

# MINUTES

## NSW Wildlife Council Inc. General Meeting #34

Tuesday, 25th November 2014  
OEH Offices  
Room 1.03  
43 Bridge St.  
HURSTVILLE

**CHAIR:** *Audrey Koosmen*

**MEETING OPEN:** 9:30 am

**PRESENT:**

Jan	BRAZEL	Wildlife Arc.
Don	EAGLETON	ASR
James	FITZGERALD	Wildcare Queanbeyan (Alt) @ 10:35
Audrey	KOOSMAN	NATF
Shirley	LACK	NARG
Ilona	ROBERTS	TVWC (Alt)
Meredith	RYAN	FAWNA
Lorraine	VASS	FOK
Richard	WOODMAN	WRSC

**APOLOGIES:**

Geoff	BARTLETT	HKPS
Jill	DEAN	NATF (Alt)
Sonja	ELWOOD	SMWS (Alt)
Rochelle	FERRIS	ASR (Alt)
Peter	GRAHAM	LAOKO
Naomi	HENRY	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Jacky	HUNT	Wildlife Arc. (Alt)
Shona	LORIGAN	ORRCA
Jackie	MAISEY	NTWC
Paul	McLEOD	KIC
Jane	MILLS	WRSC
Bruce	Mulligan	Wildlife Aid
Sandy	NORRIS	NRWC
Mandy	PENHALL	KIC (Alt)
Lorraine	YUDAEFF	WINC

**Motion:** Proposed: R. Woodman, Seconded: J. Brazel  
That the NWC accepts D. Eagleton as the Representative of Australian Seabird  
Rescue contingent on receipt of ASR written confirmation.

## Motion Carried

**INTRODUCTIONS & GUESTS:** Karrie Rose, Registrar, Australian Registry of Wildlife Health  
Josey Sharrad, Native Wildlife Campaigner, IFAW

**1. PRESENTATION – 09:30 TO 11:00 “Babesiosis in Macropods at Morisset”**

Karrie Rose

Chair thanked Karrie Rose for her extremely informative presentation.

## MORNING TEA

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING #33 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014**

**MOTION:** Proposed: M. Ryan, Seconded: L. Vass

That the Minutes of the NWC General Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 be accepted.

**Motion Carried**

**3. REPORTS:**

**3.1. Chair – Audrey Koosmen**

Full report appended to Minutes.

**Action:** <sup>1</sup>A. Koosmen, M. Ryan and I. Roberts to collaborate on providing submission on the Flying-Fox Camp Management Policy 2014 by the due date (1 December).

**MOTION:** Moved: A. Koosmen, Seconded: J. Brazel

That the Chairperson’s Report is accepted with Action items.

**Motion Carried**

**3.2. Secretary – Richard Woodman**

**Correspondence** - the correspondence file could not be presented as it has been corrupted by a lightning strike. The <sup>2</sup>Secretary will prepare a Correspondence Register for later distribution

**3.3. Treasurer – Shirley Lack**

**MOTION:** Proposed: S. Lack, Seconded: M. Ryan

That the Treasurer’s Report be accepted and attached to Minutes.

**Motion Carried**

There are 22 groups (excluding the IGL’s) that need to be included in NCC insurance. All NWC accounts are now recorded on MYOB software.

**3.4. Insurance – Shirley Lack - Nil claims**

**MOTION:** Proposed: S. Lack, Seconded: I. Roberts

That the Insurance Report be accepted.

**Motion Carried**

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<sup>1</sup> Koosmen, Ryan and Roberts prepare and submit FFCMP submission

<sup>2</sup> Secretary complete Correspondence Register and circulate it to Reps list.

### 3.5 NCC 2014 Annual Conference Report – Lorraine Vass

Lorraine Vass presented written report to be appended to the Minutes.

**MOTION:** Proposed: L. Vass, Seconded: S. Lack

That the NCC 2014 Annual Conference Report be received and noted.

**Motion Carried**

## 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING #33 HELD ON 23 AUGUST 2014:

### 4.1. Carers Grant – Shirley Lack

A summary was sent to the Reps group as it appears not all applications were received by all addressees. 8 applications were received and the Grants Sub Committee judged each one worthy to be considered in the final selection of 5 x \$1000 grants.

The Reps present voted during the luncheon break on a preference basis selecting 5 winners from the list of 8 applicants. Scrutineers: J. Sharrad IFAW and M. Ryan, FAWNA. The successful applicants were:

First: Dr. Rosemary Austen, Wildcare Queanbeyan. Extension to macropod pre-release enclosure.

Second: Bev Marsh, Native Animal Trust Fund. Funds to fit-out existing flying-fox enclosure.

Third: Mandi Griffiths, Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services. Flying-fox enclosure extension and renovation to improve handling, cleaning and monitoring.

Fourth: Judith Hopper, Native Animal Trust Fund. Purchase of compound light microscope for wildlife specimen analysis.

Fifth: Lyn Obern, Wildlife Rescue South Coast. Construction components for a wombat enclosure for mange/other treatment.

<sup>3</sup>Small Grants Committee to advise results to all applicants.

### 4.2. Webmaster/Website/Email – Jacky Hunt (absent)

- 3 quotes needed.
- Jacky Hunt was unavoidably absent therefore unable to report on progress and it was not possible for the Reps to vote today as had been planned.
- Follow up actions need to be<sup>4</sup> taken by the Management Committee as the switch will be turned off on 31 December at midnight and the matter is now critical.
- Email capacity needs to be improved to allow larger file attachments.
- J. Hunt via phone advised she is putting together a document showing what quotes have been received. J. Hunt expressed a preference for Fix My Web.
- Need to know whether NWC manages domain name registration – meeting agreed it should be the NWC.

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<sup>3</sup> S. Lack on behalf of Small Grants committee to advise applicants of Small Grants result 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Management Committee to follow up what needs to be done to change Web Provider.

**Motion:** Proposed: M. Ryan, Seconded: J. FitzGerald  
That the Executive be empowered to appoint a new Web Provider.

**Motion Carried**

**4.3. NWC Meetings with OEH & Ministers Office** – Audrey Koosmen  
See Chair’s written report – following up with a meeting with the Minister.

**4.4. Progress on Species BPG** – Audrey Koosmen – See Chair’s Report.  
11 members from 9 groups attended the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Review over two days in November. Those present complimented Shona Lorigan on her excellent facilitation. The Review is in skeleton form and when S. Lorigan returns from leave it will be <sup>5</sup>drafted and submitted to Management Committee prior to onforwarding to OEH, raptor specialists and vets for input and comment.

**4.5. Training Manuals** – Audrey Koosmen  
NWC expressed a need for uniform training manuals around the State in keeping with the need to standardize training across all groups (with recognition of geographic variations). Existing individual group training materials should be checked to ensure they meet the requirements of the Codes of Practice / Best Practice Guidelines. NWC should suggest that each group carries out an initial self-assessment that their training material meets CoP and BPGs.

FOK advised it is currently carrying out a self-assessment that its training materials do meet COP/BPGs.

It has been mooted that trainers in the future may need to hold a Cert 4.

**Motion:** Proposed: M. Ryan, Seconded A. Koosmen,  
That after Wombat BPG is signed off, NWC writes to all member groups advising it is OEH’s expectation that all group’s training materials meet standards espoused in relevant species Best Practice Guidelines/Codes of Practice. <sup>6</sup> Executive is to formulate a method of communicating with groups regarding self-assessment and future NWC endorsement of training materials.

**Motion Carried**

**4.6. 10/50 Bushfire Clearing Zones** – Committee  
Geoff Bartlett provided letter to Premier and it was felt more appropriate to respond to the RFS call for submissions. A. Koosmen, M. Ryan and S. Lorigan collaborated and the submission was prepared completed and lodged via email on 12 November 2014. A copy is appended to the Minutes.

**4.7. Update on Letter to DPI** – Audrey Koosmen  
Letter was sent to DPI requesting approval in principle for farmers to euthanase suffering wildlife by firearms. An unsatisfactory response led to an approach to RSPCA who has agreed it can be contacted for RSPCA involvement/approval on a case by case basis. Chair has advised N. Henry of outcome.

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<sup>5</sup> S. Lorigan prepare First Draft of Review of OEH Raptor Rehabilitation Policy

<sup>6</sup> Management Committee formulate process for ensuring members adopt Code training requirements

**4.8. New Member Package – (Jane Mills – absent)**  
J. Mills has provided copies of her work which is to be discussed by Management Committee prior to circulation to Reps.

**4.9. Independent General Licence holders – Audrey Koosmen**  
OEH sent a letter inviting IGLs to Birds of Prey review. OEH committed to send a letter to IGLs discussing their vacant representation on NWC. Nothing has happened to date and a dot point list has been provided to OEH for a letter to be sent.

**LUNCH** (Included vote on Small Grants. Results recorded against Item 4.1)

## **5. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**5.1. Public Officer Position – Elected or Appointed? – Meredith Ryan**  
It was questioned whether the Public Officer position should be elected each year or whether the Public Officer should remain in the position until no longer willing to undertake the tasks. The Constitution does not require the position to be annually elected. Most groups present did not elect the Public Officer each year. The contention was that it was unnecessary and administratively burdensome if the position changed too frequently. One person remaining in that position provided continuity and a known point for the retention of NWC documents. No decision was reached on this matter.

**5.2. NWC Website Server Capability – Richard Woodman**  
A need was expressed for NWC email capability to be increased to process the larger size files being uploaded/downloaded as well as increased email storage capability.<sup>7</sup> It was agreed this should be part of any brief to a new Web Provider.

**5.3. Limitation on NWC Executive Members attending NWC Meetings/Forums – Richard Woodman** – This matter to be discussed in the following Management Committee meeting.

**5.4. Update on Letter to DPI – Audrey Koosmen** See item 4.7

**5.5. NWC to Minister re Firearms – Audrey Koosmen**  
Letter sent to Minister – awaiting a reply.

**5.6. Member Groups (NTWC) – Junior Membership Policy – (Jackie Maisey – absent. FAWNA** accepts juniors but does not authorise them to rescue or rehabilitate; Wildlife ARC, Wildcare Queanbeyan, and WRSC permit participation under direct supervision of member parent only), NATF, TWWC, NARG, ASR and FOK do not accept junior members. WRSC stated the ‘juniors’ are the carers of the future. NATF does accept family memberships.

**Action:** <sup>8</sup>Vice Chair to write to J. Maisey explaining what other groups have disclosed they do.

**5.7. North Coast Koala Issues – Lorraine Vass**

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<sup>7</sup> Include email capacity in brief to new Web Provider – M. Ryan or her delegate.

<sup>8</sup> M. Ryan email J. Maisey

- Comprehensive Koala Plans of Management (PoM).
- Tweed Valley PoM is on exhibition now.
- Closing date for submissions is 2 December.
- A legal scrutiny is holding up the Byron PoM.
- Ballina PoM is being drafted with Pacific Hwy under review with RMS – the Federal Environment Minister is requiring particular conditions are met.
- NSW Scientific Committee is supporting listing of Tweed Endangered Population west of the Pacific Hwy. (Pittwater and Tea Gardens are the only other populations so identified).
- There is an EPA performance enquiry in regard to NSW Forestry management of Koalas in Royal Camp State Forest.
- Koala Connections \$2.17 Million available for National Koala Alliance emanating from Koala Conference in May in Port Macquarie in 2013.
- Need for pooled information and a united force of interested people.
- Workshop was held in Queensland a few months ago setting up a steering committee, strategic plan, code of conduct etc.
- Need to address situation of Koalas in Blue Gum plantations. Contact Josey Sharrad, Wildlife Campaigner, IFAW for further information.

**5.8. Events/Tasks List Calendar – Meredith Ryan**

Philosophy explained – the aim of the Tasks List is to improve administration efficiency and provide a list of tasks required on a regular basis by all Management Committee and functional positions in NWC. Acknowledgment was made of the difficulty experienced by new incumbents taking positions without a proper briefing and explanation of roles. Both the Tasks list and Calendar of Events will be a continued work in progress.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 6.1.** Wombat Protection Society has again been refused a rehabilitation licence.
- 6.2.** James Fitzgerald – Wildcare Queanbeyan was advised (verbally) it could accept some ex-WIRES members resident just outside Wildcare's area – that advice has since been rescinded by OEH so those people are now excluded from the licensing system.
- 6.3.** Suggestions for future Guest Speakers. L. Vass offers Dr. Andrea Casteriano, head of Koala Health Hub at University of Sydney (Vet School) to develop the Koala health park. L Vass will pass on email address. I. Roberts suggested Justin Wellbergen re. flying-fox heat stress incidents.
- 6.4.** Timing of November meeting. Consideration to have the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of each year in the 1<sup>st</sup> week in November. The current timing presents difficulties for members busy with the late spring wildlife influx.
- 6.5.** IFAW has over 4000 downloads of the NWC/IFAW App. IFAW encouraged groups to do their own local publicity. IFAW would like case studies of rescues where the App has helped the public getting quicker help to wildlife.
- 6.6.** Possibility of an IFAW Road Kill App. Discussions held with RMS. IFAW was not aware of [www.awcn.org/mapping](http://www.awcn.org/mapping) and will investigate further to avoid duplication.
- 6.7.** Josey Sharrad reports IFAW is working on a vet skills and confidence boosting workshop with Taronga Wildlife Hospital.

- 6.8. Fireground training – in some areas there was a cost for this training – RFS is now offering to groups FOC.

## 7. NEXT MEETING:

General Meeting #35

Tue, 24th February 2015

OEH Hurstville

**MEETING CLOSED:** 14.50

### **NWC GENERAL MEETING – 25 November 2014 CHAIR'S REPORT – Audrey Koosmen**

Over the past few months the Management Committee has been very busy attending to tasks for NWC .

Submissions were prepared and lodged on NWC's behalf regarding

- Rural Fire Service 10/50 tree clearing, also to the
- Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel and
- NWC intends to prepare and lodge a submission to OEH regarding the Flying Fox Camp Management Policy to be pursued by stakeholders such as local government councils and other agencies. I request all groups look at the policy consultation draft on the OEH website and make their own group submission as well to ensure the welfare of flying-foxes in any camp management actions or approvals to disperse camps.

NWC was invited to meet and address the Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel. Shona Lorigan and I represented NWC at that meeting. NWC was well received and panel was quite shocked at the amount of work we all do across the state.

Issues discussed included

- cutting red tape for government was spoken about,
- training within groups,
- should rehabbers be licenced at all to care for fauna,
- NPWS reptile licence system for keepers was discussed - lack of education or training, no oversight or inspections by OEH and how licences are obtained online.
- We also gave a report as to how many escaped pet reptiles groups receive yearly and how many are so unhealthy and mistreated due to lack of good management, we requested a huge improvement must happen in this system.

Last week Shona Lorigan and I met with Peter Stathis , Geoff Ross and the wildlife management team to discuss current matters including the department's approval to use the Wombat Best Practice guidelines for groups across NSW. We requested that OEH follow up with WIRES their reasons for not agreeing to the guidelines. We were promised by Peter that this matter would be resolved by Feb 2015 as OEH was about to employ a Project officer to deal with such issues. We were told each group would have a map of their service area attached to renewed licences and that there will be some groups with changes to their service areas.

I am pleased to say we have moved forward with another major project review of the current NPWS Bird of Prey Rehabilitation policy. 11 members from 9 groups across NSW, including WIRES, attended the two day Policy Review discussions at The Centre at Randwick on 12-13 November. It was wonderful to hear and see the collective knowledge and experience from members from the different groups. Shona Lorigan acted as facilitator for the Review and is in the process of preparing the Draft report to present to OEH, Libby Hall from Taronga and a nominated vet who will review the guidelines. We hope that the Review will be wrapped up in the first quarter of 2015.

From our meeting with OEH staff it was suggested we request a sitting with Minister of the Environment to speak with him regarding funding cuts to local offices which in turn reflect onto rehab groups and fauna - that I hope will happen very soon or early next year.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and may 2015 be a wonderful year for you all.

(Presented on NWC Letterhead)

**SUBMISSION – REVIEW OF 10/50 VEGETATION CLEARING CODE OF PRACTICE**

The New South Wales Wildlife Council welcomes the opportunity to provide comment as part of the above review. We wish to raise the following points for consideration.

- A moratorium is needed immediately to end the urban tree clearing by ill-informed individuals taking advantage of the 10/50 rule that is changing the character of streets and suburbs throughout Sydney and other urban and rural parts of the State. Media reports since the 10/50 clearing code was promulgated have confirmed the Council’s fears that vegetation will be unnecessarily cleared for personal amenity rather than personal bushfire safety.
- It is the Council’s view that the Code is fundamentally flawed and not designed to significantly reduce bush fire risk, rather it is a knee-jerk reaction to the 2013 Blue Mountains Bushfires and the 2012/2013 catastrophic fires in Victoria
- Measures need to be put in place to stop the uninformed clearing of trees and understorey vegetation to ensure threatened and non-threatened wildlife species, and other vegetation is protected. Wildlife corridor connectivity is vital as is maintenance of biodiversity in urban and rural areas.
- Scientific surveys highlight that ember attack, not the fire front, is the prime cause of the majority of loss of infrastructure. Removal of trees and understorey vegetation will not remove the threat of ember attack and greater engagement on community education on measures that can be taken to protect domestic dwellings would be more beneficial.
- An unintended consequence of the 10/50 Code is the removal of irreplaceable habitat and food trees for a number of threatened wildlife species and further loss of ground cover. An additional adverse consequence is the lost of protective habitat for many of the small birds and ground dwelling fauna reliant on low level vegetation cover as protection from predators e.g. domestic dogs and cats.

In conclusion the 10/50 Code is a devastating blow to all attempts to conserve the State’s native wildlife in urban, semi-urban and rural localities. Practically all species co-exist and require habitat now in danger of destruction as a direct result of the Code.

Minutes Approved:

Signature: .....

Print Name: .....

Date .....