

# ACT RED HILL BUSH REGENERATORS INC

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

11 am, 4 December 2016 at Red Hill

### 1. Attendees

Ross Kingsland, Michael Mulvaney, Paul Ratcliffe, Sue Ross, Andrew Zelnik, Fred Knowler, Geoff Thompson, Rob Parnell, Fiona Blackburn, Trish Munro, Robyn Tulloh, Sue Parr.

### 2. Apologies: Nil

### 3. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

Accepted. Moved S Ross, seconded Andrew Zelnik.

### 4. Business arising

Dealt with in the agenda items of the 2016 meeting.

### 5. Correspondence

Correspondence in chronological order

Addressee and date	Subject
To Minister Gentleman 3 July 2016	FGC -seeking meeting with interested groups
From Minister Gentleman 8 August 2016	Agreeing to meeting
To D Ekelund, Director General EPD 10 August 2016	Requesting that the Government start processes to return the RGYB section of the FGC lease to the RH Reserve
To Minister Rattenbury 30 August 2016	FGC – clarification of RHRG position
From Dorte Ekelund 17 October 2016	Responding to RHRG letter of 10 August
From Conservation Council ACT Region, 20 October 2016 re CCACT AGM on 4/11/16	Inviting members to attend the AGM

Michael Mulvaney advised he had sent some correspondence within government about fire fuel management burning on Red Hill. This particularly followed the loss of some large hollow bearing trees. As a result one

proposed burn has been withdrawn. A second, at the intersection of the summit and Golf Club roads is to be reviewed in January 2017.

## **6. President's Report**

Ross Kingsland spoke to his report at Attachment A. The following comments were also raised in discussion:

- Roy McDowall is recognized as a Star Photographer 2016 for his contribution of many, excellent nature photos of Red Hill. Roy also contributes in other ways as indicated in Attachment A.
- RHRG needs to consider how best to explain the need to clear cootamundras with those in the community who object to this, e.g notices around the reserve, using a letter to the Editor of the Canberra Times that set out the reasons well, and use of social media etc.
- Noted Caroline LeCouteur of the ACT Greens has stated her written objection to any development on the FGC lease.
- The FGC has scheduled a members meeting on 5 December 2016, mainly to discuss a proposed rearrangement of some fairways and greens to accommodate the proposed development.
- Some concern about the possible location of the proposed FGC workshop.
- Also acknowledged Rob Parnell for his bird spotting and photos, and Colin Pillner for the number of hours he has contributed independently

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Refer Attachment B. The levels of income and outgoings has remained fairly static over the past few years. The major difference this year is a \$750 grant, provided by the Southern ACT Catchment Group to help fund the production of a brochure about Red Hill.

## **8. Activities and Other Reports**

Michael Mulvaney advised:

- the reserve is looking really good in all respects – birds, insects and flowers.
- The wet weather has encouraged the flush of St John's Wort but the coverage will lessen significantly in future drier years.
- The SJW is heaviest in kangaroo grazing areas. This means that weed management is tied to kangaroo numbers management. This has been less of an issue in the past year because of the amount of rain but drier years will be a problem.
- The Collector app is now being used to record kangaroo road kill on Hindmarsh Drive so there will now be more accessible and reliable statistics on this issue.
- The kangaroos do tend to be at the Hindmarsh Drive end of the reserve which has less significant ecological value.
- PCS is still doing remediation work on the site of the old tip (Kent Street area).

- Hindmarsh Constructions has not made any recent public statements about a proposed development of an aged care facility adjacent to the Red Hill Reserve near the Telstra Building on Kent Street.
- Paul Williamson, poet, has written many poems about Red Hill. Some of these were published in *Moments from Red Hill*. A second volume is being prepared – the poems are written and Michael is writing the associated information and anecdotes and is collecting sketches and photos. Michael would like some assistance with editing, typesetting, photos etc.

Next year's possible activities: mainly more of the same. Noted success of verbascum spraying / flower beheading over the last 18 months. Try to match activities with seasonal considerations such as flowering and setting seed.

A tubestock planting is being considered for 2017 – issues include cost, at approximately \$5 per plant, location (trig area would be good but is very rocky).

Six midweek working bees will be identified in the 2017 work program in addition to the usual monthly Sunday activities.

Dr Suzi Bond's book on ACT butterflies will be launched this week. Further information will be provided on the RHRG website and by email. She has agreed to lead a butterfly walk on Red Hill in January 2017.

Robyn Tulloh and Trish Munro have continued to replace and clean signs. Noted some vandalism of Red Track signs particularly clear cover being scratched away. Discussion of having seasonal signs fixed to Reserve access points – what's in flower now / soon, what's native, what's a weed especially distinguishing St John's Wort from the everlasting daisies.

Rabbits – significant population is evident. PCS is probably doing as much as funding permits. Objective is to manage as eradication is not feasible. Control occurs mainly in the autumn when the kittens are new-born. 1080 poison was used but discontinued because of the number of dogs being walked in the reserve. Pindone was then used but this kills eagles through the eagles' diet being 50% rabbit. The Little Eagle is endangered so Pindone use has been stopped. Gassing is now being used. [Bush Heritage management at a site south of Canberra has had 90% reduction by use of cyanide pellets and blocking the warren entries. This is difficult in rocky areas in the Red Hill reserve.]

Paul Ratcliffe offered encouragement and training for members to use the Collector app to register rabbit warrens etc.

Rob Parnell advised he is still looking after the nest boxes and myna occurrences. Myna traps are available for passing on to other members.

## **9. Discussion by members on improvements for the reserve**

This has been covered in item 8 above.

## **10. Election of office bearers**

Fred Knowler was the Returning Officer. In accordance with the Association's (Model) Rules the office bearers this year are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Ordinary Members.

Fred Knowler conducted the election. Results are at Attachment C.

Ross Kingsland thanked the outgoing Vice President Andrew Zelnik for his work over the past few years.

**Meeting closed at 12.15**

### ACT Red Hill Regenerators – President’s Annual Report 2016

It’s been a productive year on the reserve with increased numbers at our regular activities and exceptional work by some individuals working independently. It is pleasing to achieve an increased impact and this is particularly so when a lot of time has been used to maintain our engagement with the Federal Golf Club’s proposed housing development.

#### Highlights

- We continued to remove Cootamundra wattle on the northern slopes of Red Hill. The continuing need for this work underscores the potential for this plant to take over large areas of the reserve. We also removed verbascum and woody weeds.
- We warmly welcomed a few new members but it is the stalwarts who make up the majority at our monthly activities where we continue to attract a pleasing level of 10-20 for each activity. There were no weekday sessions due to other commitments but we hope to offer these again in 2017. In 8 group activities last financial year, we put in 364 hours, the same as last year, but that figure climbs to almost 1,000 hours when we add individuals working in addition to their Sunday activities. The increased hours this year reflect both a greater level of activity by many people, contributions by the Mt Mugga Scouts at our activities and more comprehensive recordings of hours by our Treasurer.
- Other activities last financial year included:
  - Two most-welcome days of work by the Green Army.
  - Mapping of erosion sites to enable a remediation program to be developed
  - Watering previous plantings from water cubes including an extra cube that has been installed on the ridge
  - Using the Collector App to map all the paths and trails on Red Hill in anticipation of a consolidated map being produced
  - Also using the Collector App to map over 60 rabbit warrens. This was used by the Parks and Conservation Service to engage a contractor to treat the warrens. Checking and remapping warrens will become a regular activity if rabbits are to be controlled.
  - Gaining a grant of \$750 from the Southern Area Catchment Group to enable us to produce a brochure showing paths, trails and places of interest.
- The Federal Golf Club continued to work with MBark, a development company, on the proposal to build a minimum of 120 3-bedroom houses and 2-bedroom apartments on their lease. We continue our position of opposing any housing development, as it will impact on the Red Hill reserve. However, we have ongoing discussions with Mbark and the golf club and we have

appreciated their willingness to listen to our concerns and significantly adapt their plans to lessen the development's impact. This is different from the many previous proposals but significant issues still remain, including for our Garran members. We would much prefer that the Club achieved its financial objectives without relying on the proposed development. We will keep working to achieve the best outcome for the reserve.

- Michael Mulvaney led a walk at the 2015 AGM from the Parliament House Lookout on Red Hill. This December, he led a wildflower walk behind Hughes. Both entertaining walks were well attended and greatly appreciated.
- Some individual contributions need to be recognised. Roy McDowell is being recognised as our 2016 Star Photographer. Roy takes some amazing nature photographs and these are regularly used in our online work. Roy also looks after seedlings after planting, contributes tubestock, works independently on the reserve and makes donations for the group's operation. Another individual contributor, Colin Pillner, has worked an amazing 275 hours on the reserve last financial year. We are most grateful for the work of Roy and Colin in particular.
- We continue to appreciate the hard work and other support provided by our shared ranger, Craig Wainright.
- We currently have 54 financial members and 155 members and friends on our group email list.

### **Volunteer hours**

<b>Activity</b>	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number of Sunday and mid-week Activities	11	13	12	8
Average number of participants	10	9	11	15.5
Total number of volunteer hours*	314	480	521	967

\* These hours represent on-reserve work, education of members and the AGM for the financial year but not meetings, preparation of submissions, etc. The Green Army contributed another 126 hours in 2015/16. The government values volunteer hours at \$50 giving our contribution a value in the order of \$50,000.

My thanks again to all members for your time and effort in helping us achieve a better nature reserve. Thanks particularly to the other committee members: Michael Mulvaney, Paul Ratcliffe, Sue Ross, Andrew Zelnik and Miranda Gardner. The Committee's knowledge and commitment has ensured the Red Hill Regenerators continues to be effective in caring for the Reserve and making a significant contribution to its long-term wellbeing. In particular, thanks to:

- Michael Mulvaney who spends a lot of time working individually on the reserve and still provides an inspiring passion for us all.
- Paul Ratcliffe for his work as Treasurer and for many other contributions including the RHR website and Twitter account and his individual work on Red Hill.
- Sue Ross for her role as Secretary and supporting the group's work in so many ways including many hours of individual work on the reserve.

- The Red Hill rangers especially Ellyse Sheridan, our Parks and Conservation Service contact Philip Selmes, our shared Ranger, Craig Wainwright, the Southern ACT Catchment Group, especially Martine Franco, and many in the ACT government who work with us to achieve our objectives.

Ross Kingsland  
President, Red Hill Regenerators  
1 December 2016

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-16

## INCOME

DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT (\$)
2015-2016	Membership fees	50.00
2015-2016	Account interest	0.17
	SACTCG Grant	750.00
<b>30/06/16</b>	<b>Total income for year</b>	<b>800.17</b>

## EXPENDITURE

DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT (\$)
12/08/15	ACT Conservation Council 2015-16	65.00
24/03/16	CASE Membership 2014	20.00
24/03/16	CASE web hosting & Domain name	156.10
03/07/15	Greening Australia plant purchase	49.49
25/05/15	Equipment purchases	137.70
16/05/16	ACTG fee	75.00
<b>30/6/16</b>	<b>Total expenditure for year</b>	<b>503.29</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

01 July 2015	Opening balance	\$1,561.19 (credit)
30 June 2016	Closing balance	\$1,858.07 (credit)

## Attachment C

The following office bearers were elected unanimously. No other nominations were received.

Office	Office Bearer	Nominated by	Seconded by
President	Ross Kingsland	S Ross	F Blackburn
Vice President	Robyn Tulloh	S Ross	F Blackburn
Secretary	Sue Ross	F Blackburn	R Parnell
Treasurer	Paul Ratcliffe	S Ross	R Parnell
Ordinary Member	Miranda Gardner	S Ross	P Ratcliffe
Ordinary Member	Michael Mulvaney	S Ross	P Ratcliffe
Ordinary Member	Trish Munro	S Ross	P Ratcliffe

Other non –Office positions and people to carry out those functions will be decided by the Committee.