

# NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 21 June 2018

Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

### 1.0 Welcome, apologies, new members

Vice President Quentin Moran welcomed members to the meeting. New member Luke O'Connor got a special mention. Quentin paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land and their elders past and present. Christine & Michael Goonrey, Chris Emery & Sabine Friedrich, Julie May, Esther Gallant, Cynthia Burton, Beverley Hammond, Fiona Brand, Judy & Dave Kelly, Bruce & Maria Boreham, David Large, Max Lawrence and Graham Scully sent apologies.

### 2.0 Confirmation of minutes of the 17 May meeting and matters arising

- A link to the minutes of the general meeting of 17 May 2018 had been sent to members before the meeting and printed copies were available at the entrance to the hall. There were no amendments from the floor and the minutes were provisionally confirmed by the meeting.
- Quentin mentioned that a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary subcommittee will have its first meeting early in August. Further volunteers and members' ideas are still being sought.

### 3.0 Recent NPA activities

- Quentin reported that NPA's comments to the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee's proposal to declare feral horses a threatening process by causing habitat loss and degradation was submitted, and \$1000 were committed to the NPA NSW SMH campaign advertisement (cost: \$11,000).
- Di Thompson thanked all NPA contributors of funds for this campaign. A young award-winning photographer volunteered to take footage for a short feature film on the damage horses do to the High Country, to be paid for from the \$3000 left over from the ad campaign. Di informed the meeting that a strategy meeting is planned for July in view of the upcoming NSW election – Di, Annette, Andrew Cox (Threatened Species Officer) and Alix Goodwin (NPA NSW) as well as others will take part.
- Di drew the meeting's attention to the fact that feral horses in neighbouring NSW national parks present a big threat to the ACT's water supply.
- Quentin mentioned that the NPA submission on Nature in the City is also underway.
- Printed copies of the financial papers were available at the entrance to the hall. Quentin passed on the treasurer's comment that the figures are very close to the end-of-year reports.

### 4.0 Presentation

Matthew Higgins, well-known to NPA members as an award-winning historian and short-film maker, gave a presentation titled ***What a high! Over three decades exploring our mountain country.***

Matthew commented that it 'is a pleasure to be here once again' and that his presentation is a personal overview of the natural and historical values of the High Country. He has skied and bushwalked in the Australian High Country since he first visited Kiandra as a kid.

Matthew is fortunate to have had several professional projects over the last couple of decades that allowed him to do historical research into various aspects

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of High Country life. In particular, recording the history of the following gave him opportunities to continue to bushwalk and ski in the alpine and subalpine areas:

- finding the *Southern Cloud* which crashed in 1931 and was found in 1958;
- Wragge's weather station on Mount Kosciuszko;
- rebuilding of Teddys Hut by the Parks Service and publishing a booklet on it;
- the Namadgi and Tidbinbilla oral history;
- brumby running;
- skiing in the Brindabellas;
- eucalypt distilling in Tidbinbilla;
- the approx. 30 softwood arboreta at different elevations and aspects, of which only Bendora survived the 2003 fires;
- Lindsay Pryor and the Alpine Botanic Garden for native plants on Mount Gingera;
- surveying the new Territory's border in 1910-1915;
- the Mouat boundary tree which was moved to the Namadgi Visitor Centre;
- building the Cotter, Bendora and Corin dams.

Matthew shares his stories in his various publications, the two most recent of which were available at the meeting, but he is also mindful of the many Indigenous stories surrounding the High Country.

Matthew was thanked for his very interesting presentation by acclamation from the floor.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 and Quentin invited all to enjoy the supper provided.

Chair:

Date: