



Conserving natural habitat since 1985

NEWS

Winter Newsletter

June 2025

Kurri Kurri Co-operative Society Ltd.

26 McConnell Street, Warrnambool Vic 3280

ABN No. 62 590 221 529

<http://www.apswarrnambool.org.au/kurrikurri>

Chairperson: Ms Anne Marantelli
Secretary: Dr John Sherwood (03) 5562 8064
 jsher@deakin.edu.au
Directors: Kevin Sparrow (Treasurer), Geoff Rollinson, Dr Peter Goy, Michael Harris, Colin Magilton, Laura Prentice.

Another AGM done and dusted!

It was another nice day (31 May) on the block. It was a bit hard to celebrate our good fortune however given the bad drought our farmers are struggling under.

We had 20 attendees and 15 apologies. It was a pleasure to welcome members Tim Altmann, Jordan Vallance and Karen Hermon to their first visit to our block.

Chair Anne Marantelli welcomed all to the AGM and acknowledged we were meeting on the traditional lands of the Maar Nation. After the Minutes were accepted Kevin Sparrow spoke to the Financial report previously circulated. His report was also accepted. The Motions to keep levies at their current level (\$20/year or \$80/5years) and to re-appoint Sinclair Knight as Auditors were carried.

In the absence of other nominees by the closing date John Sherwood, Peter Goy, Kevin

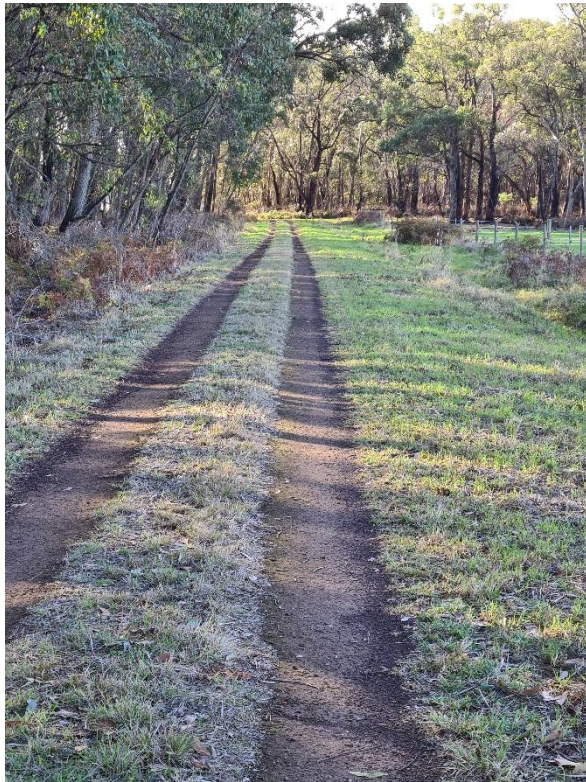
Sparrow and Colin Magilton were re-appointed to the Board.

The AGM was then closed and a General Meeting opened. No motions were put at the General meeting. Issues raised and discussed were:

- Work on repainting direction arrows was still to be attended to. This will be a priority at future working bees.
- Kevin Sparrow was thanked for making a new sign for the entrance to Max Dean Walk.
- The proposed State Government Fire Services levy (currently on hold) may impact our finances. The Board will keep a watching brief on this.
- There was discussion about the desirability of a controlled burn of part of the block. The block last burnt in the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires. The Board has commenced investigation into a controlled burn with DEECA. The possibility of involving Traditional Owners was also raised as something to be explored.

[Secretary Note: This class of vegetation has a desirable fire frequency of 25 – 60 years (EVD7 Tall Mixed Woodland in David Cheal “Growth Stages and Tolerable Fire Intervals for Victoria’s Native Vegetation Data Sets” DSE Report No. 84, 2010)]

Draft Minutes of both meetings will be circulated before our next AGM



Our neighbour Leon Couch had slashed Couch’s Road just before our AGM. I visited his home and thanked him. He hopes to keep it this tidy.

Following up on the AGM

The re-elected Board had its first meeting on 25 June and made a number of decisions, including:

- Office bearers would remain as last year:
Chair – Anne
Deputy Chair – Geoff
Secretary – John
Minute Secretary – Peter
Treasurer – Kevin

Assistant Treasurer – Michael
Membership Officer – Colin
Wildlife Officer – Laura

- Next Working Bee** will be held on **Saturday 20 September**. A 10am start – bring a lunch and strong boots, gloves etc. We will conduct maintenance on the direction arrows, check fence lines for damage and fallen trees, slash access paths and the BBQ area, clean shed, weed and look for orchids and other wild life.

Block Visitation

I took our Visitors Book home to record the attendees at the AGM. While I had it I went through previous entries and produced the Table below. The block is visited 2 to 3 times each month on average and there are about 80 to 100 person days of visits each year. Some of our members are regular repeat visitors. In particular Peter Bolte must be acknowledged for his work in maintaining our motion sensing cameras and for his maintenance of the block generally (clearing fallen trees and slashing grassed areas) – Thanks Pete!

Year	No. Days	No. Visitors
2017(6 months)	26	72
2018	35	141
2019	28	78
2020	39	93
2021	42	117
2022	29	99
2023	30	82
2024	26	68
2025(6 months)	11	37

Table1: Annual visitation rates for the block

A Revised Mission Statement

The Board decided at its meeting of 13 May 2025 to revise its Mission Statement to give greater prominence to ecological and scientific values of the Co-operative. Michael Harris prepared the Statement below. It was adopted at our meeting of 25 June and will be

incorporated into our Management Plan and placed on our web site.

Vision

- A resilient and biodiverse ecosystem, where healthy native plants, animals, and cultural landscapes are protected in perpetuity.

Aims

- To actively manage the Kurri Kurri bush block as a healthy and protected remnant of a once more extensive native ecosystem, with a focus on ecological restoration and climate resilience.
- To support academic and applied research that advances understanding of ecological processes, environmental change, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land stewardship.
- To facilitate ethical seed collection of locally indigenous plant species for use in scientifically informed revegetation and habitat restoration projects by government and community partners.
- To collaborate, where appropriate, with individuals and organisations engaged in research, conservation, education, and land care efforts aligned with our values.
- To provide limited, well-managed facilities to support low-impact recreational and educational activities by members, consistent with ecological sensitivity.
- To build and maintain positive relationships with neighbouring landholders, local conservation groups,



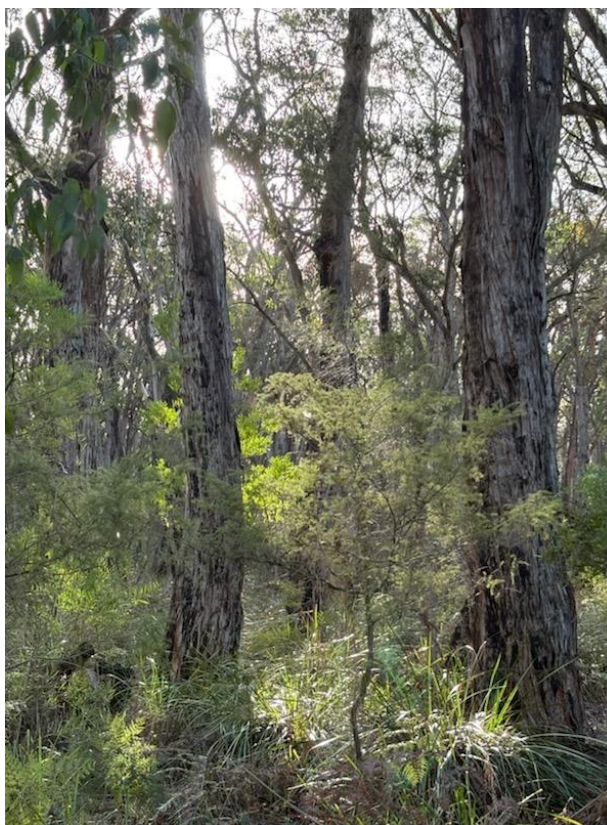
Kevin with the new sign for Max Dean Walk.

- Traditional Owners, Indigenous communities, and the Moyne Shire Council, respecting cultural and ecological knowledge.

As a not-for-profit conservation organisation, to ensure that all funds are used transparently and effectively for the long-term ecological and social benefit of the bush block and its members.

Your levies could be due (?)

Kevin has emailed Levy Notices to those on email. A hard copy is enclosed with this Newsletter if you receive it in paper form. Check the notice to see if you have a TOTAL OWING. If so.... you know what you have to do!



Late afternoon on the block. Greens really accentuated



Some of us relaxing in the bush after the AGM.



Some of our resident grey kangaroos eating out – on our neighbour's grass!



Moss still looks lush despite our dry conditions