

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 23 February 2017 at

Royal Area Meeting Room, Farnell Avenue, Royal National Park

Meeting opened at 4.12 pm

Preliminaries

Chairperson – John Arney.

Acknowledgment of Country

John Arney acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the Royal National Park is situated.

Members present

John Arney, Ian Hill, Basil Ellis, Judith Carrick, Neville Bethe, Ralph Cartwright, Tom Ledden, Bruce Cooper, Peter Kahn, Andes Bianchi, Merrilyn House, Alan House, Mark Da Silva,

Visitors present

None

Apologies

Peter Stitt, Anne Carrick, Rita Taylor, Ann Young, Helen Voysey, Eileen Haley, Patsy Ross, Jo Keohan, George Cotis, Josie Piper

Other Business

This item was brought forward to accommodate the Andres Bianchi who is the acting Area Manager for the Royal

Park Report

4.17 p.m.

1. The Plan of Management updated has been resubmitted to the new Minister for the Environment. It should be available in the next few weeks. The Wattamolla Master Plan has been resubmitted.
2. Initial work on the improvement plan for Bonnie Vale Day and Camping Ground is underway. NPWS aim for better level of service and amenity which should found in a report about the middle of the year.
3. Services and Amenities to be addressed in a report due around the middle of the year.

4. The Audley Boat Shed Restoration scope of works costing is awaiting approval and is subject to the funding being sourced in a month or two. The work will entail a heritage restoration and work on the toilet facilities.

5. Bundeena Old Sanitation Depot. This issue went to the Land and Environment Court. Regional Operations Unit was preparing a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposed road access to the site. The REF will be open for public comment.

6. The Royal Coast Track will receive a further \$4.5 million. To date \$3 million was spent. The new money will go into work on the Little Marley and Wattamolla section. Material has been dropped at the edge of the Burgh Track on the eastern edge of the saddle at Burning Palms and South Era. Also two cameras at figure and new steps into Burning Palms.

7. Kane Weeks has been appointed as the South Coast Regional Director. This covers NPWS holdings from Wollongong to the border with Victoria. Deon van Rensberg will be the Metropolitan Regional Director.

8. Wedding Cake Rock and the Figure 8 Pool. New fencing at Wedding Cake Rock. There was security on site in January and February of a Sunday due to some members of the public failing to obey warning signs and moving beyond safety fences.

At Figure 8 Pool the Behavioural Insights Unit has set up new interim and permanent signage on the NPWS internet site. This can be found by searching for Figure 8 Pool and yields the following NPWS website

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/lookouts/figure-eight-pools>

A traffic light system is being used to warn the public of the dangers on the NPWS website.

There are two cameras on the headland.

80% visitation at Garawarra Farm and a track counter for the Burgh track.

9. Litter. NPWS is currently trialling a litter management system for Wattamolla. A need to engage with the visitors.

10. Park Facilities Subcommittee to discuss Park Issues Mention was made of the contribution from FOR with the Audit of the Royal from Anne Carrick which highlighted 10 sites for priority action.

Action: Tom Ledden to send a copy of the report to Andreas

Report was submitted to Kane Weeks on 20th June 2016.

Both Signage and Parking needed improvement

Andreas remarked that due to the visitation numbers the litter produced was such a problem that the entire Operational Budget could be spent on litter management.

Further discussion

Alan House mentioned biodiversity studies including fungi plots in the Bola Creek Area and questioned if there was any further biodiversity studies at present.

Ian Hill mention the defacing of the very impressive Royal National Park map display at the southern end of the Park at Otford Gap.

Andreas finished his report which was kindly accepted and left the meeting to continue his other NPWS work with the approval of those present.

Grant Monies

5.04 p.m.

4 Seminars for up skilling volunteers for Biodiversity Protection and Weed Identification value \$5K

50 People to attend

4 draft dates: Location Kamay, 22nd April and 6th May. Audley, 27th May and 10th of June.

Subsequently the date for the 10th of June has been changed to the 17th of June.

A further \$1K is available for production of a book on weeds.

Treasurer's Report

5.36 p.m.

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright reported a combined total of \$12569.

Current assets are:	\$
Cheque Account	9355.82
Savings account	2632.35
PayPal Account	581.00
TOTAL	12569.17

These were tabled in his written statement.

Report on the discovery of Remnant of The Deeban Spit Jetty and Maianbar Boardwalks

5.39 p.m.

Ian Hill gave a brief report of the discovery of a remnant of the Deeban Spit jetty by George Cotis who was absent from the meeting. Ian also tabled the 13 page report including photographs that has been produced by George Cotis.

General Business

5.55 p.m. Clean Up at Wattamolla

Liaise with Anita and Andreas for help with the clean up

Judith Carrick also advised that she cleans up Garawarra Farm twice a week and encourages other park users to do the same.

5.59 p.m. Basil advised that he wishes to take up the role as secretary for Friend of Royal and was elected unopposed.

Litter – so much over the guard rail from the Main Office down to Audley.

Lady Wakehurst Drive at Palm Creek. Judith advised that a mattress had been dumped together with asbestos and it has been roped off with red tape for quite some time.

Loftus Tramway. Peter Kahn announced that the new minister for the Environment Gabriel Upton will attend SPER on the 22 April and that there will be a heritage festival on the 27th April.

Meeting closed

6.10p.m.

Adoption

These minutes were adopted on 27 April, 2017 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Signed:John Arney..... Date: