

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 19 August 2021, 19:30 by Zoom

1. Welcome

Due to lockdown restrictions in the ACT, President Esther Gallant welcomed about 45–50 members via Zoom to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of minutes of the 20 August 2020

The minutes of the annual general meeting held on 20 August 2020 were provided through 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 expressed her hope that next year's AGM will be held in the 'normal' way again and presented the following highlights of the previous year, noting that the full annual report will be in the September issue of the *NPA Bulletin* being published shortly.

- NPA ACT was named Environmental Group of the Year at the traditional ACT Conservation Council Spring Mingle held online this year. The nomination described our 30-month campaign to raise awareness of ACT politicians to the potential threat of feral horses to Namadgi and the Cotter water catchment.
- Awards were presented to winners of the 60th Anniversary Young Photographers Competition at an October luncheon at the Woden Southern Cross Club with over 60 members and guests present.
- NPA's social media, website and citizen science efforts have been successful in increasing interest in the NPA and the number of members.
- Participation in NPA's walks and work party programs has increased over the past year. Additional members have volunteered to lead walks and work parties, thereby strengthening the programs. Our expanded program of nature and cultural walks has been very popular and so have work parties as a way to help with landscape recovery. We now send weekly notices of regularly advertised and short-notice events to an email list of interested members.
- The Environment Subcommittee continues with a heavy workload due to the number of requests for comments sought by both the ACT and NSW governments.
- NPA ACT is an active participant of the Reclaim Kosci coalition as it continues efforts to gain NSW Government support for removal of feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park. Several NPA members are on the Reclaim Kosci advisory board and help in other capacities.
- Management of the Honours student project has been delegated to Rosemary Hollow by Chris Emery who instigated it several years ago.

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

Chris Emery was the acting treasurer for most of the financial year 2020–21. An overview of the financial figures was circulated prior to the meeting. Chris interpreted NPA's financial situation with the help of pie charts showing NPA's income and expenditure. Unfortunately, NPA has, for the second year, been unable to commission an audit of its finances in time for the AGM as it has been unable to engage a suitable auditor. Consequently, the financial statements constitute a draft report at this stage. The committee is actively seeking an auditor for this and next year's financial report.

2020–21 has financially been another satisfactory year. Expenditure slightly exceeded income but we still have more than adequate reserves. We gratefully received a substantial donation to cover the cost of the new work-party trailer. Donations from our members are always welcome as they go towards NPA's various projects. Book sales were up appreciably during COVID restrictions this year.

Chris welcomed Jan Gatenby who is progressively taking over the job of Treasurer.

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5. Other business There was no other business.

6. Election

Esther then asked Returning Officer Bruce Boreham to oversee the election of the new committee. After declaring all positions vacant, Bruce announced that 11 nominations had been received and that all office-bearer positions and six further committee positions are now filled, with co-option of further members to the committee possible throughout the year.

The position of Public Officer has been held by Chris Emery for a number of years and he is prepared to continue in that role for the coming year. Bruce congratulated the incoming committee and was thanked by Esther for performing the election.

The new committee is:

Office	Nomination	Nominator / seconded by
President	Esther Gallant	Rosemary Hollow / Kevin McCue
Vice President	Rosemary Hollow	Allan Sharp / Sonja Lenz
Secretary	Sonja Lenz	Allan Sharp / Jan Gatenby
Treasurer	Jan Gatenby	Sonja Lenz / Kevin McCue
Committee member (Minutes)	Debbie Worner	Sonja Lenz / Rosemary Hollow
Committee member	Kevin McCue	Allan Sharp / Bruce Boreham
Committee member	Chris Emery	Rosemary Hollow / Kevin McCue
Committee member	Allan Sharp	Rosemary Hollow / Esther Gallant
Committee member (Member liaison)	Cynthia Burton	Rosemary Hollow / Jan Gatenby
Committee member	Mike Bremers	Jan Gatenby / Kevin McCue
Ex-officio committee member	Rod Griffiths	(Previous Past President)

Member Barbara Slotemaker de Bruine spoke for all members in thanking the committee for all the work done in the previous year.

7. Short presentation by NPA member Di Thompson

Following on from the business part of the evening, Di gave an illustrated presentation on her observations of increasing pressures for infrastructure developments in the Australian High Country and expressed her concern for Kosciuszko National Park in particular. She expressed hope that more members will voice their concerns to the NSW Government. She mentioned especially the 'Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Plan' that is currently available online.

The meeting closed at 20:30.

The next general meeting will be on Thursday 16 September 2021.

Chair: Date: