



**Friends of the Escarpment Park (Toowoomba) Inc.  
Minutes - Annual General Meeting  
Darling Downs Environment Centre Hall, 1A Hellier St, Toowoomba.  
2 September 2023**

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**Quorum declared. Welcome and Meeting opened 10.10am.**

**Apologies:** Roger Jaensch, Jo Meadows, Terri Cox, Max Henderson, Glen Tucker,

**Members Present:** Rob Brodribb, Ray Addison, Bev Yates, Penny McGowan, Coral Sharrock, Tom Esplin, Claudia and Ken Stephenson, Hugh Krenske, Kay Krenske, Shirley Dunsdun, Ann Alcock, Greg Lukes, Michael McGoldrich, Elizabeth Addie, Dougal Johnson

**Visitors Present:** Nil

1. **Meeting Opened.** Rob Brodribb. Acknowledgement of Country
2. **Guest speaker** – Cr Bill Cahill, Toowoomba Regional Council.

Councillor Cahill gave a very informative talk with questions and discussion from members also. Cr Cahill commenced with an acknowledgement of Country and an acknowledgement of First Nations People's connection with Country. Some of the ideas from his talk included:

- We need a collective voice to speak to State and Local government to affect planning provisions
- The Reis Rd development is an example of "scorched earth" development. This was disliked by the general community as well as by Greenies. Currently we do not have regulations/policies to protect us from this type of development. We need an operational works approval process – design, layout, vegetation management.
- We need to be aiming for protect and preserve, not a minimise and mitigate process.
- The new environmental code which is being developed will have "protect, maintain, enhance".
- We need to make sure that the FEP is considered a "peak body" group for the July 2025 consultation – Ring 131TRC – and check, are we on the register as a stakeholder in the November 2023 first round of consultation, then second round in February 2024.
- As well as the Council and developers we the community have a responsibility for how we can leave a good legacy for the community.

Rob thanked Cr Cahill and said that he had challenged us to realise that we need to advocate as well.

3. Morning tea.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes 2022 AGM**

Accepted as a true record. Moved: Elizabeth Addie Seconded: Ray Addison

**5. Business Arising**

- Reprinting weed booklets. Weedspotters has an online handbook and also produces a monthly e.newsletter. These are useful, up to date resources. Information from these resources is more useful than producing a book. See: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/weeds/weed-resources>

**6. President's Report** (see attached)

Rob delivered the President's report, which is included as an attachment with these minutes. Rob concluded his report by stating that he will no longer fill the role of President after the 2024 AGM (i.e. This will be his last year as President). He said, being an incorporated organisation requires us to fill the roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer. If we cannot fill these roles, we will need to close the FEP. (Our constitution on the FEP website: We need to have a succession plan for this purpose.

This engendered a discussion. Suggestions included having community events like spotlighting and park bbqs to get more people to know about us, and possibly participate. Or connect with U3A. This issue will go on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Rob concluded his report by thanking the Committee members and FEP members for the great work they are doing.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Ray presented the Treasurer's Report (attached) and thanked Mal Irvine for his assistance. Copies of the report were presented to the members at the meeting. The report was moved by Ray and seconded by Penny.

Ray also informed the meeting that the current FEP membership numbers total is 101 members, of whom 75 are paid up members, one is a life member and three are member groups.



## 8. Park Coordinators Report

Bev presented the Park Coordinators Report highlighting selected information which had been submitted by each individual park care coordinator. This report is attached. The individual park reports were tabled at the meeting and will be sent out to members next month.

## 9. General Business

The meeting agreed to give **FEP Life Membership** to Hugh Krenske, Kay Krenske, Ray Addison in recognition of the immense amount of work they have contributed over many years.

Hugh has been working on **updating the FEP website** and creating a generic email address. This is in progress.

**Dogs in parks.** In bushland parks dogs are supposedly to be on leads. But this is not always practiced. FEP would like Redwood Park to have no domestic animals. Hugh is keeping records of the numbers of dogs he which he sees while working in Redwood Park and whether they are on or off the lead. We need to lobby TR Councillors to regulate to have no domestic animals in Redwood Park.

Hugh will continue as the **FEP representative for the Condamine Catchment Management Association Inc.**

Hugh raised the idea of the FEP manning a **coffee stand** at Tobruk Drive, Picnic Point. Organised by Jenny Whitnall and Sandy Brown who previously had a coffee stand at Cobb and Co markets to raise money for the planting of koala food trees.

## 10. Election of Members.

Existing Committee Dissolved.

Nomination from the floor. Election Results.

President: Rob Brodribb Nominated – Hugh Krenske, Seconded – Ray Addison

Treasurer: Ray Addison Nominated Rob Brodribb –. Seconded – Penny McGowan

Secretary: Elizabeth Addie Nominated -. Penny McGowan, Seconded – Claudia Stephenson

Committee members: Bev Yates, Shirley Dundsdun, Penny McGowan, Tom Esplin. Nominated – Rob Brodribb. Seconded – Hugh Krenske

Hugh Krenske congratulated Penny McGowan on behalf of FEP members for the great work she has been doing as newsletter editor.

## 11. Meeting Closed 1.25pm