



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF HAMILTON GARDENS HELD IN THE CHARTWELL ROOM, HAMILTON GARDENS, THURSDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2021 AT 3.00 PM

**Karakia** – Open

**Present:** 27 persons attended the meeting – attendance list filed.

**Apologies:** Sue Primrose, Denis Gibbs, Jenny Newby-Fraser, Catherine Smith, Bev Lancaster, Jan Sheppard, Patricia Gouk, Gay Main

**Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting:** The Minutes had previously been circulated via the Friends webpage and by email. It was resolved that the Minutes be confirmed

*Moved Marilyn/Judy H – carried*

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising

**Financial Report:** The audited accounts had been previously circulated on the Friends' webpage and by email. The report was adopted

*Moved Phil/Colin – carried*

**Presidents Report:** The report had been previously circulated on the Friends' webpage and by email. Marleina opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the AGM and summarised her report. She commented that from Covid, positive opportunities were to be embraced including the importance of strength in unity, connecting with whanau, understanding, appreciating, and having an affinity with nature and the environment. Marleina thanked all the Friends, funders/sponsors, garden staff, café staff and all volunteers. She encouraged people to support the Hamilton Garden Art Festival but also confirmed that ticket bookings would be refunded if we went into lock down.

The President's report was adopted.

*Moved Ralph/Phil – carried*

### **Election of Officers**

Marleina read out the names of the people nominated and seconded to positions on the Executive Committee in accordance with the Friends' Constitution

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| President      | Marleina Ruka  |
| Vice President | Ralph Evans  |
| Secretary      | Judy Calder  |
| Treasurer(s)   | Bruce Sinkinson/Jan Bishell  |
| Committee      | Marilyn Yeoman, Virginia Graham, Jane Stewart, Colin Sheppard, Pamela Hide, Judy Holdsworth, Philip Hart |
| Ex-Officio     | Sally Sleight  |
| Patron         | Peter Sergel   |

It was resolved that the Executive Committee be elected to the above positions.

*Moved Virginia/Betty – carried*

## **General Business**

**Subscriptions:** 2022 to remain at \$30. It was noted that when a charge was introduced to enter the themed gardens, FOHG members would receive free entry.

*Moved Colin/Marilyn – carried*

Marleina thanked James, Lucy, and Virginia for their efforts in searching for a new database to assist with growing the membership. Price had been an issue. Ralph has sourced a cheaper but just as efficient database called Podio. He will obtain and cost and bring back to the committee.

Marleina thanked Marilyn for and read out the following citation written to Peter Sergel and awarded him Life Membership. He was presented with gifts acknowledging his work over the years to create an internationally acclaimed public Garden.

### ***Citation to Peter Sergel on being awarded Life Membership and becoming our Patron***

*It gives us great pleasure to appoint you as a Life Member and more especially, as our Patron.  
We can think of no more worthy recipient.*

*No one has contributed more to the uplifting of Hamilton's image, both in New Zealand  
and internationally. One is reminded of Martin Luther King who said "I have a dream".  
Your dream has developed and progressed from the 1960's to the present day – and we  
are not finished yet.*

*Single handedly you have set out to illustrate the 4000 year old story of Gardens into  
actual examples of the period and cultures. We know the road has not always been easy.  
You have had a precise eye for detail which has led to the authenticity of each Garden.*

*The Gardens are the recipients of your years of research and scholarship much of which  
has been unseen. Our international award was the recognition of you realising your dream.*

*With these two awards we hope to keep in contact with you and for you to join us  
for meetings. Where would we be without you to recommend when and where we should  
send our money!!*

*The Friends of Hamilton Gardens wish you well and thank you for working so supportively  
with us.*

Rena was also recognised for her years of involvement and work with the Friends and Marleina reiterated the FOHG support of Rena's nomination for the 2020 Volunteer Waikato Long Service Award. Rena was presented with a cream orchid.

Marleina thanked retiring committee members Sue Primrose, Jenny Newby-Fraser, Denis Gibbs and Dr Janet Sceats who will step down as the Friends representative on the HGAF trust at the end of the 2022 Garden Festival. Gifts for the retiring members are held by Judy.

Marilyn thanked Marleina for her time, leadership, and efforts as President. Marleina was presented with flowers.

**Guest Speaker: Lucy Ryan, Director, Hamilton Gardens**

Lucy provided a profile of her career to date and how she arrived at Hamilton Gardens in 2021 to "the best job in the world". She also provided a power point presentation of her vision for the Gardens - *strengthening the foundation, enriching visitor experience, and growing and innovating*. Lucy clarified the HCC Covid vaccination requirements for the themed gardens, Information Centre, and Pavilion to take affect from 14 December 2021.

Judy H and Marilyn thanked Lucy and presented her with gifts.

Peter spoke briefly and thanked the Friends for their citation. He also confirmed he was in the throes of writing a book about the Gardens describing in detail the initial concept and meaning of the Gardens. He is also involved in obtaining resource consent for future development. Peter confirmed a feasibility study was underway on how to raise further funds for the Gardens – funded by Hamilton Gardens Development Trust.

Marleina thanked the audience for their attendance. Betty Collins also thanked the Committee for their efforts during the year.

**Meeting Closed 4.05 pm**

