

# NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 21 February 2019  
Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

### 1.0 Welcome and apologies

President Esther Gallant welcomed members and guests to the meeting, and paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land and their elders past and present. Approximately 40 members and guests were present, with apologies received from Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz, David Large, and Colin McAlister. New members Ian Gutheridge, Tony and Robyn Slatyer and James Volk were welcomed to the Association.

### 2.0 Confirmation of the minutes of the 15 November 2018 meeting

The minutes are available online and were approved as written.

### 3.0 Matters arising from the minutes

**Bush Fire Planning.** Esther noted the 10 year Regional Fire Management Plan was being developed by Parks and Conservation. Information will be presented at the March general meeting, and public consultation will open in April or May.

**Volunteers needed.** Two volunteers have had to leave, and we are now short of help in the office, and for support of general meetings. In each case volunteers could expect to contribute approximately two to three hours per month. If interested, please contact Quentin Moran or the office.

### 4.0 NPA activities

Esther reported on the following issues being addressed by the committee.

#### **Save Kosci and Reclaim Kosci campaigns:**

- The Sydney to Kosci walk was successful, with a high level of participation plus great and continuing media coverage. Altogether ca. 500 walked or supported the various sections, with 200 on the final leg to the summit. ACT NPA and Canberra Bushwalking Club contributed more than 30 walkers to the final day.
- NSW petition campaign: Currently we have over 6,000 signatures. If we get more than 10,000 the issue (heritage protection of feral horses) has to be debated in the NSW Parliament. Brian Slee noted there is a copy of the petition at this meeting, and invited those present to sign it.
- NPA had a very positive meeting with Minister Gentleman, who expressed strong support for the campaign. Subsequently the ACT Government threatened legal action against the NSW Government over the threat the NSW legislation poses for the ACT water supply.
- Among other very positive outcomes, the Kosciuszko Science Conference (8 November) resulted in publication of five full-length papers in the Journal of Ecological Management and Restoration (link on NPA website).
- A group of 44 people went on the 2 February tour of the Tantangara horse damage sites. The tour featured talks by Professor Geoff Hope, who was also present at tonight's meeting.
- Esther also announced that on 3 March there will be an Indigenous Water Healing Ceremony at the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee River in KNP (see link on our website).

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## 4.0 Reports

### **Membership brochure**

Convenor Allan Sharp reported that the new brochure was nearly finished. He circulated copies at the meeting and invited comments. Esther particularly thanked Allan, Sabine Friedrich, Margaret Power and Michaela Popham for their excellent work.

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans**

Members are asked to comment on the following:

Subthemes:

- a) Protecting our water systems, and
- b) Protecting natural values vis a vis commercial interests.
- c) The wording of the subthemes will be refined and incorporate a focus on valuing science.

Graham Scully suggested they may also include a reference to engaging family and children for the present and the future.

Activities will also include a *Members Forum* on 6 April 2019 to discuss future directions, and a young (age under 30) photographers' competition with prize money of \$1000.

Other activities may include a school competition (essay, art, Instagram), a formal dinner, a public photographic/art competition, and MORE .....

## 5.0 Other business

Tim Walsh reported that long term and highly valued members **David Large** and **Kathy Saw** both had major health issues, but they had both participated in the protest walk to the Kosciuszko summit. Tim will convey our very best wishes to David and to Kathy.

John Brickhill reported on our (Rosenberg's) **Goanna** project. This has now been going for ten weeks this year, and John has been out each week. Quite a few goannas had been caught, tagged and weighed, but several have shed their tracking radios. Some have travelled up to 12km, including 1200m up and down between NSW and the Naas Valley. The goannas are now entering the breeding season, and more volunteers are welcome to assist the monitoring program. The project is jointly funded by NPA ACT and the ACT Government.

## 6.0 Presentation

Esther introduced our special guest speaker **Ms Sam Nerrie**, who has a self-confessed passion for Mulligans Flat. Sam's topic was, not surprisingly '**The Wild Things of Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary**'. Sam's presentation was set around an interesting slide display of her photographs, some of which had won awards, both national and international.

Ms Nerrie's presentation was followed by a stimulating question and answer session, at the conclusion of which she was thanked by Esther, and invited to join the rest of us for a light supper.

President:

Date: