

Minutes Inaugural Meeting *Ginninderra Falls Association*

Held in Community Meeting Room, Belconnen Library starting at 7:30^{PM} on 14 February 2012.

36 people signed the Attendance Record and 22 paid their membership fees at the end of the meeting.

1 Welcome

Darryl Seto acknowledged the traditional owners the Ngunnawal people and noted how appropriate this is for this particular meeting. Mr Seto thanked all the people who came and pointed out the facilities available, *ie*, toilets and kitchen.

The meeting then agreed that Mr Seto continue to chair the meeting.

2 Apologies

We received apologies from the following people:

Ms Meredith Hunter, MLA
Dr Chris Burke, MLA
Dr Bryan Pratt
Jean Geue
Graeme Evans
Damon Cusack

3 Background

Dr Chris Watson gave a brief outline of the work done since the meeting held by the Belconnen Community Council in 2009. The Working Group from this meeting resolved to move for a national park encompassing the Murrumbidgee and Ginninderra Gorges. An initial proposal for the national park has been drafted with input from a number of people such as Dr Bryan Pratt, former Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr John Connelly, resident Wallaroo, NSW and Dr Doug Finlayson, Geological Society of Australia.

In order to progress this work, a properly incorporated body is now needed.

Mr Dierk von Behrens, from the floor, tabled documents from a proposal in 1984 from the (then) Ginninderra Community Council to protect the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and Ginninderra Creek Corridor and to preserve the Ginninderra Falls as a tourism and recreation venue.

Dr Watson thanked the Belconnen Community Council for their continuing support.

4 Public Officer

Mr Seto asked for nominations for the position of *public officer* to submit the application to the ACT Registrar to incorporate the new association. Mr Seto nominated and the meeting agreed by general acclamation.

5 Draft Rules

Draft Rules were circulated and the website copy was shown on the projector. These rules were drafted from the ACT model rules. Mr Seto raised some optional issues arising from the model rules for determination by this meeting.

- i* The proposal is for a “Murrumbidgee - Ginninderra Gorges National Park” but the meeting agreed with the suggestion for a simpler title for the association, namely the “*Ginninderra Falls Association*”. (Rule 1.1)
- ii* There was some discussion on the draft objectives replacing the word “fully” with “consulted and informed”. By a count of votes - eleven (13) to eight (8), this amendment was rejected. (Rule 3.1 (a) (iii) and (b) (iv)).
- iii* The need for votes by proxy was not considered of sufficient value to warrant any future administrative hassles. The meeting agreed to remove these. (Rules 30 – 32 and Appendix 2)
- iv* The normal notice provision is for ‘written notice’ which allows emails. See Part 19.5 *Legislation Act 2001*. There were two instances in the draft that specify notice by “post”. It was agreed to make it clear that when a written notice is served it may be sent by email. (Rule 26.1 and 39.1)
- v* The meeting agreed to change the provision for managing funds. Only one (1) signature is required but this is to be restricted to the President, vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Public Officer. Requiring one signature only is necessary to allow internet banking. (Rule 34.2)

6 Membership Privacy

The meeting agreed that the Public Officer is to ask the ACT Office of Regulatory Services to keep private the details relating to the members of the *Ginninderra Falls Association*.

7 Fees

The draft rules allow for membership fees to be set by the management committee. The matter, nonetheless, was raised at this meeting to be determined by all present. The annual membership fee is to be \$20 and a *pro-rata* figure of \$10 is due now for the remainder of this financial year.

It was agreed by 17 votes to 3 that the membership fee covers the period up to 30 June and not up to the next Annual General Meeting which may be held some time after this date.

8 Office Bearers

Mr Seto advised that he had received a number of nominations for the various positions but, as this was the inaugural meeting, nominations from the floor would be accepted. Mr Seto noted also that the number of committee members was not limited.

All nominations were accepted by general acclimation. (Damon Cusack later advised that he was unable to accept the nomination.) The inaugural office bearers for the Ginninderra Falls Association are:

President	Chris Watson
Vice-President	Brian Rhynehart
Secretary	John Connelly
Treasurer	Doug Finlayson
Committee	Graeme Barrow, George Heinsohn, Anna Hyles, Bryan Pratt and Darryl Seto

9 Meeting Close

During a break for refreshments the Treasurer collected membership fees of \$10 from 22 people for the next 5 months to 30 June. After the break Mr Seto asked for any further business. The meeting was then formally closed and Mr Chris Davey, President, Canberra Ornithologists Group gave a presentation on "*Birds of the Ginninderra Gorge and Murrumbidgee River Corridor*".

The *Ginninderra Falls Association Inc* Constitution, as agreed at the inaugural meeting on 14 February 2012, is attached to these Minutes. This draft will be forwarded to the ACT Office of Regulatory Services for registration and approval.



Darryl Seto
Public Officer
Ginninderra Falls Association

17 February 2012