

**NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, 18 November 2021

Zoom meeting at 19:30

**1. Welcome**

President Esther Gallant welcomed about 25 attendees to the meeting, with a special welcome to participating life members and guests. She paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land we meet on and their elders past and present.

**2. Announcements**

Esther reminded everyone that NPA's Christmas party will be held at the Namadgi Visitor Centre on 12 December from 11:30 onwards. Everyone should bring their picnic lunch as well as a chair and a glass or cup; a sausage sizzle and some vegetarian fare as well as some drinks and sweets will be provided.

Esther then handed over to Vice President Rosemary Hollow to introduce the evening's speakers.

**3. Presentation**

The theme of this webinar was:

***COP26 outcomes: what do they mean for Canberra and Australia?***

Rosemary also acknowledged the traditional owners of the land we live on and welcomed Lucy Skelton and Michaelie Trenbath from the Canberra chapter of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) to the meeting.

First the invited guests introduced themselves: Lucy is a 19 year old from Melbourne who will take up studies at ANU and wants to get into politics. Her interest is climate justice for Aboriginal peoples including Pacific Islanders. Michaelie is 21 and from Sydney and now lives in Canberra. They are both climate activists, Michaelie joined the AYCC at age 14. The big goal is to achieve 100 % renewable energy by 2030.

They are both disappointed with the wording of the outcome document at COP26 in Glasgow: Australia has not signed on to electric cars nor to the 2035 emissions reduction target and they find the Australian government is not ambitious enough to lead the country. In general, the states have much more ambitious targets.

Michaelie called the ACT super-ambitious, ACT goals of active transport and public transport to wean Canberrans off their cars and the green-space initiatives are very worthy goals, but the target of net-zero by 2045 is disappointing. Both presenters emphasised that their ambition is: no support for fossil fuels.

Questions for the young enthusiastic activists from the audience followed:

About the organisation Australian Youth Climate Action: funding comes from the community; focus is on grass-roots membership and engagement in Australia; the age range is 18–30; they realise that businesses and technology have a role to play in pushing Australia forwards; up to the election they will have a political focus.

Since Australia is so vague and non-committal, what are the most important individual actions? Get involved, use your vote, reach out to MPs; stop being individuals - join groups; be enthusiastic about climate action and go vegan to drastically reduce emissions.

How can the ACT achieve net-zero when the population is planned to reach 700,000 people? Lobby for better planning laws; lead by example to reduce consumption; reduce flights overseas.

After questions from the audience were answered, Rosemary thanked Lucy and Michaelie and they thanked NPA for inviting them. The meeting closed at about 20:15.

*Next general meeting: Thursday, 17 February 2022 at 19:30*

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