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# **Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group**

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 78 Sidaway St, Chapman, Chapman**

**7 October 2024 at 3 pm**

**Opening**

The meeting commenced at 3.10 pm. Linda Spinaze, President, was the Chair.

**Present**

Chris Oates, Linda Spinaze, Rob Lundie, Paul Sheils, Natasha Newman, Jenny Horsfield, Helen Govey, Jenny Shapcott, Rohan Thomas, Alan Ford, Hamish McGlynn.

**Apologies**

Doug Tinney, Peter Lindenmayer

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters arose from the previous year’s minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

**President’s Report**

The President’s report was duly noted by the meeting. Linda commented on another successful year and thanked everyone for their contribution.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer reported that as at 30 June 2024the Group had $2808.88 in its Commonwealth Bank account (Account Number: 10029007, BSB: 062912) after Conservation Council membership fees of $157.70. The treasurer’s report and the audit report were endorsed by the AGM.

**Election of Committee**

All positions were declared vacant and as all office holders and committee members were prepared to continue in their positions, they were elected unopposed as follows:

President – Linda Spinaze

Vice-President – Chris Oates

Secretary – Rob Lundie

Treasurer – Rohan Thomas

Public Officer – Natasha Newman

Committee members: Helen Govey, Paul Sheils, Jenny Shapcott, Peter Lindenmayer

**Other Business**

**Signatories to the Cooleman Ridge Park Care Group bank account**

The process of changing the signatories of the CRPCG Commonwealth Bank account (Number: 10029007, BSB: 062912) continues. It was agreed that Rob will continue to finalise this changeover.

**Lodgment of the Not-for-Profit Self-Review Tax Return**

Information about the lodgement of the Not-for-profit self-review tax return is being sent to a former treasurer of the Group. The address for this paperwork needs to be changed to the current treasurer. Rohan agreed to attempt to make this change.

**Conservation Council of the ACT**

Helen reported on the Group’s membership of the Conservation Council. Dr Simon Copland, who was the Executive Director of Pedal Power, is the new Exec Director of the CCACT. Helen sought endorsement from the CRPCG for two submissions:

1. Blocks 403 and 12 adjoining Bluett's Block are proposed to become nature reserve. However, this requires a minor amendment to the ACT Territory Plan. Public comment is required by 11 Oct. CCACT has a submission to put forward. The Group endorsed this submission.

2. The Federal Government introduced the Nature Repair Act in 2023. There is now consultation underway for a Nature Repair Market – a scheme which encourages nature positive land management practices that will hopefully deliver improved biodiversity outcomes. The Conservation Council is making a submission on this complex issue. The Group endorsed the Council’s submission.

**Environmental Grants**

Concern was expressed that there is a lot of work involved in applying for grants and that to date the Group has been unsuccessful. Nevertheless, it was agreed to consider applying in 2025 if a suitable project can be identified, including, where possible, an explanation of the work the Group has already done in relation to that project.

**Plant Guards**

While some of the shrubs planted by the scouts may no longer need guards, it was agreed that they be left in place in the hope of deterring kangaroos from inadvertently trampling them.

**Work parties for the coming year**

The monthly weeding parties will be conducted at the following places with the proviso that other areas may be selected if it is felt they warrant attention:

Above Chauvel Circle (meet at Chauvel Circle)

The Old Dam (meet at Freebody Place)

The Anniversary Seat (meet at Darrell Place)

Mid-ridge (meet at Darrell Place)

Lincoln Saddle (meet at Lincoln Place)

Mt Arawang (meet at Lincoln Place)

**Google Maps**

Paul explained the maps of the Ridge he has developed. One map has layers outlining the areas the Group has weeded from year to year; the areas that have been burnt off; and the areas of special significance to be protected during burn offs. A second map shows special places of interest and where trees with identification signs are located. These maps are easiest to use on a PC but their use on a smart phone is also possible. Walks on the Ridge will also be added.

**Logs and Plants in Kathner Dam**

Discussions with PCS continue as to where to place the logs in the dam and which plants would be suitable.

**Brochures**

Given that the Group’s stocks of brochures are diminishing, there was discussion as to whether or not to seek the design and production of a new brochure. It appears that brochures are regularly taken from their boxes at some locations on the Ridge but not at others. The possibility of using QR codes mounted on posts along the Ridge was discussed (Rob, Natasha and Paul to investigate).

**Seeds**

There was discussion as to how and where to distribute the 2kgs of native grass seeds which the Group has been given. It was suggested that the seeds be incorporated into mud balls and distributed in areas to be decided. This may also be a way of introducing primary school students to the Ridge.

**Horses**

The horse-riding community has expressed interest in being able to ride along the front of the Ridge. Given that the numbers are likely to be few, the meeting decided to accept their proposal in principle, noting that it is not the Group’s decision to make.

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm.