

New South Wales Wildlife Council Inc.

Inaugural Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 12 November 2006 at 9:30am at The Centre,
14 Frances Street, Randwick at 9.30am

Minutes

1. Opening of Meeting and Welcome

1.1 Present

Audrey Koosmen (Chair) NATF; Lorraine Vass (Secretary) FOK; Joan Hills WCN-Central West; Ilona Roberts, Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers; Gwen Seznec NRW; Barbara Witham, Koalas in Care; Chris Neville, Wildlife Aid; Stan Wood, WIRES; Sonja Elwood, Sydney Wildlife; Helen Kennedy, Sydney Wildlife; Sandra Stewart, IGL; Barbara Dobner, FOK.

After formally welcoming representatives and alternates, the Chair expressed some misgivings with proceeding with the meeting.

Remarks had been made about insufficient notice for committee nominations with the perception being expressed that the outcome of the AGM had been pre-determined. In regard to the former, Audrey said that the implication of 'stacking' was very hurtful to her personally. She apologized to the meeting for any such perception as that was never the intent.

Sandra Stewart suggested that General Licence holders be treated as a group to be called Independent General Licence Holders (IGL).

Lorraine Vass commented that it is the responsibility of all member representatives including alternate delegates to be familiar with the Constitution and its rules. It sets out the conditions for nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers. The date of the AGM had been set at the August meeting and everyone on Council had overlooked the requirement for prior nominations until it was noticed with only four days to spare for their lodgement with the Secretary.

Audrey commented that her perception is that not sufficient representatives are participating in the business of the Council. The people who are doing everything are the ones who are involved in discussion online. Use of the online discussion list has dwindled and perhaps the technology is a contributing factor.

Sandra Stewart raised the possibility of the Council having its own server as a solution to shortcomings with the Yahoo site.

Barbara Witham questioned whether postponing the AGM would result in any further nominations being received for Committee positions.

Stan Wood suggested proceeding with electing a caretaker Committee and calling for nomination of candidates for election at a Special General Meeting to be called in conjunction with the ordinary meeting in February. Stan concurred strongly with Audrey that any perception of a “rigged” election was very negative and had the potential to undermine the Council, and its achievements.

Stan Wood **moved** and Lorraine Vass **seconded** that the AGM including elections proceed. At a special general meeting in February all positions will be declared vacant and elections held for Council positions.

Motion carried

Matter arising

Changes to the Constitution

Stan Wood **moved** and Lorraine Vass **seconded** that in the review of the constitution that a clause be added accepting nominations from the floor for candidates for election as Committee members conducted at the Annual General Meeting.

Motion carried

1.2 Apologies

Coralie Tarlinton (Wildcare); Steve Amesbury (Native Animal Network Association); Ronny Ling (ORRCA). Julia Rose (Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers), Cheyne Flanagan, (Koala Preservation Society of NSW), Gwen and Kerryn Parry-Jones (Wildlife ARC), Christeen McLeod (Koalas in Care).

2.0 Presentation of Reports

Chair – Audrey Koosmen read her report: (see attached)

Stan Wood **moved** and Joan Hills **seconded** that the Chair’s report be received and noted.

Motion carried

Treasurer: Sandra Stewart distributed the *Financial Statements for the initial period ended 30 June, 2006*

Lorraine Vass **moved** and Stan Wood **seconded** that the Chair and Treasurer be authorized to sign the Statement and Certificate by Members of the Committee attached to the Financial Statements for the initial period ended 30 June, 2006 which have been submitted for approval at the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Wildlife Council held at The Centre, Randwick on 12 November 2006.

Motion Carried

3.0 Confirmation of membership and member representatives for 2006-7

The Secretary advised that correspondence confirming membership and representation had been received from:

Wildlife Carers Network – Central West Inc.: Joan Hills and Rhonda Bradford

Friends of the Koala, Inc.: Lorraine Vass and Barbara Dobner

She had also received correspondence addressed to Sandra Stewart confirming her representation on their behalf from the following individual general licence holders:

Heather Parsons, 23 Lindsay Ave., Ermington, NSW 2115

M Adams and Chris McGregor

Enid Latham, 22L Dungary Road MS6, Dubbo, NSW 2830

Noelleen Gordon

Mark & Susie Rowe

Penny Hughes

Myra & Phil Tolhurst

Julia & Bill McConnell

It was agreed that written confirmation of membership and representation should be received annually from all members.

Lorraine Vass **moved** and Stan Wood **seconded** that the minutes and reports of the AGM be mailed to all member groups, the covering letter to mention the requirement to advise in writing representation for the forthcoming year.

Motion carried

4.0 Elections

The meeting agreed to appoint Chris Neville as Returning Officer

The Chair declared all Committee and named positions vacant.

The Returning Officer read out the nominations received for candidates for Committee positions

Secretary - Lorraine Vass (Friends of the Koala)

Nominator: Audrey Koosmen (NATF)

Second: Stan Wood (WIRES)

Vice Chair – Stan Wood (WIRES)

Nominator: Audrey Koosman (NATF)

Second: Lorraine Vass (Friends of the Koala)

Chair – Audrey Koosmen (NATF)

Nominator: Christeen McLeod (Koalas in Care)

Second: Lorraine Vass (Friends of the Koala)

Treasurer – Sandra Stewart (IGL)

Nominator: Lorraine Vass (Friends of the Koala)

Secunder: Ilona Roberts (Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers)

Media Officer – Steve Amesbury (NANA)

Nominator: Stan Wood (WIRES)

Secunder: Audrey Koosmen (NATF)

The number of nominations received being equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the Returning Officer declared the nominations being taken to be elected.

Webmaster – Steve Amesbury (NANA)

Education Officer – No appointment until the Terms of Reference are drafted and confirmed

Revenue Officer – No appointment.

Minute Secretary – Helen Kennedy (Sydney Wildlife)

Nominator: Sonja Elwood (Sydney Wildlife)

Secunder: Stan Woods (WIRES)

Nomination carried

Newsletter Editor – No appointment

A Working Party comprising Sandra Stewart, Gwen Seznec and Lorraine Vass was formed to investigate options for communicating the Council's business to its members and stakeholders

Working Party Convenors – No appointments until Terms of Reference are drafted and confirmed

5.0 Confirmation of Honorary Auditor 2006/07

Honorary Auditor – Ron Witham

Nominator: Stan Woods

Secunder: Gwen Seznec

Nomination carried

Action: The Secretary to advise Ron Witham that he writes a letter of acceptance of the role of Honorary Auditor for 2006-7.

The Chair extended her thanks to Ron Witham for his work for the Council.

6.0 Presentation

Alan Rose, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers, Inc. See action for item 5.1. – Ratification of Alan Rose's resignation in the Minutes of Meeting No.5, 11 November 2006

Matter arising

The Chair suggested changing the date of the next meeting from February 13 to February 14 2007 in order to draw the raffle.

Action: Chair to check availability of conference room with DEC.

7.0 Priorities and Planning 2006/2007

Lorraine Vass explained that the purpose for this exercise was primarily to provide a basis for varying the budget on which the operational funding from DEC was granted and to have a realistic idea of forward commitments into the 2007-8 financial year, whether or not DEC continues its funding.

(a) Insurance

Stan reiterated that ongoing insurance funding will need to be actively pursued with the Department. He will be following up the possibility of quarterly and half-yearly part payment with AON to address the unlikelihood of the Department being able to meet 2 payments in the same financial year.

Chris reminded the meeting that there had been consideration of a fee (say 10% of the amount saved) to the Council from member groups.

Stan recommended that an amount equal to half the premium be set aside to cover the 6 months period from 1 May 2007 if required. In the case of the Department not committing to recurrent funding then the Member groups will need to pay for the insurance on a pro rata basis.

(b) NWC Server for more reliable communication**(c) Shared Data Base Roadshow**

Stan suggested that if the Council decides to use the Curious Developments Ltd's database programme cost sharing for the proposed road show with WIRES will need to be factored in

(d) Marketing/Promotion

Logo development
Newsletter production

(e) Administration Costs

Office of Fair Trading fees will apply to changes to the constitution

Action: None assigned.

8.0 Guest Speaker – Patrick Medway, AM National President of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia

The Chair introduced Patrick who gave an overview of the Society's history and role, followed by the topic of his presentation, the Society's *Road kill reduction program*.

Reduction of roadkill was the Society's major project for 2003. The *Reduction of Roadkill Seminar* was held to call attention and explore solutions to the danger of native wildlife on the country's roads. The seminar's opening address was delivered by Peter Buckley, President of the Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service and papers were delivered by Daniel Ramp, ARC Postdoctoral research Fellow, School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Natascha Arens, A/Environmental Officer, Biodiversity & Sustainability, Roads & Traffic Authority, Vanessa Morrissey, Honours Student, School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales and others.

The seminar identified the animals at most risk being: Kangaroo, Dog, Cow, Wombat and the Wallaby. The initial hit is often not the only victim. Predators come and feed off the road kill and often end up as road kill themselves.

Since 2003 the Society has participated in many meetings with the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) in an attempt to reduce road kill. A host of options have been raised but none that really solve the problem. At the end of the day motorists must be prepared to slow down on the road and wildlife must be kept well away.

There are rules and regulations governing wildlife but no one is enforcing them. Penalties are not a deterrent but enforcing the penalties is. Fencing and similar ameliorative measures cause as many problems as they solve: e.g. kangaroos have been found starving to death due to being obstructed by fencing. Migratory animals also starve to death due to obstruction.

The NRMA has a vested interest in roadkill reduction as huge costs are paid out every year due to collisions with animals. The average claim is \$3000.00. The RTA spends \$350,000 annually on wildlife roadkill mitigation. Everyone wants a solution. There is no easy answer.

The Society is trying to persuade the federal government to host a national research conference into the roadkill issues. Patrick asked for the Council's support in keeping the roadkill issue in front of all levels of government: federal, state, local government, to road users.

Patrick concluded his presentation with a few words about the Society's new environment education center at Rockdale. Operated commercially, its main role will be to educate and re-educate from preschool to senior citizens.

The Society has determined that environmental education is the way for the future.

Patrick distributed copies of the current issue of *Wildlife Australia*, the Society's quarterly magazine and invited Council members to nominate candidates for the Serventy Conservation Medal (must be unpaid person) and groups for the Community Wildlife Conservation Award

Meeting Close 2:00pm