

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

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

**Held on Thursday 28 February 2019**

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

**Meeting opened:** at 4.00 pm

**Chairperson – Ian Hill.**

**Minutes – Basil Ellis**

#### **A/ Preliminaries**

##### **Members present and introductions**

John Arney, Ian Hill, Basil Ellis, Peter Kahn, Josie Piper, George Cotis, Tony Larkin, Tom Ledden, Ralph Cartwright, Judith Carrick, Neville Bethe, Marilyn House, Allan House, Diane Townley, David Robson, Peter Donley, Mark da Silva, Wendy Saunders.

The chair Ian Hill introduced new member Wendy Saunders and welcomed her to Friends.

##### **Apologies**

Adrian Johnstone (NPWS), Ann Young, Anne Carrick, Eileen Hayley, Peter Stitt, Helen Voysey, Kerry McKenzie, Liz Donley, Jo Keohan.

##### **Announcement**

Ian Hill and other members reported on the recent sad passing of Les Bursill. Les has made a great contribution to research about the Dharahwal people and has generally been a force for conservation in the park.

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

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

The minutes for the 23 October 2018 meeting had not been circulated for comment and corrections. They will be circulated.

##### **Correspondence**

Ralph Cartwright informed the meeting that Friends are members of the Australian Plants Society and receive correspondence from them. Ralph will paste links on the website.

##### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright had prepared information and tabled it at the meeting. Current assets are \$9,076.06. There are currently 43 members.

Friends has received a donation from the Audley Dancehall of \$232 as proceeds from recycling materials. The Committee will thank James Lancaster on behalf of Friends.

#### **C/ Other Business**

## **Friends of Royal General Meeting 28 February 2019**

### **Park Report**

Adrian Johnstone was a late apology; he could not attend due to work reasons and there was not park report.

### **Volunteers**

Tony Larkin reported that he had just received approval from NPWS for track trimming of the Couranga track. Tony's team has subsequently carried out trimming of that track.

Neville Bethe has received an award for his great volunteering efforts over more than 11 years. The meeting applauded Neville for his efforts.

Peter Donley noted that the number of volunteers had plateaued. A particular need is to tackle the widespread infestations of weeds in the RNP. Committee members referred to the efforts over the previous three years to work with NPWS to increase volunteer participation. The Committee will discuss this matter again.

In relation to weeds, Allan House described a previous project in which the securing of funds was greatly helped by ranking the threat from each weed including the capability of eradication. The meeting agreed on this approach.

### **Spring Gully**

Mark da Silva gave an update on the current status of Spring Gully. There are still major concerns including the clearing of trees to satisfy bushfire control measures which would cause destruction of habitat. The developer now owns the "paper roads".

Mark offered to take members on a study tour of the proposed development. Please contact Mark directly<sup>1</sup>.

### **Cycling Guide for the RNP**

There was discussion on the cycling guide released by the NPWS. Dave Robson noted that it didn't relate to the work done by the consultant who worked with Dave Croft. Neville described illegal tracks in the East Heathcote area and offered to give a guided tour of this area to members. Please contact Neville directly<sup>2</sup>.

The SSC has developed a bike track area near Barden Ridge tip. The work has been done with a Bushcare officersupervising bike rider volunteers. This model is similar to what was being adopted in the RNP by Ranger Dave Croft before he moved to another role.

### **Vacant Committee Positions**

Prior to the meeting nominations had been called for the vacant President position and for the anticipated vacancy of the Vice-President position.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark da Silva, Spring Gully Protection Group, [mark.dasilva@springgully.org](mailto:mark.dasilva@springgully.org)

<sup>2</sup> Neville Bethe, [nevillebethe@gmail.com](mailto:nevillebethe@gmail.com)

## **Friends of Royal General Meeting 28 February 2019**

Ian Hill had nominated for the President position and there were no other nominations. Ian was confirmed as the President. John Arney had nominated for the Vice-President position and there were no other nominations. John was confirmed as the Vice-President.

There is a vacancy on the Committee for an ordinary member. Nominations are called for this position.

### **D/ General Business**

In general business there was discussion about Friends website. Mark da Silva has had difficulty finding time to administer the site due to his work at Spring Gully. Mark will hand over the administration of the website to Dave Robson.

George Cotis reported on the status of the Sydney Marine Park plan. Sutherland Shire Council had made a submission<sup>3</sup> to the state government's draft plan recommending that Deeban Spit become a special purpose zone in which boating would be banned. The spit would be attached to the proposed 23 hectare Cabbage Tree Creek sanctuary zone. George was hopeful this would be adopted.

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

### **2019 Committee & General Meetings**

- February 28; General meeting
- March 28; Committee meeting
- April 18; GM (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday is Anzac Day)
- May 23; CM
- June 27; GM
- July 25; CM
- August 22; GM
- August 22, AGM
- September 26; CM
- October 17; GM (week early to accommodate speaker)
- November 28; CM

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### **Adoption**

These minutes will be presented for adoption at the next General Meeting on 18 April 2019.

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<sup>3</sup> Sutherland Shire Council, <https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5835708/deeban-spit-could-be-added-to-marine-park/>