

**NSW Wildlife Council, Inc.
Meeting Number (11)**

**Tuesday 12th August 2008 at 9.30am
Dept Environment and Climate Change
43 Bridge Street – Hurstville NSW Sydney**

Minutes

1.0 Opening of Meeting & Welcome: 9.30am

1.1 Present:

Illona Roberts (TVWC), Barbara Witham (KIC), Coralie Tarlinton & Greg Tarlinton (Wildcare Q), Gwen Parry-Jones (Wildlife ARC), John Donnelly (NTWC), Julia McConnell (IGLs), Marny Bonner (ASR), Elena Guarracino (LAOKO), Shirley Lack (NARG), Philip Machin (NARG), Caroline Enfield (WIRES), Paige Sinclair(PPP), Don Gowing (Wildlife ARC), Stan Wood (WIRES), Steve Amesbury (NANA), Bruce Mulligan (Wildlife Aid), Lorraine Vass(FOK), Helen Kennedy (SMW).

Guest: Dr Kerryn Parry-Jones, B.Sc (Biochemistry & Microbiology), M ApSci, Dip Ed, Ph D (Grey-Headed Flying-Foxes) (Sydney University)

1.2 Apologies: Sonja Elwood (SMW), Gwen Seznec (NRWC), Ronny Ling (ORRCA), Cheryl Cochran (NRWC), Margaret Squires (Cudgegong WC), Rachel Knowles (Cudgegong WC), Ronda Bradford (WC Mudgee), Andrew Hudson (WC Mudgee), Cheyne Flanagan (KPS), Paul McLeod (KIC).

1.3 Teleconferencing: Audrey Koosmen (NATF), Jill Taylor (HKPS).

2.0 Register of Proxies: Nil

Dr Kerryn Parry-Jones, who is a Class A bander, discussed the advantages of banding Flying Foxes: being, the keeping of records (which go back to 1986), rehab quality control and identification of rehab failures (bats landing and climbing on people), as has been the case in the RBG. Kerryn also made the plea that no wildlife rehabilitators should release highly humanised Flying Foxes as not only is it questionable from an animal welfare aspect, but the negative publicity generated by them landing on humans is damaging to the species as a whole. There are 5 banders in Sydney. Bats must weigh at least 400gms and are banded on finger, or claw. It is a safe process and metal or plastic bands are used. 3-4 retraps are recorded each year. She also recommended a DVD on Flying Foxes by Dave Pinson of TVWC. Available for download.

<http://www.batrescue.org.au/index.php?option=http://www.batrescue.org.au/index.php?option=content&pcontent=1&task=view&id=35&Itemid=72=content&pcontent=1&task=view&id=35&Itemid=72> under Bat News tab.

3.0 Agenda Items Brought Forward:

3.1 Final Approval of Revision of Constitution to Include Establishment of Public Gift Fund for NWC

Special Resolution:

'That the NWC rescinds the previous Rules for the New South Wales Wildlife Council incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984 and adopts the Rules as tabled as the Rules for the New South Wales Wildlife Council Incorporated to be registered with the Department of Fair Trading.'

Proposed: Stan Wood (WIRES)

Seconded: John Donnelly (NTWC)

Carried: Unanimously

4.0 Previous Meeting May 28th 2008

4.1 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting (10) May 28th 2008

Amendments: Nil

Moved: That the minutes of the meeting held May 28th 2008 accepted.
(Julia McConnell (IGLs))

Seconded: John Donnelly (NTWC)

Carried: Unanimously

4.2

Business Arising:

4.2.1 Telstra Sponsorship Proposal Update: (Sonja Elwood SMW)

Deferred to next meeting – ongoing item. Audrey Koosmen (NATF) suggested the only way to deal with such organisations is to meet personally.

4.2.2 Conflict Management Guidelines Update: (Sonja Elwood SMW)

Ron Haering (DECC) recommends they be reviewed every 2 years - ongoing.

4.2.3 Memorandum of Understanding NWC/DECC/RTA Update: (Audrey Koosmen NATF)

Ron Haering (DECC) does not want MOU at this stage. RTA does not want one. Audrey Koosmen (NATF) said that Kevin Roberts (RTA) is willing to come to the table. There is a chance of more funding. Julia McConnell (IGLs) asked if it is possible for NWC to draft a MOU for discussion with DECC. The consensus of the membership (represented at the meeting) was that this is to be pursued.

Moved: That the NWC investigate further the establishment of an MOU between DECC, RTA and NWC. John Donnelly (NTWC)

Seconded: Barbara Witham (KIC)

Carried: Unanimously

Action: Executive to follow up

4.2.4 NWC Business Cards: (Sonja Elwood SMW)

Generic business cards have been ordered with no blank space for name and contact numbers. Audrey Koosman (NATF) suggested that these be handed out with discretion.

Action: Stan Wood (WIRES) to talk to Sonja Elwood (SMW) about cost.

4.2.5 Nomination of Public Gift Fund Administrators: (Sonja Elwood (SMW)

It is a requirement to have three directors to administer the fund. Sonja has approached two people who at this stage have agreed verbally. Both are independent of the Council. They are Graham Wilson, Director, Biobrokers Pty Ltd) and Professor Richie Howitt of Macquarie University. A third person needs to be found. Dr. Anne Fowler BVSc MACVSc (Avian Health) was a suggestion for the third person.

Action: Stan Wood (WIRES) to approach Dr. Anne Fowler re becoming an Administrator of the NWC Public Gift Fund.

4.2.6 Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation in NSW: (Stan Wood WIRES, Steve Amesbury NANA)

The aim is to create a framework for minimum standards of care. Meetings have been ongoing since April discussing various aspects of care and release. The next meeting will be held on 13/8/08. Funding will need to be identified for the next step of the process (the actual formulation of the standards). Agreed to revisit progress on standardised record keeping and shared database.

Action: Put topic on Agenda for November meeting.

4.2.7 Native Animal Keepers' Consultative Committee (NAKCC)

Native Reptiles in Pet Shops: (Stan Wood WIRES/John Gorham (FAWNA)

Stan Wood (WIRES) attended the meeting last week. An independent analysis found that in NSW there is an estimated \$30m- \$43m illegal trade in reptiles each year. Stan pointed out that with sales through pet shops animals can be micro-chipped and tracked and there is the chance, if an appropriate compliance mechanism can be resourced, that the reptile trade which is totally unregulated now may become manageable.

Action: Stan to circulate via the List the pros and cons of licensed sale as a matter of urgency.

Stan will pursue AWL and RSPCA on their active participation.

4.2.8 RBG/ DECC Flying Fox Camp Management Policy Update: (Ilona Roberts TVWC)

The RBG administration is a group who are going to pull out all the stops to get the animals moved. They are determined to drive them away. They do have a licence to disturb bats in individual trees. Ilona thought that they are missing out on an opportunity to educate the public on FF's. They mate from Feb-April, give birth in Sept/Oct/Nov after six months gestation and lactate for 6 months so the window to move them when they are not very pregnant or lactating is small. The plan is to start moving them in May-July.

Moved: That a letter is written to DECC putting forth NWC's opposition. Lorraine Vass (FOK)

Seconded: Gwen Parry-Jones (Wildlife ARC)

Carried: Unanimously

Action: Letter to be prepared by Sonja Elwood (SMW) in consultation with Ilona Roberts (TVWC)

5.0 Reports:

5.1 Treasurer's Report (Julia McConnell IGLs)

5.1.1 Statement of Accounts:

The Treasurer tabled an annual report for year ending 30/6/08 and a further report from 1/7/08 to 12/8/08. A budget was tabled that included \$5,000 previously granted specifically for data base compilation. Statement Balance as at 18/7/08 - \$40,236.65

5.1.2. Authorised Signatories:

Authorised Signatories have been updated. The bank has requested written instructions to remove previous signatories.

Action: Julia McConnell (IGLs) to write letter to Bank to remove redundant signatories.

5.1.3. Approval for Reimbursement of Expenses:

Moved: That the Treasurer's report be received in full and that travelling expenses be reimbursed. Julia McConnell (IGLs)

Seconded: Paige Sinclair (PPP)

Carried: Unanimously

5.2 Insurance Officers Report (Julia McConnell IGLs)

5.2.1 Directors and Officers Insurance:

Still awaiting quotation. This has been outstanding for 3 weeks. Need to clarify level of cover. As the cover will not be for the full year, it will only go to April 2009 so will be at a reduced cost. Looking at about \$500 for each group, but waiting for official quote. Nine groups plus the council submitted quotes for cover. Julia advised that two groups had approached AON directly with general enquires. Members are reminded that all questions relating to insurance are to go through her.

Moved: That Julia McConnell (IGLs) set up an email list for those groups that are interested in order to finalise cover when quote is received. Audrey Koosmen (NATF)

Seconded: John Donnelly (NTWC)

Carried: Unanimously

Note: All groups need to be aware of the limitations of our insurance coverage.

Action: Julia to clarify coverage with AON (Are we covered to go up ladders or into roofs?)

Moved: That the insurance claims procedure will be recirculated on the mail list and published in newsletter. Lorraine Vass (FOK)

Seconded: Julia McConnell (IGLs)

Carried: Unanimously

5.3 Media Officers Report: (Lorraine Vass FOK)

The third issue of *Wildlife Watch* has been circulated. It was greatly disappointing that many people from NSW at the National Rehab Conference had not seen *Wildlife Watch* or knew about the Council and what it had been up to. It seems

that the information is not getting to the rank and file members of our organisations. Lorraine said 200 hard copies are produced and distributed to stakeholders.

Audrey Koosmen (NATF) suggested some NWC reps were not feeding information to their groups. Unfortunately Lorraine missed the deadline for the Winter issue of *Australian Wildlife*, the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia's magazine. The Council needs to develop further the process recommended at the May meeting for effective distribution of media releases.

5.4 Nature Conservation Council of NSW: (Lorraine Vass FOK)

18th October is the next NCC Annual Conference. Need to consider before 5th September if there are any motions the Council wishes to submit. It was noted that many of the wildlife policies are out of date.

Greg Tarlinton (Wildlife Q) and Phil Machin (NARG) agreed to review the NCC Kangaroo Management Policy 1980 and Steve Amesbury (NANA) the NCC Flying Foxes Policy 1998 with a view to forming a motion (and the required background etc as per the distributed form) to the effect that the NCC progressively review their policies on native fauna and offering members of the NSW Wildlife Council as the expert reference group to assist in the review and drafting process.

Moved: That Lorraine Vass (FOK) represent the NWC at the NCC Annual Conference and that the NWC cover costs of travel and accommodation. Steve Amesbury (NANA)

Seconded: John Donnelly (NTWC)

Carried: Unanimously

5.5 Secretary's Report: (Sonja Elwood SMW)

Correspondence Report tabled for the period 21st May – 5th August, 2008

Action: Sonja Elwood (SMW) to send a letter to Margaret Atkinson (WIRES- Illawarra Branch) saying that the Council is not in a position to provide funding.

Moved: That we send a submission of support to the Coalition against Duck Shooting. Steve Amesbury (NANA)

Seconded: Gwen Parry-Jones (Wildlife ARC)

Carried: Unanimously

Additional Correspondence in tabled by Lorriane Vass (FOK) for period 6th August – 12th August 2008 -

- Verity Firth MP – response to letter sent on trade of native reptiles through pet shops in NSW
- Ms Linda Wright & Mr Santiago Acera – voicing concerns about the application by Clarence Valley Council to NSW DECC for a Section 91 License to disturb vulnerable species Grey Headed Flying Fox, Black Headed Flying Fox and protected species Little Black Flying Fox at Maclean.
- Pru Goward MP (Member for Goulburn) – response to letter sent on Grey-headed Flying Fox.
- Margaret Atkinson (WIRES Illawarra Branch) – request for funding.

