

**General Meeting #23 of the
New South Wales Wildlife Council**

Date: Tuesday February 28 2012

Time: 9:30am

Place: Bridge St, Hurstville



GUEST SPEAKER: Suzanne Robinson, Manager General Emergencies Preparedness and Response, DPI.

Suzanne's presentation *NSW Emergency Management Arrangements & Responsibilities (Oil/Chemical Spill Responses)* focussed on emergency response for wildlife, and covered the legislative basis, organisational structure, the State Disaster Plan, and DPI's role as Co-ordinator for the Agriculture & Animal Services Functional Area.

The slideshow will be circulated via the NWC discussion list. A recent version can be found at www.seabirdrescue.org/emergency-management.

Notes important to Council members:

- Groups are welcome to develop their own Memorandum of Understanding with DPI for participation in all manner of emergencies (contact Simon Oliver, Agricultural Protection Officer – Policy)
- Groups are encouraged to develop their own working relationship with their regional DPI office
- Groups are encouraged to retain receipts for all costs associated with emergency response efforts
- Contact details are available in the slideshow

Action: Ms Robinson to forward information on MoUs and associated requirements for distribution to Council members.

DPI requests information on any outbreak of illness in native birds, particularly in native pigeons and birds of prey that are suggestive of *Avian Paramyxovirus Type 1 (APMVI)*.

Action: Information on *APMVI* and the DPI's request to be included in the NWC Newsletter.

Meeting commenced at 10:55am

1. MEMBERS PRESENT / APOLOGIES

Name	Group
Lorraine Vass	Friends of the Koala
Meredith Ryan	FAWNA
Joanne Kelly	Wildlife Aid
Audrey Koosmen	NATF
Caroline Enfield	WIRES
Rochelle Ferris	Australian Seabird Rescue
Colin Wood	NTWC
Shona Lorigan	ORRCA
Alison Cooper	ORRCA (Alt)
Julia McConnell	IGLs
Coralie Tarlinton	Wildcare Qbn
Greg Tarlinton	Wildcare Qbn (Alt)
Shirley Lack	NARG
Jane Mills	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
Patricia Razzi	NRWC
Ilona Roberts	TVWC

James Fitzgerald	LAOKO
Peter Graham	LAOKO (Alt)
Phil Machin	NARG (Alt)
Helen Kennedy	Sydney Wildlife

Apologies received from:

Hunter Koala Preservation Society: Annie Howarth; RRANA: Denise Singleton; WIRES: Leanne Taylor; Koalas in Care: Paul McLeod; Pet Porpoise: Paige Sinclair

2. Declarations of Interest.

Greg Tarlinton and Meredith Ryan, both of whom hold a firearms licence declared interest on the Firearms Licensing issue (Agenda item 8.1).

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the draft minutes of the NWC Meeting No.22 tabled be confirmed.

Moved: Audrey Koosmen

Second: James Fitzgerald

Motion carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Grey-headed Flying-fox Relocation Steering Committee

Iiona Roberts reported that the minutes of the Steering Committee's final meeting, held on 27 October 2011 have not yet been circulated despite a request.

Motion: That the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust be advised that all communications regarding the Grey Headed Flying Fox relocation from the Royal Botanic Gardens be directed to the NWC via the Chair, which will undertake to advise those member groups affected by the action.

Moved: Audrey Koosmen

Seconded: Helen Kennedy

Motion carried

Actions: Chair to write to Mark Savio, Director, RBG&DT and copy to John Martin, Wildlife Management Officer (Project Officer)

Vice Chair to contact Storm Stanford seeking her agreement to collate any reports and photographs of flying fox casualties that might be related to the RBG relocation.

4.2 Website

The letter of appreciation to Steve Amesbury was sent. The circumstances of setting up the new account with VentralIP were explained (see Agenda Item 8.7)

4.3 Governance Issues: Declaration of Interest Register

Action: The Secretary will circulate a draft policy regarding declarations of interest with the intent to implement the annual register of declarations at the AGM in August 2012.

4.4 Review of the NWC Constitution

Philip Machin requested that members provide comment on the draft Constitutional changes which have previously been circulated by March 15th 2012.

There was agreement that provision would be made for postal voting.

Action: Comments on the review of the NWC Constitution to be emailed to Phil Machin by 15 March.

4.5 Shared Database Working Group

Rochelle reported that Ron Haering was advised at the Executive meeting in November of the decision to continue investigations as neither the Long Grass nor WIRES systems meet the needs identified. The question of data ownership was also raised with him.

The Working Group is to contact Patrick Connor principal, WIRES CarerHQ, for further discussion.

4.6 Grants to Wildlife Carers

James Fitzgerald referred to the draft proposal he had prepared and circulated to fund small projects that improve wildlife rehabilitation. He stressed the advantages of raising awareness about the huge effort wildlife rehabilitators invest each day in the care of each animal. James pointed out that this information is highly valued and has the potential to attract more funding.

Members discussed the mechanisms for individuals or groups applying for funding under this program.

Four funding options including James' generous offer to privately fund the project and NWC funds, provided by the RMS, were discussed and voted on.

1. 5 year trial, funded by James' Trust (four votes)
2. 1 year trial, funded by NWC (four votes)
3. 1 year trial, 50/50 cost share between NWC and James' trust (Nil)
4. 2 year trial, 50/50 cost share between NWC and James' trust (Eight votes)

Motion: That the *NSW Wildlife Council Annual Grants to Wildlife Carers Program* proposal developed and put forward by James Fitzgerald be adopted with the following two amendments:

1. The project is approved on a two year trial.
2. The project will be funded by the investment of \$2,500 p.a. from James' Trust, and \$2,500p.a. by the NWC (subject to agreement by RMS).

Moved: James Fitzgerald

Seconded: Shona Lorigan

Motion carried

Motion: That James be commended for his initiative in developing the *NSW Wildlife Council Annual Grants to Wildlife Carers Program*.

Moved: Audrey Koosmen

Seconded: Julia McConnell

Carried by acclamation

Action: Chair to seek agreement from RMS regarding use of funds.

4.7 Consultancy Register

As discussed at the previous meeting, the consultancy register is currently as follows:

Name	Skills	Contact
Gordon Fraser-Quick	Environmental projects, delivery, design and review	gordonfraserquick@gmail.com
Colin Gersbach	Asset Security	Coli-60@hotmail.com
Keith Williams	Organisational and administrative management, funding seeker and grant writer	keith@keithwill.com

Liina Flynn	Media communications and design	liinaflynn@bigpond.com
Jann Gilbert	Graphic design, journalism, editing and publications	0423 494 762
Steve Amesbury	Information Technology, website, policy development, project design, management, review	steve.amesbury@gmail

4.8 **Funding for Wildlife Groups and IGLs**

The Chair advised this topic had been raised with the Acting CE and A/CE - Parks & Wildlife Group (see Agenda item 8.3)

4.9 **Koala Inquiry - EPBC Act nomination**

The Chair advised that the letter to the Hon. Tony Burke had been written and that he had extended announcement of his decision until 30th April 2012.

4.10 **Impact of flooding on Wildlife**

The Chair advised that this topic was also raised with the Acting CE and A/CE - Parks & Wildlife Group (see Agenda item 8.3)

4.11 **NWC Flyer/brochure options**

The flyer was circulated to the List.

4.12 **Infomail list proposal**

Greg Tarlinton will trial an infomail list as agreed at the November meeting (Agenda item 9.10), in conjunction with the NWC newsletter.

4.13 **Facebook/Twitter proposal**

The pages have been set up. The process for postings was discussed. Postings are chosen with the intent of promoting the group as reputable experts in their fields. All postings are approved by the Media Officer.

Action: The Secretary to post to the List the weblink addresses.

4.14 **Training for Council Members**

Not yet followed up.

4.15 **Work Health and Safety Act**

Meredith Ryan posted an email to the List on the information seminar.

4.16 **Draft NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvesting Management Plan 2012 – 2016**

Phil Machin discussed the response to the NWC's submission pointing out that concerns raised had either been subjectively rebutted or ignored.

Motion: That the Council pursues concerns it has about information contained in the response, authorising Phil Machin to contact the EDO for advice and also other interested parties eg. THINNK

Moved: Audrey Koosmen
Seconded: Shona Lorigan
Motion Carried

4.17 **Bullying Policy**

A draft **anti** -bullying policy has been provided to the Council which will be circulated on the List for comment with the intent of including the policy in the NWC Code of Conduct.

Action: Rochelle to circulate anti-bullying policy

PRESENTATION: FAWNA Wildlife Reporting System

Meredith Ryan FAWNA's President demonstrated FAWNA's online response to OEH's call for standardising annual reporting. The group has developed, in consultation with the WLMU, a wildlife records data input page accessed via FAWNA's webpage for FAWNA members.

The demonstration was of particular interest to a few members present as a possible template for their own groups.

Brendon Neilly and Allan McLean (WLMU) were in attendance for the demonstration and discussion.

Additional matter: **Dissemination of Rehabilitation Policy and Codes of Practice.**

Brendon Neilly suggested he could provide extra copies of various codes of practice and policies for distribution among member groups. It was agreed they would be supplied on a CD ROM, which will include *Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy*, the *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna*, the *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Koalas* and the *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Flying-foxes*, plus a small print run of the Rehabilitation Policy.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Lorraine referred to the Council's motto *Together we'll make a difference* in the context of the heat and emotion around the firearms licensing issue.

She reported on the following:

- The Executive's response to Brian Chetwynd's complaint regarding the election of office-bearers and record in the draft AGM minutes;
- Slow progress in writing up the draft Strategic Plan;
- Letters written to Blue Mountains City Council supporting their lobbying to amend the *Companion Animals Act*; Jill Taylor congratulating her on her AOM; Lismore City Council supporting its draft Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management.
- Sounding-out of Jill Taylor and Andrew Ryan to be 'responsible persons' on the management committee of the Council's proposed Public Fund;
- The Executive's response to the removal of wildlife rehabilitators from the Animal Welfare Genuine Reason category of firearms licensing;
- Agenda arrangements for the constructive and timely meeting between Executive members and Sally Barnes, A/Chief Executive, OEH and Bob Conroy A/Chief Executive, Parks & Wildlife Group held on 27 February.

The report on meeting outcomes was presented at this point by vice-Chair Caroline Enfield (see agenda item 9.3).

Motion: That the Strategic Plan be streamlined into a short list of achievable goals and consequent actions for 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-2014.

Moved: Meredith Ryan

Seconded: Audrey Koosmen

Motion carried.

Action: Chair to continue and adapt the work in progress for circulation to members.

Motion: That the NWC endorses the following membership of the management committee of the proposed Public Fund: James Fitzgerald, Shirley Lack, Jill Taylor, Andrew Ryan and Patrick Medway.

Moved: Audrey Koosmen

Seconded: Julia McConnell

Motion Carried.

Actions:

The Secretary will send letters of invitation (enclosing a copy of the REO's Public Fund Management Committee nomination form) to Jill Taylor, Andrew Ryan and Patrick Medway.

Shirley Lack and James Fitzgerald will each fill out the Public Fund Management Committee Nomination Form at the May meeting.

Phil will forward the draft amendments of the Constitution to the Register of Environmental Organisations for preliminary advice of the relevant clauses prior to lodgement of application.

Meredith will draw up Draft Rules for the Public Fund for presentation at the May meeting and will take responsibility for preparing the NWC's application to be entered on the Register of Environmental Organisations

On approval of the Rules, the Treasurer will proceed with setting up the Fund's bank account

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondence IN:

Date	From	Regarding
22-11-11	Sylvia Lowe, NSW Dept Environment Climate Change and Water	GIPA Application from the Royal Botanic Gardens Flying Fox Relocation – Release of NSW Wildlife Council Incs Business Information
15-12-11	Robyn Parker, NSW Govt Minister for Environment and Heritage	Relocation of Grey- headed Flying-foxes
12-02-12	WPSA	Wildlife Australia Magazine
12-02-12	Nature Conservation Council	Annual Report
19-02-12	Lismore City Council	Acknowledgement of receipt – Koalas Plan of Management
No date (estimated mid feb)	EPA NSW	Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2012-2016
02-12	Phil Houlton	Firearms licensing

Correspondence OUT:

Date	To	Regarding
11-01-12	General Manager, Blue Mountains City Council	Companion Animals.
31-01-12	Jill Taylor	Jill Taylor - OAM
02-02-12	Tony Burke, Minister for	Nomination of Koala, <i>EPBC Act</i>

	Environment	
	Phil Houlton, General Manager NSW Police Firearms Registry, copied to Sally Barnes, and Andrew Scipione and Ron Haering.	Firearms Licensing issue

7. TREASURER’S REPORT – Shirley Lack

The Treasurer’s Report, (circulated prior to the meeting) noted expenditure of \$2,544.37 and a balance of \$69,411.06.

8. MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Shirley Lack

All groups should formally advise the NWC regarding representative changes after each group’s AGM and through the year should a change be made to delegate and alternate.

9. INSURANCE REPORT – Shirley Lack

The Insurance Officer advised that a claim was being processed. She also raised concern regarding the Firearms Licensing issue and the operational impacts on carers from all groups. (Detailed response to be included)

MOTION: That the NWC writes to WIRES regarding procedures and protocol associated with insurance matters, requesting an explanation of the actions surrounding the contact made with the Insurer and an apology for any breach of protocols.

Action: Secretary to draft correspondence

Moved: Meredith Ryan

Seconded: Coralie Tarlinton

Motion carried.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Firearms

Some members expressed concern that applications for firearms licences for the purpose of humane euthanasia from wildlife carers were being refused with the withdrawal of volunteer wildlife rehabilitators from category 4 of the Animal Welfare Genuine Reason. Discussion ensued outlining the sequence of events that led to the Firearms Registry making this change. A couple of member groups were expressly concerned about their members being refused licences.

Also discussed were the Council’s correspondence to the Firearms Registry requesting prompt clarification and the Registry’s response, acknowledging understanding for the need for volunteers to euthanase injured native fauna, asserting need for specialist training and offering the option of wildlife rehabilitators applying for a Commissioner’s Permit under Section 28(g) of the *Firearms Act*, which enables “...the possession and use of firearms in such circumstances as the Commissioner considers appropriate”.

The Chair reiterated the exchange between herself and the Registry General Manager regarding his offer to forward an amendment to the Act to Parliamentary Counsel to include wildlife rehabilitators in Animal Welfare Genuine Reason.

The WIRES representative referred to her email posting to the Executive and Greg Tarlinton of 7 February explaining the facts as she knew them. In view of no further clarification being received from the WIRES **Board** she suggested that the letter to WIRES resolved earlier, include a request for clarification regarding discussions by the WIRES General Manager and Firearms Registry personnel.

Motion: The Council nominates James Fitzgerald and Greg Tarlinton to pursue negotiations to

resolve the Firearms Licensing issue by consulting with interested parties (OEH and the Firearms Registry) in developing an NWC accredited training course based on the course used by Wildcare Queanbeyan.

Moved: Audrey Koosmen

Seconded: Shona Lorigan

Motion carried.

Action: Members who have had a licence application refused should advise James of details.

Coralie and Greg Tarlinton left the meeting. (3:15pm)

10.2 Marine Pollution Bill

Rochelle outlined the amendment passed through NSW Legislative Council regarding marine pollution, and the establishment of an oiled wildlife care network.

10.3 Meeting with Sally Barnes (Notes of meeting attached)

10.4 2012 NCC Regional Conference

Motion: That the NWC nominates two delegates to the NCC Regional Conference to be held in Coffs Harbour, 5-6 May 2012.

Moved: Audrey Koosmen

Seconded: Rochelle Ferris

Motion carried.

10.5 Incoming correspondence via the website

Requests for information received through the NWC website will be treated as in-coming correspondence, forwarded by the Secretary to the Executive and where appropriate, forwarded by the Secretary to member groups in that location. Member groups are asked to allow all local groups the opportunity to contribute before a response is given to the enquiry.

10.6 Posting draft minutes on the website

Motion: That the protocol adopted at the Council's inaugural meeting that draft minutes are to be circulated a fortnight after each meeting for corrections and then circulated to groups (posted on public website) be discontinued.

MOVED: Shona Lorigan

SECONDED: Caroline Enfield

Motion carried.

Action: The Secretary will forward draft minutes to the Executive in the first instance, then on to those members in attendance at the meeting for correction/amendment, after which a *Reviewed Draft* version will be posted on the NWC website and the minutes ratified at the next meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 National Call Number

NTWC receive many calls from outside their operational area or that are being incorrectly forwarded to their group. The issue is of concern because they incur costs for phone calls received by their 1800 number.

11.2 Archery

Colin Wood drew attention to archers being allowed to shoot in state forests and reserves. Members pointed out that archery does not require a license (with the exception of cross-bows, which are classified as illegal).

Action: Colin and Helen Kennedy to develop an issues paper. If any members have any photos relating to animals and arrows, please forward them to Colin and Helen.

11.3 Direct Deposit Payment

Action: The Treasurer will investigate options.

12. NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY MAY 22nd 2012.

Meeting end 3:52pm.