

# NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 20 June 2019

Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

### 1. Welcome and apologies

President Esther Gallant welcomed members, especially Life Members, and guests to the meeting. Esther paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land and their elders past and present.

Approximately 25 members and guests were present, with apologies received from Kevin McCue, Sonja Lenz, Alan Sharp, Sabine Friedrich, Kathy Saw, Mike & Annette Smith, Judy and David Kelly.

### 2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 16 May 2019 meeting

The minutes are available online through the web link provided in the latest *Burning Issues* and a printed copy could be perused before the meeting. They were approved as written. There were no matters arising.

### 3. NPA activities

Esther reported on the following activities:

Meetings with Brett McNamara, Namadgi Manager and Sean Grimes (environmental scientist in Commissioner Kate Auty's office).

A book containing five papers from Kosci Science Conference on feral horse damage and a number of other relevant reports has been received. These are being distributed to key ACT MLAs and Environment Directorate officials.

Update of 2007 Plan of Management for implementation of the ACT feral horse Act is now under way. Minister Gentleman has initiated the update, Brian Prince of PLC is managing the process and a consultant will soon be selected to conduct public consultation. This will take into consideration the increase in areas of Namadgi now likely to be impacted by feral horses from NSW.

Reporting from Alison Swain of **Reclaim Kosci**: On 6 June (first anniversary of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act passage) the 12,300 signature petition to remove feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park was handed over to acting NSW Labor leader Penny Sharpe on the rooftop of Parliament House. Trish Doyle and Jodie McKay also stepped up and received the petition with Penny. On 6 June Penny put in a motion to repeal the Act. Trish Doyle will be presenting the petition to parliament.

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We were able to take 20 people up, which included a giant Corroboree frog mascot and a group of Aboriginal men to perform a smoking ceremony.

The resulting debate in NSW Parliament will be held 22nd August at 4:30pm. Reclaim Kosci has reserved 100 seats in the gallery and plans either a lunch or afternoon tea prior to the event. *RSVP to Reclaim Kosci if you wish to attend. More information will be in July Burning Issues.*

Our next information stall will be on 28 July at the Namadgi Visitor Centre for the celebration of **World Ranger Day**. If you would like to help just contact a Committee member. There will be screenings of the film "Underfrog" and several of the winning 60-second videos all concerning feral horse damage and impact on endangered species.

New NPA ACT brochures have been placed in many locations around Canberra. More will be order soon.

Committee is considering making a financial contribution to the ACT Wildlife Carers who are collaborating with Parks staff on drenching wombats to treat/prevent mange.

July meeting – will be announcements, speaker and social supper. No "official" business will be conducted.

Our AGM will be on 15 August – Please consider joining the Management Committee or encourage other members to step up.

More general meeting setup volunteers and sub-committee members are needed.

### **4. Other business**

There was no other business

### **5. Presentation by NPA member Adrienne Nicolson: Art Weeks at Gudgenby Cottage**

Esther introduced NPA life-member Adrienne and explained that this popular NPA "outing" under the leadership of Adrienne, Hazel Rath and Christine Goonrey has become a tradition for many members.

Adrienne emphasised that talent is not required and some have been surprised at what they achieve surrounded by the beautiful valley and with encouragement from talented teachers.

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Her photos showed the wide range of work undertaken at previous 'Art Weeks' and many examples were displayed on tables behind the audience. The audience were obviously impressed and asked questions about both the artwork and level of catering and hospitality displayed.

Esther thanked Adrienne invited everyone to join in a light supper while inspecting the examples of art work on display.

President:

Date: