

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 19 September 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. New member Diana Terry was also welcomed to the association.

Approximately 35 members and guests were present, with apologies received from Cynthia Burton, Max Lawrence, Judy Kelly and Allan Sharp.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 18 July 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 from the minutes.

3. NPA activities

Esther reported on the following activities:

- Members Allan Sharp and Bernard Morvell have agreed to join the Management Committee. Pete Hegarty is considering taking on the treasurer's role.
- Allan as convener of the Publicity and Outreach Subcommittee has had discussions with the ANU Environmental Collective on how to reach out to young people. He also discussed with Linda Groom CBC's recent membership campaign.
- The 60th anniversary festive event is planned for Monday 2 March 2020 starting at 17:30. Venues being considered are the ANU rooftop area of the Lena Karmel Lodge and the Wesley Uniting Church in Forrest.
- The AGM of the National Parks Australia Council will be hosted by NPA ACT at the Namadgi Visitor Centre from 18 - 20 October this year. Members are invited to attend sessions on Friday or Saturday morning. Mick Gentleman, Brett McNamara, Judy West, Don Fletcher, Alison Swain and Linda Groom will address the delegates. Volunteers are needed to help with morning and afternoon teas as well as lunch on Friday.
- The NSW Parliamentary debate on the repeal of the 'Heritage' horse legislation was disappointing. Parliamentarians voted on NOT to accept the petition with 13,000 signatures which is a very unusual outcome in such debates.
- The VIP day trip for politicians to Tantangara in late October is being organised by Di Thompson and Esther.
- Members are encouraged to join the car camp from 29 Oct - 2 Nov in Kosciuszko National Park.
- Reminder: the climate rally is tomorrow in Glebe Park from 12 - 2 pm, members can join in under the NPA banner.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

Rod encouraged members to join him on his *Walk the Border ACT* fund raiser for the Conservation Council and said \$1 for each of the 306 km would be a great amount for supporting members to raise!

4.0 Other business

- Adrienne Nicholson reminded members that NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage is on again from Friday 18 - Friday 25 October.

5. Presentation

As governments foist more and more responsibilities onto volunteers, we need both experience and experiment to respond to the challenges such as managing erosion and weed proliferation in Canberra nature parks.

Committee member Kevin McCue who is also a long-standing member of the Parkcare group 'Friends of Aranda Bushland' (FoAB) gave an illustrated presentation under the title **Managing erosion in our parks** on the work this group has undertaken in the grassland area of the so-called 'frost hollow' section of the Aranda Bushland. The area has been mapped and photographed over many years to document the remediation efforts in a severely eroded creek line.

First, Kevin pointed out in the photos the man-made berms that were created before Lake Burley Griffin was dammed in 1963, in an effort to stop debris being washed into the lake. As it turns out these structures have a negative effect on the free flow of water after heavy rainfall resulting in water being forced into new directions which leads to erosion in these areas.

Kevin illustrated how members of FoAB have been experimenting for more than a decade, in drought and average rainfall years, with mixed results. Expert opinion was sought. Efforts to reduce erosion in the gully included placing coir logs across the gully and along the top of the gully walls, but, unfortunately, coir logs are very expensive and don't last very long. Using rocks as barriers work for a while, but rocks are hard to come by. Trials with pine and other logs delivered to the site by rangers at various times were more successful. Placing tree guards around acacia, lomandra and grass seedlings are only a slight challenge for hungry kangaroos. Setting up so-called leaky weirs from cut-off woody weeds like briars and hawthorns are most effective in keeping the kangaroos off plantings along and in the gully, but they too have to be replenished every couple of years which works as long as the eradication of those weeds does not happen before the seedlings have really established themselves.

The presentation was followed by questions and comments from the audience at its 9.05 pm conclusion. Kevin was thanked by acclamation for his interesting presentation and Esther invited everyone to join members for a light supper.

President:

Date: