

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 19 April 2018

Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

1.0 Welcome and apologies

President Esther Gallant welcomed members, and especially life members, to the meeting. She paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land and their elders past and present. Approximately 30 members attended, with apologies received from Christine and Michael Goonrey, Chris Emery and Sabine Friedrich, Maria Boreham, Rod Griffiths, Isobel Crawford, Julie May, John Brickhill and Chris Watson.

2.0 Confirmation of minutes of the 15 February meeting

The minutes of the general meeting of 15 February 2018 were displayed by Esther on the screen and confirmed by the meeting with some corrections.

3.0 Matters arising from the minutes

- The bird book has been reprinted and the updated butterfly book will soon be sent to press.
- Chris is asking for members' feedback on the new-look website.
- Adrienne Nicholson announced two vacant overnight places at Gudgenby Art Week which were taken up at the meeting.

4.0 New members

Rejoining member Brian Palm was welcomed back to the association.

5.0 NPA activities and financial reports

Esther gave an overview of issues of the last month:

- The recipient of a NPA grant for forest flammability studies, Phil Zylstra, had just sent a progress report outlining how more researchers in Australia and overseas are getting interested in his work and several are using his model. Esther will ask Chris Emery to put a link to Phil's latest paper on our website.
- A successful book and information stall was held at the recent CAP Expo.
- Two NPA-sponsored students from UC participated with 3 NPA members in the Easter Ecology Camp – a 3-night camp in East Gippsland with forest tours during the day and informative talks at night. Esther recommends doing the same thing next time and Di Thompson thanked NPA for promoting the camp's message and sponsoring students.
- The ConsACT World Environment Day dinner is on Saturday 2 June – Esther encouraged members to book their places at the NPA table with Early Bird rates until 3 May.
- Member Jane O'Donohue will take on the role of promoting our Namadgi book to children through schools, Scouts, Girl Guides, maybe also the Duke of Edinburgh Program.
- Submissions have gone in on the Molonglo Draft Plan of Management, the Riparian Draft Strategy and the ACT Climate Strategy. Cynthia Burton commented that the Molonglo plan came out halfway through the development of the surrounding areas and was a very inadequate document compared to the Riparian Strategy.
- Jasmine Foxlee gave committee members an overview of the ACT visitor strategy.
- Tomorrow, K2C are having a mini-forum on the Spotted-tailed Quoll.

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- Finances: in the treasurer's absence Kevin McCue gave a short overview of the financial reports, pointing out the changes in assets due to the reprints of two of NPA's field guides.

6.0 Member forum: Celebrating NPA's 60th anniversary

Judy Kelly and Annette Smith who were both on the organising committee for NPA's 50th anniversary gave short presentations on the activities and results of that celebration, and their roles in those proceedings.

Annette then suggested what NPA could do to make some of the association's past endeavours more widely known and accessible: re-publish some of the nature notes from the 60s and 70s; organise an exhibition at the Heritage Library where NPA papers are being kept; maybe ask an historian to write up NPA's history.

This led on to an open forum with members making further comments:

- series of photographs taken by members over the years together with input from researchers could provide evidence of climate-induced changes in the Alps, for instance; NPA would have to focus on particular areas; many of Reg Alder's photos are stored in the Heritage Library; some members' photographs have already been scanned;
- some of the outings documented from the 60s and 70s could be replicated in the outings program in 2020;
- an anniversary issue of the *Bulletin* should continue the historical timelines in the previous special issues and also contain art work and poetry by members;
- have a party in the bush;
- mount and exhibit the original bird paintings – the Canberra Museum and Gallery, Tuggeranong and Belconnen Art Centres are possible venues; cards or calendars could be printed from the existing scanned copies of the paintings.

A forward-looking approach could lead to a revitalisation of NPA by:

- actively recruiting new and younger members; using social media; bringing people from outside into the organising committee; getting sponsorships; publicise NPA and the anniversary in the media;
- convening a conference on Nature in Canberra;
- organising competitions for primary and high school kids, university students; photos, essays, an app for nature spotting in the ACT;
- building links to teachers.

Esther brought discussions to a close and encouraged everyone to continue thinking about, and making suggestions for, the anniversary.

The meeting closed at 9.30 and the President invited all to enjoy the supper provided and to continue discussions.

President:

Date: