

**NSW Wildlife Council Inc. – Minutes**  
**Tuesday 23 February 2016 – Commencing 10.00 a.m.**

Office of Environment & Heritage  
 Room 1.01  
 43 Bridge Street, Hurstville

**Chair: Audrey Koosmen**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** *Peter Stathis, Senior Team Leader, Biodiversity and Wildlife, Nature Conservation Section, Parks Conservation and Heritage Branch, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Peter will update the meeting on the Biodiversity Legislation Review.*

See notes at end of Minutes

**MEETING OPEN:** 10.00 am

Welcome by Chair. Introduction of Peter Stathis.

<b><i>In attendance</i></b>		
Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA (NSW) Inc
Lorraine	Vass	Friends of the Koala
Carmel	Northwood	Hunter Koala Preservation Society
Peter	Graham	LAOKO Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
Audrey	Koosmen	NATF Hunter Wildlife Rescue
Shirley	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
Shona	Lorigan	ORRCA
Rachel	Yerbury	ORRCA Alternate
Brad	Smith	Wildlife Aid
Miriam	Hazel	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Jan	Brazel	Wildlife ARC
Jacky	Hunt	Wildlife ARC
Richard	Woodman	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

**Visitor**

Peter	Stathis	Office of Environment & Heritage
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**Apologies**

Paul	McLeod	Koalas in Care
Jill	Dean	NATF Hunter Wildlife Rescue
Jacqueline	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Sonya	Elwood	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services
Ilona	Roberts	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
Naomi	Henry	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Lorraine	Yudaeff	Wildlife in Need of Care

**1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 24 November General Meeting No. 38**

Motion: That the Minutes of the 24-11-2015 General Meeting are a true and correct record.

Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: Carmel Northwood; **Carried**

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

No.	<b><u>ACTION LIST FROM NWC GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUE 24 NOVEMBER 2015</u></b>	<b><u>To be actioned by</u></b>	<b><u>Result</u></b>
1	<sup>[1]</sup> S. Lorigan forward Facebook report to Reps	S. Lorigan	Distributed to Meeting & will be <sup>1</sup> emailed to Reps
2	<sup>[1]</sup> R. Ferris provide Twitter Codes to Public Officer if required	R. Ferris	S. Lorigan <sup>2</sup> will secure codes and pass to Public Officer
3	<sup>[1]</sup> Treasurer activate BNP Membership	S. Lack	Completed
4	<sup>[1]</sup> Insurance Officer and A/Secretary prepare Incident Report	S. Lack/M. Ryan	Completed & distributed
5	<sup>[1]</sup> Insurance Officer and Ctte determine re. Insurance Procedures Policy	Committee	To be referred to in Insurance Report
6	<sup>[1]</sup> Public Officer lodge Constitutional Change with relevant bodies.	M. Ryan	Completed
7	P. Graham draft Fox bounty submission	P. Graham	Drafted & read to meeting. PG <sup>3</sup> will email to committee for consideration
8	<sup>[1]</sup> Lorigan Lack & Ryan liaise on Wombat Code Thank You	S. Lorigan, S. Lack, M. Ryan	A/Sec draft for approval
9	<sup>[1]</sup> A/Secretary follow up progress of Bird of Prey Code with OEH	M. Ryan	Lorigan to report
10	<sup>[1]</sup> Treasurer send \$1000 grant to I Usher	S. Lack	Completed
11	<sup>[1]</sup> N. Henry nomination presented to Executive	M. Ryan	A/Sec to draft letter for Chair to send nominating N. Henry on any Kangaroo Consultative Ctte NCC may form <sup>4</sup>
12	<sup>[1]</sup> A/Secy send Message to reps following up on phone costs	M. Ryan	Not required
13	<sup>[1]</sup> Reminder M. Ryan to groups to respond on group boundaries by 5 December.	M. Ryan	Reminder sent and details forwarded to OEH – M. Giese acknowledged

Motion: That the business arising as noted is approved.

<sup>1</sup> Lorigan email Facebook report to A/Sec

<sup>2</sup> Lorigan access Twitter codes and send to Public Officer

<sup>3</sup> P Graham send bounty draft letter to committee

<sup>4</sup> A/Sec draft letter

Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: S. Lack; **Carried**

- 3. Correspondence** CoReg from Nov 11 – 1<sup>st</sup> week in February distributed to NWC Group email. Nil significant correspondence since.

The HKPS will be nominating a new Alternate in due course. The resignation of C. Northwood has been rescinded.

22/2/16 Wildlife Aid new Rep is Joanne Kelly, replacing Rachael Peach, with Brad Smith remaining as Alternate.<sup>5</sup>

Motion: That the Correspondence Register from November 11, 2015 is accepted.

Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: P. Graham; **Carried**

- 4. Chair Report** – A. Koosmen – appended to Minutes

**Motion to accept Chair report:** Moved A. Koosmen; seconded J. Brazel: **Carried**

- 5. Treasurer's Report** - S. Lack

Reports distributed to Reps Email and appended to Minutes:

For the period July 2015 to January 2016:

Profit and Loss Statement

Trial Balance

Balance Sheet

\$76985.14 Main Account; Term Deposit \$31696.71 ; Public Fund including Pay Pal \$807.93–  
Total Funds \$109350.48

Motion: That the Treasurer's Reports as listed are accepted and inserted in official Minutes copy.

Proposed: S. Lack; Seconded: P. Graham; **Carried**

- 6. Insurance Officer Report** – S. Lack –

<sup>6</sup>Management Committee will determine whether a Policy on Insurance procedures should be developed and distributed. There has not been a meeting to determine action.

Report read and appended to Minutes: The value of claims since NWC has been insured under the NCC umbrella total around \$20,000.

Facepainting is an activity that is covered by insurance – confirmed by Insurer.

Incident reports have been sent in by member groups for a number of occurrences, not all of which would lead to a claim.

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<sup>5</sup> A/Sec amend Membership list and distribute

<sup>6</sup> Insurance Officer and Cttee determine re. Insurance Procedures Policy

Current claim for a major storm accident is pending. NWC sends best wishes to the accident victim.

Proposed: S. Lack; Seconded: Carmel Northwood; **Carried**

- 7. Public Officer Report** – M. Ryan<sup>7</sup> needs to determine what form of advice needs to be given to REO and ACNC on Constitutional Change.

PO still to action above.

- 8. Raptors (Bird of Prey) Code of Practice** progress report – S. Lorigan

Ron Haering OEH has been tasked with processing of the final Code. NWC presented final draft to OEH for further consultative process with other stakeholders to become a Code, rather than a Best Practice Guidelines. OEH was thrilled with the documents and pleased it went to an independent arbiter, Libby Hall, Taronga Wildlife Hospital.

The document has progressed to the next stage – it has been reviewed and a few changes have been made. No time frame has yet been given for approval and completion.

An email of <sup>8</sup>thanks will be sent to R. Haering and P. Stathis for progress to date.

Vote of thanks given to Shona Lorigan for her sheer doggedness, determination and skill in bringing this Bird of Prey review task to completion Moved: M. Ryan; Seconded J. Hunt;  
**Carried**

- 9. Future Code/s of Practice – What Species next most important?** – Audrey Koosmen

Suggestions for species included in order

Reptiles (Terrestrial)

Macropods,

Birds, (There was discussion whether birds need to be “segmented” into bird types, but no conclusions reached).

Possums & Gliders

Management <sup>9</sup>Committee will present this list to OEH seeking its preference/opinion for development of the next Code of Practice. It was suggested WIRES should be included in this process of species selection for the next Code of Practice. <sup>10</sup>Letter will be sent to WIRES enquiring whether it has any preference for the next species group to be chosen for a new Code of Practice.

S. Lorigan has agreed to continue as facilitator on development of Future Codes of Practice.

- 10. Forward Strategic Plan** – Hard copy was distributed to meeting.

- 11. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants – S. Lack update report**

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<sup>7</sup> Public Officer contact ACNC and REO re. advice of constitution change

<sup>8</sup> Koosmen email re. Bird of Prey code

<sup>9</sup> Chair/A Sec liaise regarding form of notice to OEH re. preferred species

<sup>10</sup> A/Secretary write WIRES seeking their preference for next species

Kerry Wall - Wombat Release Site completed – final report received  
Wendy Atrill - Humidicrib purchased  
Anne Williams - no progress reports received (Bird of Prey aviary extensions)  
Lou Gardiner - Kangaroo compound extensions work underway  
Ian Usher reptile enclosure – awaiting details – work has started but delayed due to ill health

The process has been difficult administratively with the amount of follow through required to obtain action reports from grantees.

## **12. Wildlife Rescue App – update – S. Lack –**

No reports received from IFAW on progress of App finalisation.

## **13. Nature Conservation Council Report – L. Vass**

Brief rundown given of campaign: **STAND UP FOR NATURE**  
[www.nature.org.au/campaigns/nature-laws/](http://www.nature.org.au/campaigns/nature-laws/)  
[www.tec.org.au/campaigns](http://www.tec.org.au/campaigns)

Review of the NCC's Kangaroo Policy. See Action item list.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **14. Rescue Baskets – Bulk import purchase for NWC groups – M. Ryan –** There have not been sufficient orders from groups to warrant a special bulk manufacture order and importation.

A<sup>11</sup> Secretary is to make recommendations on what various options are to import a quantity of rescue baskets that is economical for groups.

### **15. New WIRES Board – Consultative process – Audrey Koosmen**

There is a new elected WIRES board. The State Council nominates the board. The new chair is Storm Sandford. NWC has been trying to build bridges with WIRES and has made contact to attempt to meet with the new board. Storm Sandford will take the request to the WIRES board to meet with NWC.

Question: WIRES was involved with all Codes of Practice facilitation meetings with the exception of wombats, but for that species WIRES provided comment after the first draft.

It is important that NWC is seen to be working closely with WIRES.

### **16. Wildlife harm caused by various weapons – A. Koosmen – (M. Ryan)** Report received from Wildlife Rescue Inc about macropods being killed or harmed by bows and arrows in the Coffs Harbour area. Information sought from CEO WIRES to ensure if any action taken it shows a united front – no response received from WIRES.

Report received from Wildcare Queanbeyan of incidents where macropods have been shot with arrows.

NATF have had macropods shot by arrows. Two plovers in 2 weeks were shot by high-powered arrows.

Wildlife ARC reports of goanna with arrow; joey shot, kangaroo mother dead, two possums decapitated and a goanna speared with an arrow.

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<sup>11</sup> A/Secretary summarise and communicate options for importation of rescue baskets

<sup>12</sup>NWC Webmaster to be asked whether the NWC Website could have a reporting facility for records of Deliberate Harm to wildlife.

**17. Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference – Melbourne – 1-4 August, 2016 – NWC delegates – A. Koosmen**

**Motion:** That NWC cover the cost of registration, air fares and accommodation for Chair and A/Secretary to attend the AWRC 2016 conference in Melbourne. Proposed: S. Lorigan; Seconded J. Brazel; **Carried**

**18. EOH website descriptions of group boundaries – M. Ryan**

A number of NWC groups have requested amendments to their boundary descriptions on the NWC Website – these have been advised to NWC and put into one document. This has been sent to OEH and an acknowledgment (M. Giese) has been received that the matter will be actioned as quickly as possible – possibly in March.

**19. Revision and reprint/update of NWC Brochure – A. Koosmen**

Groups have been asked to provide their member numbers so NWC total “catchment” can be correct in any revised brochure. To date 23-2-16 ten groups account for 1543 members. A/Secretary <sup>13</sup>to follow up with groups. Groups that have responded with their member numbers are:

- Australian Seabird Rescue
- FAWNA (NSW)
- Hunter Koala Preservation Society
- Koalas In Care
- Native Animal Rescue Group
- Wildcare Queanbeyan
- Wildlife Aid
- Wildlife ARC
- Wildlife in Need of Care
- Wildlife Rescue South Coast

**Motion:** That the <sup>14</sup>A/Secretary and Chair liaise over quotes for revised NWC brochure. Proposed: A. Koosmen; Seconded: P. Graham; **Carried**

**20. Land for Release of rehabilitated wildlife – P. Graham**

Due to computer malfunction we need members to restate amount of land available for release of wildlife from all groups. <sup>15</sup> Pete will do. It is useful information to include in any revamped brochure.

**21. Facebook reports – S. Lorigan presented Facebook Report for 6 month period. This is appended to Minutes.**

**22. Wombat Protection Society Conference 11-12 March 2017 Panther’s Penrith**

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<sup>12</sup> A Secretary consult with Webmaster over feasibility of designing an incident reporting system of deliberate harm to wildlife

<sup>13</sup> A/Secretary follow up groups for member numbers

<sup>14</sup> Chair A/Sec liaise quotes for renewed NWC brochure

<sup>15</sup> P. Graham ask Reps for repeat of acreage owned by NWC members available for wildlife release

### 23. Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday, 24 May 2016	OEH Hurstville
Saturday, 27 August 2016	The Centre, Randwick
Sunday, 28 August 2016 AGM	The Centre, Randwick

**Meeting Close:** Time 3 p.m.

Signed/Chair ...*Approval signature A. Koosmen, Chair*..... Date ...*24-05-2016*.....

### Notes from P. Stathis presentation to meeting:

Biodiversity Review:

- Independent panel reported in 2015. Reforming aspects of Act.
- Delayed draft Bill due to controversy over vegetation clearing proposals.
- Expected Bill will be out in first 2016 trimester. There will be a Comment period.
- Believe Fauna rehab section important and believe it can be strengthened.
- Working with rehab sector and Council role will be consultative and important.
- Form of accreditation, how it can be strengthened and how it works.
- Fact sheets will be produced.
- Any concerns that need clarification call Peter Stathis in the first instance.
- Council role very important – looking for coherent unified rehabilitation sector.
- More standardised training and consistent information.
- Government understands how important fauna rehab is. (May not result in investment or money on the table – need to spend time to get it right.)
- Implementation around mid-2017 – won't happen all at once. It will be a transitional process.
- Question: Is accreditation likely to be to groups or individuals? – PS most likely groups.

Breakdown was given of Biodiversity and Wildlife Team priorities:

1. Biodiversity Legislation Review
2. Restoration
3. Saving Our Species
4. Monitoring and Improvement
5. Conservation priorities

List of projects within the Biodiversity and Wildlife, Nature Conservation Section, Parks Conservation and Heritage Branch, National Parks and Wildlife Service which shows the fauna rehabilitation sector is only a tiny part of the Section's activities.

## Saving our Species

- NSW Threatened Species Act will change and come under Biodiversity Conservation Act
- \$100m budget for conservation work commencing July 2016

## Marine Fauna Response

### Wildlife Licensing

- Scientific
- Service NSW
- Animal Keepers Licence
- Companion Animal
- Pesticide Licence
- Fauna Rehabilitation
- Licenses to Harm Sec. 120 and 121
- Wildlife Incidents

## Rewilding – nature conservation tools

### Ministerial functions

### Wild counts

### Alpine Monitoring Program

### Individual Parks surveys

### Wetlands Work RAMSAR

### Native Vegetation

## **End of Minutes**