Moved: That the NWC writes to Peter Garrett MP thanking him for his action banning the importation of Savannah cats into Australia. Steve Amesbury (NANA)

Seconded: Audrey Koosmen (NATF)

Carried: Unanimously

Action: Sonja Elwood (SMW) to complete

6.0 General Business:

6.1 NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation of Fauna Policy Review:

Phil Machin (NARG) raised an action that had not been carried forward from the last meeting for discussion. 'The Executive to ascertain from Ron Haering the status of the review, the schedule for completion and how the Council will be involved'. This matter was briefly discussed and it appears that the expected DECC rehabilitation policy review has not started and there is no indication as to when it will be initiated. Phil Machin said that the NARG would write to Rehabilitation Policy, Lorraine Vass (FOK) felt the Minister had stated that there were two parts to the review and the part to do with wildlife rehabilitation should be commenced by the end of the year and that we would be informed of this at that time.

6.2 Report on Meeting with Minister Verity Firth: (Audrey Koosmen NATF)

Audrey advised that the issues raised with the Minister on 14th July were:

- Secretariat assistance for the NWC
- Consistency of Departmental support in the Regions
- Status of the in-house Review of DECC Fauna Rehabilitation Policy
- Plans of Management for Wildlife in Locked Up Areas
- Proposed Sales of native Reptiles

The import of Savanna cats into Australia, was also mentioned during departure. The Minister advised she had signed off a letter that day supporting the ban. Exec members felt the meeting was positive overall.

Action: Executive to follow up with Ron Haering (Manager Licensing DECC) for feedback on meeting.

6.3 NWC Strategic Plan – Progress on 2008 Work Plan Update: (All Officers)

Lorraine Vass (FOK) pointed out that all Council members own the Strategic Plan and are responsible for its progress and reporting that progress to DECC. Audrey Koosmen (NATF) stated that she has been looking at guest speakers. We have published three issues of *Wildlife Watch*.

The Constitution has been finalised for lodging with the Dept of Fair Trading.

6.4 Development of Procedure for NWC Engagement and Response to Wildlife Issues As they Arise: (All Officers)

Stan Wood (WIRES) suggested that maybe we should approach this with great caution as we just do not have the resources to deal with this effectively. We need to decide what issues we will respond to, who will do it and how we will do it.

Lorraine Vass (FOK) suggested that members who have a particular interest in pursuing an issue be responsible for preparing whatever documentation is required for the Council to sign off.

Steve Amesbury (NANA) asked is it better for us to act as a clearing house, send to the member groups, who would then send their own letter (25 letters) or send one letter from the Council.

Stan Wood (WIRES) stated that the NWC's primary work is to focus on the Strategic Plan then peripheral issues are to be distributed to interested parties.

Action: it is agreed that the Strategic plan is our goal and we will consider peripheral issues as they arise taking into consideration resources.

6.5 National Koala Action: (Lorraine Vass FOK)

Background paper circulated.

Issue: the review of the 1998 National Koala Conservation Strategy and the need for ongoing concerted national action for the koala as asserted by the Australian Koala Foundation and forming a partnership. Discussion on the feasibility of holding a Koala Conference, perhaps under the umbrella of the Council is also under discussion. It was agreed that the Council write to AKF in terms of the above, setting out ground rules for an equitable working partnership. It was suggested that when writing to AKF that we also approach other like groups across Australia.

Moved: That the NWC define terms for equitable dealings with potential partners and write to the Australian Koala Foundation outlining its lead role and expressing interest in working with the AKF on a basis of equitable partnership. Lorraine Vass (FOK)

Seconded: Jill Taylor (HKPS)

Carried: Unanimously

Action: Lorraine Vass (FOK) to complete

Moved: That the Council agree to sponsor a two-day symposium on koalas during 2009. Lorraine Vass (FOK)

Seconded: Elena Guarracino (LAOKO)

Carried: Unanimously

6.6 Companion Animal Management Act: (Julia McConnell IGLs)

With regard to the issue of asking the Minister for Local Govt. to amend the Companion Animal Act to give equal status to both dogs & cats, Julia advised that whilst she had completed a draft it has not been sent because a previous letter written to the Minister last January had eventually elicited a response from the Director General in July and mention was made of a 'recent review' and also a CD of NSW council pound activities had been provided. More work now needs to be done to gain support from councils and also to find out more about the 'recent review'. Lorraine suggested the Local Government Association could be of great help. Julia advised that this will be a long term ongoing project.

6.7 Development of Template for Local Agreements: (Steve Amesbury NANA)

On going – deferred to next meeting.

6.8 Refit to Coal Trains To Prevent Wildlife Injury: (Bruce Mulligan Wildlife Aid)

Bruce provided a detailed paper on the damage caused to macropods by coal trains and possible solutions. This was discussed.

Moved: That the NWC write and send a letter to the Hunter Valley Coal Chain Logistics Team. Bruce Mulligan (Wildlife Aid)

Seconded: Marny Bonner (ASR)

Carried: Unanimously

Action: Bruce Mulligan (Wildlife Aid) to draft the letter to the Hunter Valley Coal Chain Logistics Team to try to arrange a meeting to discuss ideas.

6.9 Threatened Species Day / Biodiversity Month – September 7th 2008: (Steve Amesbury NANA)

Steve suggested that we should put out a press release prior to Threatened Species Day/Biodiversity Month. He also suggested that we have an additional page on our website.

Action: The draft press release will be pasted on the website for member groups to be able to use as they see fit.

6.10 National Wildlife Council: (Stan Wood WIRES & Lorraine Vass FOK)

The background report was distributed prior to the meeting.

Moved: That the NWC writes to all state and territory agencies responsible for wildlife rehabilitation to ascertain the existence of or planning for peak bodies as outlined in the tabled report, *Towards a National Wildlife Council*. Lorraine Vass (FOK)

Seconded: Julia McConnell (IGL's)

Carried: Unanimously

7.0 Emergency Response Training: (Stan Wood WIRES)

See electronic attachment.

People who are interested in WIRES Team Leader training course should contact Stan Wood (WIRES). Last course was held at Bathurst and may be held there again, it went for 4 days. Cost to be announced. Audrey Koosman (NATF) stated that DPI runs a free course.

7.1 Euthanasia of Small Animals: (Bruce Mulligan Wildlife Aid)

Bruce raised the issue of techniques for euthanasing small animals. Bruce demonstrated a CO2 gassing station which he had made. The matter was discussed at length. Bruce advised that using CO2 is approved by the RSPCA and is also used in the field by NPWS. Stan Wood (WIRES) suggested the decision to use this method should be left up to individual groups.

7.2 MacLean Flying Fox Colony: (All Officers)

Steve Amesbury (NANA) asked if this is an issue we want to follow up on, or is it one where we should be saying it is the best solution under the current circumstances.

Lorraine Vass (FOK) reminded the meeting that we have received a letter asking us to speak out on this issue.

It was suggested we should discuss on line.

7.3 NWC Process for Establishing New Representatives to Council: (Audrey Koosman NATF & Julia McConnell IGL's)

Julia raised that we have a new member was not been included on the list even though they had advised us in writing and by email of the change and asked that process be established to advise and integrate new group contacts.

Action: Stan Wood (WIRES) to discuss with Sonja Elwood (SMW). To be discussed further on line.

7.4 Kangaroo Management Plan: (John Donnelly NTWC)

Culling licences under section 120 & 121. Permits under 120 are where the farmer kills a roo, tags it and leaves it on the grounds. Can NWC draft a letter to DECC to point out that aif this is done in autumn, there would be less joeys

coming into care. As pregnant females would only be carrying 'jellybean' fetuses, making them unviable for the intervention of raising and releasing. Although there may be some sentimental concerns, animal welfare concerns should outweigh these. The numbers killed should also be checked.

Moved: That a letter be drafted asking that DECC Section 120 licences only be issued in Autumn. John Donnelly (NTWC)

Seconded: Bruce Mulligan (Wildlife Aid)

Carried: Unanimously

Action: John to draft letter and circulate on line.

8.0 Next Meeting Dates: Sat 8th & Sun 9th Nov 2008
Venue: 'The Centre', Randwick, Sydney