

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 20 September, 2018

Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

1. Welcome and apologies

In the absence of many of the Committee members the meeting was chaired by Rod Griffiths, Immediate Past President. Despite these absences, the meeting was quite well attended, with around 25 members and friends present. Rod welcomed members, especially life members, and paid respect to the traditional custodians of the land and their elders past and present.

Apologies were received from President Esther Gallant, Treasurer Hannah Conway, Vice President Cynthia Burton, Sonja Lenz, Kevin McCue, Chris Emery, Sabine Friedrich, John Brickhill, Deidre Shaw, Annette Smith, Di Thompson and David Large.

2. Confirmation of minutes of the 19 July 2018 meeting

The minutes of the general meeting of 19 July were displayed on the screen by Rod and confirmed by the meeting.

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

4. New members: None this month.

5. NPA activities

The main issue facing NPA at this time is NSW legislation conferring heritage status on **feral horses** in Kosciuszko National Park, and the consequent threat to the nature conservation qualities of not only KNP, but also ACT's neighboring Namadgi National Park and the ACT water catchment. Rod outlined steps being undertaken.

- NPA ACT is actively involved with other ACT and NSW environmental groups in organising a campaign opposing the legislation ahead of the forthcoming NSW state election.
- President Esther has been involved in interviews of full time and part-time campaigners to work on the campaign, and it seems there are a number of likely candidates.
- NPA has appealed to members for donations to support the campaign, and will be matching donations up to a maximum of \$10 000.
- Graeme Worboys, a well known and highly regarded environmental scientist, is organising a Science Forum.
- A special outing to the Ginini Wetlands is being organised for key environmental representatives and politicians.
- Minister Gentleman has already flagged a wide range of measures the ACT could take to exclude feral horses from entering the ACT from KNP. Aerial shooting was not excluded from the list.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

- NPA ACT is actively involved in helping to organise a protest walk from Sydney to the Mt Kosiuszko summit.
- Rod introduced Linda Groom, who is the main organiser of the ACT section of the protest walk. Linda is a member of both NPA ACT and the Canberra Bushwalking Club. She outlined the walk in broad terms, noting that it passed right through the electorate of John Barilaro, the NSW Nationals leader and chief protagonist of the campaign for heritage status of feral horses.
- Rod urged NPA members to get behind the protest walk as drivers, walkers, or donors, as they had done for his Conservation Council fund raising walk around the ACT border.

6. **Other business.** There was no other business.

7. Presentation

Rod introduced Steve Taylor, Invasive Plants Coordinator with the ACT Government, whose topic was **Collector for ArcGIS**. Steve described the online system called *Collector* which is used for storing the location of weed species in the ACT. He also outlined which weeds are considered important, how they are mapped, and how the data get to be incorporated in the database. He also discussed which follow-up actions can be taken to control weeds.

Basically, the system involves using smart phone technology and applications, including photographs and GPS to record and map infestations from the field.

The three main invasive grass species of concern to the ACT are African Lovegrass (2000 hectares), Serrated Tussock (3000 hectares), and Chilean Needlegrass (Crace and Red Hill Nature Reserve).

Steve reported that the system is in fact very easy to use, and produces information that facilitates generation of key performance indicators. It has been readily accepted and used by staff, contractors and volunteers.

Rod thanked Steve for his presentation and invited him to join members for coffee and nibbles.

The meeting closed around 9.30pm

Chair:

Date: