

NSW Wildlife Council Inc. – Minutes
General Meeting #36 – Tue 26 May, 2015 – 09.30 a.m.

Room 1.04, 43 Bridge St., Hurstville, NSW

Chair: Audrey Koosmen

MEETING OPEN: 09:30 am

Welcome by Chair. Members present updated on progress of Treasurer after her double knee replacement.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Don	Eagleton	Australian Seabird Rescue
Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA (NSW) Inc.
Lorraine	Vass	Friends of the Koala
Peter	Graham	LAOKO Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
Jill	Dean	Native Animal Trust Fund
Audrey	Koosmen	Native Animal Trust Fund
Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
Jackie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Helen	Kennedy	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services
Ilona	Roberts	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
Jan	Brazel	Wildlife ARC
Richard	Woodman	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

APOLOGIES:

Carmel	Northwood	Hunter Koala Preservation Society
Shirley	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
Shona	Lorigan	ORRCA
Sonia	Elwood	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service
Naomi	Henry	Wildcare Queanbeyan
James	Fitzgerald	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Warren and Donna	Blackley	Wildlife Carers Mudgee Region
Lorraine	Yudaeff	Wildlife in Need of Care
Jane	Mills	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

Standing Orders suspended to accommodate guests from IFAW and the App Developer, at a time to suit their arrival at the meeting – expected 10.30 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: (See Page 2 10.30 a.m.) (Visit by Alex Smillie, Insurance Consultant, Driessen Insurance Brokers Pty. Ltd. has been postponed until Insurance Officer is available to attend).

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF** General Meeting no. 35, Tue 24 February 2015.

Motion: *Proposed that the Minutes of the General Meeting No. 35 held on Tuesday, 24 February, 2015, are accepted as tabled.* Moved: A. Koosmen, Seconded: P. Graham -
Carried

L. Vass asks that future matters formally discussed outside a meeting (general) be captured in some way and documented.

2. **BUSINESS ARISING**

<u>Action Item No.</u>	<u>Minutes Page No.</u>	<u>ACTION ITEMS FROM 25-2-15 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</u>	<u>Result</u>
1	1	S. Lorigan to contact G. Ross and Julie McInnes re. accurate licence area maps	G. Ross advises the map has gone to the OEH GIS section.
2	2	Minutes to Webpage – M. Ryan and R. Woodman	Completed
3	2	Tender Acceptance Letter - Action Vice Chair and Chair	Completed
4	2	Letter to be sent to unsuccessful tenderers	Completed
5	2	Letter to WIRES RSPCA – liaison Chair and Media Officer	¹ S. Lorigan/A. Koosmen to action
6	2	Task List Info from Committee - Action Vice Chair	Work in progress
7	2	Contact A. Mitrovic - Action Chair	Completed
8	2	Action S. Lorigan – Wild About Whales for May meeting	Not required - alternate plan
9	2	Treasurer to action preparation/update of Assets Register	In Progress
10	2	Chair to query if Secretary is available to send out Casual Vacancy EoI – otherwise Chair to action	Completed
11	3	Secretary advise committee reason for Minutes delay.	Ill Health
12	3	Letter to J. Hunt – advise if sent.	Cancel action
13	3	Secretary update status on correspondence register	Information not retrievable
14	3	S. Lack and R. Woodman to advise – wildlife release land area available	² Action P. Graham will speak to J. Fitzgerald to activate
15	3	Treasurer provide missing financial reports	Completed. ³ Vice Chair to liaise with Treasurer re. quarterly financial reports of Income and Expenditure for each reporting period and Bank Balances
16	3	Chair to speak to S. Lack and N. Henry re Small Grants	⁴ Vice Chair to query with Small Grants Committee whether it is OK for Vice Chair to prepare final paperwork to go to groups first week in June.

Query from J. Fitzgerald on one Small Grants recipient not receiving the funds. Chair advises that R. Austen did not get the funds because she did not meet the conditions. Other recipients have not met the conditions and are now speeding up the compliance process.

Small Grants 2015 process opening date will be as soon as the notice goes to Reps (no later than 15 June) and applications close on 31 July. The completed applications will be summarised and sent to Reps for distribution to their groups by the start of August. Voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting.

Motion: *That the group whose member has been awarded a NWC Small Grant should facilitate compliance with the grant conditions.* Proposed A. Koosmen, Seconded: P. Graham – **Carried** with 2 against and 1 abstaining.

Mapping – Geoff Ross, OEH – NWC maps are now up to date with WIRES information yet to be added. OEH expects this will not be completed until August.

¹ Lorigan/Koosmen liaise RSPCA WIRES letter

² P. Graham contact J. Fitzgerald

³ Vice Chair liaise with Treasurer re. reports.

⁴ Vice Chair liaise re. Small Grants Notice going to reps.

P. Graham speaks about possibility of Shire amalgamation affecting his group Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue LAOKO might give his group greater potential for shire funding based on larger area of operation.

Discussion about efficacy of MOU's in areas where groups overlap.

10.40 MORNING TEA

GUEST SPEAKER/S: Josey Sharrad and Rebekkah Thompson, IFAW, and Noel Billig from Agency R/GA, presented ideas for a revamp of the existing Wildlife Rescue App.

Summary: App launched over a year ago and subsequent evaluation identified room for improvement and the recommendation to eventually roll the App out nationally.

IFAW believed there was a need to change the Agency involved and the leading digital Agency R/GA has come aboard with an exciting new design, additional functionality and the ability to add data retention. In addition it was felt the App should appeal to a younger audience as well as to motorists.

Noel described the platform change from a Web-based App to a Native (mobile-phone) App and ran through how the App might function and look.

Chair thanked IFAW for their continued enthusiasm and endorsed NWC's ongoing partnership support for this project.

3. REPORTS

Chair – Written report is attached to Minutes.

Motion: *That the President report is accepted* - Proposed A. Koosmen, seconded H. Kennedy –

Carried.

Secretary – Correspondence Register for period from 9 April to 25 May 2015 tabled by Vice Chair and appended to Minutes.

Motion: *That the correspondence is accepted.* Proposed M. Ryan; seconded L., Vass - **Carried**

Treasurer – Treasurer's income and expenditure reports and account transactions report 1-7-14 to 22-5-15 tabled and appended to Minutes.

Expenditure: \$34570.23. Income: \$50512.72

Bank Account, Term Deposit and PayPal balances \$84,430.06

MOTION: *That accounts paid financial year to date are ratified and the Treasurer's Report as tabled is confirmed.* Proposed: A. Koosmen; Seconded: R. Woodman - **Carried**

Membership – R. Woodman / M. Ryan – The replacement Rep for G. Bartlett to represent Hunter Koala Preservation Society, is Carmel Northwood. Member list has been amended and circulated.

Letter of thanks to be sent to Geoff Bartlett for his representation on NWC ⁵

Insurance – S. Lack asks that all reps ensure any insurance information sent to them is distributed quickly to their Group’s management committees.

Website – M. Ryan – Rodney Miller has been engaged by NWC as the new Webmaster. New information and interesting stories should continually be included – Reps were asked to keep information coming that is relevant to our core business.

Groups have not been including their group’s training information in that section of the Webpage. Vice Chair ⁶ will send out the relevant form to the Reps line.

NWC to publish NWC Webmaster information – groups can share their Newsletter links via the webmaster – rodney@nwc.org.au

Webmaster is to be queried about ⁷incorporating Facebook through the Webpage. Check with Rochelle Ferris first.

M. Ryan has accepted Web liaison only until the AGM.

All Reps to check their group’s ⁸geographic area as described on the Website – contact rodney@nwc.org.au for any preferred changes.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Geoff Ross, OEH – Discussion about a Victorian group media release concerning a Wedge-tailed Eagle being rescued in another State – (NSW/Vic border area) – and crossing the border for rehab. Questions were asked about fauna crossing borders. Different State wildlife authorities seem to have no problems about border crossings of wildlife for rescue/rehab purposes. It was suggested that the best resolution might be Memoranda of Understanding (MOU’s) between groups. Ilona Roberts advises that animals such as ducks and lorikeets can’t be buddied up cross border because Queensland Parks & Wildlife prohibit animals from crossing borders for “buddying” purposes or to go to Currumbin Sanctuary for rehab.

L. Vass - FOK use both Australia Zoo and Currumbin for koalas. View taken is as long as the animal is undergoing veterinary treatment it is acceptable to transfer fauna across the border without formal State Government transfer/licence paperwork.

G. Ross ⁹ will try to contact both Qld and Vic wildlife authorities to get a working group together to attempt to resolve these border issues for wildlife transfers.

RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY AND CASUAL VACANCY – R. Woodman is unable to continue in this role and has stated his intention to resign from the Secretary position once alternate internet banking facilities have been organised and are operating. This resignation will mean there will be a Casual Vacancy on Committee.

⁵ M. Ryan to send letter to Geoff Bartlett

⁶ M. Ryan send out Training Courses Excel Input sheet

⁷ M. Ryan liaise with R. Miller, R. Ferris re. Facebook and the Webpage

⁸ All groups to verify their information on the NWC Webpage

⁹ Geoff Ross – establish working group

Richard Woodman wishes to thank NWC for the opportunity to serve on committee for the short time. He said he has found it very informative and enlightening on what goes on in the Executive area.

Best wishes and thanks given to outgoing Secretary.

NWC BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES

Motion: *That John Richard Woodman is removed as a signatory on the NWC Bank account no. 494561624 with ANZ.* Proposed A. Koosman, Seconded: L. Vass - **Carried**

Motion: *This motion obsolete as no signatories apply yet to the account That John Richard Woodman is removed as signatory on the NWC Public Gift Fund with Westpac 405344 and to arrange the Public officer, Meredith Ryan, as the replacement signatory.* Proposed J. Maisey, Seconded I. Roberts – **Carried**

Casual Vacancy on Management Committee – any member who wishes to offer their services to fill the Casual Vacancy until the AGM should contact the Chair.

WOMBAT BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES UP DATE – Audrey Koosmen. Currently with OEH for final approvals. The next step is a return to NWC and WIRES then to a “higher level sign off” at NPWS.

BIRDS OF PREY CODE OF PRACTICE PROGRESS REPORT – Report tabled by Shona Lorigan.

My apologies for not being able to attend today’s meeting, I was hoping to be present to answer all your questions directly on the Bird of Prey and the Strategic plan but I am attending the review of the federal guidelines for whale watching, on behalf of ORRCA, which are only completed every 10 years.

Birds of Prey Code of Practice

The Birds of Prey Best practice guidelines have been upgraded and will become a code like the wombats. Though it appears that the project has not progressed very much, I have been working to move the document through the secondary review process. After the findings at the meeting in November, the document was written with all the attendees’ combined thoughts. In areas where no consensus could be found, a discussion point was raised with all viewpoints summarised. In March OEH sent the Wombat best practices guidelines back to the NWC after WIRES’ review and OEH had taken the step to combine the documents with the Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna. This had been requested by the Council at an earlier stage but until now had not been considered. With this change, the NWC facilitator approached OEH and gained permission to do the same for the Birds of Prey before it went to attendees for review. The document then sent out to attendees contained all the points from both documents, allowing them to review a more comprehensive document.

Several groups have requested extra time for the review and the final paper was only received last Thursday. The review process is comprehensive and the facilitator has prepared a second draft document with all changes and comments sent in. To date only 2 groups have not replied to the review process and given it has now extended to over 6 weeks, the facilitator will proceed without their comments. The document has grown from a 25 page Word document to a 45 page document after all reviews. Comments have been most helpful. This second draft will be reviewed by Audrey Koosmen, Meredith Ryan and the facilitator.

The third draft after this review will be submitted to OEH. It will contain where possible the agreed points by all attendee groups and where there is an issue, all views will be placed in front of OEH and the independent reviewer to make the final decision.

If any member group has any questions please contact me, I am happy to discuss the project – **Shona Lorigan**

Thanks given to S. Lorigan for her exhausting work on this project.

NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN – Report tabled by Shona Lorigan

The strategic plan will be written in two formats:

- 1) The plan will have a similar format to the last plan, with the changes and thoughts of all members who attended the planning meeting in February. Unfortunately the group was not able to discuss the entire document due to time constraints but the facilitator gained a strong view of the thoughts of members from the initial group work and notes taken in the first phase of the review. The facilitator will use these notes to complete the document.
- 2) A simpler strategic plan - what we want to achieve, how we will achieve it and then measurement - i.e goals, actions, results

The latter document evolved out of some of the discussions at the meeting.

Both documents will be submitted to attendees for their review. Based on their comments and findings a second draft will be presented to the entire council prior to the August meeting for discussion and hopefully ratification.

Resulting from a recommendation in the strategic planning process a working party comprising L. Vass, N. Henry and A. Koosmen was set up to approach the Minister re. progressing a NWC Secretariat. The change of Minister from Stokes to Speakman has delayed this process.

CARER GRANTS – Grant timetable to be brought forward to May to August – Audrey Koosmen
This subject was discussed earlier in meeting. Refer Action Item 4.

FIREARMS APPROVALS FOR REHABILITATORS – Advice received from Firearms Registry of Policy 2015/99 dated 15 April 2015 – Audrey Koosmen

Firearms Registry has formulated Policy 2015/99 that recognises licensed Wildlife rehabilitators as a genuine reason for the Animal Welfare category on firearms licences. Conditions apply and the Policy ¹⁰will be forwarded to all member groups. A request is to be made to OEH¹¹ to include an additional Fate code on the Rehabilitation Data Sheet “Euthanased by Rehabilitation Group-Firearm”.

R. Woodman expressed concern about additional requirements that the Firearms Registry may wish to institute for issue and reissue of firearms licences. R. Woodman advises that Tina Walker of the Firearms Registry asked R Woodman to provide a membership card back and front showing photo ID and approval from the rehabilitation group.

Firearms-related general discussion: Subject raised again whether landholders can legally shoot injured wildlife on their own properties. Answer is quoted as “no”. It was suggested that if RSPCA is contacted they can give approval over the phone for landholders to euthanase fauna on their property to save suffering. All cruelty issues with native animals should be referred to RSPCA not OEH.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

OUR COMMUNITY GRANTS LISTING – Jackie Maisey tabled a question on behalf of NTWC whether NWC might register for grants information listings from Our Community to be available to all NWC groups.

¹⁰ Vice Chair send Policy to Reps

¹¹ Vice Chair seek approval from OEH for additional Fate code

Vice Chair advises of contact with Our Community and their advice that Information on Grants availability provided by Our Community is copyrighted and if NWC was to join Our Community and wished to distribute the information NWC would need to pay \$85 for each member group.

WIRES RICC Training Course – Jill Dean. To complete the course there is a practical component that needs to be supervised – supervision can be by an approved member of another group. Attendees at WIRES RICC claim they have not been told that they will need to pay a membership fee for another group. FAWNA advises that two of their new members who have done the course were told at the outset that they would need to join the licensed group in their geographic area.

Groups’ Data Officers Meeting – J. Maisey asks is this meeting still planned? – OEHL have been unable to convene such a meeting due to staff changes.

L. Vass – Integrated Forestry Operations Agreements are currently being reviewed. The wildlife rehabilitation sector needs to ensure that there are wildlife protections in place, not just for Threatened Species.

Motion: *That Lorraine Vass is the nominee to ensure¹² NWC is informed on this process* Proposed M. Ryan, seconded J. Maisey – **Carried**

Kareela Flying-fox dispersal - Ilona Roberts — advised meeting that this and many other applications to disperse flying-fox camps are pending around Australia. Concern expressed where dispersed flying-foxes are to go. It was pointed out that this is all part of the Flying-fox Camp Management Policy that has been part of a consultative process. The approval process for the Sutherland (Kareela) process was described by J. Maisey as appropriate in that the intention is to disperse the flying-foxes from an area adjacent to high public use and remove designated vegetation to attempt to move the flying-foxes to other areas within the same camp.

Ilona Roberts will draft¹³ a letter to IFAW seeking action on flying-fox dispersal matters.

It is important as representatives of the rehabilitation sector that we do our homework and speak authoritatively rather than emotionally on wildlife issues.

AUDITS – A. Koosmen - OEHL may commence wildlife rehabilitation group audits in 2016.

Wildlife Carers Mudgee Region (WCMR) asked NWC to provide a letter informing OEHL that there were some unlicensed individuals, former members of WCMR, operating in the WCMR area. A. Koosmen advised it is not NWC business.

Minister’s Round Table meeting Friday, 22 May, 2015 – Report tabled and attached to Minutes.

Land and Habitat Conservation seem to be a greater draw card for outside funding than wildlife.

One of the attending Groups, Conservation Volunteers, advised they are available to do outside training for other groups.

Non-releasable animals – permanent care v. euthanasia. Discussion on ability for rehabilitation groups to retain unreleasable fauna. It was suggested all groups familiarise themselves with the

¹² L. Vass keep a watching brief and inform NWC on Integrated Forestry Operations Agreements matters

¹³ I. Roberts contact IFAW

licence conditions that cover what fauna can and cannot be held in permanent care and the approval processes.

6. **NEXT MEETING:** General Meeting Sat 22 and Annual General Meeting and Sun 23 August 2015, at The Centre, Randwick.

7. **MEETING CLOSED: 14.55 p.m.**

Signed: Audrey Koosmen,

Minutes Book signed Audrey Koosmen

22-08-2015

Chair Date:.....

Attachments to Minutes of NWC General Meeting held 26-5-2015

Report from Chair – A. Koosmen

The past three months have been quite a challenge with the Secretary's ill health which saw him having to step back from the role. Business must go on so we all stepped up and worked together to keep NWC business running.

A special thank you to Meredith who stepped up to take on the bulk of the Secretary tasks.

Our Treasurer has had both knees replaced and is still in recovery.

Recent storms that affected many of us caused huge extra workloads to many wildlife groups.

Many of the tasks taken on over the past few months have also been challenging.

Tasks completed, or nearing completion are:

Relocation of mail

Bank signatories removing Secretary and replacing with Vice Chair. ANZ is quite concerning to deal with and this has caused no end of concern but is nearly done.

On a positive note we are moving forward with Wombat Best Practice Guidelines which is about to be signed off.

We have had success with the Firearms Registry Animal Welfare category for licensed wildlife rehabilitators. I would like a note of thanks to be Minuted recognising Phil Machin who has been the driving force behind this and also to all who have worked hard on this project. We should be very pleased.

I feel we are moving forward with Best Practices and Codes – we will continue to achieve with the support of OEH and also with WIRES now working alongside NWC.

Over the next month we hope to meet with Minister Speakman and also meet with staff at OEH to bring forward your concerns.

NWC will attempt to be included on the Labor Round Table chaired by Luke Foley.

NWC has failed to meet with Peter Stathis, OEH but I met on 25-5-15 with our OEH representative, Geoff Ross, and our deliberations have been included elsewhere in these Minutes.

Minister's Round Table meeting 22-5-2105 – Report A. Koosmen

In Shona Lorigan's absence at ORRCA training in Perth I represented NWC.

The primary objective of the meeting was to allow the new Minister for the Environment, Mark Speakman, to introduce himself to groups around the Table.

Some 4 staff from the Minister's office were in attendance, and 6 from Office of Environment attended. There were 17 invited attendees.

Groups in attendance introduced themselves and their groups.

The Minister then allowed us one by one to say what our groups so and asked us to express our interests, concerns.

I gave an overview of the forming of the NWC and why. I gave thanks to NPWS / OEH for their ongoing support and said that the NWC primary objective is the welfare of the wildlife of NSW and To see that wildlife rehabilitation is protected in legislation changes and this also includes seeing wildlife habitat it protected and managed correctly in all area of NSW which included land and sea.

I said we had concerns to the final findings in the review of the Biodiversity Legislation in NSW. This was the hot topic of the day by all groups.

Cuts in funding at local Regional level was raised by me and by others around the table which I said had major effects to the licenced wildlife groups and also that some groups received no funding at all.

Recurring disasters were discussed and the effects they had on our wildlife and extra strains placed on licenced wildlife groups' on the ground and on their costs.

The Minister said he wished to engage a one on one meeting with all groups on the Round table and that will be followed by by NWC Committee.

Native Vegetation Act was a hot discussion topic from the floor.

The NPWS staff spoke on the project they have going with Spot 5 (or fire?) mapping across NSW which can map regrowth, old growth forest through satellite imagery and there should be an annual report out in a few months. This was not well received by some attendees – some challenged NPWS feeling this is not the answer. The way they are allowing clearing of forests is not correct forest management.

Land tax was another hot topic from the floor – it was suggested private land owners who are managing land correctly should not be taxed.

NWC was well-received by everyone and praised for its work and many gave support to our concerns. I thank all conservation groups for their hard work and said that without their voice out wildlife would have no habitat so we need to work together.

My recommendation from the Ministers Round Table is that a meeting must take place with the Minister and NWC should be meeting with interested parties from the Round Table and form a better networking relationship.

Audrey Koosmen