**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 25th AUGUST 2022 at 4.00pm via Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.03pm

**Chairperson – Basil Ellis. Minutes – Dave Robson**

**2021/22 Committee Members present**

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

**Others members present**

Members: Paul Rendell, Liz Donley, Steve Johnson**,** Tony Larkin, Josie Piper, Peter Kahn, Catherine Reynolds, Mark Franklin, Helen Vosey, Diana Smit, Rhonda Nelson, Kerry McKenzie

Brendan Neilly – NPWS Area Manager

**Apologies:**

Mark Da Silva, Ricki Coughlan, Peter Stitt

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Basil gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

**Correspondence**

Patsy Nagle has facilitated contact with the Discovery Ranger team, the committee will meet with them over the next few months to facilitate knowledge transfer and look for options to work together.

**President’s Annual Report**

Basil Ellis gave a report covering the 2021/22 FoR activities which is attached to these minutes for reference.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* $7600 in bank and paypal accounts on 30th June 2022.
* 49 financial members in 2021/22.

**Election of 2021/22 Committee**

* All the 2021/22 committee renominated and there were no other nominations so the same committee will be in place for 2022/23.
  + President - Basil Ellis
  + Vice President – Ian Hill
  + Treasurer – Ralph Cartwright
  + Secretary – Dave Robson
  + Ordinary Members – John Arney, Neville Bethe, Peter Donley, Diane Townley, Mark DaSilva
* Dave suggested that in the coming year, where opportunity presents, we should sound out members to see if they were interested in becoming committee members in 2023/24.

**Presentation by Dave Robson – Owls and other Raptors in the Royal**

* Illustrated by pictures he had taken around the park over the last few years and punctuated by replays of their calls Dave discussed the annual cycles, habitat, prey and threats to these amazing creatures.

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

* Brendon has been two years in the role
* Bonnie Vale and Wattamolla renovations have been completed in the last few months and there are works underway on the facilities at Ironbark and Allambie Flats.
* Thanks given to all Volunteers for their passion and investment of time.
* Two La Nina years have brought unprecedented rainfall with resultant challenges such as the landslips but Brendon is hopeful that there will also be a positive impact on the flora as shown with the wildflowers and some orchids.
* The deer control program has been continuing and in the last three day control program 84-85 animals were culled. Its encouraging that in the areas where the control program has taken place they were still mostly absent of deer.
* The Deer control program was run in the Heathcote NP area for the first time, some deer were too close to residences at Heathcote to be controlled.
* Fox control is under consideration.
* The workshop on the conservation of koalas in the southern area (including Royal area) was held and results published.
* A koala had recently been found around the Garrawarra Hospital area of Heathcote NP. This is the first for this area.
* A koala found in a dangerous area of the surrounding suburbs has been released near Temptation Creek (called Wonnie).
* The Platypus Rewilding program has been delayed with release now planned for April. Prior to release, following the recent flood events, new studies of the invertebrates in the river need to be conducted to confirm that there is sufficient food.
* Discussion re impact of outflows from mines into Camp Creek. This comes under EPA control.
* David Croft is confirmed as the new Ranger Team Leader which now means that there is a vacant ranger position.
* A landslip near Otford has closed that section of the Coast Track. Alternate paths are being considered.

**General Business**

* We will try to get the October General Meeting back in the EEC rather than via Zoom. This will be confirmed closer to the time.

**Meeting closed:** at 6.07 p.m.

**Next General Meeting**

* Thursday 27 October, 2022 at 4 pm – possibly the EEC (TBC)

**Next Committee Meeting**

* Thursday 22 September, 2022 at 4pm via Zoom.