**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 26th AUGUST 2021 at 4.00pm via Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.03pm

**Chairperson – Ian Hill/Basil Ellis. Minutes – Dave Robson**

**2020/21 Committee Members present**

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

**Apologies:**

Anne Young

**Others present**

Brendan Neilly – NPWS Area Manager

Members: Peter Stitt, Raul Rendell, Georgia Wallace-Crabbe, Liz Donley, Tom Ledden, Steve Johnson, Basil Ellis, Lisa Godden, Anne Carrick, Tony Larkin, Josie Piper, Peter Kahn, Alex Allchin, Catherine Reynolds, Gareth Denyer, Madeleine King, Jo Keohan, Mark Franklin, Mark DeSilva, Judith Carrick

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Ian gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* $8232.07 in bank and paypal accounts on 30th June 2021
* 64 financial members in 2020/21.
* Income came from member fees and $622 from the Cook Raffle
* Only significant expense items were for website maintenance and a $500 donation to Science for Wildlife
* Financial change resulting was a $1200 surplus.

**Presidents Annual Report**

* Ian Hill gave a detailed report covering the 2020/21 FoR activities in the areas of Land Care, Litter Collection, Track Trimming, Advocacy (including the response to the Draft Plan of Management), Tracking of Koala “Royal”, Facebook and Website presence, quarterly meetings established with Area Manager. The full report to be attached.
* Ian stepped down as president after 3 years as is required by the FoR constitution.

**Election of 2021/22 Committee**

* All nominations were carried unanimously
  + President - Basil Ellis
  + Vice President – Ian Hill
  + Treasurer – Ralph Cartwright
  + Secretary – Dave Robson
  + Ordinary Members – John Arney, Neville Bethe, Peter Donley, Diane Townley

**Presentation by Brendan Neilly – NPWS Area Manager**

* Thanks given to all Volunteers
* A very eventful first year in the job: storms, hazard reductions that went well and others that escaped boundaries, park closures, etc
* Funding available from NP Maintenance Program has allowed them to get stuff done:
  + Resurfacing Georges River NP boat ramp and carpark areas at Audley
  + Garrawarra Farm toilets, benches, safety signage
  + Major precinct work at Audley, Bonnie Vale, Wattamolla
* The application by FoR for grant money for eDNA testing for Platypus was unsuccessful but there is another initiative that will be announced shortly that will include this in scope.
* There is another conservation initiative to be announced very soon that is to include only the Royal and Kosciusko NPs in initial scope
* The Wattamolla/Marley hazard reduction where the koala was found nearby two days before sparked much activity to locate him. A new role Wildlife Tech Specialist was central on initial planning and then as liaison for the fire event. Included were contingencies in case the koala had been found during the burn. This was a low intensity burn and planning is ongoing for future hazard reductions to create a patchwork as per recommended practice.
* Bonnie Vale.
  + Contractor selected and work starting next week.
  + Target is for the campground to be open by the Christmas holidays
  + New facilities are being built
  + Large scale coastal protection has been required due to the opening of the new tidal channel through Deeban Spit
* There were 1300 responses to the Draft Plan of Management
* There has been a state wide increase in activities such as dog walking, bush rock harvesting, MTB track creation within reserves partially as a biproduct of the lockdowns. Targeted actions are planned such as an increase in patrol staff, letter box drops, signage. To be discussed more at the September meeting.
* A wombat was recently found as roadkill in the Royal
* Discussion on wildlife corridors across M6. Potential cost is prohibitive

**General Business**

* Great to see so many old and new faces on the call
* Basil noted that there was an opportunity in lockdown to produce good material for the website and Facebook…….articles on the park’s species or history, videos, interviews
* Discussion on the current status of the comprehensive spreadsheet of weeds in the park that Peter Donley was creating

**Meeting closed:** at 6.03 p.m.

**Next General Meeting**

* Thursday 28 October, 2021 at 4 pm – via Zoom (or remote possibility of EEC)

**Next Committee Meeting**

* Thursday 23 September, 2021 at 4pm via Zoom.