

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 15 November 2018

Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

1. Welcome and apologies

President Esther Gallant welcomed around 25 members and friends to the meeting and paid respect to the traditional custodians of the land and their elders past and present.

Apologies were received from Clive Hurlstone, Kevin McCue, Sonja Lenz, Cynthia Burton, Judy & Dave Kelly and Colin McAlister.

2. Confirmation of minutes of the 18 October 2018 meeting

The minutes of the general meeting of 18 October were displayed on the screen and confirmed by the meeting.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes:** no matters arising.

4. **New members:** James and Christine Volk were welcomed to the association.

5. NPA activities

- Esther noted that the association remained in sound financial shape, and that a copy of the latest **financial statements** was available for perusal at the back of the room.
- At the Conservation Council Spring Mingle **NPA ACT was awarded the prestigious Environment Group of the Year award**, with the award being presented by Minister Shane Rattenbury.
- Sonja and Kevin presented 18 **NPA Namadgi books** to the winners of the ANBG schools photo competition.
- Esther showed photos of the **Rosenberg's Monitors project** in southern Namadgi. We are now seeing the new generation of monitors emerging from the termite mounds.
- The subcommittee planning **the 60th NPA anniversary** celebrations has a long list of events under consideration, and will be reporting to the February 2019 general meeting.
- **National Parks Australia Council:** the 2018 meeting was held in Brisbane. In 2019 it will be our turn to organise the weekend and host the members from the states' NPAs.
- **Feral horse campaign.** This has now been running four months, and is receiving media coverage, notably through the ABC and *The Canberra Times*. Cynthia is organising further media coverage.
- The **Kosciuszko Science Conference** was very successful and well attended. NPA contributed to the cost of producing the excellent proceedings book, copies of which were available free of charge to members attending tonight's meeting.
- Esther also displayed a letter of appreciation from Brett McNamara, Namadgi NP manager.
- The **Protest Walk** started from Sydney Botanical Gardens on 5 November, with a walking contingent of around 100.

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- The walk is scheduled to reach Queanbeyan on 22 November, with meetings with local candidates and politicians being arranged, as well as a demonstration to be held outside Deputy Premier John Barilaro's Queanbeyan office.
- The Protest Walk will culminate at the Kosciuszko Summit on 8-9 December. All participants will have park entry permits, and police will be in attendance. Members are encouraged to participate.
- Further information is available on the NPA website, and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.
- Esther also announced the pleasing news that ACT Minister Mick Gentleman has announced that the ACT Government is launching a legal challenge to the State legislation as being in contravention of the Federal EPBC Act.
- The **NPA Christmas Party** has been rescheduled to 2 December at the Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa, commencing at 11:30am. There will be an NPA art exhibition at the NVC, and the event will be preceded by a short guided stroll for those interested at 10:30am.
- Esther announced that the **Executive Director of the Conservation Council** (Larry O'Loughlin) will be leaving, and will be missed. Steps are underway to find a replacement.
- Esther presented **Chris Emery** with his Certificate of Life Membership, awarded in his absence at the August AGM. Both Esther and Chris spoke some very nice words, and there was warm applause from all present.

6. Other business: There was no other business.

7. Presentation

Esther introduced Emily Stringer, a Canberra local whose interests lie in data analysis, ecology and environmental management. Emily is currently completing her Honours project directed towards the analysis of surveys of **Grassland Earless Dragons in the ACT**. Her interest in those surveys is twofold: first to test the use of surveys of natural burrows (often originally made by wolf spiders) as a tool for detecting and monitoring the dragons, and secondly to test the use of long term surveys of artificial burrows to estimate population trends. In the latter case she used data collected by members of the ACT Government and allied entities. Emily was sponsored by NPA ACT for her Honours year at the University of Canberra, and was generously supported in her presentation by the attendance of a group of her university colleagues and friends.

Following her presentation Emily answered a range of questions from an interested audience, and all were invited by Esther to stay and partake of light refreshments.

The meeting closed around 9:30pm.

The next general meeting will be held on 21 February 2019.

Chair:

Date: