

Minutes
General Meeting #24 of the
New South Wales Wildlife Council
Date: Tuesday May 22 2012 Time: 9:30am
Place: OEH Parks & Wildlife Group
Bridge St, Hurstville



Guest Speaker: Presentation of the fauna monitoring system, Wild Count, given by Corinne Orscheg, Senior Project Manager, Management Effectiveness Unit, OEH.

Meeting opened 10:12am

1. MEMBERS PRESENT / APOLOGIES

Name	Group
Lorraine Vass	Friends of the Koala
Meredith Ryan	FAWNA
Rochelle Ferris	Australian Seabird Rescue
Shirley Lack	NARG
Caroline Enfield	WIRES
Shona Lorigan	ORRCA
Julia McConnell	IGLs
Leanne Taylor	WIRES (Alt)
Phil Machin	NARG (Alt)
Jackie Maisey	NTWC
Ilona Roberts	TVWC
Geoff Bartlett	Hunter KPS
Graham Wardell	Wildlife Carers Mudgee Region

Apologies: Audrey Koosmen (NATF), James Fitzgerald (LAOKO), Denise Singleton (RRANA), Coralie Tarlinton (Wildcare Q), Paige Sinclair (Pet Porpoise Pool), Paul McLeod (KIC), Joanne Kelly (Wildlife Aid), Bruce Mulligan (Wildlife Aid Alt), Helen Kennedy (Sydney Wildlife), Jane Mills (WRSC)

The Chair extended a particular welcome to Graham Wardell, representing Wildlife Carers Mudgee Region, not previously represented at NWC meetings.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion: That the draft minutes of the NWC Meeting no. 23, held 28 February 2012 and tabled be accepted.

Moved: Shirley Lack

Seconded: Caroline Enfield

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1

Grey-headed Flying-fox Relocation Steering Committee

Lorraine and Caroline updated the members on the situation with the relocation of flying foxes from the RBGT. Wildlife carers in the Sydney basin, closest to the Botanic Gardens, are asked to be on alert for injured fauna. Storm Stanford has agreed to collate reports and photos. The relocation exercise is due to take place at the end of May, although the NWC has not received any recent information from the Botanic Gardens.

4.2 **Shared Database**

Rochelle reported that progress is slow due to the time availability of volunteers involved in developing specifications to deliver to OEH. Attempts are still ongoing. Rochelle referred to the smartphone app presented by Steve Amesbury and noted that this application has potential as another point of data entry for a shared database. Rochelle will contact Andrew Burton and follow up on the issue.

4.3 **Grants to Wildlife Carers**

There has been some interest in the grants. Applications close on July 1. More information will be provided then.

4.4 **Impact of Flooding on Wildlife – Response from Bob Conroy**

Lorraine elaborated on the background to the response. Phil spoke specifically about its reference to wombats and the impacts of flooding. Members are concerned that the impact of flooding, specifically on wombat burrows, is not being considered when permits for culling are issued and that there is a lack of information regarding the population of wombats in NSW. Phil suggested that wombat management issues require further discussion.

Action: Phil to draft a response to the letter, specifically related to the protection of wombats, and the collation of the cumulative impacts on populations of wombats in NSW, including a NWC request for information regarding the number of culling licenses issued.

4.5 **Infomail Proposal – Update**

In Greg’s absence Lorraine noted his test run request posted on 30 March, asking if reps had participated.

Action: Phil to ask Greg to give an update online.

Leanne Taylor (WIRES alternate) joined the meeting. 10:52pm

4.6 **Social Media**

The Facebook and twitter accounts are active. All members are asked to participate.

Outgoing NWC information as approved by the Media Officer.

Story	Link
NWC newsletter	http://www.nwc.org.au/downloads/nwc1011.pdf http://www.nwc.org.au/downloads/nwc_newsletter_april_2012.pdf
AWRC – NWC attendance	http://www.2012awrc.org.au/
Koala Rescue - FOK	http://www.echonews.com.au/story/2012/02/23/energy-goes-into-rescue-of-baby-koala/
Sea turtle release - ASR	http://www.nbnnews.com.au/index.php/2012/04/16/sea-turtles-back-home-after-stint-in-hospital/
Have your say on regional priorities : NCC	http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/yourregionalpriorities
Jill Taylor - awarded an OAM for her service to wildlife conservation through the Hunter K P Society	http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/passion-for-port-stephens-an-honour/2433183.aspx

4.7 **Archery and Wildlife Issues Paper (inc. the proposed Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation 2012)**

In Helen’s absence no report was given on the issues paper. Discussion turned to the proposed Regulation which will replace *The Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation 2004* when it expires on 1 September 2012.

Members discussed concerns regarding:

- The welfare of wildlife
- The ability of the public to correctly identify species
- The safety of children

Action: Caroline will prepare a submission on behalf of NWC opposing the Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation 2012 as it is presented in time for lodging by 8 June 2012.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chair

Lorraine reported on the following:

- Follow-up letter from the exec's meeting with Sally Barnes and Bob Conroy - in particular disappointment in OEHS inability to assist with minuting NWC meetings.
- Exec meeting with Ron Haering (21/5):
 - Codes of practice and priority species: agreement that NWC formally request reptiles, macropods, wombats;
 - Wildlife Rescue Inc. (see also item 6.8): OEHS enquiries are ongoing. Information regarding activities in member groups' licensed area of operations should be emailed to Ron and copied to Glenn Storrie, Area Manager, Coffs Coast: glenn.storrie@environment.nsw.gov.au
 - Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy Audit Process: NATF is the only audit to have taken place under the policy. Ron will be requested to provide details of the process for the information of members.
- NWC and politics: Council members are being approached by opposition parties to support campaigns of mutual interest
- Sally Barnes has declined the invitation to attend the AGM in August. Bob Conway is still uncertain.
- *EPBC Act* Listing of the Koala and Minister Parker's reaffirmation to improved koala protection .

5.2 Secretary

NWC Correspondence - February 22nd to May 22nd 2012

CORRESPONDENCE IN

Date	From	Regarding	Action
22 Feb	NSW Office of the Police Commissioner	Firearms Licensing	
23 Feb	Fed Env Minister Tony Burke's Office	Koala Protection	
23 Feb	Firearms Registry – Philip Houlton	Firearms licensing for Wildlife Carers	
27 Feb	WIRES	Firearms	
23 March	OEHS – Bob Conroy	Follow up to Feb 27 Meeting	
23 March	Environmental Defenders Office	Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2012 - 2016	Re: Phil Machin
26 March	Roads and Maritime	\$25k support cheque	Cheque forwarded to Treasurer, responded to RMS
5 April	Wildlife Preservation Society	Magazine	
10 April	Roads and Maritime Services	Renaming of Departments	
12 April	NWS OEHS	Cheque for \$25,000	Deposited cheque, responded to OEHS

17 April	Andrew Ryan	Nomination for Public Gift Fund with form	
23 April	Jill Taylor	Nomination for public Gift fund with form	
10 May	NCC	Northern Regional Conference Agenda	Lorraine to represent NWC

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

Date	To	Regarding	Notes
20 March	WIRES	Firearms	
10 April	Patrick Medway	Public Gift Fund Nomination	(form in the post)
10 April	Andrew Ryan	Public Gift Fund Nomination	
10 April	Jill Taylor	Public Gift Fund Nomination	
10 April	Mark Savio – Director Royal Botanic Gardens	Flying Fox relocation	
10 April	Peter Duncan, Roads and Maritime	Thank you for annual support	
12 April	All Members	NWC Newsletter	
18 April	Community Liaison Officer Transgrid Stroud to Landsdowne Project	Concern over power line construction	
1 May	All Members	Special General Meeting	
10 April	Federal Minister Tony Burke	Hunting of turtle and dugong	
10 May	All Members	NWC Newsletter	

5.3 Treasurer (Reconciliation Report circulated)

Noted: receipts of \$50,000, expenditure of \$25,387.26 and a balance of \$94,023.80.

