

# National Parks Association of the ACT Inc

## General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 20 February 2020

Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener Street, O'Connor

### 1. Welcome, apologies, new members

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

Apologies were received from Bruce and Maria Boreham, John Brickhill, Isobel Crawford, Clive Hurlstone, Judy Kelly, Kathy Saw, Deidre Shaw, and Tim Walsh.

### 2. Confirmation of 21 November 2019 meeting and matters arising

The minutes of 21 November 2019 were accepted as written and there were no matters arising.

### 3. Recent NPA activities

Esther Gallant reported on the following:

#### *Second VIP helicopter and bus tour.*

The second VIP tour into Kosciuszko National Park was a success with the aerial view clearly demonstrating that feral horses are having a significant impact on the park's natural values, particularly when crossing the ACT/NSW border.

#### *NPA's 60th Anniversary event*

The NPA 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on 2 March 2020 is proving popular and 140-150 guests have RSVP'd. This is providing some pressure on the event budget.

#### *Namadgi National Park - post fire recovery*

There has been discussion regarding NPA's possible contribution to the post fire recovery in Namadgi National Park, but it will probably be April before any details are agreed. Margaret Roseby noted that she had driven along the Boboyan Road and that the impact of the fire has been significant.

### 4. Other business

*NPA Life Memberships:* Nominations for NPA Life Membership are now open. Names should be provided to Kevin by 30 April 2020.

*Art:* Adrienne noted that the artwork at Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre has been taken down and that the next Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage will take place in May. Activities will probably be limited to the valley.

*Feral Horses - Kosciuszko National Park:* Di Thompson noted that the NPA had played a major role in encouraging the NSW Environment Minister to visit Kosciuszko National Park. The Minister has recently announced the proposed remove of feral horses in selected areas of Kosciuszko. Di thanked NPA members who had played a role.

*Zali Steggall's National Climate Change Bill:* Zali Steggall has established a website [climateactnow.com.au](http://climateactnow.com.au) which is worth checking out.

### 5. ACT State of the Environment Report 2019

#### **Presentation by Professor Kate Auty, ACT Environment Commissioner**

Professor Auty noted that the ACT State of the Environment Report 2019 was released in February 2020, together with a summary document. The report focuses on climate change,

## National Parks Association of the ACT Inc

human settlements, air, land, biodiversity, water and fire. It assesses the current condition and trends for each of the natural and sustainability issues, including indicators.

Professor Auty has chosen to include a substantial list of references in the report's Foreword to support her statements, and noted that this is the first report to start with a chapter on *Indigenous environmental knowledge*. The photograph on the front cover is a clay pot representing the Yass River (owned by Aunty Loretta Halloran).

The inclusion of the *Community sustainability leadership and citizen science* chapter acknowledges the substantial contribution made by the community in the monitoring and protection of biodiversity, including community groups like the NPA.

Professor Auty noted that there is always a dilemma about how to present the information to make it accessible, and info-graphics have been used to help tell the story in the 2019 report. It is important to read the full report for details.

Professor Auty is coming to the end of her role as Environment Commissioner and Dr Margaret Kitchin will act in the position for the next few months.

The ACT State of the Environment Report 2019 and the summary report are available on line. Hard copies are available by contacting the Commissioner's office.

Esther Gallant thanked Professor Auty for her presentation and wished her well for her future endeavours. All members present were invited to partake of the refreshments.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Next General Meeting - Thursday 19 March 2019

President:

Date: