

NSW Wildlife Council Inc. – Minutes - General Meeting 40

Tuesday 24 May 2016 – Commencing 10.00 a.m.

Office of Environment & Heritage
Room 1.04 43 Bridge Street, Hurstville

Chair: Audrey Koosmen

GUEST SPEAKER:

At 11.00 a.m. Alison Gibbins, Senior Manager Nature Conservation NPWS/OEH will address the NWC with an update on matters concerning licensed rescue/rehabilitation groups due to the Biodiversity Legislation review and the effects on the wildlife sector. Ms. Gibbins will be accompanied by Mr. Ron Haering.

At 1.30 p.m. Donna Morgan, RSPCA Inspector will join the discussion on recording instances of deliberate harm or cruelty to wildlife.

MEETING OPEN: 10.00 am

	<i>In attendance</i>		
1	Don	Eagleton	Australian Seabird Rescue
2	Nikki	Main	Australian Seabird Rescue-Alt
3	Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA (NSW) Inc
4	Lorraine	Vass	Friends of the Koala
5	Carmel	Northwood	Hunter Koala Preservation Society
6	Peter	Graham	LAOKO Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
7	Audrey	Koosmen	NATF Hunter Wildlife Rescue
8	Jill	Dean	NATF Hunter Wildlife Rescue-Alt
9	Shirley	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
10	Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
11	Jacquie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
12	Shona	Lorigan	ORRCA
13	Sonja	Elwood	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services
14	Ilona	Roberts	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
15	Miriam	Hazel	Wildcare Queanbeyan
16	Joanne	Kelly	Wildlife Aid
17	Jan	Brazel	Wildlife ARC
18	Jacky	Hunt	Wildlife ARC-Alt
19	Richard	Woodman	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

Visitor

Josey	Sharrad	IFAW
Alison	Gibbins	Office of Environment & Heritage
Ron	Haering	Office of Environment & Heritage
Donna	Morgan	Inspector, RSPCA

Apologies

Lorraine	Yudaeff	Wildlife in Need of Care
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Welcome by Chair. Welcome to Josey Sharrad from IFAW. Nikki Main, Alt delegate from Australian Seabird Rescue introduced and welcomed.

Delegates were asked to write down any questions they may have in the OEH talk. Meeting advised of RSPCA attendance following the luncheon break.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 23 February 2016 General Meeting No. 39

Motion: That the Minutes of the 23-2-2016 General Meeting are a true and correct record.

Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: J. Maisey: **Carried**

2. Business arising from that meeting. Action list update

ACTION LIST NWC GENERAL MEETING NO. 39 - 23-02-2016

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Result</u>
1	^[1] Lorigan email Facebook report to A/Sec	Received and circulated
2	^[1] Lorigan access Twitter codes and send to Public Officer	ongoing
3	^[1] P Graham send bounty draft letter to committee	In committee it was decided there was a need to consult with Local Land Services LLS first – ongoing. There is a lot happening with LLS re. foxes – there is no thought at the moment about a bounty. Now a requirement for farmers/landholders to control pest species including the brumbies in the Kosciuszko NP. View expressed it would be a waste of NWC time to pursue at this stage. <i>Need to continue to monitor the whole pest species situation and what might be put in place in future.</i>
4	^[1] A/Sec draft letter	Nil action - Monitor
5	^[1] A/Sec amend Membership list and distribute	Completed
6	^[1] Insurance Officer and Ctte determine re. Insurance Procedures Policy	Task for incoming Insurance Officer 2016-17. ¹ Existing policy to be emailed to Reps.
7	^[1] Public Officer contact ACNC and REO re. advice of constitution change	Reported to ACNC - not required for REO
8	^[1] Koosmen email re. Bird of Prey code	No further information. Amendment re. covering aviaries and a few minor changes. Hope it will be signed off within two weeks.
9	^[1] Chair/A Sec liaise regarding form of notice to OEH re. preferred species	OEH has decided Macropods next Code. NWC groups and WIRES have been invited to Macropod COP review meeting 23&24 July. Can't invite IGLs due privacy and not having details of who they are.
10	^[1] A/Secretary write WIRES seeking their preference for next species	Not required

¹ S. Lack Insurance officer email Insurance Policy to Reps

11	^[1] A/Secretary summarise and communicate options for importation of rescue baskets	Unable to get reply from AliBaba listed supplier of baskets – In progress. People who ordered baskets still want them and agreed NWC would underwrite initial costs.
12	^[1] A Secretary consult with Webmaster over feasibility of designing an incident reporting system of deliberate harm to wildlife	Discussions re. feasibility ongoing with RSPCA – Discuss 1.30 p.m.
13	^[1] A/Secretary follow up groups for member numbers	Many have not responded. ² Secretary to approach those individually
14	^[1] Chair A/Sec liaise quotes for renewed NWC brochure	Update report to be given at meeting – separate Agenda item
15	^[1] P. Graham ask Reps for repeat of acreage owned by NWC members available for wildlife release	Data has been lost – A/Secretary to ask Reps to repeat information already given and those who have not responded to give the information – all NWC is asking for is total land area in each LGA under the control of wildlife rehabilitators and available for release of wildlife. R. Woodman says his LGA is proactive in this area. His group would not participate. Discussion: Vote For and Against. ³ For's won.

Motion: That the business arising as noted is approved.

Proposed: M. Ryan Seconded: J. Hunt: **Carried**

3. Correspondence CoReg Screen shot of emails from 23 February to 30 April distributed to NWC Group email.

>Letter of Thanks to R. Ferris, Australian Seabird Rescue for her contribution to NWC
>Invoices sent 18-4-16 RMS \$25000 grant funding- RMS Paid.;
>4-5-16 OEH \$25000 grant funding.
>Wildlife Carers Network Central West Membership change;
Nil significant correspondence since.

Motion: That the Correspondence Register from 23 February to 30 April is accepted.

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

4. Chair Report – A. Koosmen – *Welcome new members*, Wildlife Carers Network Central West, Nikki Main ASFR; Jo Kelly, Wildlife Aid., acknowledge Rochelle Ferris' work.

Ministers Round Table meeting.

² A/Secretary contact non-respondents for member numbers in groups

³ A/Secretary contact Reps for repeat of Land available for Release information

Revised Bill does not provide adequate protection for wildlife.

Great concern expressed about the future for wildlife.

Concern about lack of approvals required for land clearing.

Consultative meetings locations and schedule does not provide adequate consultative opportunities.

Who is going to monitor the risk-based approach proposed by Government?

Regulating rehabilitators. Is there going to be funding? Who is going to do what? Better stakeholder consultation required.

S. Lorigan – 3 tier approach.

Wildlife: commented that the initial way it was presented on website gave false impression – focussed on accreditation but verbally said it was a consultative pathway process to go forward with a cost-effective way to maintain licensing with support given towards training. Stated Govt's open mindedness in hearing what the rehab sector had to say. This rehab licensing system is a process underway. Compliance is a different and ongoing system and question asked how realistic is the ability to enforce it. Wildlife stated as a priority – listing e.g. Save Our Species. Government is still aiming for high level of protection for biodiversity.

Land clearing

Mapping – wonderful new system.

The Roundtable discussions were more an information process than consultative.

28 June is the deadline for submissions.

S. Lorigan recommends NWC makes a submission.

<https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/native-plants-and-animals/submission-guide/>

WIRES keen to consult.

Licensing for rehabilitation will continue as it is now and consultation should continue.

System needs to be cost-effective (for the volunteers).

Audits – suggested each group request that written feedback be required from OEH. We must ensure that OEH does not exceed its remit in the process. Refer to Rehab Policy, Rehab Code and Licences.

5. Treasurer's Reports to be tabled - S. Lack and appended to Minutes:

For the period ending 17-05-2016

Profit and Loss Statement

Trial Balance

Balance Sheet

Total Funds \$97583.85 at 17-05-2016

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 – \$7245 Public and Products Liability and Volunteers insurance has been paid.

Nil insurance claims for the period.

D. Eagleton, ASR, requested more information on ramifications of request for statement of pre-existing conditions that might affect insurance. R. Woodman explained that pre-existing conditions would likely preclude claims for insurance as a result of events that might exacerbate that condition.

Groups' Training should incorporate a Risk Assessment process for members to undertake for all rescue and other volunteer situations. A Dynamic Risk Assessment is one done "on the hop", at for instance a rescue situation.

Moved S. Lack that Insurance Report is accepted; seconded J. Maisey **Carried**

7. Public Officer Report – M. Ryan. All required documents/reports lodgement is up to date with all Government bodies

8. Biodiversity Legislation Review – Discussion following Ms. Gibbins address – A. Koosmen

<https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/native-plants-and-animals/submission-guide/>

License Holder Reviews: R. Haering RH advises that all groups and WIRES have been approached about the review process to gather information in the following tiers of activities

In June a minimum of 50 **inspections** of volunteers within groups (including IGLs) will be undertaken to check compliance with the Code of Practice. Name of independent company is Wolf Pink. RH needs groups to nominate three people by Thu 26 May to enable planning of program of visits. Consent form to be signed and in RH hands by Thursday 26/5. List will be provided to the Company who will telephone nominees to arrange inspections. (WIRES has been asked to nominate two people per branch).

Part 2 is to conduct **Executive Interviews** in July/August – Peter Stathis and Ron Haering will undertake this. Check list has been provided. Aim is to understand the strengths and weaknesses and variations in the sector. The aim is to set a benchmark of standards across the sector. It is recognised there will be weaknesses in management and in compliance. It is necessary to identify these and know where best to allocate resources. There may be a need for OEH to invest in training, record keeping systems, etc. NATF has already been included in this audit process so will not be involved in the current round.

It is intended to conduct a **Survey** across all members in all groups seeking their opinion on different aspects of operations across the whole sector.

Questionnaire will be sent to **Australian Veterinary Association** (including Vet Nurses) – seeking opinions on strengths and weaknesses of the rehabilitation sector.

Peak body needs to be reviewed itself – strengths and weaknesses. Has NWC met its own benchmarks? Personal views will be sought as well as with NWC. WIRES will be invited to comment on the NWC.

General Discussion: Value of Rehab; Hours spent; Cost of rehab – money spent by volunteers.

Action: Can Council provide OEH with a list of survey questions. ⁴Provided sample questions to RH from the 2008 Costs Survey.

RSPCA and other peripheral bodies may also be included.

⁴ Survey questions to R. Haering. NWC 2008 Cost Survey Questionnaire copy provided to RH OEH on thumb drive 24/5/16

Discussion re. IGLs – question about some independents doing no retraining. R. Haering assured meeting this group would be included in the audit process.

R. Haering wants to ensure that there is wildlife in care in the premises nominated for inspection.

Exemptions from the current evaluation process are NATF, Taronga Wildlife Clinic, Western Plains Zoo, Dolphin Marine Magic, Correction Services.

Discussion following presentation:

⁵Secretary to send Reps line a reminder about what needs to be shown on Authorities.

⁶Secretary is to forward Reps a copy of the Cost Survey 2008 for their information.

⁷Working party to put together questions for a Survey Monkey – volunteers – S. Elwood, J. Maisey L. Vass, J. Hunt, A. Koosmen.

Questions raised/comments made:

Have people in the sector have started to think about the future and how it might affect their operations in rehabilitation? Do we need more groups?

All legislation needs review to ensure it remains current.

Should we be looking at what NWC's response should be in terms of Comment by deadline?

Unless we preserve and protect habitat we won't have wildlife populations in 25 years.

Creeping destruction of habitat is affecting wildlife populations by the effects of reduced habitat.

It seems that providing there are still animals in National Parks it doesn't matter if there aren't any elsewhere.

Age of the rehabilitation sector – some groups are attracting younger people however others do not attract younger people with required facilities or the time. Value is seen in recruiting potential rehabbers at an early age – assisting parents prior to 18 years, and possibly recapturing them when older.

Overlap licensing with more than one group in one area – has it caused any problems? It was felt it depends on the circumstances of the overlap group set-up - whether there was good or bad will? One group may have a history of following conditions of licences and the new group is unaware these conditions even exist.

It was noted OEH has not stuck to its own rules regarding single group licensing, and it appears there could have been a political agenda in certain decision-making.

Areas or boundaries with operational overlap should have Memoranda of Understanding and these should be enforced.

In one Northern area there was a breakaway split and both groups do now work in parallel.

⁵ A/Secretary send Reps Authority sample

⁶ A/Secretary send Reps sample of 2008 Survey

⁷ S. Elwood, J. Maisey L. Vass, J. Hunt, A. Koosmen collaborate on Survey Monkey idea

One group has given an area away to another group who believes it cannot service it adequately.

One or more groups will undertake Disaster response in other areas with agreement of local group.

Some individuals hold working membership of multiple groups, even though rehabilitators are supposed to be active with only one group for rehabilitation purposes –

reference Rehabilitation Policy. 13. A person may only hold multiple licences or authorities if they cover different species (e.g. a general authority and a koala authority). People who have multiple licences or authorities that cover the same species will be required to relinquish all but one of them at the time this policy is adopted. (July 2010)

It was noted that allowance should not be made for “disgruntled” people.

Concern was expressed about possibility of duplication of records when there were two groups operating in one area.

- 9. Bird of Prey Code of Practice** progress report – S. Lorigan – Final review of the document is with the NWC Chair and with WIRES with the ⁸final date for comment 27 May 2016.

- 10. Future Code/s of Practice – Macropod Code of Practice** – Audrey Koosmen/Shona Lorigan

All groups have been invited to participate on the weekend of 23 and 24 July 2016 at The Centre Randwick. S. Lorigan, as facilitator, has asked groups to provide two things –

names and details of attendees from ⁹each group by 27 May, and a copy of every group’s training materials by ¹⁰23 May.

S. Lorigan advises that FAWNA (NSW) is the only group that has met the deadline for receipt of training materials. These are needed to help format the program for the Macropod Code Workshop, and will be used to provide the basis for standardised training if it is decided to proceed that way.

R. Woodman advises WRSC does not have its own dedicated macropod manual for training as they use macropod trainers from other groups. He was asked to provide what he has available.

All groups urged to meet deadlines. See Footnotes 9 & 10

- 11. Forward Strategic Plan** – review – Training - Code-based component for Basic Training Course for all groups. S. Elwood believes NWC should escalate this. It was agreed to address this subject immediately after the feedback from the Compliance inspections.

Group training. Strategic Plan – Some groups do not do their own training. Is it possible to formulate some system where training notes can be shared among groups?

S. Lorigan believes OEH will be looking for a system of standardised approved training throughout the NWC group network.

⁸ 27 May final date for Chair comment on BOP Code Draft

⁹ 27 May **All groups** to nominate to S. Lorigan delegates to Macropod Code of Practice workshop

¹⁰ 23 May deadline for **all groups** to send Macropod Training material to S. Lorigan

¹¹A/Secretary to source and send to all Reps the NPWS Ranger Code of Practice Training Powerpoint.

¹²J. Hunt, J. Dean, S. Elwood will form the initial working group to make recommendations for Code-based training to assist groups.

12. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants – S. Lack update report. All 2015-2016 grants projects are almost completed. One project has been delayed due to unforeseen personal circumstances.

J. Maisey has prepared 2016-2017 grant paperwork except for one pdf form that ¹³Secretary will organise to amend. J. Maisey and M. Ryan will liaise on ¹⁴sending out paperwork to Reps in consultation with S. Lack.

13. Wildlife Rescue App – update – S. Lack/IFAW – revision is almost completed. Josey Sharrad will send revised App out to a few NWC people to do a test run. Anticipated 4-6 weeks for completion.

14. Nature Conservation Council Report – L. Vass

Email advice received from N. Henry that NCC wants to revisit its Kangaroo policy and has set up a working group. Naomi Henry was tasked with putting together a draft. NCC and Total Environment Centre is collaborating on the Legislation Review and has set up a Forestry working group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

15. 1.30 p.m. RSPCA Rep. Donna Morgan joined discussion on Reporting system of deliberate harm to wildlife – A. Koosmen, M. Ryan

RSPCA suggestion is that NWC incidents should be included on RSPCA's Shelter Mate Data system already in operation. NWC would be given an Identification Number which would make it very easy to access information. If the information is sufficient to follow through action would be taken. Data could be used for media reports. WIRES would be invited to take part in this process. S. Elwood – will action be taken – Donna – yes if it is a priority matter that needs action and sufficient details are provided to enable investigation.

RSPCA NSW Cruelty Complaint Report Fax Shelter Mate Data sheet circulated at the meeting for view.

<https://www.rspcansw.org.au/contact/report-a-cruelty-case> - this is the link for the online reporting direct to RSPCA and is probably more relevant than the Fax report sheet.

¹⁵ A/Secretary, NWC and Donna Morgan to keep in contact and devise format for distribution to members.

16. New WIRES Board – Consultative process – Audrey Koosmen. Storm Stanford is WIRES Chair. NWC Chair has consulted with WIRES over various matters and commented that to be a true peak body NWC need IGLs and WIRES as members.

Question– are we getting any assistance from OEH to progress relationships?

¹¹ MR send Powerpoint NPWS training

¹² J. Hunt, J. Dean, S. Elwood – working group to recommend Code-based training programme

¹³ A/Secretary adapt pdf Grant form

¹⁴ A/Secretary J. Maisey consult with S. Lack re. sending Grant Application forms out to Reps.

¹⁵ M. Ryan liaise with RSPCA over reporting system NWC to RSPCA

L. Vass has seen a draft MOU between WIRES and other groups re. koala rescues in Sydney area. She asks has the MOU been finalised? ¹⁶S. Elwood will check and advise.

17. IGL Lack of representation on NWC – OEH to send letter – Letter draft – J. Maisey

2 draft letters have been prepared for review and sending to OEH. ¹⁷Committee to finalise.

18. OEH website descriptions of group boundaries – M. Ryan

Awaiting action from OEH. Orrca’s address is still incorrect on NWC Website. ¹⁸

19. Revision and reprint/update of NWC Brochure – M. Ryan

Cover photos should be of 3 Threatened Species – koala, grey-headed flying-fox and one other TS

The Word “Inc” to be added to NSW Wildlife Council

Logo to be included on front cover in place of initials NWC

Centre inside panel photos at top to include a montage of photos - wombat, seabird, reptile and monotreme in lieu of the one photograph of people in a training session.

¹⁹Management Ctte to finalise brochure obtaining a price using recycled or ecofriendly paper.

20. The proposed Coolangatta airport runway extension into NSW – Ilona Roberts

Requests that NWC’s name is added to a protest letter – ²⁰I. Roberts will send draft to Secretary,

21. The problem of noisy miners and how we as wildlife carers deal with them – Ilona Roberts

It was pointed out that Noisy miners can be a threatening process in sensitive and degraded environments. In other areas they are not necessarily perceived as a bad problem. No action suggested.

Meeting Close: Time 3.30 p.m. **Dates of next meetings:**

Saturday, 27 August 2016	The Centre, Randwick
Sunday, 28 August 2016 AGM	The Centre, Randwick

Signed/Chair Minutes Book copy signed A. Koosmen..... Date ...27 August 2016.....

¹⁶ S. Elwood check status of Koala MOU Sydney

¹⁷ Finalise draft letter to IGLs for circulation by OEH – NWC Committee.

¹⁸ A/Secretary to arrange correction

¹⁹ M Ctte: Finalise brochure photos and quotes

²⁰ I. Roberts send draft letter for consideration