Seckold, Jenn Martin, Nicole Sevenich, Jesse Odgers, Margaret Main, Di Falla, Courtney Congdon, Sue Holmes

Item	Description	Responsible
1	Welcome and introductions	President/Chair
2	Apologies – Michelle Dunscombe, Karen McDonald, Bree Hevernen, Ming Griffiths, Linda Haggar, Georgie Markulia	Secretary
3	Review of actions from previous AGM. Proposed resolution: That the minutes from the 2015 AGM be accepted. Moved: Dave 2 nd : Craig Passed	President/Chair
4	Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM	President/Chair
5	President/Chairperson's report (distributed at meeting)	President/Chair
6	Treasurer's Report (distributed at meeting)	Treasurer
7	Questions	President/Chair
8	Posed Resolutions	President/Chair
9	Acceptance of Financial Statements. Proposed resolution: That the financial statements tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted. Moved: Sue 2 nd : Nicole Passed	Treasurer
10	Acceptance of annual/Presidents Report. Proposed resolution: That the annual report tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted Moved: Sue 2 nd : Marg Passed	President/Chair
11	Election of Board – All positions were uncontested President: Michelle Dunscombe Vice President: Karen McDonald Secretary: Jenn Martin Treasurer: Nicole Sevenich General: Jesse Odgers, Margaret Main, Di Falla, Courtney Congdon, Sue Holmes	Returning Officer
13	Meeting Closed – 7.45pm	President/Chair

President's Report

I am pleased to be writing my first Presidents report for Firefoxes Australia. It has been an amazing journey since the current board was elected back in March this year. I would like to thank Kate and Jemima our fabulous founders the support and guidance that has been given to the board over the last 8 months.

Since the March AGM the board has undertaken a planning day, undergone governance training, hosted 8 dinners, facilitated a public federal election candidate's forum at the Kinglake Pub in partnership with the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House and Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership, presented at both the Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative Forum and the Living with Bushfires Conference, and of course hosted our Women's Retreat at Holmesglen in Eildon. Wow, when you list it all it's no wonder we've been busy.

I would like to thank our funding partners, the Kinglake Ranges Foundation for supporting our dinners and the retreat. Our partnership with the foundation makes it possible for us to provide opportunities for women across the area to come together connect, share stories, learn from each other and the wonderful guest speakers and activities we have throughout the year.

We have enjoyed partnering and collaborating with many local groups throughout the year and look forward to continuing these relationships and nurturing more in the future. I would personally like to thank the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, Whittlesea Community House, Kinglake Historical Society, Kinglake and Kinglake West CFA's, Kinglake SES, Kinglake Police, Kinglake CERT and Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership for the contributions to our year.

To all our incredible Firefoxes ladies this year has been a pleasure and I encourage you all to continue your life's journey and invite you all to be active in all the events, activities and the retreat in 2017. I love seeing women supporting each other and achieving their goals and Firefoxes is a great community to provide encouragement to help you achieve your dreams.

At the AGM, we will see some members of the board step down. This is both sad and exciting – sad for the Board to be losing the skills and enthusiasm of people who have contributed enormously and exciting to be welcoming new talent and enthusiasm in their place. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all board members, Vice President – Karen McDonald, Secretary – Jenn Martin, Treasurer – Nicole Sevenich, Assistant Treasurer – Di Falla and board members, Margaret Main, Sue Holmes, Courtney Hall and Jessie Odgers (who resigned back in July), everyone's commitment to continuing the great Firefoxes legacy.

In the coming year, my hope is to see Firefoxes grow further, collaborate more with other organisations and undertake some great new initiatives many of which were

identified at the retreat and our last dinner, that tap into the passions of our members. In particular, focusing on women's health issues, the laughter club and sharing the Firefoxes story via our local community radio UGFM.

Thank you all for a great 2016 and I am looking forward to the emergence of great initiatives in 2017.

Regards
Michelle Dunscombe

What Now? Focus on 2017

This session was facilitated by Fiona Miller on Friday, October 28th and was attended by 25 women who had the following conversation which we will be handing over as a blueprint Firefoxes activities in 2017

In keeping with our charter to involve the women of Firefoxes in their ongoing development we have once again sought their input on what we are doing well, what we need to look at and how they might be involved as we head into 2017. The following is a summary of our conversation on the night:

Firefoxes Women like:

Massage, dancing, horses, travel, laugh, discussions, gardening, people, reiki, retreat, chocolate, exercise, coffee, food, music, veg out, read, socializing, adventure, walks, fun – relieves stress, champagne, art, candles, interesting speakers, sex, mate 2 plate and wine.

Things “we” do well:

Laugh, eat drink and socialize, share, connect, accept, safe space, listen, talk, love, talk together, share ideas, love, don't judge, health care, look after each other, supporting each other, have fun, inspire, inclusive, as firefoxes we are inspiring to each other.

What could “we” do:

Mentor other women, day trip, day spa, workshops at dinner, more laughs, inspiring each other to succeed, guest speakers, share stories for and with each other, take a chance, have an adventure, golf, creating stories workshop, laugh club, games, , planning, inspire, form sub groups, we need to catch our breath, menopause chat night, workshops, schools have “buddies” why not us - mentors, get on radio, use local resources, go plastic bag free on mountain, family involvement, Bali, meditation workshop, women's health info talk/discussion with a health professional.