

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc. (NAPFA)

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Held at Glendora Caravan Park, Hill End, 2PM, 7th November 2015

The meeting opened at 2 PM.

President, Stephen Dangaard, opened the meeting with a welcome to members and thanked members who had travelled long distances, including members from a number of different States.

64 NAPFA members were in attendance.

Apologies

Apologies were noted from: Rita Bentley, Peter Hart, Ted Havers, Robert Brewer, Michael Wright, Ernie Mollenhauer, Bill Schulz & wife, Jon Dickinson, Bob and Judy Buss, Doug Stone, Andrew Grech & John Munn.

Correspondence

It was reported that no correspondence in or out had been received, excepting member newsletters and special resolutions information/voting forms.

President's report

Mr Dangaard reported on the progress of a number of issues including;

Access into NPWS reserves for fossicking. A document detailing a potential draft policy on fossicking in NPWS reserves has been given to the NAPFA committee and a written comment has been provided to NPWS. Further meetings with NPWS to progress the issue are being sought.

Fossicking Districts. Mr Dangaard explained the Department of Industry, Resources and Energy are consulting with Local Government Areas towards declaring LGA's with fossicking sites as Fossicking Districts under the Mining Act. Currently there are only eight major fossicking districts in NSW. Mr Dangaard explained that when areas are declared fossicking Districts it will remove the need to gain permission to fossick from any Mineral Exploration licence holder who may have an EL over the land where you want to fossick. The permission of the land owner only will be required to fossick.

Sluicing Committee Report. Mr Dangaard thanked the sluicing subcommittee and members who assisted in preparing the comprehensive report. He outlined that the report has been given to the Department of Industry, Resources and Energy (Minerals) and the Minister's Office made aware of it. NAPFA is awaiting a response and further meetings/discussion on the issue with the Minister/Department head will occur.

Further information on the above issues has been provided in member newsletters and updates will be provided in future newsletters.

Acceptance of minutes from the 2014/2015 financial year AGM

Mr Dangaard asked if there were any amendments to the February 2015 AGM minutes which had been circulated to members. As there were no amendments it was moved by Paul Barker that they be accepted. Seconded by Sean Ashcroft. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

NAPFA Treasurer Veronica Dench reported: For the Financial year 2014-2015 there had been income from memberships, donations and fund raising totalling \$10,371.99. Expenses as of the end of the 2014/2015 financial had been \$7,195.85 leaving a net operating profit of \$3,176.14.

The Treasurer also reported that the NAPFA Balance Sheet as of June 2015 shows monies held in cheque and savings accounts totalling \$14,007.58. The Treasurer tabled the Profit and Loss Statement for the 2014/2015 Financial Year and a Balance Sheet as of June 2015. (Attached).

Election of NAPFA Committee

Mr Tony Batch convened the committee election process.

The Secretary reported that one nomination had been received for each of the available positions. Nominations received were: President (Stephen Dangaard); Vice President (Paul Barker); Treasurer (Veronica Dench); Secretary (Stephen Reilly) and three General Committee member and Public Officer (Sean Ashcroft), and two general committee members (Sean Johnson & Peter Hart). The received nominations were tabled.

As there was one nomination for each position, Mr Batch confirmed the nominated people agreed to stand for the positions and moved that the nominated people be elected (motion carried by show of hands). Mr Batch declared that the committee was elected.

General Business

Special Resolutions

Sean Ashcroft explained that all members had been sent details and voting forms associated with the proposed changes to the NAPFA constitution and he outlined the reasoning of proposed changes were required to reflect the needs and objects of the association, explaining that the current constitution was a standard model adopted when the association was first formed. Mr Ashcroft outlined some reasons for the 3 proposed changes including;

1. The alignment of the membership year to the calendar year, allowing membership renewals and processing of them to coincide with a period when many members are at home (and not out prospecting during the winter prospecting season);
2. Changing the objects of the association to clearly reflect the intentions of NAPFA, and
3. To remove the need for members to have another member second their membership application because many members are isolated and do not have other members nearby that can second their application. The committee would have the authority to approve or reject a nomination.

Mr Ashcroft read out the current wording of the constitution and the proposed new wording of the constitution relating to the changes.

Mr Batch called for any comments from members present who wished to speak against any of the 3 resolutions. (No one spoke against the resolutions)

45 received postal/email voting forms that were in favour of the 3 special resolutions were tabled. There were no votes lodged against the 3 resolutions.

The 3 special resolutions were individually voted on by members present and all carried unanimously by the members present and the members who submitted voting forms.

General Business

Sluicing Report

Sean Ashcroft explained the great groundwork by Stephen Dangaard had opened the door with government for NAPFA to be able to detail the problem and issues associated with members undertaking sluicing and to provide solutions. Mr Ashcroft gave special thanks to John Standford and Bruce Wright (Committee members), who's expertise was invaluable in preparing the report. He also thanked Bob Malligan (President of Sydney Electronic Prospecting Club), Ernie Mollenhauer & Campbell Pardey. Apologies offered to Colin Shand and Edwina Ricketts who put their hand up to help the sluicing committee where possible but due to the sudden deadline to complete the report contact was not made with them.

Mr Dangaard also thanked the subcommittee and members who assisted in preparing the comprehensive report. He outlined that the report has been given to the Department of Industry, Resources and Energy (Minerals) and the Minister's Office made aware of it. NAPFA is awaiting a response and further meetings/discussion on the issue. It will be pursued as soon as is practical.

NAPFA Facebook group

Sean Johnson explained that there was now a NAPFA Facebook account – members could check it out at “NAPFA Gold” on Facebook. Please share it and follow. It is hoped the facebook account will help to reach out to members more frequently and serve as a promotional vehicle for NAPFA.

NAPFA awareness of issues that face fossickers.

Mr Dangaard explained that while the committee researches current issues facing fossickers and prospectors, there are many issues that NAPFA may be unaware of due to the size of the state and number of fossicking locations. He asked members to report any issues that they become aware of in their area such as the closure of fossicking locations and lack of access due to road closures. Members were asked to notify NAPFA of any issues by contacting/emailing the president of NAPFA.

Crown Road closures

There was a discussion led by Mr Dangaard and Mr Ashcroft on the current issue of crown road closures and the possible loss of access to fossicking areas due to the government sale of these surveyed roads. Due to the large number of proposed closures and the difficulty of ascertaining

whether they may affect access to fossicking sites, Mr Dangaard asked if members could review the crown road closures website and identify proposed closures that may affect fossicking sites in their area. Road closures that may affect access to fossicking locations should be reported to the NAPFA committee via the President so NAPFA can research the proposed closure and consider making a submission in response to the proposed closure(s). Mr Dangaard said that he had posted information about the closures on a number of fossicking websites but there had been no response from the fossicking community about the locations. This did not mean the changes were not important but without relevant information on their importance, there was little that could be done to argue against the sales.

Crown roads websites:

<http://roads.crownland.nsw.gov.au/> , [http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown lands/roads](http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown_lands/roads)

NPWS draft Plans of Management for reserves

Mr Dangaard explained that the Office of Environment and Heritage/NPWS recognises NAPFA as a key stakeholder group and now emails all draft Plans of Management for NPWS managed reserves to NAPFA for comment. Mr Dangaard explained that it is often hard to determine if some reserves contain fossicking sites and reminded members to notify the committee if they become aware of draft Plans of Management or POM reviews for new or existing NPWS reserves with fossicking areas (or potential fossicking sites) in them.

The meeting was closed at 4 pm.