

New South Wales Wildlife Council Inc.

Second Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 27 October 2007 at 4:20am
The Centre, 14 Frances Street, Randwick

Minutes

1. Opening of Meeting and Welcome

Present: Audrey Koosmen (Chair), NATF; Stan Wood, (Vice Chair) WIRES; Lorraine Vass (Secretary) FOK; Joan Hills (Treasurer) WCN-Central West ; Ilona Roberts, Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers; Julia McConnell, IGLs; Bill Waterhouse, Wildcare Q; Gwen Seznec, Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers; Gwen Parry-Jones, Wildlife ARC; Shirley Lack, Native Animal Rescue Group; Barbara Witham, Koalas in Care; John Donnelly, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers; Sonja Elwood, Sydney Wildlife; Denise & Wayne Singleton, Rescue & Rehabilitation of Australian Native Animals; Peter Schulties, Koala Preservation Society of NSW.

Apologies

Paul McLeod (Koalas in Care); Coralie Tarlinton (Wildcare Q); John Gorham (FAWNA); Steve Amesbury (NANA); Cheyne Flannagan (Koala Preservation Society of NSW), ORRCA (Ronny Ling); Alex Javorsek (LAOKO).

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes of Inaugural Annual General Meeting held Sunday 12 November 2006 (circulated by email)

Sonja Elwood **moved** and Joan Hills **seconded** that the draft Minutes circulated be accepted as read and confirmed.

Motion Carried.

3.0 Presentation of Reports

3.1 Chair – Audrey Koosmen spoke to her report: (see Attachment 1)

Stan Wood **moved** and Joan Hills **seconded** that the Chair's report be received and noted.

Motion Carried

3.2 Treasurer: Joan Hills distributed the *Financial Accounts for the year ended 30 June, 2007*

Joan Hills **moved** and Stan Wood **seconded** that two members of the Committee in attendance at the Annual General Meeting held on 27 October 2007, namely Audrey Koosmen and Lorraine Vass, be authorized to sign the Annual Statement to the Department of Fair Trading.

Motion Carried

4.0 Confirmation of membership and member representatives for 2007-8

The Secretary advised that correspondence confirming membership and representation had been received from:

FAWNA (NSW) Inc.

Friends of the Koala, Inc.

Koalas in Care
Koala Preservation Society of NSW, Inc
Native Animal Rescue Group
Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers Inc.
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Inc.

5.0 Elections

The meeting agreed to appoint Peter Schulties as Returning Officer

The Chair declared all Executive and named positions vacant.

The Returning Officer read out the nominations received for office-bearing (Executive) positions

5.1 Office Bearers (Executive)

Chair Audrey Koosmen (Mover: Steve Amesbury (NANA) /Seconder: Coralie Tarlinton (Wildcare)

Vice-Chair Stan Wood (Mover: Steve Amesbury (NANA) / Seconder: Joan Hills (Wildlife Carers Network – Central West)

Treasurer Joan Hills (Mover: Lorraine Vass (FOK) /Seconder: Gwen Parry-Jones (Wildlife ARC)

Secretary Sonja Elwood (Mover: Lorraine Vass (FOK) / Seconder: Audrey Koosmen (NATF)

Media Officer Lorraine Vass (Mover: Gwen Seznec (NRWC) / Seconder: Ilona Roberts (TVWC)

The number of nominations received not exceeding the number of vacancies to be filled, the nominees were deemed to be elected.

5.2 Named Positions

Audrey Koosmen resumed the Chair and the following named positions were filled:

Web Master: Steve Amesbury

Forum Administrator: Coralie Tarlinton

Insurance Officer: Julia McConnell

Nature Conservation Council of NSW Contact: Lorraine Vass

Minute Secretary: Gwen Seznec

Education Officer: John Donnelly

Filling the positions of Fund Raiser, Newsletter Editor and Working Party Convenors was deferred.

6.0 Confirmation of Public Officer 2007-8

Stan Wood **moved** and Ilona Roberts **seconded** that Lorraine Vass continue as Public Officer for the forth-coming year.

Motion Carried.

7.0 Confirmation of Honorary Auditor 2007-8

The Chair thanked Ron Witham for again performing the auditing function required, to which Barbara Witham confirmed Ron's availability and willingness to continue.

Lorraine Vass **moved** and John Donnelly **seconded** that Ronald Witham be confirmed as Honorary Auditor for 2007-8 and that the Secretary requests him to advise the Council of his acceptance in writing.

Motion Carried.

8.0 Other Business

8.1 Council's Postal Address

It was agreed that the advantages of maintaining the Lismore postal address and post office box far outweighed the disadvantages, and it will remain the Council's postal address.

There being no other item of Other Business raised, the Chair declared the meeting closed.

9.0 Closure of Meeting: 5.08pm

Attachment 1 follows:

Chair's Report

**Presented at the Council's
Second Annual General Meeting
held Saturday 27 October 2007 at 4.20pm
The Centre, Randwick**

First I wish to thank the representatives and alternate members of each group who have served another year on the Council and for the time and support you all have given over the past twelve months.

In particular I wish to thank the outgoing Executive and especially Lorraine Vass for the endless hours she has given to the Council during her two years as Secretary.
Thank you Lorraine.

Numerically there has been no change in the Council's membership. Very soon after the admittance to the Council of Wildlife Carers of Glen Innes, Inc., in November 2006, the group disbanded. The Native Animal Rescue Group [Braidwood] was admitted in August 2007.

Seeing everyone coming together; finding the time to attend meetings; having to travel many miles when we all lead such very busy lives, demonstrates that we and the groups that we represent, want the NWC to succeed.

There is no doubt in my mind that the communication and networking with each other at meetings and through electronic discussion have flowed on in most cases to a closer and stronger relationship between member groups. Because we have decided to work as one with a common goal, the wildlife rehabilitation community of New South Wales is more robust than at any previous time.

There is an old saying "one must crawl before one walks". I feel the Council is still at the crawling stage but moving forward; slowly to some. Everyone should understand we will never please all. Rather we should be proud of the progress we have made in breaking down mistrust and building partnerships with stakeholders, including government.

The time and energy that must be invested to achieve sustainable partnerships should not be underestimated. This year saw a change in minister, restructuring of the agency and a change in key staff with whom the Council interacts. The goodwill that had been established during the Council's first 12 months has had to be re-affirmed during the second. Encouraging progress has been made but the 'opportunity lost' factor must be borne in mind. Council representatives, including its office-bearers are generally speaking, time-poor as most hold management as well as operational responsibilities in the member organizations they represent.

The Council met on three occasions during the year - in February, June and today. The two-day June meeting provided a welcome opportunity for representatives to meet Mick O'Flynn, Manager, Conservation Operations Section and Ron Haering, Manager, Wildlife Licensing and Management Unit, of the Department of the Environment and Climate Change who addressed a wide range of issues including licensing policy, which had been flagged for discussion by Council members.

Other visitors were Drs David Phalen and Anne Fowler, Director and Chief Veterinarian respectively of the Wildlife Health Unit, University of Sydney, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Camden, who made a presentation on the *Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre and Teaching Facility and the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Community*.

Several projects under the Council's consideration have been addressed during the year. In relation to the standardization of statistical data and its shared accessibility, Mr Patrick Connor, principal of Curious Developments Ltd. has spoken to the Council on two occasions. Vice Chair Stan Wood has worked on amendments to the Constitution which, when completed will enable the Council to be entered on the Register of Environmental Organizations. Steve Amesbury has been drafting guidelines for disputes resolutions within member groups as well as preparing a business case for developing minimum standards.

Issues that the Council has actively pursued during the year have included continuation of government-funded insurance coverage for member groups, clarification of licensing policy and its application, financial assistance for ABL pre-inoculation for rehabilitators, and the destruction of grey-headed flying fox habitat at Dulguigan, Murwillumbah.

An article on the Council's formation and early achievements was published in the Winter issue (3/2007) of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia's journal, *Australian Wildlife*. NWC has become an associate member of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC) and is assessing how best to participate in that organization to further the Council's objectives.

To those who may think that this activity does not represent a great deal, I would ask them to reflect on their contribution. As with many groups, the tasks are generally left up to a small handful of members. Over the coming year I hope to see increased participation among members on the discussion line and in taking on positions and tasks. I would also like to see more involvement from the alternates and having their assistance from time to time. Perhaps ask yourself whether there is someone else in your group who can give more.

If we are not here to work together I am sorry we should not be here. For the NWC to be successful we all must leave past history behind us, be patient and show more tolerance and respect to each other.

What else would I like to see in 2008 for the NWC? To grow stronger, regain the well earned respect among our fellow wildlife community, better communication with the wildlife community and the rehabilitators at the ground level, activate more media and community awareness for the plight of all out native species and to become more involved in the conservation of free range wildlife habitat.

I wish the NWC nothing but success for 2008 and again pay thanks to you all and to all the state's wildlife rehabilitators for the wonderful role we play in caring for the native fauna of New South Wales.

Warm regards

Audrey Koosmen