**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

 **Thursday 2nd May 2024 4pm at the EEC and via Zoom**

**Meeting opened:** at 4.06 pm

**Chairperson- Ian Hill Minutes- Dave Robson**

**Present:**  Dave Robson, Basil Ellis, Ian Hill, Neville Bethe, Diane Townley, Paul Rendell, Helena Chan, Josie Piper, Tony Larkin, Diana Smit, John Arney, Peter Currie, Bridget Currie

Dave Croft- Team Leader Rangers (Royal Area)

Jason Luke (presenter)

Via Zoom: Helen Fletcher, Steve Johnson, Lawrence Frank, Steve Shakeshaft, Peter Kahn, Lisa Field

**Apologies:**, Peter Donley, Liz Donley, Ralph Cartwright

Ian gave the Acknowledgement of Country

**Routine Business**

* Treasurer’s report:
	+ As of 1/05/2024
	+ Balance in Westpac Account: $7131.72
	+ Balance in PayPal Account: $ 832.43
	+ Total: $ 7964.15
	+ No major purchases this month
	+ No of members: 66
* Correspondence:
	+ Question from Dave Croft: do Friends of Royal wish to have a stall at the Bushcare Fair? Sutherland Shire Council Bushcare Unit will be running The Bushcare Fair on Sunday 15th September at Parc Menai, opposite Menai shopping centre.
		- Meeting agreed that following a poor response at the 2019 fair we would not attend this year.
		- Sutherland Council are holding a Volunteers fair at Gymea Tradies on Thursday May 23rd. Dave will contact them to see if it is possible/viable for FoR to be represented at this event.
	+ Gilad Bino regarding the recovery of receivers lost due to the flood event (see details later in these minutes)

**Park report – Dave Croft**

* Staffing:
* Lucy the temporary ranger replacing Mel has now moved on to another role elsewhere
* Mel will return to work from maternity leave next week, she will be working three days per week.
* Liz will stay on until Anita returns in a few weeks.
* The recent flood caused considerable damage that will be the subject of an insurance claim. Damage to Fire Trails, roads, culverts. Some of these had only just been completed. For the boatshed this was the 4th  flood event since it reopened..
* An aerial deer cull of the area to the east of Bundeena Drive, Bertram Stevens and Lady Wakehurst just completed. 33 animals were killed, 24 of which were in the Jibbon/Spring Gully area. The operation was completed in 2 days rather than the scheduled 3 because there were no more animals found…..a huge improvement on past times.
* Funding is available for Boneseed removal.
* Jai (ranger) has been using a grant from the EPA to stop dumping. It has funded camera, signage, rubbish removal
* Jodie has taken over the project to relocate the historic horse troughs from Artillery Hill to Audley. It appeared that Friends of Royal would not be able to assist because we did not qualify for the grants since we do not have the required credentials: *The Community Heritage Grants program is open to not-for-profit, incorporated organisations that own or manage a collection of nationally significant material, which is accessible to the general public (either by appointment, via online platforms, or on temporary or permanent exhibition*). But Ian is working with Jodie to assist and they may have found a solution.
* Local Land Services has provided another grant for Jibbon bush regen. The deer cull this week in the Jibbon area may have provided the required NPWS input to the agreement.
* Discussion around actions that can be taken with illegal trail bike usage in the Royal
* Helicopter operations were moving 76 bags into Palm Jungle today for the Coast Track reconstruction
* Pallets at Governor Game lookout are for the construction of the new section of Coast Track from the Garie Surf Club over the hill to the south
* **Presentation – Frogs of Southern Sydney – Jason Luke**
	+ Jason gave a great presentation on the more than 20 frog species found in the area. Fantastic photos.
* **EcoHealth**
	+ Almost finished tagging pics
	+ Cameras now up trees to capture arborial animals…..we will expect to see these pictures soon.
* **Platypus Rewilding**
	+ Gilad has reported that following the flood event:
		- All the platypus that were being recorded before the event are still being recorded
		- 4 receivers are buried in debris
		- 5 receivers have been lost and they would be grateful for help in finding them (look for wire)
	+ We were expecting additional cameras to be given to us ……the flood event will probably delay this
	+ Tony and Ralph have been using the FoR camera to search Engadine Creek for the two animals which went beyond the receivers. No success so far.
* **Fungal Studies Group:**
	+ Another walk is planned for Bola Creek on: Saturday 8th June. Its in the Volunteer calendar with a limit of 8 people.
* **Recent Activities:**
	+ FoR stall at Bundeena Volunteers Expo on 6th of April, we had 16 people express interest in the work we do and one new member
	+ Fungal Studies at Bola Creek on Saturday 9th March
	+ Jibbon bush regen on Friday 5th April. 3 people we had a successful morning pulling out Senna on the western end of the beach dune.
	+ Red Jacks Pt bush regen on Monday 15th April, 4 people had a successful morning pulling out Senna, some aloes and treating green cestrum
* **Future activities:**
	+ Birding walk – Friday 10th May at 8am,,,,,Wises Track north
	+ Jibbon bush regen - Saturday 11th May
	+ Red Jacks Point bush regen – Friday 17th May
	+ Jibbon bush regen – Monday 3rd June
	+ Yenabilli Point bush regen – Friday 14th June

**6.00pm meeting closed**

**NOTICES**

**Next Committee Meeting**

23/05/2024

**Next General Meeting**

27/06/2024