

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 18 April 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

John Arney, Ian Hill, Basil Ellis, Peter Kahn, Josie Piper, Ralph Cartwright, Neville Bethe, Diane Townley, David Robson, Peter Donley.

Apologies

Adrian Johnstone (NPWS), Anne Carrick, Tom Ledden, George Cotis, Eileen Hayley, Tony Larkin, Judith Carrick, Helen Voysey, Liz Donley, Jo Keohan, Marilyn House, Allan House.

B/ Routine Business

Adoption of Previous Minutes

The minutes for the 28 February 2019 meeting had been circulated for comment and corrections. They will be posted on the website.

Correspondence

Ian Hill reported that Robyn Bursill had thanked Ian and Friends for their tribute to her late husband Les.

Dave Robson has drafted a letter to SSC requesting consideration of installation of a sewerer toilet near Jibbon Beach. This will be finalised and sent.

The Committee has been informed by member Wendy Saunders about a National Trust Heritage Festival event on 15 May 2019 at GovindaRetreat¹ in Otford. Speakers will include John Arney.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright had prepared financial information and tabled it at the meeting. Current assets are \$8,696 and there are currently 44 members. Ralph reminded members that renewals will be due in June.

C/ Other Business

¹ https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf_event/national-trust-heritage-festival-connecting-people-places-and-the-past/

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Park Report

Adrian Johnstone was a late apology; he could not attend due to work reasons and there was no park report. Adrian was also unable to attend the February meeting due to work reasons.

The members of Friends value the input of NPWS through the Park report. Basil Ellis will discuss with Adrian how this input can be reliably maintained.

Members noted that public visitation to the Park is historically very high on the Easter weekend. It was hoped that services including rubbish collection would be adequate.

Volunteers

Neville Bethe reported on recent experience with contact by potential volunteers. A few had expressed interest but only on Saturdays. Neville also noted that he now gives the training to any new volunteers on safety, weed identification, use of pesticides etc.

Basil Ellis reported briefly on efforts during Bruce Cooper's time to increase volunteer participation and support for volunteers. A pamphlet advertising Friends and inviting participation was made and left at places such as libraries but this had not resulted in any noticeable increase in participation. In relation to support for volunteers, the Committee have had communication with NPWS over a long period, in particular following Patsy Nagle's move to other roles, but there has been no outcome from this.

This matter will continue to be discussed at Committee.

Weeds in the Park

Following discussion at the Committee meeting, Peter Donley has started tabulating information on weeds in areas in the Park. Peter and other members will continue this effort. Formosa Lily was discussed again and it was agreed it would be enormously difficult to eradicate this weed. In fact there are a number of species that present a great threat and Peter's tabulation will help understand the magnitude of the issue.

Vacant Committee Position

Following the confirmation of Ian Hill in the President position and John Arney in the Vice-President position there was a vacancy on the Committee.

Peter Donley nominated for this position and there were no other nominations. Peter was confirmed as a member of the Committee.

D/ General Business

The meeting discussed the existing arrangements in the Constitution regarding the voting rights and eligibility for office of new members. The consensus was that a waiting period after joining Friends of one year before eligibility to vote and two years before eligibility to

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take office may be appropriate. The Committee will discuss how this may be incorporated in the Constitution and report back at a General Meeting.

John Arney reported that Friends will purchase a gazebo for use at the SSC Biennial Bushcare Fair at Parc Menai on 15 September 2019. Ralph Cartwright reported that Friends had a banner and a more expensive labelled gazebo was not needed.

Ralph Cartwright reported from a recent Australian Plants Society (APS) meeting where a SSC Bushcare officer described the Council efforts in establishing a mountain bike riding area at Lucas Heights. The effort has been supported by bike riders and the area was being successfully managed.

Peter Kahn reported on activities at the Sutherland Shire Citizens Heritage Festival open day² involving the Tramway Museum and other sites. This has been nominated for a National Trust award, see the link. The activities run until 13 May.

Meeting closed: at 6.00p.m.

2019 Committee & General Meetings

- May 23; CM
- June 27; GM
- July 25; CM
- August 22; GM
- August 22, AGM
- September 26; CM
- October 17; GM (week early to accomodate speaker)
- November 28; CM

Adoption

These minutes will be presented for adoption at the next General Meeting on 27 June 2019.

² <https://www.theleader.com.au/story/6042308/sutherland-shire-citizens-heritage-festival-shortlisted-for-national-trust-award/>