

**NSW Wildlife Council Inc. – Minutes**  
**General Meeting #37 – Sat 22 August 2015 – 09.30 a.m.**  
**Adjourned session – Sun 23 August 2015 – 09.00 – 09.30 a.m.**

“The Centre”, 14 Francis Street, RANDWICK, NSW

**Chair: Audrey Koosmen**

**MEETING OPEN:** 09:30 am

Welcome by Chair. Welcome to new appointed Reps/Alternates: Carmel Northwood, Rep HKPS; *Brendan Diacono\**, *Alt LAOKO*; Bill Waterhouse, Alt NARG; *Rachel Peach\**, *Rep Wildlife Aid*; *Brad Smith\**, *Alt Wildlife Aid*; Miriam Hazel, Alt Wildcare Queanbeyan (*\*Italic = not present*)

Tributes given and a moment’s silence following death of Gwen Parry-Jones and Bill McConnell, both wildlife warriors.

**IN**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA
Lorraine	Vass	Friends of the Koala
Carmel	Northwood	HKPS (absent 23-8-15)
Peter	Graham	LAOKO SMWR
Shirley	Lack	NARG
Bill	Waterhouse	NARG
Audrey	Koosmen	NATF
Sandra	Norris	NRWC
Jacquie	Maisey	NTWC
Shona	Lorigan	ORRCA
Sonja	Elwood	SMWS
Ilona	Roberts	TVWC from 10.40 a.m.
Naomi	Henry	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Miriam	Hazel	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Jan	Brazel	Wildlife ARC
Richard	Woodman	WRSC

**APOLOGIES:**

Jill	Dean	NATF
Helen	Kennedy	SMWS
Lorraine	Yudaeff	WINC
Warren	Blackley	WC Mudgee Region
Donna	Blackley	WC Mudgee Region

**09.35 – 10.15 Guest Speaker** – Cancelled at last minute with apologies due to ill health

**Alex Smillie, Insurance Consultant, Driessen Insurance Brokers Pty. Ltd.**

**Insurance Topics – discussion:**

**Entering roof spaces and climbing ladders for rescues:** Some groups are claiming insurance prevents their members from doing those things. It was stressed to groups that insurance does cover volunteers for ladders and roof spaces. <sup>1</sup>NWC will contact member groups to suggest that they should ensure that if they have an internal management policy to stop members from climbing ladders they should state to members of the public that it is group policy, not an insurance exclusion. Groups are covered by insurance for suitably-trained members undertaking potentially dangerous activities e.g. tree-climbing, use of ladders, entry into roof spaces, under houses, licensed firearms use, reptile handling, and all activities related to dealing with or handling of fauna in any form as a result of being a member of an insured licensed group.

NWC has the possibility to tailor-make its insurance cover e.g. reduce age, amend out-of-pocket amount. This is negotiable prior to renewal time in April 2016.

A separate Public and Products liability covers damage or harm to outside people and property. ORRCA is concerned about safety of outsiders in publicly visible rescue events; due to Public Liability concerns the group insists that all safety signs at incidents are installed by NPWS personnel.

Groups must ensure that all training has a safety component that alerts members to the potential dangers inherent in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

Insurance Officer stressed that all contact regarding insurance matters must only be through the elected NWC Insurance Officer. She reminded members that all Medicare Claims must be settled before insurance takes effect.

The unlicensed organisation, Wildlife Rescue Inc., asserted in an email to NWC that outsiders are covered by insurance for a wildlife rescue if the insured group actually asks an outsider to assist and they are harmed in the process. Insurance Officer will query this assertion with Insurance Broker.

Thanks given to Shirley for her work through the year and she was complimented for the good relationship she has developed with the Broker.

## **1. Confirmation of the Minutes** of the 26 May 2015 General Meeting No. 36

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the 26 May 2015 General Meeting are a true and correct record.

Proposed: L. Vass      Seconded: J. Maisey :      **Carried**

## **2. Business arising** from that meeting. Action list update

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<sup>1</sup> A/Secretary/Insurance Officer draft Notice to Members re. insurance disclosures

Action Item No.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACTION LIST</b>  <b>Task allocated to person named - Refer to Minutes of NWC Meeting held on Tue 26 May 2015</b></p>	Result
1	[1] Lorigan/Koosmen liaise RSPCA WIRES letter	Agreed WIRES only contact
2	[1] P. Graham contact J. Fitzgerald (total area of rehab-owned land for release)	Task underway
3	[1] Vice Chair liaise with Treasurer re. reports.	Completed
4	[1] Vice Chair liaise re. Small Grants Notice going to reps.	Completed
5	[1] M. Ryan to send letter to Geoff Bartlett (thanks for service)	Completed & GB responded
6	[1] M. Ryan send out Training Courses Excel Input sheet	Completed
7	[1] M. Ryan liaise with R. Miller, R. Ferris re. Facebook and the Webpage	Webpage OK; Facebook at standstill
8	[1] All groups to verify their information on the NWC Webpage	Some have responded as recorded on CoReg
9	[1] Geoff Ross – establish working group (animals cross State borders matter)	Reminder sent to GR Question has arisen again re. NSW/ACT
10	[1] Vice Chair send Policy to Reps (Firearms-Animal Welfare)	Completed
11	[1] Vice Chair seek approval from OEH for additional Fate code (Euthanased by rehabilitation group-firearm)	Completed and agreed to – has appeared on 2015 Rehabilitator Data Sheet
12	L. Vass keep a watching brief and inform NWC on Integrated Forestry Operations Agreements matters	Ongoing
13	[1] I. Roberts contact IFAW (assistance on flying-fox dispersal matter)	No budget available for this finance period

Action Item 7 – It was suggested NWC needs to have more active moderators on the Facebook page and care should be taken that posts do not include inappropriate or “cutesy” depictions of interactions with fauna.

**New Action:** L. Vass and S. Elwood and S. Lorigan<sup>2</sup> will liaise with R. Ferris to accept their posts to go on the NWC Facebook. Members are to be advised to send posts to any of those 4.

Action Item 9 – SMWS advised they came to an arrangement with NSW and ACT wildlife authorities for flying-foxes to be transferred between ACT and NSW for rehabilitation without requirement for import-export permits for individual animals. A multiple-animal permit was still required.

Wildcare Queanbeyan advised they keep an annual list of cross-border wildlife movements ACT/NSW.

<sup>2</sup> L. Vass, S. Elwood, S. Lorigan liaise with R. Ferris regarding all being able to post to NWC Facebook to keep site updated and relevant.

Action Item 12 – Big environmental group have walked away from the consultation process. Will keep NWC informed.

- 3. Correspondence** CoReg from 26/5/2015 to 17/8/2015 sent to Reps email line. Secretary suggests this be distributed monthly.

**Motion:** That the Co-Reg is distributed monthly.

Proposed: L. Vass;           Seconded J. Maisey:           **Carried.**

**Correspondence of note since above CoReg circulated:**

- Wildcare Queanbeyan notification of Rep Naomi Henry and Alt Miriam Hazel;
- Request from N. Henry that NWC considers request from Voiceless re. signing open letter in support of continuation of California Kangaroo (product) ban was withdrawn after much discussion.
- OEH Website listing discussion: Needs monitoring to make sure that OEH does activate NWC's request for revised listing.

**Land available for release of rehabilitated wildlife:**

**Motion:** That Peter Graham and Meredith Ryan liaise, in consultation with the management committee to obtain data via Reps from member groups on area of land available for release of wildlife, identified to Local Government Area and in a manner that avoids duplication.

Propose: P. Graham;           Seconded J. Brazel;           **Carried**

**Morning Tea 11:00**

**Motion:** That the Correspondence Register from 26 May to 17 August 2015 and subsequent correspondence is accepted.

Proposed: M. Ryan           Seconded: L. Vass:           **Carried**

**4. Chair Report – A. Koosmen**

- Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy. Needs to be reviewed.
- NPWS Audit of NATF – Background given of previous and current proposed audit. Wildlife Aid was scheduled for Audit March/April 2013 – it appears it may not have taken place.

Bill Waterhouse: Suggests the NPWS Audit Guidelines be distributed to all Reps/Alts.<sup>3</sup>

**Motion:** That NWC <sup>4</sup>writes a Letter of support to the NATF, acknowledging inequities in the current repeat Audit process foreshadowing that an approach will

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<sup>3</sup> S. Elwood or A/Secretary locate and distribute Audit Guidelines

be made to OEH to facilitate a more consistent application of the Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy (2010).

Proposed: B. Waterhouse;                      Seconded R. Woodman      **Carried**

**Motion:** In the light of ongoing concerns at the current NATF audit process, <sup>5</sup>NWC should write to OEH offering assistance in the 2015 review of the Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy.

Proposed B. Waterhouse;                      Seconded I. Roberts      **Carried**

- **Meeting with WIRES**

- Audrey Koosmen and Shona Lorigan met with WIRES CEO Leanne Taylor to discuss working together as a team over the Biodiversity Legislation Review. Both felt the biggest concern was the de-licensing of wildlife to enable it to be sold in pet shops. It was agreed that both parties would put together a list of discussion points to justify this stance, combine points, and then approach relevant stakeholders to put together a concerted voice to ensure appropriate outcomes.
- NWC reiterated its wish for WIRES and NWC to be reconciled. Wires CEO agreed to make this known to the WIRES Board.
- It was agreed to write <sup>6</sup> a letter to Wires CEO confirming discussions.
- Chair asks should we include WIRES training courses on the NWC website. It was suggested there might be difficulty as these are listed on the Members Only section of the WIRES website.

- **Increased use of arrows harming fauna**

Concern expressed at the increased number of incidents reported to wildlife rehabilitation groups.

Groups need to provide evidentiary data to support any action. <sup>7</sup>NWC to ask Reps to provide data to Peter Graham on any harm caused to wildlife by authorised or unauthorised weapons.

Discuss further Agenda Item 13. Is there something NWC can do about recommending some form of licensing for weapons such as bows and arrows?

## **5. Treasurer's Report - S. Lack - Report presented for July 2015**

Report tabled and attached to Minutes. Income \$25,000; Expenditure \$1119.88. Balance of all accounts NSW Wildlife Council \$99867.80; NWC Public Fund \$509.58.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report for July is accepted and payments for the report period are authorised.

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<sup>4</sup> Management Ctte draft letter re. NATF Audit

<sup>5</sup> Management Ctte draft letter to OEH re. Policy review

<sup>6</sup> Koosmen/Lorigan draft letter to WIRES

<sup>7</sup> Action: Peter Graham to source and secure data from groups.

Proposed: S. Lack

Seconded: B. Waterhouse: **Carried**

**6. Wombat Code of Practice progress report – A. Koosmen**

Currently in front of Taronga Wildlife for input on Mange section. Completion is expected by the end of August.

**Question:** Is any government action being taken about treatment of Mange? S. Lack advises there are many agencies working hard to try to combat mange. P. Graham. Should we promote to government that a bounty is placed on Fox scalps since Local Land Services declaration of the fox as a declared pest?

**Motion:** In the light of the seriousness of the problem of mange in Wombats being spread by foxes it is resolved that the NWC<sup>8</sup> approaches the relevant government agency to re-establish a bounty on foxes in order to assist in the control of the spread of sarcoptic mange in wombats.

Proposed: P. Graham;

Seconded J. Maisey

**Carried**

**7. Bird of Prey Code of Practice progress report – A. Koosmen/S. Lorigan**

The Final Draft from NWC has been distributed to OEH for final independent review/consultation process.

Shona Lorigan congratulated and thanked for her considerable input in both facilitation of group session and her work in putting the Draft Code together.

**8. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants – 14 eligible applications to be voted on at AGM – S. Lack**

S. Lack has prepared a more detailed summary of the 14 grants for view by any members interested. Two copies only are available for viewing.

**9. Wildlife Rescue App –S. Lack – no update available from IFAW for meeting.**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**10. Travel Expenses – Chair – M. Ryan**

**Notice of Motion:** That the Chair, the management committee, and any member delegated to conduct NWC business is eligible to claim a meal allowance when travelling overnight or longer on NWC business up to the NSW Public Service meal allowance rate.

Proposed: M. Ryan

Seconded: J. Maisey:

**Carried**

**11. Vehicle Travel Expenses – Reps and Alternates – M. Ryan**

**Notice of Motion:** That to partly contribute to vehicle running costs Reprs and Alternates using their private vehicles to attend NWC meetings or approved NWC business are eligible to claim travel costs at the rate of 150% of the cost of fuel consumed for that travel.

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<sup>8</sup> Management Committee formulate approach to government to re-establish bounty on foxes.

Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: J. Maisey: **Carried** R. Woodman wishes his vote against to be recorded.

## **12. Nature Conservation Council update and Motion for Annual Conference – L. Vass**

Deadline of 18 September to word any <sup>9</sup>recommended motion.

## **13. Boundary map for wildlife rehabilitation groups on EOH website and on other resources – R. Woodman**

BAMC Webservices (former Webmaster) had a group finder on the NWC Website. R. Woodman believes it is a backward step that NWC no longer has this facility. S. Lorigan advised that at the February meeting it was agreed that there would be a link facility to the OEH Website for a group finder. OEH has not yet finalised a map on the Website that accurately reflects all locations for licensed groups.

## **14. Koala Health Hub & Koala Training – L. Vass**

L. Vass is happy to re-send out to groups licensed to deal with koalas, details on the Koala Health Hub services available.

L. Vass spoke of attendance at WIRES Koala workshop in Port Macquarie in July with about 80 in total with 60 from WIRES and 20 from other groups. Networking was excellent.

## **14:40 Break for Afternoon Tea – 15.50**

## **15. Forward Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018 – Presentation – S. Lorigan**

Meeting adjourned at 18:45. To be reconvened 23 August at 09:00.

Reconvened 0905 23-8-2015 (C. Northwood not in attendance).

NATF'S Disaster management Plan is available on the Website [www.awrc.org.au](http://www.awrc.org.au) 2004 Rehabilitation Conference Papers. A/Secretary will distribute the May 2009 Draft Major Incident Plan to understand complexity and provide something to compare with the NATF plan.

S. Lorigan will <sup>10</sup>prepare final Strategic Plan review and distribute to the Group.

Thanks given to Shona Lorigan for her dedication and hard work to complete this task.

## **16. Next meeting: Sun 23 August 2015 AGM The Centre, Randwick**

## **17. Meeting dates for 2015-2016 year**

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<sup>9</sup> Management Committee will consider any recommended Motions to put to the Conference

<sup>10</sup> S. Lorigan finalise distribution of Strategic Plan

<u>GENERAL /AGM MEETING- DATE</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>BOOKED By whom</u>
Tuesday, 24 November 2015	OEH Hurstville Room 1.04	Yes-AK
Tuesday, 23 February 2016	OEH Hurstville Room 1.01	Yes-AK
Tuesday, 24 May 2016	OEH Hurstville Room 1.04	Yes-AK
Saturday, 27 August 2016	The Centre, Randwick	Yes-SL
Sunday, 28 August 2016 AGM	The Centre, Randwick	Yes-SL

<u>MANAGEMENT CTTE - MTG DATE</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>BOOKED By whom</u>
Tuesday, 22 September 2015	OEH Hurstville Room 2.02	Yes-AK
Tuesday, 12 January 2016	OEH Hurstville Room 3.01	Yes-AK
Tuesday, 12 April 2016	OEH Hurstville Room 3.01	Yes-AK
Tuesday, 12 July 2016	OEH Hurstville Room 3.01	Yes-AK
Friday, 26 August 2016	The Centre, Randwick	Yes-SL

Shaded cell means different room from normal.

## 18. Nominations for Annual Elections – A. Koosmen

Nomination forms are available

**MEETING CLOSED: 18.45 Sat 22-8-2015 and 09:37 on Sun 23-8-2015**

Signed

Meredith Ryan, Vice Chair

Minutes approved General Meeting held on

Date 24-11-2015