

ACT RED HILL BUSH REGENERATORS INC

DRAFT MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

11 am, 3 December 2017 at Red Hill

1. Attendees

Ross Kingsland, Michael Mulvaney, Paul Ratcliffe, Sue Ross, Andrew Zelnik, Trish Munro, Robyn Tulloh, Sue Parr, Miranda Gardner, Wayne Fletcher, Jill Goodwin, Tim McCulloch

2. Apologies: Nil

3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Accepted. Moved R Tulloh, seconded Andrew Zelnik.

4. Business arising

Dealt with in the agenda items of the 2017 meeting.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence in chronological order: 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

To / From and date	Subject
To Minister Gentleman 3 July 2016	FGC -seeking meeting with interested groups
To The Commissioner ACT Emergency Services 8 July 2016	Seeking advice on whether the MBark proposal meets or affects bushfire safety and emergency egress conditions.
From David Foot, Director Risk and Planning 26 July 2016	
From Minister Gentleman 8 August 2016	Agreeing to meeting (held 26 August 2016)
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	Inviting members to attend the

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ACT Region, 20 October 2016 re CCACT AGM on 4/11/16	AGM
From ACT Heritage Council 5 June 2017	Advising that the Red Hill historic planting is now listed as a 'nominated' place to the ACT Heritage Register.

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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 As a result one proposed burn has been withdrawn.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:

- Another kangaroo count may be possible in autumn with only a few 'counters' and working through defined sections rather than a broad sweep of the hill. The last count was about 1400 including on the FGC lease. 800 is the optimum balance. Possible culling in future years. Up to 60% of young kangaroos may die when maxima are passed.
- Roy McDowall and Colin Pillmer are recognized for their special volunteering work.
- A new Ranger has commenced.

7. Treasurer's Report

Refer Attachment B. The levels of income and outgoings have remained fairly static over the past few years.

Treasurer's report accepted. Moved S Ross, seconded A Zelnik.

8. Activities and Other Reports

Michael Mulvaney advised:

- Paul Williamson has another book of poetry for publication. He and M Mulvaney will fund the printing.
- M Mulvaney encouraged submissions to Canberra Nature Map
- There is a pair of Little Eagles on Red Hill feasting on young rabbits. Not known if they are nesting on RH or elsewhere.
- Dr Laura Rayner, of the Fenner School, [post meeting information: a landscape ecologist] with a special interest in, and experience with Swift and Superb Parrots, has agreed to look into tree hollows on RH to see if there is evidence of Gang Gang nesting.
- St John's Wort, which has responded well to recent rain is currently being sprayed by a contractor.
- Patterson's Curse and thistles are abundant. [pre meeting comment: there is not much that is useful to be done with these weeds until kangaroo numbers are reduced].
- Blackberries may be sprayed by Rangers, contractors and parkcarers. Spraying blackberries is not in the 2017-18 budget program.
- A Button Wrinklewort count is probably due in 2017-18.

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- Nationally endangered *Dianella longifolia* - may or may not be on RH. M Mulvaney asked for any sightings to be reported.
- Miranda Gardner reported on Catchment Group activities:
 - No ongoing Commonwealth funding so applying for ACT funding. If this is successful it should give more flexibility for application of work.
 - Discussion of Volunteer Policy has been discussed with PCS. Offer to represent parkcarers.
- W Fletcher commented on the politically great benefit of having cooperation between residents and conservation groups in voicing opinions about proposed developments adjacent to RH, and would like this to continue.

9. Discussion by members on activities

- Cleaning up one area at a time
- Special effort to remove / reduce verbascom. So far, relatively few have been sighted.
- Tube stock planting barriers
- Flora and fauna walks.

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10. Election of office bearers

W Fletcher was the Returning Officer. The nominations were the 2016-17 office bearers with no new nominations. All office bearers were elected unopposed. In accordance with the Association's (Model) Rules the office bearers this year are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Ordinary Members.

Additional responsibilities were allocated for a range of positions

Results are at Attachment C.

Meeting closed at 12.15

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ACT Red Hill Regenerators – President’s Annual Report 2017

This year has again seen much of our time diverted to development issues. On a positive note, our working bees were well attended and in between the never-ending Cootamundra wattles we continued removing soft and woody weeds by the thousands.

Highlights

- We continued a major emphasis on removing Cootamundra wattle on the northern slopes of Red Hill but we also spent time removing verbascum and woody weeds.
- The much-valued “regulars’ continue to make up the majority at our monthly Sunday activities with 10-20 people attending our 11 Sunday activities providing a total of 468 hours. We held only one weekday last financial year but we are now starting to offer more of these. The total number of RHR member hours including individuals working singly or in small groups was 961 and, with the contribution of the Green Army and ADFA, the total number of hours was a pleasing 1,249 .
- Other activities last financial year included:
 - Three days of work by the Green Army. The Green Army has been discontinued and so these were the last activities from them.
 - Two butterfly walks led by Dr Suzi Bond, an expert on ACT butterflies. And a ‘fungi foray’ was held to find the fungi hiding on Red Hill.
 - Dr Michael Mulvaney, our Conservation Officer, leading a wildflower walk behind Hughes last December. He led a similar walk on 4 November, finishing at the site of the proposed new Hindmarsh development at Section 66 on Kent Street, Deakin. Michael’s entertaining and informative walks were well attended and greatly appreciated and gave many people an opportunity to understand the significant impact of the proposed development on the reserve and local traffic.
 - We participated in a Ranger-organised kangaroo count that unfortunately had to be abandoned in its later stages because of the highly active behaviour of the kangaroos in the windy conditions. We expect to undertake counts again in the future because the population size of the kangaroos is a problem for the vegetation and other wildlife on Red Hill.
 - With Greening Australia and the Rangers, we planted two areas with 200 new and replacement trees. This time we placed a lot of woody weed debris around the sites and this seems to have reduced the kangaroo damage.
 - Our ‘25 years of Parkcare’ bench was installed at a delightful site on the slopes of Davison Trig overlooking much of the reserve and South Canberra and will be appreciated by those taking the steep track up the hill. Thanks to Phil Selmes and assistants from ACT Parks and Conservation.

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- Our Treasurer, Paul Ratcliffe, submitted an application for heritage listing of the callistemon plantation near the Red Hill main lookout. On 27 October, a ceremony was held to commemorate 100 years since Walter and Mahony Griffin and Charles Weston established this plantation to ‘paint’ Red Hill. Dr Annie Lane, Conservator of Nature for the ACT, introduced Dr Michael Mulvaney, who gave a lively presentation about Red Hill and the work of our ParkCare group. Minister Mick Gentleman gave the background to the planting and, together with Lady Kathleen Kingsland, undertook a ceremonial watering of the callistemons. Lady Kingsland had been invited to take part as she turns 100 early next year.

Apart from the Federal Golf Club continued efforts to proceed with a housing development with more than 120 apartments on their lease, a new proposal by the Hindmarsh building company to establish up to 550 apartments on Section 66 on Kent Street has been announced. This has led to widespread opposition in the community and Red Hill Regenerators are engaging with other community groups to achieve the best outcome. We oppose both developments, as they will impact on the Red Hill Nature Reserve.

We believe that the golf club could achieve its financial objectives without relying on the proposed development. However, their development company, MBark, has engaged in constructive discussions with us but, at this time, there are many issues to be resolved

The Hindmarsh development is of even greater concern as it involves clearing significant areas of vegetation that most locals believe are part of the reserve. It will also require clearing large areas of the reserve for bushfire mitigation. There are also other significant issues with this development including traffic congestion and the presence of a former rubbish tip that may be hazardous.

We continue to be grateful for the work of some individual members who add significantly to our total effort, particularly Colin Pilliner who contributes many hours.

We were sad to see the departure of our hard-working and supportive ranger, Craig Wainright, but have been grateful for the work of our current shared ranger, Ellyse Sheridan and, more recently, Liam Banyer.

We currently have 54 financial members and 155 members and friends on our group email list.

Volunteer hours

Activity	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of Sunday Activities (mid-week included up to 2016)	13	12	8	11
Average number of participants	9	11	15.5	14.1
Total number of volunteer hours*	480	521	967	906
Total hours including meetings, Green Army, ADFA, etc				1,249

* 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 &

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ADFA contributed another 205 & 84 hours respectively in 2016/17. The government values volunteer hours at \$50 so the contribution by our members and activities we organised had a value of over \$62,000.

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, Robyn Tulloh 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 provides a deep ecological knowledge base, 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, our Parks and Conservation Service contact Philip Selmes, 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

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016 - 2017

INCOME

DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT (\$)
2016-2017	Membership fees	10.00
2016-2017	Account interest	0.10
	Donations	95.00
30/06/17	Total income for year	105.10

EXPENDITURE

DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT (\$)
31/08/16	ACT Conservation Council 2016-17	65.00
19/12/16	Gift to Craig Wainwright	20.00
25/03/17	ISP annual fee	59.40
30/6/17	Total expenditure for year	144.40

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

01 July 2016	Opening balance	\$1,858.07 (credit)
30 June 2017	Closing balance	\$1,818.77 (credit)

Paul Ratcliffe
 Treasurer, Red Hill Bush Regeneration Group
 1 July 2017

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

Red Hill Regenerators Office Bearers

5.12.17

Office	Office Bearers 2017	Office Bearers 2018
President	Ross Kingsland	Ross Kingsland
Vice President	Robyn Tulloh	Robyn Tulloh
Secretary	Sue Ross	Sue Ross
Public Officer	Sue Ross	Sue Ross
Treasurer	Paul Ratcliffe	Paul Ratcliffe
Conservation Officer	Michael Mulvaney	Michael Mulvaney
Southern Area Catchment Group rep	Miranda Gardner	Miranda Gardner
Parkcare Coordinators Rep	Sue Ross	Sue Ross
Task Coordinator	Michael Mulvaney	Michael Mulvaney
Web Manager	Paul Ratcliffe	Paul Ratcliffe
Conservation Council rep	-	-
Nest box coordinator	-	-
Equipment Officer - tools	Paul Ratcliffe	Paul Ratcliffe
Equipment Officer - chemicals	Sue Ross	Sue Ross
Notices Co-ordinators	Robyn Tulloh, Trish Munro	Trish Munro, Robyn Tulloh
Plantings Co-ordinator	Miranda Gardner	Miranda Gardner
Myna traps location point of contact		