

## **FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

### **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 22 June 2017**

**At the Environment Education Centre, Farnell Avenue, Royal National Park**

**Meeting opened: at 4.10 pm**

**Chairperson – John Arney. Minutes – Basil Ellis**

#### **A/ Preliminaries**

##### **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, Bruce Cooper, Peter Kahn, Josie Piper, Diane Townley, Tony Larkin, George Cotis, Peter Stitt, Anne Carrick, Tom Ledden, Ralph Cartwright, Mark da Silva, Neville Bethe.

##### **Visitors present**

Adrian Johnstone (NPWS).

##### **Apologies**

Anne Young, Eileen Hayley, Jo Keohan, Helen Voysey.

#### **B/ Routine Business**

##### **Adoption of Previous Minutes**

Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting of 27 April 2017 were available. Mark Da Silva noted some corrections and these have now been made. The intention is still, in the longer term, to make General Meeting minutes available online to members.

##### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

The updates below present further information on matters discussed at the previous meeting.

###### **- Volunteer Strategy**

As foreshadowed at the previous meeting, a letter was sent to Andres Bianchi regarding development of a strategy for volunteering in the RNP. John Arney

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and Bruce Cooper subsequently met with Andres and will continue to liaise with him.

**- Training Seminars**

The fourth (final) seminar was held at Audley on Saturday 17 July. Feedback was that all the speakers were very good. The seminars had not resulted in new recruitment. The Friends had obtained a grant of \$ 5,000 to support these seminars and this amount has been applied. It was noted that the Kamay National Park venue gave better value than the Dancehall at Audley. Ian Hill recommended that the Friends send a letter of acknowledgement and thanks to the NPWS and Patsy for these valuable seminars. Further to this, the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has copied Friends with a thank you letter to NPWS for these seminars - see correspondence below.

**- Bungoona Path**

John Arney has arranged, through the Australian Plants Society, a walk of the Bungoona Path for Saturday 24 June starting at 09:30 and until approximately 13:00. Everybody is welcome.

**Correspondence**

The three items noted below were circulated at the meeting.

- i. Letter 15 April 2017, Friends to NPWS Andres Bianchi, 'Strategy for Volunteer Involvement in the Royal National Park' (discussed above).
- ii. Letter copied to Friends; 22 June 2017, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre to NPWS Andres Bianchi, 'Biodiversity Protection Seminars, April - June 2017'. In this letter Mark Da Silva on behalf of the Spring Gully Protection Group, congratulated NPWS and in particular Patsy Nagle for the successful seminars.
- iii. Our Treasurer sent an email reminder on 22 June to members that membership renewal payment is due.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright prepared the following information at 22 June 2017 for 2016/17. Also given below is the corresponding information for last year 2015/16. Ralph noted that the 2015/16 amounts included \$ 5,000 grant money which has now been disbursed.

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There are no fixed assets. Therefore the Current Assets listed below are the Total Assets.

	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	
Westpac Cheque Account		\$4,040.97	9,196.82
Westpac Savings account		\$2,635.36	
\$2,624.52			
PayPal	\$199.99	\$4.46	
TOTAL	<u>\$6,876.32</u>	<u>\$11,825.28</u>	

Bruce Cooper reported that NPWS have been asked for a list of projects which may be candidates for Friends to seek grant funding or third party support. The seawall at Bundeena may be a suitable project.

**C/ Other Business**  
**Park Report**

Adrian Johnstone reported to the meeting on NPWS activities.

1. The NPWS have been doing audits of tracks in the Heathcote National Park and improving signage. People have become lost in this area. NPWS staff are rostered to more closely monitor this area and Adrian is seeking support from Sydney Rail to provide maps at the nearby stations.
2. Hazard reduction burns are not possible at the moment because of the weather. Until the current year burns can be done, the NPWS staff use their time to plan future 2018/19 burns.
3. The Government provides money through the Rural Fire Service (RFS) for fire trail maintenance and hazard reduction. The NPWS and other agencies put in 'Fire Trail Bids' and the agencies jointly decide the priorities. Adrian reported that this co-operative process works well. The work is done by Soil Conservation Service from the Department of Primary Industries and NPWS do the slashing.
4. The work by Patsy Nagle on assessing the condition of the tracks and assets for the Asset Maintenance System (AMS) is progressing well. This is necessary to justify maintenance funding.
5. The NPWS is using a Competitively Allocated Licence scheme to evaluate potential tour operators for visits to Figure Eight Pool. This process is

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similar to a tender and is conducted through the Government eTender website.

6. The Beachcomber Ave toilet block is working. This is on the SSC mains.
7. Work is continuing on protecting threatened species with educational signage and use of habitat monitoring cameras.
8. Incidents of dumping of wastes including asbestos within the RNP continue and in some cases NPWS have been able to identify the parties. Ralph Cartwright asked to be informed of the incidents so they could be publicised on the Friends Facebook page. The details must be public before this can be done.
9. The NPWS will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in October this year. A celebration is being planned for the state by the NPWS Events Unit. It will be held in the RNP at Audley on 8 October 2017.
10. The Coast Track work is progressing. A lot of this has been completed.
11. RNP staff news: David's wife has just given birth and Lucy is pretty close! Congratulations to all.
12. Adrian made a brief reference to Southlink, the mooted extension to the F6 which may impinge on the RNP. He gave the number 1800789297 for inquiries and noted there was a link on the RMS website - see this link: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-south/f6-corridor/index.html>. At that site there is an email address to obtain further information: <mailto:motorwaydevelopment@rms.nsw.gov.au>

Judith Carrick gave Adrian images of historical sites that would potentially be affected if the mooted extension did impinge on the RNP. Anne Carrick remarked on the obvious importance of this possible impingement on the RNP. The Friends Committee will investigate how we can take action.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2017 AGM is planned for 24 August 2017. Information will be sent by the Secretary prior to this date.

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**Spring Gully**

Mark Da Silva gave a correction to the information presented at the previous meeting. The Land and Environment Court has made directions to the applicant to satisfy the court that they have obtained legal access to the site (which requires the NPWS to grant approval for road access through the Park) and that they have obtained a legal basis upon which they can manage an asset protection zone on the adjoining Sussex St paper road (land privately owned by another party) in perpetuity.

**Litter Pick**

The agenda item 'Litter Pick and BBQ Lunch' was not discussed and this will be carried over to the next general meeting.

**'Scrap Book' Events**

John Arney monitors current media reports relating to the Park. Links to these for the previous period were attached to the Agenda for this meeting.

**D/ General Business**

**Rally for Nature**

Mark Da Silva informed the meeting of this planned event. Details are still being developed.

9am-10am Sunday 2 July 2017, Bundeena Reserve (next to the RSL club).  
(Take the 8:30am ferry from Cronulla.)

Planned speakers include:

- Greens MPs Mehreen Faruqi (Environment spokesperson) and David Shoebridge (Planning spokesperson)
- Labor MP Penny Sharpe (Environment spokesperson)
- Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and National Parks Association

Topics will include 'Save Spring Gully' and 'No motorway through the Royal'.

**Meeting closed: at 6.10p.m.**

**Next meeting: The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting. It is planned for 4:00 p.m. Thursday 24 August, 2017 at the Environment Education Centre.**

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**Adoption**

**These minutes were adopted on 24 August, 2017 as an accurate record of the meeting.**

**Signed: John Arney**

**Date:**