

# NOOSA PARKS ASSOCIATION Inc

## 56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



2:00 pm Saturday 21 April 2018, Environment Centre, Wallace Park

### MINUTES

#### 1. Opening of Meeting and Welcome

The President Michael Gloster welcomed members.

The President declared a quorum and the meeting commenced at 2:00pm.

#### 2. Attendance, Proxies, Apologies

<b>Present:</b>	Duncan Hogg	Rex Harrison	Di Shun Wah	Frank Ball
	Sandra Lilley	Mike Sackett	Liz Diggles	Tony Butt
	Glen Gloster	Sonia MacDonald	Peter Bland	Darlene Gower
	Michael Gloster	Mike MacDonald	Jo Ball	Shirley Williamson
	Darlene Gower	Elizabeth Bergland	Liz Smits	Allan Williamson
	Meghan Halverson	Eileen Sackett	Pam Sweeney	Valerie Williams
	Adrian Williams	Cecily Fearnley	Brian Young	

**Proxies:** Ivy Oliver-Speed to Michael Gloster  
Narelle McMahon to Michael Gloster  
Suzanne Wilson to Darlene Gower  
Christian Sonner to Michael Gloster  
Noel Playford to Michael Gloster

<b>Apologies:</b>	John Sinclair	Christian Sonner
	Rhonda Lynch	Tony King
	Ian Lynch	Judy Ditter
	Kerry Surtees	Heather Melrose
	Peter Moylan	David Anderson
	Ingrid Jackson	John Chester-Freeman
	Mary Neil	Maurice Lilley
	Sharon Everton	Prue McGowan

### **3. Minutes of 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> AGM were available at the AGM and were available for all members before the AGM at the Environment Centre and on a members-only AGM webpage.

**RESOLVED** to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting as a true and accurate record.

[Moved: Duncan Hogg; Seconded: Liz Smits]

**Carried**

### **4. 2017 President's Report**

Year 2017 saw NPA making significant progress on two important projects: Joining together Tewantin and Cooloola National Parks, and Bring Back the Fish.

#### **Joining together Tewantin and Cooloola National Parks**

Joining together Tewantin and Cooloola National Parks involves adding the approximately 2400 hectares of Ringtail and Yurol State Forests to Tewantin National Park. The end result will be a Tewantin National Park that is almost doubled in size, and that extends to Cooloola National Park.

To achieve this, NPA has reached formal agreement with Noosa Council and the State of Queensland that each will contribute one third of \$3.5 million to compensate Hancock Queensland Plantations to relinquish its private plantation licences over Ringtail and Yurol State Forests, so that both become additions of Tewantin National Park.

I know all NPA members will be delighted that Tewantin National Park is to be doubled in size so that it becomes contiguous with Cooloola National Park. NPA's wonderful volunteers at the Noosa National Park Visitor Information Centre are generating NPA an income of over \$100,000 per year. To date they have generated over \$500,000 which sits within NPA's Land Acquisition Fund. It is this income stream that has allowed NPA to successfully propose the partnership with Noosa Council and the State of Queensland.

On behalf of all members, I thank all our NNP VIC volunteers who have made this project possible, especially the outgoing management team and the team that has stepped up to take their place. I also pay tribute to NPA's project partners in this venture, Noosa Council, the State of Queensland, and to the civic minded and environmentally responsible Hancock Queensland Plantations.

#### **Bring Back the Fish**

NPA's Bring Back the Fish initiative, conceived and prosecuted in partnership with The Thomas Foundation, and with scientific guidance from The Nature Conservancy and Environmental Service Professionals, seeks to rebuild the once prolific abundance and marine biodiversity of the Noosa River and Lakes system and Laguna Bay.

Oysters were prolific in the Noosa River system prior to European settlement. After settlement commercial fishers, some local and some from further afield, commenced oyster dredging in the Noosa River, harvesting more than 1 million oysters a year with most transferred to Moreton Bay for fattening and sale into the largest market, Brisbane. This commercial exploitation eventually ended Noosa's oyster fishery in the early 1900s.

Prawns were once prodigious in the Noosa lakes. In the late 1950's and early 1960's commercial fishers took advantage of this, with fleets of up to 25 beam trawlers in 1961 netting 400,000kg from the Lakes. By 1969 the number of working trawlers had almost doubled to 40 but the total catch had halved. In 1991, 131,166kg of school prawns was trawled from the lakes. The trawlers dragged nets, commonly attached to steel beams, across the floor of the shallow river and lakes, creating conditions where sea grasses and remaining oyster reefs could no longer thrive or recover. From 1991 to 2014, the average annual school prawn take from the lakes was down to 44,623kg, and in 2014 only 7,854kg were caught by seven licensees.

Oysters and prawns are important to biodiversity in the system, recycling nutrients and providing rich food for fish and other marine species, while oyster reefs once offered critical habitat. Abundance of both oysters and prawns supported the variety, number and size of fish in the system. As oyster reefs and prawn numbers waned, fish abundance and size has declined.

Now the Noosa Parks Association, working with The Thomas Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Noosa Council, the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, Ecological Service Professionals, the University of the Sunshine Coast, and the University of Queensland are working to return the river's aquatic species to a level of sustainable use, accessible to everyone.

When achieved, average recreational fishers will have a better chance than they do today of putting bigger and better fish on dinner plates, and a wider variety of commercially caught fish will be available in local retail outlets and restaurants – as was commonplace not so many years ago.

Income generated by NPA volunteers at Double Island Point is enabling NPA to co-fund, along with The Thomas Foundation and Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, the Bring Back the Fish project. NPA is investing \$52,500 over a three year period, with the Thomas Foundation and Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation investing over \$400,000 over three years.

Again on behalf of all NPA members, I thank NPA volunteers at Double Island Point and NPA's project partners in making the Bring Back the Fish project possible.

## **Overcrowding and Congestion caused by ever increasing Day-Tripper Tourism**

In 2018 NPA will conduct a community education and advocacy campaign seeking to persuade Noosa Council and Tourism Noosa to take a more proactive role in managing overcrowding and congestion caused by day-tripper tourism.

NPA has a proud track record of successfully challenging Noosa Council to be more proactive in environmental protection and lifestyle protection. We've been doing so for the past 56 years, and Noosa is the success story it is today because of this.

Now, that success is under threat from day-tripper overcrowding and congestion. Unless Noosa Council, Tourism Noosa, NPA and other community groups act together now, soon it will be too late.

## **Education, Recreation and Social Activities**

As has been the case for many years, NPA's range of community educational, recreational and social groups have been active in 2017: NPA Friday Environment Forum, NPA Greening Noosa, NPA Noosa National Park Weeders, NPA Bird Observers Group, NPA Botany Group, NPA Cooloola Bushwalkers, NPA Noosa Trampers, and NPA Extended Outings Group. On behalf of all NPA members, I thank all involved. I also thank the Environment Centre co-ordinator for keeping this Centre operating.

## **Management Committee and Honorary Project Officers**

Finally, on behalf of all at NPA, I wish to acknowledge the significant contributions of NPA's 2017 Management Committee and Volunteer Project Officers: Darlene Gower and Duncan Hogg (vice Presidents), Sharon Everton (Hon Sec), David Anderson (Treasurer), Liz Smits, Valerie Williams, Prue McGowan, John Chester Freeman, and Mike Sackett (Committee Members), Bryan Walsh (Noosa River and Lakes voluntary PO), Darlene Gower (DIP voluntary PO), Liz Smits (NNP VIC voluntary PO), Duncan Hogg and Gina Carruthers (Forests voluntary POs), Libby Winter (Noosa Surfing Reserve PO), Richard Erhardt (Girraween and West Lake Weyba voluntary PO), and Mike Sackett (voluntary FEF PO).

**RESOLVED** to accept the President's 2017 Report and note subsequent verbal report.

[Moved: Michael Gloster; Seconded: Valerie Williams]

**Carried**

## **5. 2017 Treasurer's Report**

The 2017 Treasurer's Report and 2017 Financial Statements and Audit Report were available for all members before the AGM at the Environment Centre and on a members-only AGM webpage. This report relates to the Noosa Parks Association 2017 financial year, which runs from 01 January 2017 to 30 December 2017.

Noosa Parks Association has continued to accumulate funds during 2017 from donations, membership fees, income from Double Island Point bookings, and the work carried out at the Noosa National Park shop. This has provided a solid financial position for the year and is reflected in the audited accounts by an increase in the member's funds of over \$150,000 in 2017.

The social impact Noosa Parks Association has on the local community is harder to measure however our interaction with the community in 2017 included:

- DIP: Over 10,000 people logged as visiting the lighthouse while members were manning the information hut in 2017
- Friday Environment Forum: Over 2000 attendances at presentations during 2017 (donating over \$1700 to NPA)
- NPA Environment Centre - open to the public for 3 days per week
- Project Officers worked with the community on projects such as:
  - The Noosa National Surfing Reserve
  - The Bring Back the Fish Project
  - The Girraween National Reserve
  - The Noosa Biosphere Reserve
  - Opposition to the Colton Coal Mine
  - The Noosa North Shore and Cooloola

The NPA also has a social impact on the community through its activity groups, which are always keen to engage with new members:

- Bird Observers
- The Botany Group
- The Cooloola Bushwalkers
- Greening Noosa
- Extended Outings Group
- Noosa Trampers

On the environmental front, Noosa Parks Association has impacted the local environment for 56 years. This environmental impact continues and will accelerate over the coming 5

years through the Ringtail and Yurol project, in partnership with the Noosa Council and the State Government. This will see approximately 2400 hectares of State Forest move from private plantation license across to National Park.

A rehabilitation program will also be implemented, with Noosa Council and Noosa Parks Association funding, giving opportunity for members and community participation. This will be an exciting opportunity for outreach into the community and for local families to connect with our local environment.

The majority of the funds for this project have been generated by the volunteers at Noosa National Park. I commend them for their hard work and dedication. The Land Acquisition Fund has accumulated over \$550,000 to date. This is also a product of the foresight of earlier Noosa Parks Association Management Committees, and I would thank all past and present committee members (and project officers) for their volunteer time, work and dedication.

Finally, thank you to all the members who have contributed to a successful 2017 for the Noosa Parks Association.

Darlene Gower, Vice President, presented the 2017 Treasurer's Report which included 2017 income, exceeding expenditure by \$ 162,566.00. The majority of the profit has gone to the Land Acquisition Fund which has increased to a balance of \$510,404.00. The income is primarily driven by the volunteers at Noosa National Park Kiosk and Double Island Point. The Balance sheet shows that the financial health and liquidity of the Association improved again in 2017 with cash on hand increasing to \$876,425.00.

**RESOLVED** to accept the 2017 Treasurer's Report and note subsequent verbal report.

[Moved: Darlene Gower; Seconded: Mike Sackett]

**Carried**

**6. 2017 Auditor's Report**

**RESOLVED** to accept the Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2017 prepared by Stratogen Audit Services Pty Ltd.

[Moved: Darlene Gower; Seconded: Meghan Halverson]

**Carried**

**7. Appointment of Auditor for 2018**

**RESOLVED** to appoint Stratogen Audit Services Pty Ltd as auditors for the 2018 financial year.

[Moved: Darlene Gower; Seconded: Sandra Lilley]

**Carried**

**8. Membership Fees for 2019**

**RESOLVED** That membership fees for 2019 increase to \$33.00 for a single membership and \$55.00 for a family membership.

[Moved: Darlene Gower; Seconded: Duncan Hogg]

**Carried**

**9. Election of Management Committee Officers and Ordinary Members**

The list of nominations for positions was previously made available to members on a members-only AGM webpage and posted on the bulletin board at the Environment Centre.

Michael Gloster presented the List of Nominations and explained that, as no positions had been contested, the nominees were deemed elected.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
<b>David Anderson</b>	Treasurer	Mike Sackett	Darlene Gower
<b>John Chester-Freeman</b>	Committee Member	Prue McGowan	Valerie Williams
<b>Sharon Everton</b>	Honorary Secretary	Prue McGowan	John Chester-Freeman
<b>Michael Gloster</b>	President	Liz smits	Sharon Everton
<b>Darlene Gower</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> VicePresident	Liz Smits	Mike Sackett
<b>Duncan Hogg</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Gina Carruthers	Liz smits
<b>Prue McGowan</b>	Committee Member	John Chester-Freeman	Valerie Williams
<b>Mike Sackett</b>	Committee Member	David Anderson	Valerie Williams
<b>Liz Smits</b>	Committee Member	Sharon Everton	Mike Sackett
<b>Valerie Williams</b>	Committee Member	Darlene Gower	David Anderson

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the elected nominees as office bearers and ordinary members of the Management Committee until the next AGM.

[Moved: Rex Halvorsen; Seconded: Adrian Williams]

**Carried**

## 10. Close of Meeting

With all business concluded, the President closed the meeting at 2:45pm.

**Confirmed:** Michael Gloster, NPA President and AGM Chair

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