NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL - CHAIR REPORT MAY 2018

I would like to welcome Sonja Elwood to the NWC Management Team. Sonya has agreed to take on the vacant management committee position until the August elections and I am sure will bring great skills to the table.

Welcome Linda Stoev, WCNCW and Jessi Grace, Wildlife A.R.C. to their first NWC meeting.

Sadly we have lost Jacky Hunt from the table. I would like to thank Jacky for her time on the NWC, the work she has done and the support she has given to NWC. She has represented her group very well and her smiling face at the table will be missed greatly. Jacky will be focussing on her new granddaughter, her extended family and in building a new home. The granddaughter is being spoiled madly. We send our good wishes to Jacky and her family and hope to see her back at NWC one day again.

NWC was invited by WIRES to share a table at the upcoming Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference and the NWC Management Committee was delighted with that offer and has accepted. We will have a free standing NWC banner and the updated NWC brochure available during the Conference. This will show a united front for wildlife groups across NSW.

More will be said on the Conference in the meeting’s agenda on what is happening and NWC.

We all have seen and I hope read the NSW Koala Strategy Plan and heard the news announced by the Premier last week. I do hope this will help all wildlife across NSW not just koalas as there is a major need for all species to be included in improved veterinary training and availability of wildlife hospitals. We are keenly watching what there may be in the way of funding to wildlife as well as support to wildlife groups and members

We all understand many of the species we rescue and care for are not considered important to the government as the threatened species are. To ride on the koalas back when it comes to habitat will perhaps help other creatures who share the koala’s habitat. I guess we all have to wait and see if what is promised happens!

I would like to thank Peter Stathis, Ron Haering and Robert Oliver for taking the time to address the NWC at each meeting. This allows everyone to ask them questions and learn progress on matters of concern to all.

We have lost Matt Mo from Robert’s team; he has now moved to Threatened Species unit and is dealing with Flying-foxes.

We have also lost April Suen from IFAW - she has moved on to a role with another company in communications.

Shona has been working hard with NPWS to see a final copy of the Macropod Code of Practice finished and approved. Let’s hope it is very close as we have all been waiting some time for it.

Shona is also is working on a revision of the koala code with NPWS so her time has been taken up trying to pull these together. Thank you Shona for all your hard work, we are all very grateful.

We welcome Peter Stathis and Robert Oliver to the May NWC General Meeting to update the Council on progress in the Biodiversity reform process.

Aud*rey Koosmen*

Chair NWC 13/5/2018