**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 22 August 2019**

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

**Meeting opened:** at approximately 5.00 pm

**Chairperson – Ian Hill. Minutes – Basil Ellis**

**A/ Preliminaries**

**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, Tom Leddon.

**Visitors present**

Adrian Johnstone (NPWS).

**Apologies**

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

**B/ Routine Business**

**Adoption of Previous Minutes**

The minutes for the 27 June 2019 meeting had been circulated for comment and corrections. They will be posted on the website.

**Correspondence**

Mark da Silva had notified the Committee that regretfully he will not seek re-election as a Committee member given his ongoing commitment to the Spring Gully Protection Group work. The meeting expressed thanks to Mark for his efforts.

Ian Hill had sent the letter to Sutherland Council suggesting they could perhaps help with handling the heavy usage of Jibbon beach during summer by installation of sewered toilets near the west end.

Friends received an email through the Secretary from OEH NPWS with a linl to a web page with general feedback on submissions on the discussion papers for the update of the Plan of Management (POM). This has been forwarded to members.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer Ralph Cartwright had prepared financial information as at 22 August 2019 and tabled it at the meeting. Current assets are $9,724 and there are currently 28 members.

**C/ Other Business**

**Park Report**

Adrian Johnstone gave a report on recent NPWS work.

* Adrian reported that there had been a number of hazard reduction burns this year. High winds had prevented some work. Because of the dryness of the soil, there will be no more burns before summer unless there is rain.
* Adrian also explained how wildfires (unplanned fires) are managed. These can require costly aircraft and have a flow-on cost through increased insurance premiums the following year. There was discussion about whether allowing the use of charcoal BBQs was wise given these aren't always managed. It was suggested that a ban on lighting all fires would be more effective.
* The recruitment to fill the vacant Ranger position is nearing completion. The complement of staff is now effectively complete.
* Installation of the new fence at Wedding Cake Rock is nearing completion. New signage emphasing safety is being installed. It was not known if this signage included the safety information in other languages.
* Adrian reported that there will be a ceremony in the RNP celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh awards. He extended an invitation to Friends to nominate an attendee from Friends of Royal and another from Royal Bushies.
* John Arney expressed willingness for Friends &/or Bushies to meet with NPWS staff to discuss the role of the volunteers.
* George Cotis expressed concern about the use of power craft (jet skis) in the Cabbage Tree Basin given it's environmental importance. It was acknowledged that NPWS don't have jurisdiction to police this. A suggestion was to install a sign.
* As noted in Correspondence, there has been an NPWS response to discussion papers on the update to the Plan of Management for the Royal. Friends will discuss this further at the next Committee meeting.

**D/ General Business**

**Special Recognition of Tom Leddon and Anne Carrick**

As members know, Tom and Anne have been great supporters of Friends and of efforts to further the values of the Park. Tom and Anne are moving up the coast and will no longer be able to routinely attend meetings. The meeting presented Tom with a thank you card for their wonderful efforts.

Tom thanked Friends for the kind thoughts and for their ongoing support of the Park.

Because this general meeting followed the 2019 AGM, there was not sufficient time to discuss all items on the agenda. The president Ian Hill held the other items over until a future meeting.

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

**2019 Committee & General Meetings**

* September 26; CM
* October 17; GM (week early to accomodate speakers)
* November 28; CM

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**Adoption**

These minutes will be presented for adoption at the next General Meeting on 17 October 2019.