Direct deposit reimbursements have been arranged for members. The Treasurer will set up payments online. The Chair or Secretary must co-sign the payments by responding to an authorising email.

5.4 Membership

There have been no changes to the membership.

5.5 Insurance

Certificates of Currency have been forwarded to members.

Advice was sought, and one claim was successfully submitted.

There may be a possibility for members to be covered by insurance through OEH.

Investigations are continuing.

5.6 Media

In James' absence, Lorraine gave a briefing of James media achievements in relation to the Federal listing of the Koala.

5.7 NCC Contact – 2012 Regional Conference, Coffs Harbour

Lorraine referred to her circulated report, in particular reference to the Minister's support for holding a Koala Summit in collaboration with the NCC before the end of the year and the formation of a planning committee which includes NWC. The first meeting is on 24 Thursday and she has made arrangements for attending.

Motion: That the reports presented be accepted.

Moved: Rochelle Ferris
Seconded: Julia McConnell
Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 NWC Promotional Brochure

Rochelle sought quotes from Jann Gilbert and Liina Flynn, both listed on the Consultancy Register with skills relevant to producing a brochure. Jann responded to the full job, i.e. the graphic design component and printing. She has produced a partial draft which **was displayed to the meeting on-screen.**

Action: Rochelle will circulate the draft of the brochure and invite comment on content and printing quality and quantity. Deadline for comment will be three weeks. No comment will be taken in the affirmative.

6.2 Wildlife Friendly Fencing Brochure

Meredith brought to the NWC's attention an update of the wildlife friendly fencing brochure and a new wildlife friendly netting brochure. Both can be downloaded from www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com

Action: Rochelle to forward the two brochures to the list.

6.3 Firearms Licencing

In James's absence Lorraine reported on a conversation in which James indicated he is working on a training course and protocol. She read out an email from Phil Houlton to James which had been forwarded to the Exec. in which Phil reiterated the Registry's support and offer of assistance.

----- Break for lunch 12:35pm – 1:15pm -----

6.4 NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvesting Management Plan 2012-2016

Phil referred to his email of May 7 bringing the members up to date with the NWC submission regarding the CKHMP.

The EDO response concludes that there is no point challenging the plan in itself, but that it would be worthwhile to monitor the results against the plan's objectives. Phil suggests that it would be prudent to examine the annual report for answers.

Phil noted that we had a response from The Think Tank for Kangaroos (TTHINK, associated with UTS and Voiceless) on the issue which stated they are pushing for a government enquiry into the kill on hygiene and animal welfare grounds.

TTHINK operates as more of an advisor, but will support other groups who wish to take on the battle. Results suggest that culling will not affect the long term genetic diversity of the species, and TTHINK would like to see an argument made against this case.

NWC could write to the government to introduce an amendment where neighbours in the culling area be consulted.

The Plan also suggests that parks are refuges, but this may not necessarily be the case where culling operations occur adjacent to parks.

We could approach Voiceless for support.

Lorraine noted that the NWC's original concern was to protect kangaroos on and around rehabilitation release sites.

Motion: That NWC authorises Phil Machin to contact Voiceless and the EDO to further investigate drafting a proposal to government to amend the Commercial

Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan with the aim to provide further protection for kangaroos and landholders in and around release sites.

Moved: Caroline Enfield

Seconded: Iona Roberts

Carried

Action: Phil to contact Voiceless and the EDO to further investigate drafting a proposal to government to amend the Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan with the aim to provide further protection for kangaroos and landholders in and around release sites.

6.5 Establishment of Public Fund

Nomination forms have been received back from Jill Taylor, Andrew Ryan and Shirley Lack. Verbal acceptances received from James Fitzgerald and Partick Medway.

Meredith discussed the requirements in the Public Fund application that the NWC needs to attend to in order to complete the process, notably some changes to the Constitution, which are due to take effect in the Special General meeting on this same day.

Meredith also noted that the application is very thorough and is likely to take several months from lodging.

6.6 Draft Anti-Bullying Policy

Originally brought up to the members in November and drafted by Caroline with advice received from an external reviewer via Shirley, the Exec. has approved a final draft to be circulated to the list for comment within three weeks.

Action: Caroline to circulate the Draft Anti-Bullying Policy to the list for comment.

6.7 Smart Phone App Proposal

Lorraine referred to the proposal circulated to the list put forward by Steve Amesbury to develop a smartphone application that has the potential to support wildlife rescue responses. The application is being modelled on a similar one operating in Colorado, USA. Members were supportive of the idea.

Action: Lorraine to advise Steve Amesbury that the NWC supports the proposal and welcomes involvement in the App's development.

6.8 Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Included in Chair's Report

6.9 IFAW Vet Network for Wildlife Project

Lorraine reminded members of IFAW's email forwarded on 8 May requesting contact details of potentially interested veterinarians across the country to be part of a national veterinary network for wildlife during times of natural disasters and also outside of disasters.

6.10 AGM Arrangements

25th and 26th August 2012. AGM will be at The Centre in Randwick.

Members who have not already done so, please contact Caroline if accommodation is needed. Traditionally the General Meeting will take place on the Saturday, and the Annual General Meeting on the Sunday.

TTHINK, Voiceless, and the Atlas of Living Australia were considered as guest presenters for the AGM if Bob Conroy is not available.

6.11 Member Groups and Work Health & Safety

This issue applies to groups with paid staff, as their volunteers should now be included in OH&S policies under the same conditions as paid staff.

www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au provides the relevant information in this regard.

Action: Caroline will draft a letter to all members that will be distributed by the Secretary.

6.12 **Companion Animals Task Force Discussion Paper**

Julia brought to the NWC attention the above discussion paper available at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/CATaskforce

Members discussed the relevance of the discussion paper to NWC. It was agreed that the NWC would not be making a submission, but that members were encouraged to make submissions through their own groups.

6.13 **Draft Strategic Plan: Moving Forward 2011-2014 – circulated 23 April and 16 May**

Lorraine thanked Wildlife Rescue South Coast for their feedback. Phil offered suggestions for inclusion in the Strategic Goals, Objectives and Strategies on p.4: Identify extent of NWC members contribution to government; review the NWC constitution; provide assistance to wildlife rehabilitators; seek more equitable NPWS finance and in/kind support for members.

The 2011-2012 Workplan will be reviewed over the AGM weekend for 2012-2013.

Caroline offered her thanks to Lorraine for her efforts into the Strategic Plan. All members agreed.

Motion: That subject to inclusion of the amendments agreed to, the Draft Strategic Plan be adopted.

Moved: Caroline Enfield

Seconded: Shona Lorigan

Carried

Action: Lorraine will re-circulate the Plan amended to include Phil's suggestions.

6.14 **Southern Right Whale *Eubalaena australis* – Endangered listing**

Shona reported that on 18 May the NSW Scientific Committee determined that the Southern Right Whale is endangered in NSW. The species is subject to the Federal Recovery Plan for Cetaceans, however the NSW Eastern population of Southern Right Whales is particularly at risk.

6.15 **Grey-headed Flying Foxes – Proposed Conservation Agreement**

Minister Burke has written to all state and territory environment ministers flagging an agreement to eliminate duplication in the assessment and approval of the management of problematic flying-fox camps.

The agreement will remove the need for Federal environmental approval where state approvals are in place and meet federal environmental standards. It will apply to actions to “remove, disperse or manage” the grey-headed flying foxes where they are considered to have detrimental impacts on human communities.

Action: Ilona will draft a letter to Minister Burke pointing out that species requires the full protection of the *EPBC Act* and concern that a national recovery plan for the grey-headed flying fox must be in place before any further consideration of the proposition.

6.16 **NWC Presentation - Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference – Townsville – July 2012**

Rochelle and James have agreed to present a paper on behalf of NWC.

Rochelle's original travel plans to Townsville have changed and she requested that 50% of her airfare to Townsville be covered by NWC. The other 50% to be paid by ASR (subject to approval).

The meeting agreed to Rochelle's request.

7. NEXT MEETING

25th General Meeting will be held on Saturday August 25th, at The Centre, Randwick.

Meeting declared closed 2:30pm.