

# NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 20 August 2020, by Zoom

### 1. Welcome

President Esther Gallant welcomed about 30 members to the meeting.

*Esther acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and paid respects to their elders, past and present.*

### 2. Confirmation of minutes of the 15 August 2019

The minutes of the annual general meeting held on 15 August 2019 were provided by a link in the *Burning Issues* electronic newsletter circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments were made and the minutes were confirmed as written.

### 3. President's annual report

Esther presented the following highlights of the previous year, and noted that the full annual report will be in the September 2020 issue of the *Bulletin*, which will be out shortly.

- A major achievement in the past year was the celebration of NPA's 60th anniversary, especially the celebratory event held on 6 March 2020. Approximately 100 members and 30 invited guests attended, with Professor David Lindenmayer presenting on his extensive research into the value of forests. Some 60th anniversary events had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but the young photographers competition is going ahead with an awards event to be held on 9 September 2020 at the Southern Cross Club in Woden.
- NPA's social media effort has been successful in increasing interest in the NPA and the number of members, and thanks go to Cynthia Burton and Mike Bremers for their efforts. Thanks must also go to Chris Emery and Sabine Friedrich for their work on the NPA website.
- The NPA's conservation advocacy has continued with numerous submissions prepared by the Environment Subcommittee and activities by other NPA members. A major achievement was a bus and helicopter tour for VIPs to observe feral horse impact in Namadgi and Kosciuszko national parks. Thanks to Di Thompson for her effort and to the generous anonymous donor who hired the helicopter. A new plan of management for feral horses in Namadgi continues zero tolerance for feral horses in the national park.
- Research into the Rosenberg's Monitor under Don Fletcher has attracted lots of interest from NPA volunteers and other citizen scientists.
- The *NPA Bulletin* is now prepared by a group of 4 editors who operate on a rotating roster, with Ed Highley as copyeditor and Sabine Friedrich, presentation.
- Walks and work parties continue with a significant effort of volunteers.
- Members continue to provide generous donations, including anonymous donor funding for a NPA-specific trailer to support work parties.

Esther expressed thanks to all volunteers for their efforts, and invited any potential new volunteers to get in touch with NPA Committee members.

### 4. Financial report and appointment of auditor

Bernard Morvell as the current treasurer is supported by Chris Emery in the transition period. An overview of the financial figures was circulated prior to the meeting. Bernard and Chris noted that the major expenditure items for the past 12 months have been: a new NPA office computer; new NPA display for public events; Rosenberg's Monitor project; butterfly project; student scholarship; and office rental.

Chris added that donations have been generous, that the NPA has been successful at obtaining grants and that membership payments make up only a small proportion of NPA income. Chris noted that the previous pro bono NPA auditor is no longer able to provide that service and a new auditor is yet to be engaged. The NPA is actually well below the level that requires an audit, a review of NPA's finances would suffice.

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**Action.** Bernard to provide a short summary of the financial report to accompany the pie charts for the next *Bulletin*.

### 5. Other business

#### *Honorary Life Membership*

Esther announced that Honorary Life Membership is awarded to long time member Rod Griffiths. Esther noted that Rod had taken on leadership roles within the NPA over the last 17 years – six years as Treasurer, seven years as President or acting as President and nine years on the Environment Sub-committee. The full citation will be in the September *Bulletin*. Esther congratulated Rod and thanked him for all his efforts. Rod received his certificate remotely from Adrienne Nicholson.

In response Rod commented on how proud he is to be part of the NPA, what a great pleasure it has been to be friends with so many members, and thanked his partner Amanda who has supported him in his conservation activities over the past 37 years.

### 6. Election

Returning Officer Bruce Boreham announced that 11 members were nominated; 10 continue in their positions, and new NPA member, Rosemary Hollow, joins the committee. Further members can be co-opted into the committee during the year.

The new committee is:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Nominator / seconded by</b>
President	Esther Gallant	Sally Stephens/Adrienne Nicholson
Vice President	Cynthia Burton	Esther Gallant/Adrienne Nicholson
Secretary	Sonja Lenz	Fiona Brand/Sally Stephens
Treasurer	Bernard Morvell	Kevin McCue/Sonja Lenz
Minutes Secretary	Debbie Worner	Sally Stephens/Esther Gallant
Committee member	George Heinsohn	Sonja Lenz/Sally Stephens
Committee member	Kevin McCue	Fiona Brand/Sally Stephens
Committee member	Chris Emery	Adrienne Nicholson/Fiona Brand
Committee member	Allan Sharp	Chris Emery/Esther Gallant
Committee member	Rosemary Hollow	Sonja Lenz/Kevin McCue
Ex-officio member	Rod Griffiths	(Previous Past President)

### 7. Short presentations by NPA members

The following NPA members presented to the meeting:

Cynthia Burton – outlined progress in increasing NPA's social media impact.

Esther Gallant – explained her experiments in bringing butterfly pupae into her kitchen and monitoring as they developed into a chrysalis and eventually a butterfly.

Kevin McCue – gave a summary of his and Sonja Lenz's travels to and from the Antarctic Peninsula.

The meeting closed at 9:15.

*The next general meeting will be on Thursday 17 September 2020.*

Chair: ..... Date: .....