

## **FRIENDS OF THE ESCARPMENT PARKS (TOOWOOMBA) Inc.**

Committee Meeting was held between 10.10AM and 12.10PM on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the house of Ray Addison at 97/11 Donahue Street Toowoomba.

- 1. Members Present, Proxies and others:** Hubert Krenske (President), Bruce Titter (Secretary) and Ray Addison (Treasurer), Rob Brodribb (Member and potential FEP President), Kaye Wood-Riley (Member and potential FEP Secretary) and Greg Lukes (Newsletter Editor).
  
- 2. Minutes of the August 2018 Committee Meeting and Special Teleconference Meeting in November 2018** were accepted as a true record on the Motion of Bruce Titter, Seconded by Ray Addison and carried unanimously.

### **3. President's Report:**

Highlights were as follows:

#### **Open Day:**

It was decided that no Open Day would be held this financial year due to a lack of volunteers to assist.

As an alternative a display could be held at World Environment Day.

**Hugh Krenske to approach Greg Lukes concerning a static display in June 2019 at World Environment Day.**

#### **Local NRM groups:**

The amalgamation of the Natural Resource Management groups has been completed. New entity is South Queensland NRM with a Web Site [sqnrm.com.au](http://sqnrm.com.au). Their office is now located in the Condamine Alliance Building in Margaret Street.

#### **Darling Downs Regional Landcare (DDRL):**

This group meets every 3 months to discuss relevant issues. At this stage President has yet to determine what FEP can gain out of this Membership.

It is possible if FEP was to be disbanded, one of the groups here could take over the management tasks of FEP, rather than revert to coming under the council umbrella.

#### **Toowoomba Region Bio-Security Committee:**

President attended Committee Meeting at Oakey to present his proposal for a Buffer Zone in residential areas around and adjacent to sensitive Bushland areas. At this stage no response.

#### **Prohibited and Restricted invasive plants:**

The State Government Documents have classified invasive plants into two broad categories.

- **Prohibited invasive plants,**
- **Restricted invasive plants.**

Prohibited invasive plants are to be reported to the government immediately when located on public or private land.

What occurs then is not documented?

Restricted invasive plants are divided into 4 categories (2,3,4,and 5).

A general discussion followed about the landowners responsibilities with these invasive plants. As the Governments guidelines are vague it was recommended that we write to Bio-Security Queensland to confirm its planned action.

**Hugh Krenske to provide a copy of the 2 Bio Security Queensland Brochures to each Parkcare Coordinator.**

**Secretary to write a letter to Bio-Security Queensland concerning landowner's responsibility to eradicate.**

### **Coordinators:**

There has been some changes to the management of Parkcare groups in recent months.

Max Henderson from Duggan Park will work there one day each fortnight. In the meantime Coral and Michael McGoldrick will work in the park weekly with Michael McGoldrick to act as Coordinator and maintain records.

Bev Yates is now Coordinator of Hancock Street Park.

Other Parkcare Coordinators have not reported any issues.

### **National Volunteer Week (20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019):**

President has recommended to T.R.C. that he would like volunteers, Ray Addison (93) and Owen Benn (99) to be recognized for their contribution to FEP at this year's Morning Tea for Volunteers.

**Hugh Krenske to make an official approach to T.R.C. to have Ray Addison and Owen Benn acknowledged in some form at the Morning Tea.**

### **Toowoomba Grammar School Volunteers:**

This year there were 22 students from T.G.S. involved in removal of lantana in Redwood Park. Local schools have contributed significantly to the control of Lantana. In the future students could be utilised in other parks.

### **Grant Proposal from the Federal Government:**

President is in the process of putting in an expression of interest to obtain a grant for weed management in the northern section of Redwood Park.

The area is very steep and Contractors would be more suitable than volunteers.

**Volunteer Work Register:**

Volunteer Work register is now an on-line computer data system set up by Hugh Krenske for Parkcare Coordinators to input statistical information. Some Parkcare Coordinators are still reluctant computer users.

It is important that council has access to our volunteer statistics and definitely for our herbicide usage. Our Volunteer statistics are presented monthly to council meetings.

**FEP Web Site upgrade:**

FEP Web site requires upgrading.

Hugh Krenske has modified to some extent to include events, Newsletters and other FEP Documents.

**M.O.U.:**

FEP has now operated since July 2018 under M.O.U. Agreement with Council. Several attempts have been made to arrange a meeting at Redwood Park with someone from Conservation and Pest Management plus volunteers to discuss some issues in Redwood Park. Apart from a response from Mark Ready, no meeting was ever held.

Should we take this to be a reflection of council's attitude to FEP volunteers overall, or is just that the Conservation and Pest Management team do not have the resources to fulfil their responsibilities as documented in the M.O.U.?

**FEP for next year:**

Hugh Krenske intends to step down as President of FEP at next A.G.M. He is prepared to continue as an "Other Member" position on the committee. The role of the Committee has become very demanding due T.R.C. expectations and Work Place Health and Safety.

There has been involvement in other organisations as representative of FEP. These include Darling Downs Environment Council (D.D.E.C.) and the Darling Downs Regional Landcare (D.D.R.L.).

Hugh Krenske is of the opinion that D.D.E.C. would be the most useful to belong to as we can have an opportunity to shape the outcomes for our region. Geoff Sharpe is our representative on DDEC to its monthly meetings. It may be wise to use a "proxy" should Geoff Sharpe not be able to attend a meeting?

President's full Report is attached.

President's Report accepted on a Motion by Hugh Krenske and seconded by Bruce Titter and carried unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's Report:**Financial Statement for the period 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**Balance as at 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018** **\$ 11,679.51****Income:**

Membership	\$ 220.00
Donations	\$ 120.00
Bank Interest	\$ 56.91
Community Grant	\$ 38.20
T.R.C. Grant	\$5,000.00

**Total Income** **\$5,447.11****Expenses:**

Repayment of Grant	\$ 827.56
Tools & Equip.	\$ 2,630.61
Admin.	\$ 47.04
Catering	\$ 202.37

**Total Expenses** **\$ 3,707.58****Balance of Income over Expenditure** **-\$ 1,895.91****Balance as at 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019** **\$ 13,419.04****Term Deposit** **\$ 7,000.00****Total assets** **\$20,419.04****Comments:**

Grant funds from T.R.C. for \$5,000 were not fully utilised due to dry weather in parks and some funds were returned. With T.R.C. Grants, FEP cannot apply for another T.R.C. Grant until funds are fully spent with current Grant.

Treasurer's Full Report is attached.

Treasurer's Report accepted on a Motion by Ray Addison, seconded by Hugh Krenske and carried unanimously.

**5. Matters arising from the two previous Meetings:****5A. Maintenance of FIRST AID KITS in each individual park.**

All First Aid Kits must be regularly inspected to ensure that all medical items are current.

Hugh Krenske to obtain 4 to 10 Snakebite kits from T.R.C. for distribution to Parkcare Coordinators.

**Hugh Krenske to ensure that each park has a First Aid Kit and Snakebite Kit.**

**5B. Action Plans for each park.**

Hugh Krenske has forwarded an ACTION PLAN template to each Parkcare Coordinator for completion and return for T.R.C...

Some Parkcare Coordinators have submitted their ACTION PLAN under M.O.U. to council but no response to date.

Hugh Krenske to follow up with council.

**5C. Volunteers Guidelines.**

In theory new Volunteers and Parkcare Coordinators are to sign an Acknowledgement Form to confirm that the Volunteer has read the Volunteers Guidelines and that the Parkcare Coordinator has fully trained the Volunteer.

These signed Acknowledgements are required in case of an incident which requires an investigation.

Some Volunteers and/or Parkcare Coordinators are refusing to sign the Acknowledgements. Hugh Krenske agreed to visit each park to resolve and record who has signed the Acknowledgements on the computer data base.

Hugh Krenske was to visit each park to resolve.

**5D. Computer to update Work Registers and Herbicide usage for T.R.C.**

Hugh Krenske confirmed that he has developed a computer program to record all work performed by volunteers in each park and herbicide usage for multiple purposes of Committee and T.R.C.

Hugh Krenske formally approached T.R.C. for them to become the host for FEP data and council declined.

Hugh Krenske will consider other options.

In June 2019 he is to present his computer data base program to Q.W.a.L.C.

**5E. Storage of Herbicides and Record of Tools at different Parks.**

Hugh Krenske to review all storage items in the Container and reorganise. Ray Addison will arrange a date to meet Hugh Krenske at Redwood Park to assist with the reorganisation for storage of poisons and equipment. Both and Rob Brodribb will review the situation at Neilsen Park.

FEP has to contact T.R.C. to confirm their requirements for storage of Poisons and Herbicides at relative Parks.

Hugh Krenske, Ray Addison and Rob Brodribb to review all storage items and Herbicide storage at Redwood Park and Neilsen Park as appropriate.

Hugh Krenske to contact T.R.C. concerning their requirements for storage of poisons and Herbicides.

Ray Addison has a full Inventory of all Tools and Equipment held. He has to make arrangements with each Parkcare Coordinator for them to complete an Inventory of all their tools each January and June each year.

**Ray Addison to complete Tool Inventory and make arrangements for each Parkcare Coordinator to confirm Tool held.**

**5F. Reimbursement of car petrol expenses for transport of herbicides and equipment within Redwood Park.**

Hugh Krenske advised submission of a tentative Application to T.R.C. for reimbursement of petrol expenses. The issue is under investigation by T.R.C.

A general discussion was held concerning other options. Will await decision by council before any further action.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**INWARD.**

**6A. E-Mail from Melinda Covey-Hansen T.R.C. Coordinator Healthy Living, Sport and Active Recreation requesting a Survey response by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

Forwarded to Committee, Newsletter Editor for information.

**6B. E-Mail letter from QWALC for completion of Insurance Survey which is to be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

Completed and returned on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 by Secretary.

**6C. E-Mail from Darling Downs Regional Landcare with Minutes from Committee Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Clifton.**

Forwarded to Committee.

**6D. E-Mail from T.R.C. concerning proposed J.E.Duggan Park upgrade with the commencement of Stage 2.**

**6E. E-Mail from Suzanne Holden (Travel Coordinator) concerning the lack of signage in Redwood Park and Jubilee Park.**

Forwarded to committee to be discussed at next Meeting. Hugh Krenske advised that the issue has been addressed.

**6F. E-Mail from Naomi Tonscheck (Inland Rail-A.R.T.C.) who has requested an Environmental Impact Statement from FEP.**

Forwarded to committee and Hugh Krenske confirmed that FEP was unable to assist.

**6G. E-Mail from Ben Beeton “Save Mount Lofty Action” requesting Support from FEP**

Forwarded to Committee. No action to be taken by FEP.

**6H. E-Mail letter from Q.W.& L.C. with current Insurance Certificates until 31 March 2020.**

Forwarded to Committee.

**OUTWARD.**

**6I. Submission of Grant Application for amount of \$5,000 to T.R.C. for removal/Treatment of Environmental weeds.**

**6J. E-Mails and letters sent out to Members who have their Subscriptions overdue.**

Ray Addison advised that there are still 2 long term Members who have outstanding subscriptions for 2 years. Ray Addison will contact. Also there are 26 Members who have subscriptions in arrears. Bruce Titter agreed to contact them and advise that they will be deleted from Membership after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 if not brought up to date.

**Ray Addison and Bruce Titter to contact members with membership still in arrears.**

Motion moved by Bruce Titter that all Inward and Outward correspondence be accepted, seconded by Hugh Krenske and carried unanimous

**7. Newsletter and Publicity.**

Greg Lukes advised that Geoff Sharpe offered to take over the FEP Newsletter while he was away. He will follow up with Geoff Sharpe.

**8. Membership.**

Proposed New Members: Catherine Chinnock Family

Proposed by: Bruce Titter and Seconded By: Greg Lukes. Membership Accepted.

**9. General Items.**

**9A. Volunteers at Charmaine Court Bushland Park would like change their parks name to LEOPARD ASH ENVIRONMENTAL PARK as numerous beautiful Leopard Ash trees are found there.**

A general discussion revealed that park types have different designations, however to submit to T.R.C. and await their decision.

**Bruce Titter to submit a request to T.R.C. for name change.**

**9B. Proposed A.G.M. for 2019.**

Discussion was held about date for A.G.M. and it was decided to hold A.G.M. on Saturday 27 July 2019 at Toowoomba Regional Library commencing at 10AM.

Hugh Krenske advised that he will organise a Guest Speaker.

**Bruce Titter to book Library and send out relative Notices to Members.**

**Hugh Krenske to source a guest Speaker.**

**Next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 10AM at the house of Ray Addison.**

**Taryn Darcy from T.R.C. is to be invited.**

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**Bruce Titter**  
**Secretary**