

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 15 August 2019

Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

1. Welcome

The President, Esther Gallant, welcomed about 25 members and guests to the meeting. She acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and paid respects to their elders past and present. A special welcome was extended to new members Monica McDonald, Diane Cross, Kimberley Schiphof, and rejoining member Geoff Barker.

2. Apologies

Rod Griffiths, Tim Walsh, Clive Hurlstone, Christine & Michael Goonrey, Judy & Dave Kelly and Kathy Saw sent apologies.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the 16 August 2018 AGM

- A link to the minutes of the annual general meeting of 16 August 2018 had been sent to members before the meeting and printed copies were available at the entrance to the hall. There were no amendments from the floor and the minutes were confirmed as written.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising.

5. Annual report

Esther elaborated on the dot points in her presentation of the NPA activities of 2018/19 projected on the screen. A full report will be published in the September *NPA Bulletin*, but the main points were:

NPA ACT was named the Environmental Group of the year in 2018 by the Conservation Council of the ACT Region.

The Environment Subcommittee submitted the following:

- 7 ACT submissions
- 3 NSW submissions
- 1 national submission

Esther thanked the subcommittee and also members who had written personal responses to the various jurisdictions. Chris Emery reminded members that all NPA submissions are available on the website.

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NPA supported the following environmental science projects:

- Monitoring Rosenberg's Goannas in the Naas Valley by providing volunteers and considerable grants for equipment (an ACT Government grant as well as various PCL personnel also contributed to the ongoing work of this project)
- Little Eagle tracking with a grant for equipment
- Rakali distribution in the ACT with a grant to the Australian Platypus Conservancy
- Bushfire behaviour modelling with a grant to Dr P Zylstra
- Biodiversity offset outcomes study with a grant to an ANU Honours student

NPA joined the Reclaim Kosci Coalition and was the major financial supporter through the generous donations by members. NPA members participated in the Sydney to Summit walk; a protest against the NSW 'Heritage Horse' legislation at the office of MP Barilaro; and organised a trip to Ginini Wetlands in Namadgi for ACT MLAs. NPA also sponsored the printing of the abstracts from the Kosciuszko Science Conference.

The Bulletin working group put out 4 issues of the *NPA Bulletin*. A monthly e-newsletter *Burning Issues* was also produced.

The Promotion and Outreach Subcommittee (previously Publicity Subcommittee) produced and distributes an appealing NPA brochure. Book sales and information stalls were held at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Open Day and the ACT Connect and Participate Expo at the Old Bus Depot. The Namadgi Books for Kids project distributed copies of the book as rewards to children taking an interest in the natural environment or studying environmental science.

Full walks and work party programs ran throughout the year; two Art Weeks at Gudgenby Cottage and an exhibition of the art works were organised; and members got together in December for a Christmas party.

Cynthia gave a short overview of the events being planned for 2020 by the 60th Anniversary Subcommittee.

Esther thanked all members who had contributed to the association's activities and successes throughout the year and urged more members to volunteer.

6. Financial report

Acting Treasurer Chris Emery had prepared the year end financial statements after Treasurer Hannah Conway had left Canberra. Chris had presented them to the pro bono auditor, Christine Yu. He gave a short overview of the financial figures and was warmly thanked for his work by acclamation. Unfortunately, the financial statements are not approved yet and will be presented to the membership at the next general meeting.

7. Election

Esther vacated the chair and called on Bruce Boreham to act as Returning Officer and conduct this year's election of office bearers and committee members. Bruce

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declared all positions vacant and informed the meeting that 6 nominations for the four office bearers and up to 8 ordinary committee members had been received. He then asked for additional nominations from the floor, but there were none forthcoming. Bruce announced the following committee for 2019/2020:

Office	Nomination	Nominator, Seconder
President	Esther Gallant	Sonja Lenz, Kevin McCue
Vice President	Cynthia Burton	Chris Emery, Sonja Lenz
Secretary	Sonja Lenz	Kevin McCue, Chris Emery
Treasurer - Acting	Chris Emery	Kevin McCue, Sonja Lenz
Committee member	George Heinsohn	Esther Gallant, Kevin McCue
Committee member	Kevin McCue	Esther Gallant, Cynthia Burton
Immediate Past President	Rod Griffiths	(Ex-officio committee member)

Bruce congratulated the new committee and commented that additional members can be co-opted into the vacant positions as possibilities arise during the year. He also informed the meeting that member Pete Hegarty will join the committee and train to become the next Treasurer when he returns from his present trip. Chris Emery has agreed to stay on as Acting Treasurer and continue as Public Officer and Steven Forst will continue in his role of Outings Convener until a replacement has been found. Esther thanked the Returning Officer and Kevin McCue thanked Esther for the extraordinary job she had done as President in the last couple of years.

8. Other business

Esther reminded the meeting that NPA ACT will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the National Parks Australia Council at the Namadgi Visitor Centre from 18-20 October. Further information on the sessions members might be interested to attend will be in the September *Bulletin*.

9. Presentations

Five members gave short illustrated presentations on various topics:

- Esther talked about her recent rafting trip on the Snake River, Canada;
- Di Thompson reflected on her outback trip in Western Australia and the obvious importance of water in the WA goldfields and the wheatbelt areas;
- Adrienne displayed some of the interesting members' photos used in the Namadgi book and also some of her nature observations in the Bush Capital;

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- Chris gave us a pictorial impression of the recent open day at the Namadgi Visitor Centre (with lots of Sabine Friedrich's colourful photos; and
- John Brickhill gave us an overview of the work involved in monitoring Rosenberg's Goannas in the Naas Valley with some very interesting photographs and anecdotes.

The meeting closed at 9.45 and the President invited all to enjoy the supper and mulled wine provided.

Chair:

Date: