

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

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

**Held on Thursday 26 November 2017**

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

**Meeting opened:** at 4.00 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, Jo Keohan, Bruce Cooper, Peter Kahn, Josie Piper, Tony Larkin, Ralph Cartwright, Mark da Silva, Neville Bethe, Helen Voysey, Peter Donley, Liz Donley.

##### **Visitors present**

Adrian Johnstone (NPWS).

##### **Apologies**

Eileen Hayley, Diane Townley, Anne Carrick, Tom Ledden, Peter Stitt.

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

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

The previous meeting on 24 August 2017 was the AGM and minutes have been circulated for this. The agenda for the General Meeting which followed was confined entirely to the review of the Friends of Royal response to the discussion papers on the upcoming reissue of the RNP Plan of Management. This response was collated by John Arney and submitted to NPWS. It was not necessary to produce normal meeting minutes.

##### **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

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

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**- Volunteer Strategy**

John Arney and Bruce Cooper had a further meeting with the Acting Area Manager Andres Bianchi on 20<sup>th</sup> October regarding development of a strategy for volunteering in the RNP. This can't be progressed at Andres' level at this time.

**- NPWS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Friends took part in the celebrations at the RNP on 8<sup>th</sup> October and several members reported receiving good feedback. The suggestion was made that Friends send a congratulatory letter to the organisers.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence tabled.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright prepared the following information on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017. There are no fixed assets and the Current Assets listed below are the Total Assets.

<b>Assets</b>	<b><u>2016/17</u></b>	<b><u>2015/16</u></b>
Westpac Cheque Account	\$4,666.80	\$4,412.33
Westpac Savings account	\$2,638.40	\$2,636.11
PayPal	\$162.73	\$319.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,467.93</b>	<b>\$7,367.52</b>

**C/ Other Business**

**Park Report**

Adrian Johnstone reported to the meeting on NPWS activities.

1. Adrian thanked Friends on behalf of NPWS for their help and support for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
2. He reported on two bushfires, one at Kamay and the other at McKell avenue. The Couranga track is still closed. Restoration of the track will be covered by insurance.
3. Barefoot Downunder have won the tender to be the operator for managed tours to Figure 8 Pool. This arrangement will provide a safe option for visiting the attraction.

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4. Adrian was pleased to report that the initiatives relating to safely managing the Figure 8 Pool received the OEH Chief Executive's award.
5. The temporary shortfalls in Ranger staffing are being addressed and the positions will be filled.
6. Adrian reminded Friends that NPWS vehicles are available to volunteers. Inquiries about bookings should be made to Adrian or Margaret. They will check on the vehicle database and make the booking if possible.
7. The NPWS restructuring is not complete. One good outcome so far is that the number of field staff have been increased.
8. Adrian reminded Friends of the competition open to volunteers to enjoy the New Years Eve celebrations. The details are given in the attachment to the mailout for these minutes.
9. There was discussion about an end of year outing for the Royal Bushies and other volunteers. The planned details at this stage are at Warumbul on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.
10. Adrian reported there had been an offer to provide a replica of the horse drinking troughs that were along Lady Carrington drive. Acceptance is still being considered.
11. The Premier has shelved the mooted extension of the F6 through the RNP at this time. Friends will discontinue the initiative to get public signatures registering concern about the proposal.

**Spring Gully**

Mark Da Silva reported that the matter is before the Minister. The issues are discussed in the Save Spring Gully website <http://www.springgully.org/>. Mark encouraged people to raise concerns with the Minister and he undertook to draft a letter to the Minister registering Friends' concern.

**Grants**

Friends will need to get the current NPWS priority tasks before applying for grants to help with the work.

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**Friends of Royal Newsletter**

An offer has been made to edit a newsletter for Friends. It is envisaged that it would be issued bi-monthly by email only. Further details are to be developed.

**D/ General Business**

**Agenda Items held over until the next meeting.**

The following Agenda Items could not be discussed in the time available for the meeting;

- Report on the Boomerang Bag scheme in Bundeena / Maianbar.
- The Bundeena / Maianbar Sustainability Expo on 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- Container Deposit scheme.

**'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.

**Meeting closed:** at 6.00p.m.

**Next Committee Meeting**

Thursday 23 November, 2017 at 4pm

**Next General Meeting**

To be advised.

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**Adoption**

These minutes were adopted at the next General Meeting.

Signed: John Arney

Date: