

MINUTES

NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

General Meeting #31

28th February 2014

9.30am to 3pm

Room 1.04, 43 Bridge St

HURSTVILLE

CHAIR: *Audrey Koosmen*

MEETING OPEN: 9:40 am

PRESENT:

1	Warren	BLACKLEY (until 2:40 pm)	Wildlife Carers Mudgee Region Inc
2	Jan	BRAZEL (until 2:40 pm)	Wildlife Arc.
3	Rochelle	FERRIS	ASR
4	Peter	GRAHAM	LAOKO
5	Naomi	HENRY (until 2:40 pm)	Wildcare Queanbeyan
6	Jacky	HUNT (until 2:40 pm)	Wildlife Arc. (Alt)
7	Audrey	KOOSMAN	NATF
8	Shirley	LACK	NARG
9	Shona	LORIGAN	ORRCA
10	Jackie	MAISEY	NTWC
11	Julia	McCONNELL (until 1:50 pm)	IGL
12	Jane	MILLS	WRSC
13	Lorraine	VASS	FOK
14	Richard	WOODMAN	WRSC
15	Lorraine	YUDAEFF (until 2:40 pm)	WINC

GUESTS:

Peter Stathis – Senior Leader of OEH Biodiversity & Wildlife, (morning session only)

Linda Crawley – Coordinator Wildlife Licencing, OEH (morning session only)

Chris Lloyd - Prospective NWC Executive Officer (until 2:40 pm)

APOLOGIES:

1	Geoff	BARTLETT	HKPS
2	Sonja	ELWOOD	SMWS (Alt)
3	Helen	KENNEDY	SMWS
4	Paul	McCLOUD	KIC
5	Ian	McKENZIE	NATF (Alt)
6	Mandy	PENHALL	KIC
7	Ilona	ROBERTS	TVWC (Alt)
8	Meredith	RYAN	FAWNA
9	Crystal	SPENCER	TVWC
10	Caroline	SUTHERLAND	NRWC

INTRODUCTIONS:

1. ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL:

Peter Stathis – General Introduction & Briefing

Peter Stathis gave a very informative briefing including OEH/NPWS restructuring issues, administration of compliance and training and the desire to improve communication and interaction between OEH/NPWS and the various carer groups.

Linda Crawley – NPWS Reptile Ballot System

Linda Crawley provided an interesting insight into whom and how native wildlife fauna can be held in captivity and what the process is for the assessment and ongoing management of animals seized from those not authorised to hold them. Particular attention was given to reptiles, a group which have become more prominent in being recovered from illegal possession.

The reptile ballot system was explained in detail showing how it was applied with fairness and transparency.

An appropriate license is the only legitimate way a person or group can hold any protected species.

For additional information, contact; wildlife.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au

2. MORNING TEA

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING #30 on 26TH November 2013

Motion:

That the Minutes of the NWC General Meeting #30 held on the 26th November 2013 be accepted with the following amendments;

Page 4, Items 7.3 and 7.4; The existing date of 2013 be changed to 2014.

Moved: Lorraine Vass
Seconded: Peter Graham
Carried unanimously

4. REPORTS:

4.1. Chair – Audrey Koosmen

The Chair gave a comprehensive report centred on the prospect of a single 1300 WILDLIFE number for use across the state.

Discussion took place on the subject covering, location, funding, costings, priority level etc.

Motion:
That the single telephone number 1300 WILDLIFE project is to be pursued by the executive officer of the wildlife council.

Moved: Peter Graham
Seconded: Warren Blackley
Carried unanimously

4.2. Secretary – Richard Woodman

Correspondence:

Report sent to council, attached to minutes.

Motion:
That the Secretary's report be accepted.

Moved: Shirley Lack
Seconded: Warren Blackley
Carried unanimously

4.3. Treasurer – Shirley Lack

Report sent to council, attached to minutes

Motion:
That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved: Jan Brazel
Seconded: Jackie Maisey
Carried unanimously

Motion:
That the council moves their banking partner from the ANZ to Westpac.

Moved: Shirley Lack
Seconded: Lorraine Vass
Carried with 1 abstention.

4.4. Insurance – Shirley Lack

The council was updated on the Insurance Renewal process.

Discussion took place regarding a breach of protocol where a recent insurance claim was submitted by a member of one of the groups, directly to the insurer.

The NWC believes it is timely to update the committee of all member groups on the correct process for submitting insurance claims. This process should also be included in the information pack provided to newly appointed Reps.

Motion:
That a letter be sent to Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife informing them of their breach of protocol.

Moved: Audrey Koosmen
Seconded: Lorraine Vass
Carried unanimously

4.5. OTHER Reports - NONE

5. BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1. Paid Secretariat/Executive Officer – Julia McConnell

Chris Lloyd gave a brief history of his employment and education.

Discussion took place to clarify certain aspects of the contract.

Motion:
That the NWC contract with Wiyanga be accepted and signed.

Proposed: Warren Blackley
Seconded: Richard Woodman
Carried unanimously

The council congratulated and welcomed Chris Lloyd to his new role with the NWC.

5.2. Wombat Best Practice Guidelines – Audrey Koosmen

A discussion took place on the status of this project and how WIRES needed to be involved to ensure only a single acceptable document be presented to OEHL for their final consideration and approval.

The NWC Chair will liaise with Peter Stathis, OEHL over the continued development, approval and implementation of this document.

Action: Shona Lorigan will send the document to all Reps.

Action: Audrey Koosmen, Chair, will contact WIRES and send the material to them for comment

5.3. NWC/IFAW Wildlife App Update – Shona Lorigan

ORRCA thanked the council member groups for providing information on their promotional activities for the Wildlife App.

Group members should provide rescue stories to ORRCA to be collated and forwarded to IFAW for use on various social media (eg. facebook and twitter).

Some minor ‘teething problems’ are being worked on to improve the presentation and efficiency.

5.4. Single NWC Rescue Tel # 1300 WILDLIFE - (progress update & future direction)

Refer to Item 4.1 Reports/Chair

5.5. Welcome Package for New Members – Jane Mills

NWC wants to put together a ‘welcome pack’ that includes details on; meeting location, parking, insurance information, accommodation and travel and the role of reps on the council etc.

All group members be requested to send their recommendations for inclusion in the ‘welcome pack’ to Jane Mills, WRSC together with a preference for delivery; e.g. pdf email, disk or printed brochure.

5.6. Guidance for Rescue Calls from Another Organisation

(Recommended Protocol) – Richard Woodman

Discussion took place on the brief history and need for a common approach when processing such calls. Council reaffirmed this was a recommended protocol only.

Motion:

That the recommended protocol be sent out to all council members.

Moved: Lorraine Yudaef

Seconded: Jan Brazel

Carried unanimously

5.7. NWC Webpage listing of various Wildlife Training Courses – Update

The NWC will list group member’s training courses on the website with the following details: Date, Group, Name of course, Location of course (City), Contact name & email, Comment field.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

6.1. 2GZ National Cat Action Plan – Julia McConnell (absent)

Not proceeded with.

6.2. Financial Reporting – ~~Julia McConnell~~ (absent)

Not proceeded with

6.3. Donate Button/PayPal Account – ~~Julia McConnell~~ / Shirley Lack

The Paypal facility was organised at short notice during the bushfire emergency in November '13 using a readily available email address for notifications. Council agreed an amended email address be used to enhance the presentation and further streamline the process.

Motion:

That the email address on the PayPal account be amended to treasurer@nwc.org.au .

Proposed: Audrey Koosmen

Seconded: Shona Lorigan

Carried unanimously.

The webmaster will be advised of the change of email address.

6.4. AWRC Hobart 2014 – Attendance Sponsorship – Shirley Lack / Richard Woodman

Discussion took place on the merits of NWC's being officially represented at AWRC Hobart 2014.

WRSC recommended the NWC be represented at this conference by Audrey Koosmen, Chair and Shirley Lack, Treasurer, assisted by a NWC subsidy. FOK mentioned there was precedence for this where the NWC had previously subsidised council members to attend the ARWC in Townsville. The Treasurer had prepared some estimated costs to attend the conference.

Motion:

That the council sponsors the attendance of Audrey Koosmen, Chair and Shirley Lack, Treasurer, up to the value of \$1500 each to attend the AWRC Hobart 2014.

Proposed: Lorraine Vass

Seconded: Richard Woodman

Carried unanimously

6.5. NWC Reimbursement of Travel & Accommodation Expenses

– Audrey Koosmen / Richard Woodman

WRSC identified the need to be more specific when notifying the amount and procedure for reimbursement of NWC authorised reimbursement of accommodation expenses.

Discussion took place on the need for the NWC to facilitate the provision of accommodation for attendance at approved NWC meetings on a case-by-case basis. The maximum reimbursement should be limited to the amount charged for the NWC to secure such suitable accommodation.

Attendees can stay at any accommodation of their choice but reimbursement, on production of a valid receipt, would be limited to the maximum of that approved by the NWC

Motion:

That the reimbursement for accommodation for approved NWC meetings will be at a rate determined by the NWC council.

Proposed: Richard Woodman

Seconded: Peter Graham

Carried unanimously.

6.6. WRI Newsletter – WRI's comment they are accepting donations meant for other wildlife groups.

– Richard Woodman

WRSC drew attention to the fact that Wildlife Rescue inc. was allegedly accepting monetary donations intended for another organisation due to confusion arising from the similarity of both group's name (ref. WRI Newsletter #7). The question being, does WRSC have any recourse to recovering such misplaced donations?

Discussion took place and council recommended this was a matter for both groups to address.

Further information provided indicates any outcome needs to be negotiated between both parties and there is no legal recourse.

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

– Jane Mills

This was addressed by Linda Crawley earlier in the meeting (Item 1 – Address To The Council). NPWS encourages this approved practice which is currently being done by them. A discussion paper will be prepared for distribution to all member groups. It was recommended a data base recording such details be established.

Motion:

That there be further investigation on keeping a database on banding and tag details of rehabilitated animals in consultation with OEH Licencing.

Proposed: Jane Mills

Seconded: Richard Woodman

Carried unanimously.

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

Discussion took place on the high costs of Flying-Fox crèche fees and could the council investigate funding options to help alleviate this problem. NATF has an informal arrangement in liaising with other carers to share some of the costs associated with these events.

Motion:

That the council investigate funding options for Flying -Fox carers due to increased numbers of heat stress events.

Proposed: Jackie Maisy
Seconded: Jan Brazel
Carried unanimously

6.9. Request for Member Groups to display the NWC Logo (and link) on their Homepage

– Richard Woodman

Discussion took place on the merits of increasing the NWC's profile and awareness within the group membership.

Motion:
That the Member Groups be encouraged to display the NWC Logo (and link) on their homepage.

Proposed: Richard Woodman
Seconded: Jane Mills
Carried unanimously

6.10. Review of Action List

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

7.1. Netting (entanglement of Flying-Foxes & Reptiles) – Jane Mills

WRSC has taken in a large number of injured Flying-Foxes due to unsuitable netting. There has also been an increase in reptile entanglements in netting. The question was raised; Can the NWC approach suppliers of unacceptable netting and provide them with information on better alternatives?

Motion:
That the NWC investigate producing an education programme on good netting alternatives for the relevant hardware suppliers.

Proposed: Jane Mills
Seconded: Audrey Koosmen
Carried unanimously

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

Held over to next meeting

7.3. Save Ballina's Koalas Campaign – Lorraine Vass

There was a short discussion on the topic.

Motion:
That the council write letters to Greg Hunt, Federal Minister for the environment and the NSW minister for planning, Brad Hazzard on the subject of the Save Ballina's Koalas Campaign.

Proposed: Lorraine Vass
Seconded: Audrey Koosmen
Carried unanimously

Action: Lorraine Vass to write and forward letters to the secretary for signature.

8. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 13th May 2014 at 43 Bridge St, HURSTVILLE.

MEETING CLOSED: 3:20 pm

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