**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 4.00pm at EEC and via Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.00pm

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

**2022/23 Committee Members present**

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

Dave Croft – Team Leader Rangers (Royal Area)

**General Members present**

Tony Larkin, Peter Kahn, Liz Donley, Helen Fletcher, Jo Keohan, Diana Smit, Catherine Reynolds

**Apologies:**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Basil gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* There was $7600.92 in our bank account
* We have 56 members of whom 27 have renewed for the new financial year

**Correspondence**

* None

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

* 2 ranger jobs are currently being advertised
* The Jibbon hazard reduction has been postponed until the weather is more suitable
* Fox baiting has completed but the signs remain in place for the required period of time
	+ Examination of the camera trap images will give an indication of the success of baiting
* Jersey Springs trough has been repaired well and Lady Carrington is now open. A more extensive upgrade of LCD will occur at a later date.
* The visitors centre will be closed for 2-3 days to repair the flood damage
* Firetrail upgrades will be continuing for the next few years
* Question asked re surfacing of the McKell Ave carpark ….Dave C to follow up
* Garie Rd repair has a draft REF from RMS
* No funding for the implementation of the MTB plan. There is an intention that the REFs for each of the MTB trails will be on public display.

**Presentation by Libby Timmiss and Matthew Mo – A crash course in Flying Fox conservation and management**

* Excellent presentation
	+ Showed the FF species and the important role they play in the pollination of native plant species
	+ Their migratory patterns
	+ The social hierarchy at each roosting site being reestablished each night
	+ The location of the roosting sites in southern Sydney
	+ The human/FF interactions and the various levels of roosting site actions to facilitate desired outcomes
	+ Also an analysis showing dispersal was not effective

**Other Business**

* Platypus rewilding project
	+ The radio tags are no longer functioning but the acoustic tags are still working
	+ The platypuses are still being detected via acoustic receivers more than a month post-release.
	+ Radio-tracking is no longer occurring.
	+ Platypuses have dispersed along the Hacking and up Kangaroo Creek.
	+ Further monitoring of platypuses will be via acoustic receivers
	+ More acoustic receivers are being installed to cover the range that the platypus have dispersed to.
* Basil informed the meeting he will not be able to continue as President beyond the AGM in August. He encouraged members to join the Committee if they could to help with the great work.
* Ralph attended a volunteer conference at which it was claimed that volunteers contributed $127billion
* Volunteer coordination
	+ Patsy Nagle is leaving in the next few weeks and Dave Croft will be the new point of contact
* MTB final document released
	+ It shows little change in terms of the trails from the draft
* Bush regen activities are ongoing
	+ Future activities
		- Red Jacks Pt bush regen Friday 23rd June, Friday 14th July and Friday 18th August
		- Botanical guided walk lead by John Arney on Monday 26th June
		- Track trim Curra Moors Tuesday 8th August
		- Middle Rill bush regen Friday 25th August

**Meeting closed:** at 6.15 p.m.

**Next Committee Meeting**

* Thursday 27 July 2023 at 4pm via Zoom.

**Next General Meeting**

* AGM Thursday 24th August 2023 at 4 pm –EEC and Zoom