**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 24th AUGUST 2023 at 4.00pm in the EEC and via Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.03pm

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

**2022/23 Committee Members present**

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

**Others members present**

Liz Donley, Tony Larkin, Josie Piper, Peter Kahn, Catherine Reynolds, Diana Smit, Peter Currie, Bridget Currie, Helen Fletcher, George Cotis, Mark ?

**Non members present**

Brendan Neilly – NPWS Area Manager

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Basil gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

**Special Award**

Neville Bethe was awarded Lifetime Membership of Friends of Royal for his outstanding 15 year+ contribution to volunteering in and the conservation of the Royal National Park.

**President’s Annual Report**

Basil Ellis gave a report covering the 2022/23 FoR activities which is attached to these minutes for reference.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Approx $8K in the bank and paypal accounts. Our overall annual 2022/23 bank balance increased over the year by $33
* 49 financial members so far in 2023/24.

**Election of 2023/24 Committee**

* Since there were no positions where multiple people had nominated. All nominations received were accepted as below:
  + President - Ralph Cartwright
  + Vice President – Ian Hill
  + Treasurer – Diane Townley
  + Secretary – Dave Robson
  + Ordinary Members – John Arney, Neville Bethe, Peter Donley, Basil Ellis

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

* The Jibbon hazard reduction has been postponed due to unforecast rain over the last two days leaving the ground too wet
* Platypus rewilding
  + The platypus rewilding project progressed in 2022/23 with the release of 10 platypus. All of these 10 animals are still active and being detected by the acoustic monitors
  + Some have moved above Waterfall weir
  + FoR volunteers will be contacted later this year to participate in the monitoring of the platypus during the breeding season
* Fox Control
  + Baiting with 1080 to control foxes occurred earlier this year and is scheduled to occur again on 15th September
  + It is hoped that the tagging of the camera trap photos as part of the eco-health project will show a reduction post-baiting in the number of foxes seen in these pictures.
* Deer Control
  + The aerial shooting program continued during the year. It is showing a reduction in deer numbers (i.e. less found and shot by helicopter)
* The state government are flagging that there will be a reduction in the budget to NPWS in this coming year…..watch this space
* An application has been made to LLS for another round of funding for the Jibbon area. LLS are very supportive of the work done so far.
* The coast track is to be rerouted in the south Garie area
* The Palm Jungle section of the coast track is closed until June 2024 while it is being upgraded. Walkers can proceed to Burning Palms from Otford via the Ridge track.

**Presentation by George Cotis – Habitat Port Hacking**

* Illustrated by pictures he has taken over the years George presented on the Port Hacking environment and some of the changes that have occurred due to the impact of humans.
* George’s presentation had 167 slides……despite the meeting overrunning by 40 minutes we only managed to view 90 of them. Potential to continue this presentation at a future meeting.

**General Business**

* The Zoom connection on the meeting had repeated network failures from an unknown cause. We will discuss with the EEC to try and determine why they occurred.

**Meeting closed:** at 6.45 p.m.

**Next General Meeting**

* Thursday 26th October, 2023 at 4 pm in the EEC

**Next Committee Meeting**

* Thursday 28 September, 2023 at 4pm via Zoom.