

# NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 21 November 2019  
Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener St, O'Connor

### 1. Welcome and apologies

President Esther Gallant welcomed about 25 members to the meeting who had ventured out on this very hot day. Esther paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land and their elders past and present. New members Amy Brooks and Adrian McBurnie (student complimentary memberships) were also welcomed to the association. The students had been working on the Rosenberg's Goanna project and camping out in Namadgi this week. Apologies were received from Cynthia Burton, Rod Griffiths, Allan Sharp, Jacqui Cole, Bruce and Maria Boreham, Isobel Crawford and John Brickhill.

### 2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 17 October 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.

A matter arising from the minutes was the need for helpers for the Christmas party at Gudenby Cottage on 8 December. Esther asked volunteer providers of nibbles and desserts as well as marquees to get in touch with her.

### 3. NPA activities

Esther reported on the following activities:

- 60th anniversary plans: Minister Mick Gentleman has agreed to do a short welcome and cut the celebratory cake. Invitations to external guests have been sent out and many acceptances have already been received.
- Esther had a meeting with the presidents of the bushwalking clubs BBC and CBC where they discussed consistency in listing and reporting of Wednesday Walks. The consensus was that all walks should be advertised in all three activity programs as joint walks.
- The promotional stall held at the Tuggeranong South Fest on 16 November and the book stall at the Maribyrnong School Twilight Fair on 15 November were very successful. We are still looking for appropriate places to display our brochures.
- Feral horses: Costs for bus and helicopter for the VIP day trip for politicians to Tantangara are being met by special member donations; 14 members of the NPA and CBC and two former NSW NPWS rangers had a very informative Long Plain car camp from 29 Oct - 2 Nov; the results of the feral horse survey in the Tantangara area will be released soon.

Esther then presented a short slide show of some of the areas visited by the participants of the Long Plain car camp.

### 4.0 Other business

- Don Fletcher gave a short update on the Rosenberg's Monitor project after a gruelling day in Namadgi. Seven students helped him and John Brickhill this week. Kevin took an ABC reporter and photographer out to Namadgi and they took footage and interviewed Don and the students.
- Tim Walsh informed the meeting that member Judith West is back home after successful surgery.

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### 5. Presentation

The theme of the evening's presentation was **National national parks** or as the speaker preferred, *Challenges and Opportunities for managing Commonwealth National Parks*.

Esther introduced Dr Judy West, who is Executive Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the head of Parks and Biodiversity Science within the Department of the Environment. At the recent NPAC annual meeting she had given a presentation on managing the Commonwealth national parks - Pulu Keeling Islands, Norfolk Island, Christmas Island, Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Booderee, the latter three with joint Aboriginal management - and this presentation was an illustrated extended version of the earlier one. The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) and fifty-eight marine parks right around the country are also the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

Dr James Findlay is the Director of the Commonwealth national parks under whose direction about 300 staff and countless volunteers manage the parks. A 10-year management plan with actions and goals is developed for each national park as well as operational plans. The Director of National Parks puts out an annual report and corporate plan for each park. Some of the challenges common to most of these parks are:

- their isolation in remote parts of the country and getting staff to work there;
- keeping and training staff appropriately;
- managing threatened species and invasive species;
- balancing visitor numbers and economic opportunities with conservation priorities;
- responding to traditional owner aspirations;
- climate change.

The marine parks are a massive job that can only be achieved by collaboration with the individual state agencies. One example of collaboration was how CSIRO share their ships to transport equipment and people to areas of interest.

Judy then went into some detail about managing the ANBG. The gardens were created on 85 ha between the two research organisations, the Australian National University and CSIRO, and officially opened on 20 October 1970. Their 50th anniversary will be in 2020 with a theme of 'Celebrating Australia's Plants'. A National Parks Conservation Trust will be launched on 27 November 2019 ([www.parkstrust.org.au](http://www.parkstrust.org.au)). *Seedbank* is a partnership between ANBG and the Commonwealth - ANBG staff together with traditional owners collect seed in the Commonwealth national parks that get catalogued and stored appropriately.

The presentation was followed by questions and comments from the audience at the 9:00 pm conclusion. Dr West was thanked by acclamation and Esther invited her to join members for a light supper.

President:

Date: