

**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 22 August 2019**

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

**Meeting opened:** at 4.03 pm

**Chairperson – Ian Hill.**

**Minutes – Basil Ellis**

**A/ Preliminaries**

**Acknowledgment of Country**

Ian Hill 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, Josie Piper, George Cotis, Tony Larkin, Tom Ledden, Ralph Cartwright, Neville Bethe, Diane Townley, James Lancaster, Peter Donley, Liz Donley.

**Visitors present**

Adrian Johnstone (NPWS).

**Apologies**

Anne Carrick, Judith Carrick, Helen Voysey, Jo Keohan, David Robson, Merylyn House, Allan House, Patricia Nagle, Eileen Hayley, Mark da Silva.

**B/ Routine Business**

**Adoption of Previous Minutes**

Copies of the minutes of the previous AGM of 23 August 2018 were attached with the Agenda. It was noted that the President's report did not appear with these minutes. On discussion it is believed these were lost due to computer failure.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM.

**Presidents Report**

The president Ian Hill gave a verbal report to the meeting summarising the activities of the Friends of Royal in the past twelve months. He made special mention of the the tireless efforts of former president John Arney, treasurer Ralph Cartwright and leader of the Royal Bushies volunteer group Neville Bethe. A major volunteer effort is on landcare with weekly activities in all areas of the park. Another significant effort is on track maintenance and Ian gave special thanks to Tony Larkin of Sutherland Bushwalkers for the Adopt a Track project.

The full report is given as attachment 1.

**Financial Statements for the 2019 AGM**

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright presented the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ending 30 June 2019 and the current Balance Sheet. Friends have approximately \$9,179 in total assets at this time. See attachment 2.

For the year until 30 June 2019, the total income was approximately \$2,385 and the total expenditure was approximately \$840. See attachment 3.

**Election of the Committee**

As per the Constitution, the existing committee vacated all positions.

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Josie Piper acted as returning officer. These people were nominated or self-nominated for positions on the committee and were willing to serve in the role.

President	Ian Hill
Vice President	John Arney
Treasurer	Ralph Cartwright
Secretary	(Vacant)
Other members	Peter Donley
	David Robson
	Neville Bethe
	Peter Kahn

These people were duly elected. As there were no nominations for the position of secretary, this will be a casual vacancy and nominations will be sought prior to a general meeting. The constitution also allows for one more ordinary committee member, this will also be a casual vacancy and nominations will be sought prior to a general meeting.

The meeting thanked Basil Ellis for his contribution on the committee as secretary.

Adrian Johnstone will continue in the role as the NPWS liaison person for the committee.

**General Business**

Notice had been given for a **Special Resolution** relating to minor changes to the Constitution Section 3.2 "Election of Committee Members". This proposed eligibility periods before new members could vote in elections or be nominated for committee positions. It had been circulated and discussed in the 27 June 2019 general meeting.

Moved by Tony Larkin and seconded by Peter Donley.

*That Section 3.2 be deleted and replaced with the following words and these changes be submitted for registration:*

**SECTION 3.2 - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- *All Committee Members other than the NPWS Liaison Person shall stand down at each Annual General Meeting and an election shall then be held to form a new Committee.*
- *The election of Committee Members shall be conducted by a Returning Officer appointed by the Committee prior to calling for nominations.*
- *The Secretary shall invite nominations for Committee positions by notice to all members by email at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting or any other General Meeting at which elections are to be held.*
- *All financial members of the association who have been financial for 24 months at the time that nominations are called shall be eligible to nominate or be nominated for Committee positions.*
- *Nominations for Committee positions shall be made by email to the Returning Officer at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting at which the election is to be held. The Returning Officer shall determine whether or not the nominated people agree to accept nomination, and provide the Secretary with a list of the names of the people who have accepted nomination at least ten (10) days before the meeting. The Secretary shall send this list by email to all members at least seven (7) days before the meeting.*
- *All financial members of the association who have been financial for 12 months at the time of an election of Committee Members shall be eligible to vote in that election.*
- *Separate elections shall be held for each office bearer. A single group election shall be held for the five (5) ordinary Committee Members.*

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- *In the event of a tied vote in a ballot for a position the successful candidate shall be determined by a “draw from a hat”.*
- *If there are insufficient nominations to fill all positions, the remaining vacancies shall be treated as casual vacancies. Elections for these vacancies will be held at the next General Meeting.*
- *Casual vacancies shall be filled by election at the first General Meeting after vacancies occur.*

**Meeting closed:** after 5.00 p.m.

**Next meeting:** The proposed date for the next AGM is 4:00 p.m. Thursday 27 August 2020. This will be confirmed.

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**Adoption**

These minutes will be presented for adoption at the next AGM as an accurate record of the meeting.

Signed (Meeting Chair):

Date:

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**Attachment 1**

**Friends of the Royal National Park  
Annual General Meeting 2019  
President's Report**

Friends of Royal began some 10 odd years ago at the instigation of the then Area Manager Michael Trainer and it has now reached its seventh year of incorporation. Thanks to the good will and efforts of those involved continued progress has been made over the last year and building on the good efforts of previous years.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of three special members of Friends of Royal who have made continued commitments over this time. Special mention needs to be made of former President John Arney 2016 – 2018, the Treasurer Ralph Cartwright who has been treasurer since the outset and Neville Bethe who has operated the Royal Bushies over this time.

Friends of Royal has involved itself in a broad spectrum of activities associated with The Royal National Park. These include landcare through weed removal, native plant regeneration, track maintenance, biodiversity site monitoring and advocacy.

Landcare

Friends provides a crucial community asset through by the suppression of multitudes of highly invasive weeds. Without these efforts by the volunteer base from Friends of Royal alarming outbreaks of such weeds would be consuming the native flora at many locations throughout the park. As such Friends of Royal plays a most valuable and strongly supportive role in maintaining the conservational integrity of the Royal National Park

Landcare is achieved through the work of the Royal Bushies led by Neville Bethe and the 'Special Projects' team led by John Arney. The Royal Bushies meet on Thursdays and Saturdays on all months of the year except December and January while the Special Projects Team meets of a Wednesday.

Neville Bethe reports that the Royal Bushies numbers are commonly twelve volunteers of a Thursday and six of a Saturday with 20 odd on the mail-out list. Locations where work is undertaken are extensive. At the north eastern section of the Park work is undertaken at Jibbon Beach, the Engraving Site, Shelley Beach and Bonnie Vale, Audley locations include Pool Flat, around the Boat Shed and Wattle Forest. On the coast work is carried out at Garie, Governors Game Lookout and Wattamolla. At the west of the park work is done every third Thursday at Gardiners Garage Loftus and other times at East Heathcote from Bottle Forest Road and West Heathcote in the Heathcote National Park from Burns Road and Oliver Street to King Fisher pool.

At Jibbon special mention should be made of the volunteer efforts of Dave Robinson who along with his time and efforts also provided use of his aluminium 'tinnie' for the transportation of hundreds of bags of Mother of Millions collected at Jibbon which he then transported at his own cost to Bonnie Vale some two and a half kilometres away. The boat was then loaded onto a boat trailer for the short haul to the NPWS workers compound near Simpsons Hotel where they were deposited for later removal by NPWS staff.

On one particular day some 30 bags Mother of Millions were transported.

Other weeds dealt with at Jibbon include odd Prickly pear plants and climbing asparagus fern. It is a testimony to the Royal Bushies and others that the Prickly Pear Population at Jibbon Headland is now down to just a few plants which arise.

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At Wattamolla track trimming has been undertaken. At one time 28 bags of mother of millions were removed. Warumbural sees work two or three times a year with croftan weed, senna pendula, mother of millions, minute amounts of green cestrum removed.

On the coast at North Garie prickly pear was removed and at the Garie Car Park, croftan weed, pampus grass and cotton bush were dealt with.

East Heathcote saw croftan weed, asparagus fern, climbing asparagus fern and minute quantities cestrum, a few Cassia - senna pendula removed.

At West Heathcote at the end of Burns road coral trees have been removed. At Oliver Street Heathcote National Park, croftan weed, cestrum cassia, asparagus fern were removed.

Neville Bethe also devises quarterly programs for 160 hours of work for the volunteers.

All up the Royal Bushies would have collected more than 1000 bags of weeds over the whole year and thousands of hours of volunteer work.

The 'Special Projects' Bush Regeneration Team works at times in remote locations of a Wednesday. The team is led by John Arney and one other active volunteer Paul Rendell from the Sutherland Australian Plant Society Group.

They have achieved a great deal as the following snapshot over locations visited reveals.

McKell Avenue Leveson Site – Senna Septemtrionalis

North Garie: Prickly pear, thistles, ink plant

Lady Carrington: 4.5km from Audley Tree of Heaven T.O.H. site cut and paint

Wattamolla: weeding Crithmun maritimum, Blackberry, Pick Up Litter

Bulgo to Werrong - Crithmun maritimum

Werrong: weed survey

Lady Carrington Drive; north end Cestrum, Senna septemtrionalis and Senna pendula , Leonitis castor oil plants,

Hacking River south bank south from Wattle Forest; - Coral Trees, Senna septemtrionalis, Crofton weed.

Figtree Flat Two Eucalypts planted, Calala: Senna septemtrionalis. Jersey Springs Lantana camara

Forest Path: Senna, Datura, African Daisy Bush, Crofton weed, Ginger, Madeira Vine

Couranga track Senna, Mist Flower

North Era: Dune onion weed (Trachyandra divaricate), Morning glory, Scotch Thistles

ommittee member Peter Donley has taken on the role of overseeing development of a weeds list for the Park. He has produced a spreadsheet on weed species featuring location and identification of the weeds present. This continues Friends of Royal involvement in this area following a 'weed deck' spreadsheet completed previously by John Arney.

Friends of Royal (FOR) has also participated in a joint operation with the Coastal Cabin Community Landcare Group Inc at North Era midden where a new fence has been constructed and old fence wire removed. This has involved FOR members John Arney, Peter Stitt and Helen Voysey. In May 2019 a planting of 1000 spinifex plants was made to stabilise the dune.

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Track maintenance,

FOR member Tony Larkin has led some of his fellow members from the Sutherland Bush Walkers Group with track maintenance along the Helensburgh Track. It is has been completed for some time.

NPWS Liason

Input from NPWS at meetings has been from 'Team Leader Rangers' Adrian Johnstone. This has helped to provide regular Royal Area updates at the Friends meetings. This has led to greater relevance and good relations between Friends and the NPWS.

Biodiversity Site monitoring

Friends of Royal participated in a survey twice at Helensburgh for the rare plant *Prostanthera densa* with APS Conservation Officer Dan Clarke. On the second occasion two off duty NPWS rangers also assisted.

Advocacy

Friends of Royal made a submission to the Australian Government regarding feral deer, pigs and goats in the Australia wide enquiry. It also wrote letters of support for Marine Parks in NSW and sent a letter of support for Sydney Tramway Museum.

Friends of Royal made a submission on upgrade of the Audley Dance Hall. There is also the possibility of Friends of Royal members participating in construction of a new path at the old rangers cottager at Audley in collaboration with current Audley Café proprietor James Lancaster .

Website

Friends of Royal Website has been under the care of Mark DaSilva but due to commitments is currently receiving fresh input from Dave Robson. Members should inspect the site for events and volunteer work.

Looking forward

Friends will be holding a stand at the Sutherland Council 'Park Menai Fair' on the 15<sup>th</sup> September and all members are encouraged to attend.

Committee

Mention should be made of the efforts of the committee who have contributed throughout the year.

In summary Friends of Royal has continued as a capable volunteer organisation and has positioned itself to make further positive contributions to the future of The Royal National Park.

Ian Hill

President

Friends of Royal

22 August 2019

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Attachment 2

**Friends of the Royal National Park Incorporated**

ABN 34 245 207 460

**Balance Sheet**

Prepared by : Ralph Cartwright

For the year ended : 30-Jun-19

Date Prepared : 30-Jun-19

**Assets**

**Current Assets**

	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
Westpac Bank Cheque account	\$6,136.12	\$4,412.33
Westpac Bank Savings account	\$2,649.96	\$2,636.11
PayPal account	\$392.90	\$319.08

<u><b>\$9,178.98</b></u>	<u><b>\$7,367.52</b></u>
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**Fixed Assets**

<u><b>\$0.00</b></u>	<u><b>\$0.00</b></u>
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**Total Assets**

<u><b>\$9,178.98</b></u>	<u><b>\$7,367.52</b></u>
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**Current Financial Members: 50**

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**Attachment 3**

**Friends of the Royal National Park Incorporated**

ABN 34 245 207 460

**Income and Expenditure Statement**

Prepared by : Ralph Cartwright

For the year ended : 30-Jun-19

Date Prepared : 30-Jun-19

**Income**

	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
Member Subscriptions	\$1,025.00	\$330.00
Donations	\$220.00	\$150.00
Donations (Audley Dance Hall)	\$232.00	\$0.00
Functions		\$0.00
Grants		\$0.00
Other (Googery Trackwork)		\$0.00
PayPal Account (subscriptions & Book sales)	\$514.95	330
Seminar Room Hire Refund		30
Current PayPal Balance	\$392.90	
	<b><u>\$2,384.85</u></b>	<b><u>\$840.00</u></b>

**Interest Received**

Westpac Cheque Account	\$5.87	\$4.63
Westpac Savings Account	\$6.54	\$7.31
	<b><u>\$12.41</u></b>	<b><u>\$11.94</u></b>

**Total Income**

**\$2,397.26**      **\$851.94**

**Expenditure**

Seminar Costs		\$0.00
Bank Fees and Charges (Paypal)	\$27.08	\$11.88
Compliance Costs (Fair Trading)	\$46.00	\$45.00
Marketing (Banners, Flyers, Posters)		\$0.00
Insurance	\$410.00	\$430.00
Weed Deck		\$0.00
Web Site Hosting		\$88.38
Merchandise		\$0.00
Book Sales	\$129.95	\$0.00
Web Site Maintainance		\$0.00
Donations		\$0.00
Subscriptions (Sydney Landcare)	\$40.00	\$40.00

**Total Expenditure**

**\$653.03**      **\$615.26**

**Net Surplus (deficiency)**

**\$1,744.23**      **\$236.68**