

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 16 June 2022, 19:30 pm
Uniting Church Hall, Scrivener Street, O'Connor

1. Welcome

President Esther Gallant welcomed members and especially Life Members and guests to the meeting. In total there were about 35 participants.

Esther acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, learn and work, and paid respects to the First Nations Peoples and their Elders, past, present and emerging.

2. Announcements

Esther announced that NPA had been successful in applying for 2 ACT Environment grants:

- \$34,820 for NPA's citizen-science project to continue the study of Rosenberg's Goannas in Namadgi. That means that cameras can be put out to observe termite mounds and study the goannas' behaviour, their movements and find out what numbers of this reptile live in Namadgi National Park.
- \$5,000 for an upgrade to the NPA website and establish links to NPA's social media platforms.

3. Presentation

The President introduced the guest speaker for the meeting, Linda Groom, who is a NPA member and was President of the Canberra Bushwalking Club. She is also a Reclaim Kosci campaigner and led the walk from Sydney to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko as well as volunteering with the Invasive Species Council.

The topic of Linda's presentation was:

The hidden treasures of Kosciuszko National Park

Linda is a very keen bushwalker and has led many walks. Most of us in the Canberra area who like to visit Kosciuszko National Park are familiar with names like Mount Kosciuszko and Charlotte Pass. But how many of us have heard of, let alone visited, places like Rocky Conical Peak or Bundara Creek? Linda likes to visit less-frequented areas, and especially waterfalls and cascades that are not on the usual bushwalking tracks. She has explored the tributaries of the Snowy River in granite country, for instance Reedy Creek, Big Rocks Creek and Bark Camp Creek as well as volcanic Rocky Conical Peak with its magical Grass Trees. Her walks included the upper Goodradigbee River with its waterfalls and cascades, the montane forest near Howells Peak and the Botherum Plain up the Gungarlin River.

Linda has experienced the rugged beauty and rare flora and fauna of Kosciuszko's unique alpine region, as well as seen first hand the environmental challenges it faces. She also drew our attention to the widespread presence of floral weeds and animal pests, especially horses, and showed photos of floristic treasures such as a brilliant red stinkhorn fungus.

After answering questions from the floor Linda was thanked by Esther for her interesting and entertaining presentation and the meeting thanked her by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned to tea and coffee with freshly baked cake at 20:10.

Chair: Date: