

## **President's report AGM 2021**

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all the members who have continued to support ANGAIR through a difficult year. Whether it be by maintaining your membership, joining up for the first time or volunteering with our activities, it all helps to spread the conservation message through the community. I believe ANGAIR is recognised as the go to organisation when it comes to seeking advice on conservation issues in the local area.

Whilst COVID restricted our activities at times we adapted where possible and managed to undertake most of our usual activities. The Management Committee met each month via zoom and was not as affected as other activities. Ellinor Campbell and Bill Clarke successfully organised a zoom social evening, probably a first for ANGAIR.

In spite of COVID restrictions we had a very successful virtual wildflower nature show (special thanks to Bill and Olivia Clarke for developing and managing the Show web site and the other key contributors). Surf Coast Shire Council supported our virtual show with a substantial COVID recovery grant (\$4 960.00) and Anglesea Community Bank supported the photograph competition which was a substitute activity replacing the Art Show.

The Anglesea Community Bank also supported an upgrade of signage on the Anglesea Perimeter walk (\$1 250.00). Thanks to Les Lyons for installing the new signs and Dot Hutton for her perseverance with related permissions paperwork. With COVID restrictions the walk has been well used by locals.

Again, with COVID restrictions, we adapted successfully to online sales of indigenous plants to members only (thanks to the propagation team which was led by Sally White). COVID restrictions also necessitated controls on numbers attending and unfortunately restricting volunteers to the regular attendees. There will be two autumn plant sales to members at the facility.

Major weeding activities continued including hosting a Working with Victoria Team and several school groups – thanks to Janet Stephens and Carl Rayner. Grants from both State and Federal Governments (via CCMA and the Member for Corangamite) contributed significant funds (\$11 000) to enable contracted large weed removal at several sites close to Anglesea.

Outdoor activities such as nature rambles, know your tracks and bird watching mostly continued during the year but plant studies and Flora and Fauna Interest

Group meetings were cancelled for some time due to COVID restrictions on indoor activities.

Rod Brooks continues to maintain our main website - thanks Rod. Our Library is now open again -thanks Mandy Mitchell Taverner. And Christine Forster posts ANGAIR activities on facebook. Please take photos and send to ANGAIR admin or Christine if you are participating in an event. ANGAIR undersells its value to the community.

We finished the year with the traditional and very popular combined Friends of Eastern Otways and ANGAIR Christmas picnic and nature walk at Moggs Creek. Ellinor Campbell received a very deserved life membership certificate at this event. Margaret MacDonald and others make the walk a great opportunity to learn about indigenous plants.

A special thanks to the numerous members who contribute Newsletter articles or organise activities mentioned previously. If we have no organiser we have no event. A quick count of these contributors and organisers came to more than 30 people. Our membership has been rising and these organisers allow participation by many other members.

Looking forward - our member survey was devised and then the results analysed thanks to Olivia Clarke, and the Communications and Newsletter teams have been meeting to find a pathway forward so that we make the most of various technologies that are now available. We currently have a facebook page, two websites and a monthly newsletter. We are looking at introducing a quarterly magazine style seasonal Newsletter and a new look monthly Newsletter.

We have a new Friends of Group at Sandy Gully, Aireys Inlet, and quite recently a new Education Interest Group as demand for our services from schools and other community groups is increasing rapidly. Thank you to those members contributing.

We still have our second facilitated workshop to complete our COVID delayed discussions on future directions for ANGAIR. This is scheduled for Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> in the morning. We hope many of you will come and participate.

We are always looking for more organisers of events - so if you have a favourite walk/activity that you would like to share please contact current organisers. They will be very happy to have some of the load removed. Ideas for new activities with an educational component are always welcome.

Thank you to the Management Committee members who are very busy, often behind the scenes, attending to urgent requests, representing ANGAIR or handling the necessary business matters that keep ANGAIR functional and in the public eye. A recent example is the discussions with DELWP/SCS/CFA re fuel management mulching activities on the GOR. We have made several submissions to state and federal government reviews and on local planning issues.

Conrad White, our Treasurer, and Lyn Wallace Clancy, our membership officer, deserve special mention for their work maintaining our finances and membership affairs.

Finally – our thanks to Nat Utmar who has kept the ANGAIR office running smoothly even when most of us were in lockdown.