**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 24th June 2021 at 4.00pm over Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.03 pm

**Chairperson – Ian Hill. Minutes – Dave Robson**

**Committee Members present**

Ian Hill , John Arney, Ralph Cartwright, Peter Donley, Dave Robson, Diane Townley

**General Members present**

Basil Ellis, Peter Kahn, Catherine Reynolds, Peter & Bridget Currie, Josie Piper

**Apologies**

Neville Bethe, Tony Larkin, Judith Carrick

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Ian gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

**Correspondence**

None tabled

**Treasurer’s Report**

* $7945 in bank and paypal accounts.
* 64 financial members.

**Other Business**

* Application for grant from Wettenhall Environmental Trust for eDNA testing for platypus was not successful. We are continuing to pursue options.
* Response to Plan of Management. Ian led a review of the draft response by Friends of the Royal, he ran through the suggested changes to the priority and content of the Scheme of Operations. Main areas discussed:
	+ Fox Control. There are no actions for fox control in the PoM. All agreed that this is not acceptable and that as well as requesting this be included in the PoM we must also lobby key people with evidence of foxes.
	+ Mountain Biking. This polarising issue was discussed in some detail. There were broadly two views:
		- The majority committee view that mountain biking is already established and we must focus our efforts on lobbying for a) effective management and enforcement to stop new illegal trails b) Trails must pass environmental impact statements to be approved as part of the network c) Trails must be maintained to limit erosion and vegetation disturbance d) no mountain bike trails in Heathcote NP
		- The minority committee view that mountain biking is a) destructive and should be limited to current approved trails b) all blue and black runs should be banned c) no mountain bike trails in Garrawarra SCA d) walkers only tracks required in Loftus/Gray Pt area
		- Of the non-committee members present one spoke in support of the majority committee view (Basil) and one in support of the minority committee view (Catherine)
	+ A 30 second summary was given of the proposal to lobby for the inclusion of the mudflats between Costens Pt and Constables Pt to be included in the Royal National Park. This is to give the migratory endangered shorebirds some regulatory protection.

**General Business**

**Meeting closed:** at 6.02pm

**Next Committee Meeting**

* Thursday 22 July, 2021 at 4pm via Zoom

**Annual General Meeting**

* Thursday 26 August, 2021 at 4 pm – Zoom or EEC dependent on Covid restrictions