

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 26 April 2018

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, Peter Kahn, Tony Larkin, Ralph Cartwright, Tom Ledden, Mark da Silva, Neville Bethe, Merylyn House, Allan House, Helen Voysey, Peter Donley, Diane Townley, Peter Stitt.

Visitors present

Shaun Elwood (NPWS).

Apologies

Jo Keohan, Bruce Cooper, Liz Donley, Josie Piper, Anne Carrick.

B/ Routine Business

Adoption of Previous Minutes

The previous minutes for the 22 April 2018 meeting had been circulated for comment and were adopted.

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

The ongoing matters including the development of an appropriate strategy for volunteers are discussed below.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Deon Van Rensburgh to John Arney about access through the RNP at Spring Gully. The letter was a belated reply to a letter from the Friends of Royal to the Regional Advisory Committee about this matter.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright prepared the following information on 26 April 2018. There are currently 44 members.

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Assets	<u>4/18</u>
Westpac Cheque Account	\$4,689.95
Westpac Savings account	\$2,641.77
PayPal	\$28.92
TOTAL	\$7,360.64

C/ Other Business

Park Report

Adrian Johnstone was away and Shaun Elwood kindly attended to report on NPWS activities.

- 1) Work is currently being done at Wattamolla. Access to the beach via the boardwalk to Providential Point is closed. A temporary pontoon is being used to allow crossing the stream. The toilets are being renovated. The Wattamolla Plan of Management is still being redrafted.
- 2) The Wattamolla to Garie and the Curra Moors tracks are now reopened after the fires. The upgrades to the Bundeena to Wattamolla Coastal Track involving FRP boardwalk sections and sandstone steps have been completed.
- 3) Garie has a continuing problem with a shortfall of water supply during dry periods. Changes are being made to the showers and toilet systems to eliminate the need for expensive trucking of water to the site.
- 4) At Bonnie Vale some work has been completed on the sea wall. There is increasing day use of this area and this is raising some management issues.
- 5) Generally there is increasing use of tracks within the Park and on occasion this leads to poor parking along the roads near the trackheads. NPWS are not responsible for the roads and NPWS discusses problems with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) which has responsibility. There was discussion in the meeting about how these problems are addressed at other parks, with mention of the Cradle Mountain National Park in Tasmania where there are shuttle buses.
- 6) The Burg Ridge track east from Gawarra Farm was mentioned as having very high usage and being in need of track work.
- 7) There will be some bushfire hazard reduction work during the autumn. Next year it is anticipated there will be some burns between Audley and Bundeena. The soil is extremely dry.
- 8) Concern was raised about pests in the RNP. In particular there are many sightings of foxes. The current approach of only acting if there is a particular threatened species is not sufficient to combat these high-level predators. Deer continue to be a major problem despite the ground-based shooting in the winter.

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Spring Gully

Mark Da Silva reported that the advisability of a legal challenge to the Minister's decision had been considered and no action would be taken. The various conditions were discussed and these will be monitored. The offer of support is not needed at this time but may be discussed in future.

Volunteers

John Arney and Bruce Cooper have had further communication with OEH staff on a strategy for volunteering in the RNP. John will seek a further meeting with Shaun Elwood to progress this.

Friends of Royal Newsletter

The first Friends of Royal Newsletter has been issued and it was well received. Most of the content for the second issue has been written. Everyone is encouraged to give ideas and provide content for future editions.

Grant Monies

There has been no progress on this.

Litter

The Clean Up Australia activity at Wattamolla on 1 May 2018 by the Friends of Royal was discussed. Unfortunately Bruce Cooper, who was the initiator, was not at the meeting. John Arney and others undertook the planning.

A Post Script: The clean up was very successful with ten people attending.

Public Discussion of Support for National Parks

There is continuing discussion about the support for on-the-ground staff and other management issues within the parks. Carolyn Pettigrew of Park Watch has summarised many of the issues in a two-part discussion^{1,2}.

D/ General Business

Peter Stitt is on the Regional Advisory Committee for the area which includes the RNP. Peter advised the meeting that his current term was nearing completion and that nominations were open. Peter was nominating again and Mark Da Silva was also nominating. The Friends were pleased to support both of these nominations and John Arney will write supporting letters.

Meeting closed: at 6.00p.m.

¹ [Carolyn Pettigrew National Parks part 1](#)

² [Carolyn Pettigrew National Parks part 2](#)

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Next General Meeting

Thursday 28 June, 2018 at 4 pm.

Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 24 May, 2018 at 4pm.

Adoption

These minutes will be presented for adoption at the next General Meeting on 28 June, 2018.

Signed:

Date: