**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 27th April 2023 at 4.00pm at EEC and via Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.05pm

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

**2022/23 Committee Members present**

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

Dave Croft – Team Leader Rangers (Royal Area)

**General Members present**

Tony Larkin, Paul Stork, Helen Lewis, Steve Johnston, Peter Kahn, Liz Donley, Helen Fletcher, Ann Young, Steve Shakeshaft, Rhonda Daniels

**Apologies:** Ralph Cartwright, Josie Piper, Judith Carrick

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Basil gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Ralph C is an apology for this meeting but Dave advised that:
	+ There was $7707.25 in our bank account
	+ We had approximately 50 members the latest being Steve Shakeshaft who joined today (27th April).

**Correspondence**

* The Environment Education Centre where FoR have our meetings have some requirements for the use of their room. We have worked with them to update the Community User Agreement.

**Acceptance of previous General Meeting minutes**

* Minutes for meeting of 23rd February 2023 accepted

**Park Report by Dave Croft – Team Leader Rangers – Royal Area**

* There is a community day with tree planting planned for Yeramba Lagoon in Georges River NP on 13th May
* Fox Baiting program is to commence in Royal NP
	+ 110 signs have been placed all around the park
	+ Baiting will occur by helicopter on 5/6th May
	+ The baits are meat injected with poison and so will naturally degrade
	+ Some dog walking is still occurring despite the signs (e.g. Eric St APZ today - 27th)
* $87K funding has been made available for bush regen work:
	+ $7K allocated to Lady Carrington Drive
	+ $10K to work near cabins on Senna
	+ $30K to work on the newly incorporated lands near Bald Hill
	+ Other work in Heathcote and Waterfall APZs
* Work continuing on Firetrail maintenance:
	+ Second half of Lady Carrington Drive
	+ 108 firetrail in HNP
* The first deer cull of 2023 was completed recently:
	+ In three days over 50 animals were culled. There are far fewer deer being found than when the program started.
	+ There are two more culls planned for 2023.
* The Honeymoon track renovation is continuing using helicopters to lift in the materials.
* A koala found in Revesby has been rehabilitated, tagged and relocated into Georges River National Park. It was a 6kg Female and had a fracture.
* The Platypus Rewilding project is progressing.
	+ Following the large floods reassessment has been made of water quality and food availability. Both have been positive. So the rewilding will occur.
* The damage from the recent floods to the Audley area has been estimated as $3.7 million to rectify, this is covered by insurance.
	+ Damage was to boatshed, visitor centre, lawns etc but less damage to café since they had more resistant materials.
* The mandated program to upgrade firetrails, as a consequence of the reviews coming out of the bushfire summer of 2019/20, will continue with upgrades throughout the parks.
* A plan to fix the Garie Beach Rd has been tabled by RMS.
	+ 96 concrete support columns will be drilled into the ground over the 60 metres of the slip.
	+ Dave C is hopeful the road will be opened by Christmas 2023.
* Dave confirmed that the rerouted southern part of the Coast Track will stay in this new location but may have some extra work to improve it.
	+ This track relocation was necessary to avoid the landslip (see pic below kindly provided by John Arney)



**Presentation by Rhonda Daniels – Identifying Native Plants – tips and resources**

* Rhonda gave an excellent presentation including guidance on:
	+ How to interpret the scientific plant names from their latin base.
	+ Books and websites for plant identification.

**Other Business**

* The meeting thanked Josie Piper for the many years that she has been bringing tea and refreshments to the FoR general meetings in the EEC.
* Recent Activities:
	+ Bush regen has been continuing at Red Jacks and Middle Rill
		- At Middle Rill we found an area on the floor of the valley about the size of half a football pitch which had over 100 medium to small sized pampas grass. We sprayed the plants and will be back on 26th May to see what further treatment is required.
* Future activities:
	+ Red Jacks Pt bush regen on Friday 19th May
	+ Middle Rill bush regen on Friday 26th May

**Meeting closed:** at 6.05 p.m.

**Next Committee Meeting**

* Thursday 25 May 2023 at 4pm via Zoom.

**Next General Meeting**

* Thursday 22 June 2023 at 4 pm –EEC and Zoom