

NOOSA PARKS ASSOCIATION Inc

57th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



2:00 pm Saturday 27 April 2019, 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

Present:	Michael Gloster	Darlene Gower	Duncan Hogg	Bill Gates
	Sandra Lilley	Mike Sackett	Liz Diggles	Valerie Williams
	Glen Gloster	Sonia MacDonald	Peter Bland	David Anderson
	Eileen Sackett	Jeanette Gentle	Jo Ball	Mary Monteith
	Annette Ehrhardt	David McKelvey	Adrian Williams	Sharon Everton
	Frank Ball	Richard Ehrhardt	Mick Tarrant	Prue McGowan

Proxies: Jason Patton to Michael Gloster
Diana Playford to Michael Gloster
Brian Young to Michael Gloster
Noel Playford to Michael Gloster

Apologies:	Liz Smits	Christian Sonner
	Sandra Acheson	Di Shun Wah
	Noel Playford	Diana Playford
	Lyn McAndrew	Brian Young
	Jason Patton	Shirley Williamson
	Allan Williamson	John Chester-Freeman
	Susie Osmaston	Maurice Lilley
	Michael Manigold	Narelle Myer
	Gina Carruthers	Kerry Surtees
	Peter Moylan	

3. Minutes of 56th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 56th 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 2018 Annual General Meeting as a true and accurate record.

[Moved: Darlene Gower; Seconded: Valerie Williams]

Carried

4. 2018 President's Report

Noosa Parks Association's endeavours over the years to join together Tewantin and Cooloola National Parks finally came to fruition in 2018 when a \$3.5 million dollar contract was signed between Noosa Parks Association, Noosa Council, and the State of Queensland.

Approximately 2400 hectares of Ringtail and Yurol State Forests are to be added to the existing Tewantin National Park won by NPA 2010 – 2012. The end result will be a Tewantin National Park doubled in size to 4,800 hectares.

To achieve this, in 2018 NPA reached formal agreement with Noosa Council and the State of Queensland that each contribute one third of \$3.5 million to compensate Hancock Queensland Plantations to relinquish its private plantation licences over Ringtail and Yurol State Forests. Under the agreement, HQP has five years to harvest the pine plantations, which will then be regenerated as native forest and be added to Tewantin National Park.

NPA's hero/heroine 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 \$600,000 towards NPA's nearly \$1.2 million compensation obligation. It is this income stream that has allowed NPA to successfully initiate the partnership with Noosa Council and the State of Queensland.

Once again, on behalf of all members, I thank all our Noosa National Park Visitor Information Centre volunteers who are making this breakthrough project possible. And once again I 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.

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

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. In 1961 fleets of up to 25 beam trawlers netted 400,000kg of prawns 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 beds 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. 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.

The Bring Back the Fish Project is currently focussing on bringing back oyster reefs and beds, and bringing back prawns.

During 2018, steady scientific progress was made both in identifying the best sites to re-establish oyster reefs and beds in the Weyba Creek and the Noosa River, and changes (if any) over the past twenty years to the diversity and extent of food sources for prawns. Results will become progressively available throughout 2019. NPA thanks once again The Thomas Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Ecological Services Professionals, Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation and Noosa Council for their contributions to the Bring Back the Fish project.

In 2018 Noosa Parks Association placed the issue of emerging Noosa Overcrowding and Congestion caused by ever increasing Day-Tripper Tourism on the public agenda, and the need for Noosa Council and Tourism Noosa to take a more proactive approach in avoiding this. Early indications are that achieving this will take a number of years, just as it took NPA some 15 years to persuade Noosa Council to bring down a town plan based on a population or development cap.

Towards the end of 2018 the Association commenced negotiating a ten year extension of its custodianship of the Double Island Point Lightstation with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Environment and Science. On behalf of all members, I thank the NPA volunteers who have made our DIP venture such a success over nearly two decades. That success has created a constructive base for the current negotiations.

Noosa Parks Association is an entirely voluntary organisation, and its project work is driven by a talented and dedicated band of volunteer project officers (POs). On behalf of all members I thank: Bryan Walsh (PO Noosa River and Lakes), Darlene Gower (PO DIP), Liz Smits (PO Noosa NP Visitor Information Centre), Libby Winter (PO Noosa Surfing Reserve), Mike Sackett (PO Membership), Brian Young (PO NPA Forums), Michael Tarrant (PO Acceptable tourism numbers), Joseph Barrowcliffe (PO Communications and social media), and Sandra Lilley (PO Environment Centre).

Noosa Parks Association's educational and recreational activities continued to thrive in 2018. Thank you to all who have contributed to the running of Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre, 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, NPA Extended Outings Group, and the recently formed NPA EnviroForum.

The 2018 Management Committee, consisting of: Darlene Gower (First VP), Duncan Hogg (Second VP), Sharon Everton (Hon Sec), David Anderson (Treasurer), Valerie Williams, Prue McGowan, John Chester Freeman, Mike Sackett, and Liz Smits have worked tirelessly behind the scenes managing the affairs of the Association. On behalf of all members, I thank the members of the 2018 management committee, and in particular thank Sharon, David and Liz who are stepping down after years of valuable service.

On behalf of all members, I thank the members of the 2018 management committee.

Dr Michael Gloster OAM
President
Noosa Parks Association

RESOLVED to accept the President's 2018 Report and note subsequent verbal report.
[Moved: Michael Gloster; Seconded: Duncan Hogg]

Carried

5. 2018 Treasurer's Report

The 2018 Treasurer's Report and 2018 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 2018 financial year, which runs from 01 January 2018 to 30 December 2018

The AGM offers the opportunity to reflect on the financial status of the Noosa Parks Association and presentation of the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2018. The current structure of the Projects and Activity Groups of Noosa Parks has continued to provide funds to support the broader agenda of the association. I want to personally thank the project leaders and activity leaders for their passion and their dedication of their time to NPA.

In particular, I need to thank Liz Smits, whose dedication holds all the pieces together – in particular in her role at Noosa National Park, assisting me with ensuring the accounts of an enterprise turning over more than \$120,000 per year, are maintained.

In addition, I need to thank Darlene Gower, who has continued to manage Double Island Point bookings and accounts during a very challenging year. Both Darlene and Liz end up burning the candle at both ends on many occasions, and both of them deserve special thanks for the work they do as volunteers of Noosa Parks Association.

I would also like to thank Mike Sackett, who has stepped in to help with receipting memberships. He has taken ownership of the role and provides the committee with useful statistics on membership numbers and associated donations.

As I mentioned earlier, there are many others who I have interacted with as project officers and activity leaders. I would like to just add Di Shun Wah and Sandra Lilley to my list of 'thank you's

- Di somehow manages to consistently put together Friday Forum with a program that encompasses topics that engages and entertains our members and guests. I thank you for your efforts and congratulate you on the continuing success of the Friday Environmental Forum
- Sandra, thank you for your care and attention here at the NPA Environment Centre. You keep this place ticking along and manage a wonderful group of volunteers who do NPA proud by giving us a presence in the community

In conclusion, I would like to add that the bank accounts of NPA are now overflowing with over \$595,500 – almost \$600,000. I hope that the new committee will provide the appropriate stewardship of this money. I also hope the new committee can find a way to evolve NPA and attract a new generation of members, who will help the association survive in the new environment of social media, and ongoing destruction of the natural environment.

RESOLVED to accept the 2018 Treasurer's Report and note subsequent verbal report.

[Moved: David Anderson; Seconded: Mike Sackett]

Carried

6. 2018 Auditor's Report

RESOLVED to accept the Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2018 prepared by Stratogen Audit Services Pty Ltd.

[Moved: David Anderson; Seconded: Darlene Gower]

Carried

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2019

RESOLVED to appoint Stratogen Audit Services Pty Ltd as auditors for the 2019 financial year.

[Moved: David Anderson; Seconded: Valerie Williams]

Carried

8. Membership Fees for 2020

RESOLVED That membership fees remain at \$33.00 for a single membership and \$55.00 for a family membership.

[Moved: David Anderson; Seconded: Duncan Hogg]

Carried

Tertiary Student membership Fee

RESOLVED That a new level of membership be established for Tertiary students for an annual fee of \$5.00 for the 2019/20 year and increasing to \$25.00 per year whilst they are tertiary students.

[Moved: Mike Sackett; Seconded: Peter Bland]

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.

Name	Position	Proposer	Seconded
John Chester-Freeman	Committee Member	Valerie Williams	Liz Smits
Michael Gloster	President	Mike Sackett	Liz Smits
Darlene Gower	1 st Vice President	Michael Gloster	Liz Smits
Duncan Hogg	2 nd Vice President	Gina Carruthers	Miriam Jameson
Prue McGowan	Honorary Secretary	Mike Sackett	Liz Smits
Mike Sackett	Committee Member	Michael Gloster	Brian Young
Michael Tarrant	Committee Member	Michael Gloster	John Chester-Freeman
Valerie Williams	Committee Member	John Chester-Freeman	Brian Young
Brian Young	Committee Member	Michael Gloster	Prue McGowan
No Nomination	Treasurer		

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

[Moved: Richard Ehrhardt; Seconded: Peter Bland]

Carried

10. Honourary Life Membership

The Management Committee nominated Di Shun Wah for Honourary Life Membership of Noosa Parks Association. Michael Gloster thanked Di and outlined the extraordinary contribution Di has given to the Association as Friday Environment Forum Convener organising new speakers every Friday of every month for 10 years, presenting the face of Noosa Parks contributing to the membership of the organisation.

[Moved: Michael Gloster; Seconded: Mike Sackett]

Carried

The Management Committee nominated Sonia McDonald for Honourary Life Membership of Noosa Parks Association. Glen Gloster thanked her for her contribution in her role as leader of the Botany Group. Glen went on to explain Sonia's knowledge of the local fauna and her contribution to the establishment of the weed identification manual at Double Island Point and her help at the training workshops for the Double Island volunteers.

[Moved: Glen Gloster; Seconded: Sandra Lilley]

Carried

11. Close of Meeting

With all business concluded, the President closed the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Confirmed: Dr. Michael Gloster OAM, NPA President and AGM Chair
