

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Minutes
National Parks Association of Queensland



Date: 8 October 2022

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: Garden City Library, Mount Gravatt, QLD

Zoom link is provided for those who cannot attend locally

Item	Discussion
Welcome and acknowledgement of Country	At 10am Susanne Cooper, NPAQ President took the chair and began the AGM by welcoming members and providing a review of facilities, services, exits, and agenda overview for the morning. The President gave an acknowledgment of country by showing respect to traditional owners past, present and emerging.
Present	Total 32 people attending, comprising 13 members in person, 10 members online and 4 members via proxy, plus 3 staff and 2 non-members.
Apologies	Brian & Maureen Egan Ailsa Rutherford Andrew Thompson Nicole Jordan Emily Griffiths Rana Dadpour Simon Cavendish Peter Cooper (P) Janice Monroe (P) Mary Maher (P) Leon Misfeld (P)
Confirm quorum present	The quorum for today's meeting is twenty-three and there are 27 members present (in person, online or via proxy). The Chair confirmed a quorum is present.
Confirm minutes of 2021 AGM	Minutes from the 2021 AGM have been made available online and printed for members present today. The Chair confirmed that the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were considered at the October Council meeting held 16 October 2021 and then initialled by the President as a correct record. Clare Birnie moved a motion that the 2021 AGM Minutes be formally accepted as a correct record. Seconded by Susanne Cooper. Motion carried.

<p>Receiving of audited financial statements & Annual Report</p>	<p>The annual report was posted on the NPAQ website 16th September 2022 and emailed/posted to members prior to the 24th September 2022. A summary of the audited financial statements was included in the Annual Report.</p> <p>The audited financial statements were posted on the NPAQ website in September 2022 and hard copies of the audited financial statements were available at the AGM.</p>
<p>Comments / Discussion</p>	<p>ANNUAL REPORT:</p> <p>The Chair, Susanne Cooper presented the primary issues in NPAQ's 2021-22 annual report. The belated 90th anniversary dinner was a highlight of the year, coupled with an extensive activities calendar and community involvement in the Kids in National Parks school holiday program. The Romeo Lahey lecture attracted a large audience and was well received by members.</p> <p>A major highlight for the 2021-22 however, was the largest ever budget allocation of \$262.5 million for acquiring protected areas for Queensland's protected area estate. The budget increase as well as NPAQ's trusted relationships with key industry leaders including the Minister of the Environment, sets NPAQ into position to proactively advocate our mission.</p> <p>An important initiative has taken place to develop an alliance with the tourism sector to improve NPAQ's ability to influence government spending toward additional management of national parks.</p> <p>To further our mission NPAQ onboarded a Conservation Manager, Dr. Simone Maynard in early 2022. She continues to nurture industry relationships through research and advocacy for better understanding of the value of national parks. More recently NPAQ has undertaken a change in structure to appoint a CEO – Chris Thomas, who will introduce himself shortly.</p> <p>Susanne farewelled four departing Councillors and thanked them for their service (John Dornbusch, Andrew Thompson, Rana Dadpour, and Nicole Jordan).</p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report provided by Clare Birnie.</u></p> <p>Overview: FY2021/22 was expected to see an operational loss slightly greater than what occurred. Due to bank funds and maturity of some investments, NPAQ operated without an annual appeal or additional income streams. The lack of financial strategy along with volatility in the market justifies the need to create a long-term plan for financial sustainability.</p> <p>The Treasurer noted that NPAQ currently has capacity to leverage its asset position to invest in human capital in an effort to mitigate long term financial decline. This investment will generate an operating loss for FY2022/23 which might require asset sales to fund while fundraising resources are being established.</p> <p><u>Member Comments:</u></p> <p>Members noted the large increases in expected income for 2023 and asked if the estimated income was realistic.</p>

	<p>The Treasurer explained the budget is benchmarked against NPA’s nationally, and in 2022 there was no formal appeal which led to lower membership base and donations.</p> <p>Members expressed concern about increased number of salaried employees – CEO, SM role, Fundraiser – where is the money coming from? How will their performance be measured? How will they be held accountable?</p> <p>Susanne discussed the strategic plan to invest in human capital now while NPAQ has capacity for growth and the capability of developing a financially sustainable strategy for the future.</p> <p>Members stated the importance of the Fundraising Manager role to be KPI driven, and held accountable for performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-minute break due to technical failure • 10:40am Zoom link reestablished <p>COMMENT: Unfortunate that the government hasn’t invested money in facilities in national parks. Rangers no longer have contractors to clean toilets and mow grass... Budget allocation needs to be earmarked for management – NPAQ needs to advocate for facility improvement.</p> <p>Susanne: protected area strategy contains some research that most manager time is spent on tourist services rather than managing natural resources. Susanne is focusing on this issue through the Alliance to make recommendations to government for how this is managed.</p> <p>Sonya Underdahl identified QLD budget is questionable in allocation.</p>				
<p>Adoption of audited financial statements & Annual Report</p>	<p>The Chair, Susanne Cooper called for a motion to adopt the Annual Report and the Audited Financial Statements.</p> <p>Dan Jones moved a motion that the annual report and the audited financial statements be adopted.</p> <p>Seconded by John Nowill. Motion carried.</p>				
<p>Election of Council Members</p>	<p>Sonya Underdahl made several comments that she and Nicole Archer were nominated for Council but not mentioned and requested several times to be added to the list. A short debate ensued regarding the ability to contact either candidate prior to the AGM which was unsuccessful, therefore their nominations were not considered in time for the meeting.</p> <p>Secretary Karin Burroughs responded to explain the vetting process for applicants to ensure the right skills and expertise are attracted for each role, with overwhelming response to the positions, candidates were contacted and vetted to fill roles prior to voting. Any candidates that were not contactable were not included, however if there is a need to fill roles at a later date, NPAQ will keep candidate EOI’s on file.</p> <p>The Chair stated that nominations for the Council for 2022-23 were received by Friday 9 September 2022, notification of nominations were circulated to members via memo on 26 September 2022 and as noted in the Secretary’s memorandum 7 nominations have been received:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="564 1906 1385 2031"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="564 1906 948 1973">Office</th> <th data-bbox="952 1906 1385 1973">Nominee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 1980 948 2031">President</td> <td data-bbox="952 1980 1385 2031">Susanne Cooper (<i>re-election</i>)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Office	Nominee	President	Susanne Cooper (<i>re-election</i>)
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	<table border="1" data-bbox="564 91 1385 573"> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 91 951 159">Treasurer</td> <td data-bbox="951 91 1385 159">Clare Birnie (<i>re-election</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 159 951 226">Councillor (2-year term)</td> <td data-bbox="951 159 1385 226">Simon Cavendish (<i>re-election</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 226 951 293">Councillor (2-year term)</td> <td data-bbox="951 226 1385 293">Glenn Tozer</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 293 951 360">Councillor (2-year term)</td> <td data-bbox="951 293 1385 360">Rod Diaz</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 360 951 427">Councillor (2-year term)</td> <td data-bbox="951 360 1385 427">Peter Klein</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 427 951 495">Councillor (2-year term)</td> <td data-bbox="951 427 1385 495">Aimee Parker</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 495 951 573">Councillor (2-year term)</td> <td data-bbox="951 495 1385 573">Christine Hatton</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="509 595 1374 730">It was noted as a point of order that Glenn Tozer was not yet a member of the Association and was thus not eligible to currently fill a Council position. The position of one Councillor therefore remains unfilled until his membership is completed.</p> <p data-bbox="509 752 1362 853">It was noted that President Susanne Cooper, Vice President Steven Noakes, Secretary Karin Burroughs, Assistant Secretary Joanna Osborn, and Councillor Emily Griffiths continue in office for a further year.</p> <p data-bbox="509 875 1374 943">Assistant Treasurer Andrew Thompson and Councillors John Dornbusch, Rana Dadpour and Nicolle Jordan are retiring from their roles.</p> <p data-bbox="509 965 1362 1066">The Chair thanked Andrew, John, Rana and Nicolle for their significant contributions and support they have provided to the Council. The Chair welcomed new and returning Councillors to their positions.</p> <p data-bbox="509 1088 1362 1155">Susanne moved to vote nominees into Council. Seconded by Mary-Ann Ryan, motion carried.</p> <p data-bbox="509 1178 1362 1279">In accordance with Rule 13(7)(e), the Chair, Susanne Cooper declared Christine Hatton, Rod Diaz, Peter Klein and Aimee Parker elected to the positions on Council for 2022-23 as outlined above.</p>	Treasurer	Clare Birnie (<i>re-election</i>)	Councillor (2-year term)	Simon Cavendish (<i>re-election</i>)	Councillor (2-year term)	Glenn Tozer	Councillor (2-year term)	Rod Diaz	Councillor (2-year term)	Peter Klein	Councillor (2-year term)	Aimee Parker	Councillor (2-year term)	Christine Hatton
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CEO Address	<p data-bbox="509 1317 1374 1384">Chris Thomas – quick introduction and looking forward to starting in the role.</p> <p data-bbox="509 1406 632 1440"><u>Questions</u></p> <p data-bbox="509 1462 1326 1563">Nicole Archer – Questioned CEO about his qualifications, noting his background in tourism and wanted to know any expertise related to ecology.</p> <p data-bbox="509 1585 1382 1720">Chris – started off in marine biology in Torres Strait and as a dive master, requiring interpretation of marine life, and presenting parks in a certain way through tourism – getting the right participants to the right park and matching investment to meet tourism needs.</p> <p data-bbox="509 1742 1374 1877">Nicole – expressed concerns about SA legislation regarding category 1 submissions, stating that investments over \$1 million does not require consultation. Posed the question to Chris “Is this legislation you want to bring to QLD?”</p> <p data-bbox="509 1899 1321 1966">Chris – Gov’t legislation now repealed, and SA NP’s highly protected under planning code.</p> <p data-bbox="509 1989 1394 2089">Sonya Underdahl – Stated her impression of NPAQ driving toward tourism not protection of biodiversity. Asked why the new CEO focuses on tourism and why NPAQ is talking about the Olympics.</p>														

	<p>Susanne – rebutted the comment that NPAQ isn't pushing for biodiversity protection.</p> <p>Sonya – further questioned NPAQ's involvement in tourism.</p>
Appointment of Auditor	<p>The Chair thanked auditor Chris King and Pilot Partners for their work as auditors for 2021-2022</p> <p>The Chair, called for a motion to appoint Mr. Chris King, Pilot Partners as NPAQ auditor for 2022/23. Clare Birnie moved that Chris King of Pilot Partners be appointed the auditor for 2022-23. Seconded by Len Lowry. Motion carried.</p>
Kids in National Parks Activities Program	<p>Sam Smith ran a short presentation on KINP days to showcase learning opportunities for young people through engagements in protected places.</p> <p>Comment: Natural History Association used to run KINP days, might be worth reaching out to Cadets & Scouts.</p>
Meeting close	<p>Susanne thanked Council members for their efforts and thanked members for attending.</p> <p>Meeting close at 11:23am.</p>

NPAQ Annual General Meeting 8 October 2022			
No.	Name	Member (Y/N)	Attendance
1	Susanne Cooper	Y	In person
2	Clare Birnie	Y	In person
3	Len Lowry	Y	In person
4	Laurelle Lowry	Y	In person
5	John Nowill	Y	In person
6	Mary Nowill	Y	In person
7	Karin Burroughs	Y	In person
8	Alan Chenoweth	Y	In person
9	Mary Anne Ryan	Y	In person
10	Rodrigo Diaz	Y	In person
11	Colleen Adamson	Y	In person
12	Brian Vene	N	In person
13	Glenn Tozer	N	In person
14	Dan Jones	Y	In person

15	Wendy Bell	Y	In person
16	Samantha Smith (staff)	N	In person
17	Nicole Archer	Y	Online
18	Vaughn Kippers	Y	Online
19	David Drake	Y	Online
20	Steve Noakes	Y	Online
21	Sonya Underdahl	Y	Online
22	Simone Maynard (staff)	N	Online
23	John Dornbusch	Y	Online
24	Di Glynn	Y	Online
25	Vince Log	Y	Online
26	Chris Thomas (staff)	N	Online
27	Marie Y	Y	Online
28	Joanna Osborn	Y	Online
29	Peter Cooper	Y	Proxy
30	Janice Monroe	Y	Proxy
31	Mary Maher	Y	Proxy
32	Leon Misfeld	Y	Proxy