



2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES National Parks Association of Queensland Inc

Date: 28 October 2023

Time: 10am – 11am

Location: Grange Library, Grange, QLD and online

Item	Discussion
Welcome and acknowledgement of Country	At 10am NPAQ President, Susanne Cooper, declared the meeting open, welcomed members and provided an acknowledgment of country.
Present	Total 24 people attending, comprising 11 members in person, 5 members online and 5 members via proxy and 3 staff.
Confirm quorum present	NPAQ President confirmed a quorum was present.
Confirm minutes of 2022 AGM	The President proposed the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be approved. Clare Birnie moved a motion that the 2022 AGM Minutes be formally accepted as a correct record. Seconded by Alan Chenoweth. Motion carried.
Receiving of audited financial statements & Annual Report	The President proposed the 2022/23 annual report be approved. Mary Anne Ryan moved a motion that the 2022/23 annual report be formally accepted. Seconded by Helen Lucas. Motion carried.
Comments / Discussion	<p>ANNUAL REPORT:</p> <p>NPAQ President presented her reflections on 2022/23 and key issues detailed in the NPAQ 2022/23 annual report including:</p> <p>Commencement of a new CEO, Chris Thomas, and the following benefits since his arrival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded quality and depth of relationships • A step up and a step change • Investment in resources • Substantive grant applications • Increased influence through public appreciation of National Parks <p>The President confirmed the NPAQ mission had not changed but the step change is required to respond to changes in society such as digital media.</p> <p>She advised that NPAQ Council and CEO are focused on the need to build financial sustainability.</p> <p>NPAQ retained an advocacy focus through 2022/23, including support for the Queensland Government Protected Area Strategy and the transition of state forest out of logging.</p>

	<p>Working closely with government will remain the strategy to achieve this at scale. Investment in National Park management remains low and will be a priority focus.</p> <p>Some highlights from the year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPAQ leading a coordinated national policy and guidelines on mountain biking in protected areas. • Dr Simone Maynard and Dr Sally Driml assessing the value of ecosystem services in select National Parks • The Romeo Lahey lecture which received great feedback • Volunteers doing rehabilitation work • Day walks, bird watching and camp • Member volunteers who are core to NPAQs work <p>Susanne farewelled and thanked retiring Councillors (Steve Noakes, Emily Griffiths, Chrstine Hatton).</p> <p><u>Member Comments:</u></p> <p>The President opened the meeting for comments from members.</p> <p>Don Marshall expressed disappointment in the content of the annual report. He would like to see more information about how many proposals are before government, how many hectares are under protection etc.</p> <p>He suggested that NPAQ is at rock bottom on account of declining membership and finances.</p> <p>The President refuted that suggestion, indicating the NPAQ was in an intended phase of change and growth, requiring further investment.</p> <p>Don also questioned what NPAQ was doing in response to Hugh Possingham’s presentation at the Romeo Lahey Memorial Lecture. He suggested that a special general meeting should be convened to address a broader review of the biodiversity and climate crises.</p> <p>The suggestion was well received by several members attending and the President agreed that a special meeting would be convened in early 2024.</p> <p><u>Treasurer’s Report provided by Clare Birnie.</u></p> <p>The Treasurer provided a summary of the FY22/23 Financial Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A budgeted loss (as expected) • Income from investments the leading income item • Increasing memberships donations grants • Assets decreased slightly but less than anticipated • Dividend income has increased over the last 12 months <p>She noted this financial performance is required at the stage of growth that NPAQ is currently in.</p> <p>The Association now needs to focus on achieving financial sustainability and longevity. It needs to reduce reliance on investment income. She confirmed that staff are dedicated to achieving financial sustainability.</p> <p>The meeting expressed their support for Clare as Treasurer and thanked her for her service.</p>
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Adoption of audited financial statements & Annual Report	<p>The President called for a motion to adopt the 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements.</p> <p>Alan Chenoweth moved a motion that the audited financial statements be adopted.</p> <p>Seconded by David Drake. Motion carried.</p>																
Election of Council Members	<p>The President stated that three nominations for the Council for the 2023 AGM were received by Friday 13 October 2023. Notification of nominations was circulated to members via email on 20 October 2023:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="558 573 1380 1124"> <thead> <tr> <th>Office</th> <th>Nominee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Vice President</td> <td>Glenn Tozer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Joanna Osborn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor</td> <td>Russell Watkinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Susanne Cooper (continuing)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Clare Birnie (continuing)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor</td> <td>Simon Cavendish (continuing)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor</td> <td>Rod Diaz (continuing)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The President moved to vote nominees into Council. Seconded by Mary Ann Ryan, motion carried.</p> <p>The President welcomed the new members of Council.</p>	Office	Nominee	Vice President	Glenn Tozer	Secretary	Joanna Osborn	Councillor	Russell Watkinson	President	Susanne Cooper (continuing)	Treasurer	Clare Birnie (continuing)	Councillor	Simon Cavendish (continuing)	Councillor	Rod Diaz (continuing)
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Appointment of Auditor	<p>The Chair recommended that auditor Chris King and Pilot Partners be retained for FY23/24.</p> <p>The Chair called for a motion to appoint Mr. Chris King, Pilot Partners as NPAQ auditor for FY23/24. Clare Birnie moved the motion and seconded by Joanna Osborn. Motion carried.</p>																
Meeting close	<p>The President thanked NPAQ members for their efforts and for attending. Steve Noakes thanked the President for her service and for an efficiently chaired AGM.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 10:50am.</p>																

Minutes to be signed by Chairperson as accurate at the 2024 AGM on 19 October 2024

NPAQ Annual General Meeting on 28 October 2023			
No.	Name	Member (Y/N)	Attendance
1	Susanne Cooper	Y	In person
2	Clare Birnie	Y	In person
3	Joanna Osborn	Y	In person
4	Alan Chenoweth	Y	In person
5	Patricia Sheehan	Y	In person
6	Rodrigo Diaz	Y	In person
7	Helen Lucas	Y	In person
8	Don Marshall	Y	In person
9	David Drake	Y	In person
10	Mary Anne Ryan	Y	In person
11	Wendy Bell	Y	In person
12	Glenn Tozer	Y	Online
13	Samantha Smith (staff)	N	In person
14	Steve Noakes	Y	Online
15	John Barkla	Y	Online
16	Russell Watkinson	Y	Online
17	Simone Maynard (staff)	N	Online
18	Chris Thomas (staff)	N	In person
19	Emily Griffiths	Y	Online
20	Yvonna Parsons	Y	Proxy
21	Mary Maher	Y	Proxy
22	Maria Miller	Y	Proxy
23	Simon Cavendish	Y	Proxy
24	Peter Cooper	Y	Proxy