**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday 22nd Feb 2024 4pm at the EEC and via Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.05 pm

**Chairperson- Ralph Cartwright Minutes- Dave Robson**

**Present:** Ralph Cartwright, Dave Robson, Peter Donley, Basil Ellis, Ian Hill, Neville Bethe, Diane Townley, Paul Rendell, Josie Piper, Tony Larkin, Diana Smit, John Whittingham, Catherine Reynolds

Dave Croft- Team Leader Rangers (Royal Area)

Ann Young (presenter), Bob Young

Via Zoom: Helen Fletcher, Steve Johnson, Lawrence Frank

**Apologies:**, Liz Donley, John Arney, Peter Kahn,

Ralph gave the Acknowledgement of Country

**Routine Business**

* Treasurer’s report:
  + Balance of Westpac account: $7417.22, PayPal: $552.63, Total: $7969.85
  + Major expenditure: $88 for Gravity Forms (website), $25.50 for domain renewal (website)
  + There are 62 financial members
* Correspondence: no correspondence

**Park report – Dave Croft**

* Summer peak operations in the park went well with no major dramas
* Remediation of the eroded Curra Moors and Deer Pool walking tracks is planned
* The work to widen the firetrails to the new standard is progressing as reported to previous meetings
* Action had been taken against 50 illegal 4WDs in Georges River NP
* HZRs planned for 2024 if conditions allow
  1. Tech Advisory Wildlife role has been created to ensure full consideration is given in the planning and execution of HZRs
* 2 new rangers – Jason Bishop and Matt Springall have integrated really well into the team. Mel Keith had come into the office for training one morning
* Upgrade of the coast track in the south of the park is still in progress
* A new section of the Great Southern Walk is underway from the Otford end of the Coast Track to Bald Hill
* Garie Rd remediation has started with a target end date of June 2024. Also McKell Ave remediation is underway with the road being closed during weekdays for this work to progress.
* **Presentation – Mosaics of vegetation – the rocks and dirt story – Ann Young**
  + Ann gave a fascinating presentation showing how the various soil types in the park determine the vegetation.
* **EcoHealth**
  + 3 FoR volunteers are assisting NPWS staff with the tagging of the hundreds of thousands of images taken by the camera traps
  + A summary of the mammals and birds being seen on these camera trap images was presented to the group

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Mammals** | **Birds** |
| **Commonly Photographed** | Fox | New-holland Honeyeater |
|  | Swamp Wallaby (often with joey) | White-browed Scrubwren |
|  | Eastern Pygmy Possum | Australian Owlet-nightjar |
|  | Brushtailed Possum | Eastern Whipbird |
|  | Ringtailed Possum | Brown Quail |
|  | Echidna | Superb Lyrebird |
|  | Bush Rat | Superb Fairywren |
|  | Swamp Rat | Variegated Fairywren |
|  | Brown Antechinus | Green Catbird |
|  | Dusky Antechinus | Bassian Thrush |
|  | Long-nosed Bandicoot | Grey Shrikethrush |
|  |  | Lewins Honeyeater |
|  |  |  |
| **Less Commonly Photographed** | Feral Cat | Painted Buttonquail |
|  | Rusa Deer | Brown Gerygone |
|  | Wombat | Pilotbird |
|  | Mountain Brushtail Possum | Chestnut-rumped Heathwren |
|  | Sugar Glider | Australian Logrunner |
|  |  | Yellow-throated Scrubwren |
|  |  | Lewins Rail |
|  |  | Little Wattlebird |
|  |  | Wonga Pigeon |

* **Platypus Rewilding**
  + 9 of the platypus are still being picked up by the audio receivers. The 10th platypus has moved beyond the receivers up Kangaroo Creek
  + A 16 second video taken of a platypus in the Hacking on the surface and then diving was shown
  + We have successfully trialed using our trail camera in time lapse mode to capture images of platypuses. Results were shown in the meeting.
* **Fungal Studies Group:**
  + Two walks at Bola Creek are planned on: Saturday 9th March and Saturday 8th June. They have been put onto the Volunteer calendar with a limit of 8 people.
* **Recent Activities:**
  + The Red Jacks Pt activity for February was cancelled due to the heavy rain forecast.
  + Jibbon bush regen: 4 members worked around the aboriginal carving area to remove prickly pear and inkweed…a beautiful morning it was too.
* **Future activities:**
  + Middle Rill bush regen is planned for Friday 1st March
  + Yenabilli Pt bush regen is planned for Frday 22nd March
* **Next General Meeting:**
  + The April general meeting date clashes with Anzac Day so we have moved the meeting back one week to Thursday 2nd May. Our presenter at this meeting will be Jason Luke on the Frogs and other amphibians of the Royal and Heathcote National Parks.

**6.08pm meeting closed**

**NOTICES**

**Next Committee Meeting**

28/03/2024

**Next General Meeting**

02/05/2024