

Friends of the Escarpment Parks (Toowoomba) Inc
Minutes - Annual General Meeting - August 10th 2024
Darling Downs Environment Centre Eco Hut, 1 A Heller St, Rangeville.

Welcome morning tea at 9.30am

10am Open AGM. President: Rob Brodribb. Acknowledgement of Country

Present: Rob Brodribb, President, Elizabeth Addie, Secretary, Ray Addison, Treasurer, Tom Esplin, Bev Yates, Shirley Dunsdon, Dougal Johnston, Penny McGowan, Bob Harvey, Kaye Wood-Riley, Ken and Claudia Stevenson, Ed Wylie, Terri Cox.

Apologies: Daniel Tay Cean, Eddy van Klinken, Peter Albion, Warwick Easdown, Greg Lukes, Jo Meadows, Sue Swan, Bernadette Brady, Michael McGoldrich, Ann Alcock.

Guest speaker – Mr Ahri Tallon , Darling Downs Environment Council (DDEC).

Ahri outlined that DDEC have moved to the new premises, have installed a new committee and now has tax deduction gift status, meaning they are open to philanthropic funding.

DDEC has two major current projects:

1. “Keep Toowoomba Cool” which works with TRC’s focus on canopy cover. Efforts include protecting mature trees, planting new trees, reaching out to vulnerable groups for input, holding TRC accountable when canopy is threatened or inadequate.
2. “Protect Deongwar State Forest” attempts to gain protected status for this unique area.

DDEC is also involved in the Ministerial Conservation Round Table. Plan is to raise the issue of the poor environmental complaints process. There is little feedback from the government on how environmental transgressions or remedies are managed.

DDEC is attempting to engage with people and groups re energy transition with a focus on the benefits to the community. There was a forum at Miles re wind farm concerns. Dalby is considering a renewable energy benefit fund. A planned campaign will focus on “renewables done right”. Ahri is keen for the DDEC community to be educated on renewables and the way they can benefit the community but this must include the protection of agricultural land and threatened species habitat. The TRC bioregional management plan needs to be made available much earlier than the planned 2027 timeframe.

Ahri concluded by noting that the TRC Planning Review is coming up soon and DDEC are planning to contribute. However, all individuals and groups concerned about the environment need to be actively involved in this process.

Formal FEP business:

- Confirmation of Minutes 2023 AGM. Moved by Elizabeth that these be accepted, seconded Bev. Carried.
- Business Arising – nil.
- President’s Report – see attached.
- Treasurer’s Report & disclosure that FEP did not provide remuneration or other benefits to any members - see attached.
- Park Coordinator’s Report – see attached.
- General Business: Adoption of Model Rules grievance procedure procedures to replace clause 11 (General meeting to decide appeal) in current constitution. Adoption of some modifications to model rules to streamline processes. (circulated on 23 July 2024). R Brodribb suggested that the proposed changes to the Constitution be put to a vote. All present agreed to adopt the changes.
- Dissolution of current committee and election of new committee: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee members.
 1. Nomination for position of President. Elizabeth Addie nominated. Moved Penny McGowan, seconded Rob Brodribb. All agreed.

2. Nomination for position of Secretary. No nominations received. Rob agreed to be temporarily nominated on the basis that an "SOS" was sent to all members to seek a permanent nomination. Moved Rob Brodribb, seconded Penny McGowan. All agreed.
 3. Nomination for Treasurer (including membership administration). Rob nominated Tom Esplin. Tom was reluctant to be considered for this position other than temporarily while the electronic and other processes were being put in place. Again, an "SOS" needed to be sent to the wider membership to seek a permanent Treasurer. Moved Rob Brodribb, seconded Penny McGowan. All agreed.
 4. FEP Committee nominations – Elizabeth Addie (President), Rob Brodribb (temporary Secretary), Tom Esplin (temporary Treasurer), Bev Yates (park group coordinator and safety officer), Peter Albion (website manager), Penny McGowan (newsletter editor), Terri Cox (minute taker), Bob Harvey. Moved Rob Brodribb, seconded Tom Esplin. All agreed.
- The assembled FEP members sincerely thanked Ray Addison for his lengthy service to FEP and his dedication as long term Treasurer.
 - The assembled FEP members also thanked Coral Sharrock for being an amazing volunteer, and inspirational to all of us. There are two morning tea events in the parks to say goodbye. A framed photo of Coral with one of her teams was presented to her recently by Rob.

General Business

1. Shirley noted that she was contacted by Mr Mike Spence who had historic information about Dr John Swarbrick and his FEP involvement which he thought we would like to have. Bev and Penny will look at the documents with a view to inclusion in newsletter and/or website.

Meeting closed at 11.45am. Next Committee meeting on 24/09/2024.