

NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

General Meeting #32

12th May 2014

9.30am to 3pm

Room 1.04, 43 Bridge St

HURSTVILLE

MINUTES

CHAIR: *Audrey Koosmen*

MEETING OPEN: 9:30 am

PRESENT:

Geoff	BARTLETT	HKPS
Jan	BRAZEL	Wildlife Arc.
Naomi	HENRY	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Jacky	HUNT	Wildlife Arc. (Alt)
Audrey	KOOSMAN	NATF
Shirley	LACK	NARG
Chris	LLOYD	NWC Executive
Shona	LORIGAN	ORRCA
Jackie	MAISEY	NTWC
Julia	McCONNELL	IGL
Jane	MILLS	WRSC
Meredith	RYAN	FAWNA
Caroline	SUTHERLAND	NRWC
Richard	WOODMAN	WRSC
Lorraine	YUDAEFF	WINC

APOLOGIES:

Ilona	ROBERTS	TVWC (Alt)
Warren	BLACKLEY	Wildlife Carers Mudgee Region Inc
Donna	BLACKLEY	Wildlife Carers Mudgee Region Inc (Alt)
Sonja	ELWOOD	SMWS (Alt)
Peter	GRAHAM	LAOKO
Ros	IRWIN	FOK (Alt)
Ian	McKENZIE	NATF (Alt.)
Denise	SINGLETON	RRANA
Crystal	SPENCER	TVWC
Lorraine	VASS	FOK

INTRODUCTIONS: Welcome and meeting rules explained.

GUESTS: **Wendy Gleen**, (expected at 11:45)
School of Biological Sciences; Behavioural Ecology and Conservation Research -
Sydney University

Catherine Judd (expected at 11:45)
Taronga Conservation Society

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING #31 on 28th February 2014

Motion:

That the Minutes of the NWC General Meeting #31 held on the 28th February 2014 be accepted.

Moved: **Lorraine Yudaeff**

Seconded: **Naomi Henry**

Carried unanimously

2. REPORTS:

2.1. Chair – Audrey Koosmen;

- Updated EO and Work plan is up and running.
- OEH indicated they felt the IFAW/NWC “App” was more relevant than a State Wide telephone number.
- Data recording discussed as was relationship with WIRES – need for better networking on common issues. Exec is endeavouring to improve relationships with WIRES via L Taylor, General Manager. Working to reinstate WIRES info. on the NWC website mapping system. (Discussion on regulatory powers of OEH to assist with this matter). Unresolved at present and if unsuccessful we may need to go back to OEH for assistance.
- Letter sent to get on Ministerial Round Table.
- Received letter of confirmation that NWC Public Gift Fund has been approved.

Chair’s report accepted.

2.2. Secretary – Richard Woodman -

Correspondence – List 24th February ’14 to 4th May ’14 circulated and appended to Minutes. Not included are emails circulated to the Group list. Secretary thanked for compilation.

Secretary’s report accepted.

2.3. Treasurer – Shirley Lack

- Reconciliation to 22 April 2014 appended to Minutes.
- Budget prepared - Procedural changes require an application to be lodged for one of the regular sources of funding. This is a priority action.
- Treasurer thanked for her efforts.

Motion:

That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved: Richard Woodman
Seconded: Jackie Maisey
Carried unanimously

2.4. Insurance – Shirley Lack

- Renewed the Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance under the NCC umbrella.
- Directors and Officers Insurance is renewed separately.
- Large claim through Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service.
- Concern was expressed re. groups with shooters responsible for euthanasia of animals by firearm – all groups should ensure they have a Policy to ensure their members are not affected by drugs or alcohol during any situation where they are representing their individual group in any manner, not only with firearm use.
- Certificate of Currency correction of insured's name from Wildlife ARK to Wildlife ARC. - Insurance Officer to contact the Broker.

Insurance report accepted.

2.5. EO Report – Chris Lloyd

- Report circulated, tabled and appended to Minutes.
- Wildlife ARC queried who is going to receive the information from the NWC Survey. Chair confirmed it was confidential within NWC with the prime reason for the survey being to ascertain areas of need within groups and where and how NWC can assist.
- Survey was approved by Executive as a means to establish priority actions going forward and assist with development of a relevant Business Plan. (Secretary to send another copy of the Strategic Plan to Wildlife ARC, Jan Brazel specifically).
- The EO is compiling a composite report from the Survey and individual groups will not be identified.

EO report accepted.

2.6. OTHER Reports:

- The new Environment Minister, Rob Stokes, Member for Pittwater, is also Minister for the Central Coast area.

3. MORNING TEA

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

4.1. Wombat Best Practice Guidelines – Audrey Koosmen

The WBPG Draft is to be sent to WIRES Inc. for comment with a confirmation of receipt. Peter Stathis. OEH to be CC'd.

4.2. Euthanasia of Injured or Sick Native Fauna by 'Farmers' – Naomi Henry

- Wildlife Queanbeyan querying legality of farmers euthanasing wildlife by firearm in emergency situations.
- POCTA would most likely override other regulations on animal welfare grounds.
- In a declared emergency there is an Incident Controller who might have powers to give approvals to individuals.

- Suggested DPI Orange is contacted for details – Stephen Jackson or Matthew Crane in Animal Welfare Division.

Action:

Naomi Henry agreed to draft a letter for consideration.

4.3. Save Ballina's Koalas Campaign – Lorraine Vass

- Carry over to next GM due to lack of information.

4.4. NWC/IFAW Wildlife App Update – Shona Lorigan

- IFAW is requesting rescue stories for App publicity on social media sites.
- Important that NWC member groups continue to actively promote the IFAW/NWC App.
- Updates info to be provided to IFAW.
- During the discussion it was noted that WIRES Inc. intends to publish its own App this year at a date to be notified.

4.5. Welcome Package for New Members – Jane Mills

- Comprehensive Welcome Package is near finalisation.
- Jane thanked for her efforts in putting this together.

4.6. NWC Webpage listing of various Wildlife Training Courses - Update

- Courses information to be provided to NWC Secretary.

4.7. Flying-Fox Crèche Fees for Adverse Events – Jackie Maisey

- Heat stress events, first modern one in 1994, since then groups are experiencing from 1 to 4 heat stress events annually.
- Flying-fox infants are being sent to groups throughout the State and crèche fees are a real impost on groups.
- Suggestion that a fund be established to cover such emergency situations. LY – Disaster Fund would be a very positive fundraising mechanism.
- Heat Stress, as a by product of climate change, is a key threatening process under the Act.

Action:

Writing to Federal Dept of Environment to establish what mechanisms might be available for rehabilitation groups to secure financial assistance in disaster or emergency situations affecting threatened species e.g. Grey-headed flying-foxes.

- Jackie Maisey recalls that in her opinion, the only assistance was in the 1990's for 134 animals and was from NPWS Alstonville at around \$5000.

Action:

To counteract Adam Marshall local member for Northern Tablelands' petition to change planning laws re. removal of flying-fox colonies, N Henry and J Maisey will develop a petition to present to Executive for approval.

Action:

J. Maisey to draft letter to A. Marshall expressing NWC's disappointment to his attitude and actions regarding a threatened species.

4.8. NWC support to advance a database on microchips and tag numbers for released wildlife

– Jane Mills

- ABBBS only registers their own bands.
- Need to ascertain reasons for the request in the first instance.
- Pros and cons discussed – conservation objectives v. Practicality and affordability.

5. ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL: (Allocated time 12:00 to 12:45)

Wendy Gleen & Catherine Judd

The presentation was delivered during the suspension of Standing Orders between General Business items 6.4 & 6.5.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

6.1. RAPTOR –Code Of Practice – Audrey Koosmen

- Raptor Rehabilitation Guidelines discussed with OEH and to be made a priority.
- The legal status of the Guidelines is questionable.

6.2. “Nooski” Mousetraps – Crystal Spencer / Ilona Roberts

- Carry over to later action when more information can be provided and discussed.

6.3. ACT Volunteers – R,R & R Approval – Meredith Ryan

- Discussion regarding a welcome letter to the new group introducing NWC.

Action: Secretary to write a welcome, introduction of NWC letter.

6.4. NWC Grant Program – Julia McConnell

- 2 year trial completed and Sub-committee review report tabled and appended to Minutes.
- For the 2013 Grant to 5 recipients, it appears that 3 of the projects may not have gone ahead. Suggestion that future grant money not be provided until project completed.
- Proof of expenditure may be considered as part of the sub-committee review.

Motion:

That a Sub-committee to be appointed to make recommendations for future Grants process.

Moved: J. Brazel

Seconded N. Henry

Carried unanimously

Action:

N. Henry, S. Lack and J. Hunt elected to form the Sub Committee.

Thanks to J. McConnell, N. Henry and J. Mills for their efforts to date.

Action: A follow-up letter to be sent to non-compliant recipients, seeking return of funds or updated status report on proposed project – Sub-committee to draft letter.

Suspension of Standing Orders to facilitate an address to the NWC by Catherine Judd & Wendy Gleen of Taronga Zoo on the topics of the Yellow Bellied Glider and the Taronga Zoo’s in-situ school educational program.

6.5. NSW Animal Welfare Advisory Council – Julia McConnell

- Discussion regarding the status of the NWC nomination of a representative.
- Nominations went in for Audrey Koosmen with Shona Lorigan as alternate.
- No response received to date.

6.6. Native Animal Keepers’ Consultative Committee (NAKCC) – Julia McConnell

- S. Woods was a representative who reported back to the NWC but since he left WIRES there has no feedback received.
- J. McConnell is alternate representative of the Hawkesbury Herpetological Society and will be able to report back to NWC on an informal basis.
- EO emailed asked for a formal NWC rep to be included and no response received to date.

6.7. Refinement of NWC “Find your nearest Rescue Location” map – Audrey Koosmen

- Discussion re vacant spaces on the NWC Website.
- Decision reached by majority vote to request WIRES Inc. agree to the NWC reinstating their contact details on the NWC map.
- Chair to process the request.

6.8. Review Action List – Richard Woodman

- Action List reviewed and to be updated according to the results of this meeting.

6.9. NWC Public Gift Fund– Approved

- Disaster Fund fundraiser; Trustees James Fitzgerald, Shirley Lack, Patrick Medway, Andrew Ryan, Jill Taylor.
- Treasurer, as NWC Executive Committee Member Trustee, is to hold the Public Fund File.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

7.1. ACT Kangaroo Cull Petition – Request to send out to groups seeking their participation.

- Agreed Sec to send notification to the Reps.

8. NEXT MEETING(s):

General Meeting #33	Sat, 23rd August '14	Randwick
Annual General Meeting #9	Sun, 24th August '14	Randwick

MEETING CLOSED: 2:15 pm

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