

Minutes

NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

General Meeting #26

8 November 2012

9.30am to 3pm

OEH Offices, Bridge Street Hurstville

MEETING OPEN: 0950

PRESENT: S. Kendall FOK to 3.05 p.m.; A. Koosmen NATF; J. McConnell IGL; M. Ryan FAWNA; S. Lorigan ORRCA until 1030; S Lack NARG; I. Roberts NRWC; G. Bartlett HKPS; B. Thompson WIRES to 3.05 p.m.; L.Taylor WIRES to 3.05 p.m.; H. Kennedy SMW; J. FitzGerald Wildcare Q from 1.30 p.m.; S. Jacka TVWC via Teleconference (not very successful as Sally couldn't hear us.)

APOLOGIES: J. Mills WRSC; P.Graham LAOKO; J. Kelly Wildlife Aid; R. Ferris ASR; P.McLeod Koalas in Care; P. Machin NARG; J. Maisey and C. Wood NTWC; D. March Pet Porpoise Pool; D. Singleton RRANA; S. Elwood SMW.

GUEST SPEAKER: Josey Sharrad – Native Wildlife Campaigner
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
Refer to report on Josey's IFAW presentation - Attachment 1

Morning Tea Break at 1040.
Meeting reconvened at 1055.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – J. McConnell declares a personal relationship with Brett McNamara of bamc WebServices. There is no financial benefit from the arrangement.
2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 25 AUGUST 2012**
Moved for acceptance G. Bartlett, Seconded I. Roberts - Carried
3. **BUSINESS ARISING**
 - 3.1. **Relocation of GHFF Update** – Ilona Roberts
As far as is known “passive” dispersal activity is still occurring in the Botanic Gardens.
 - 3.2. **GHFF Proposed Conservation Agreement** – Julia McConnell
Completed
 - 3.3. **Shared Database Update** – Rochelle Ferris
J. Maisey reports on Database – possible trial this month of a new suggested database. J. Maisey to provide details. Helen Kennedy to contact Jackie Maisey for further details in a form to be forwarded to the NWC List.
 - 3.4. **Grants to Wildlife Carers** – The Executive
Grant funds have been distributed: Two groups have not acknowledged as requested – Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers and Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers. Source of funding was discussed. The original offer from James FitzGerald was that he was going to pay \$5000 but it was agreed that the funding would be split 50:50 between James and NWC. To date no funds have been forthcoming from James and the full amount has been funded by NWC. James share was intended to come from a Trust and James has given an undertaking that the funds will be provided by James before the end of this financial year.

3.5. NWC Promotional Brochure – Rochelle Ferris

5000 brochures received. Group representatives to take supplies with them for distribution within their groups. Arrangements to be made to distribute to all member groups. Address should be P O Box 13, LAWSON 2783. Chair said how pleased she was with the brochure. Cost including all artwork was \$1175. Secretary to send note of thanks to Rochelle Ferris.

3.6. Firearms Licensing – Phil Machin

Firearms Safety Brief has been sent via the List for feedback.

3.7. NSW Kangaroo Management Change to S121 & S123 Occupier Licence Applications Proposal – Phil Machin

Letter sent to Sally Barnes and no response received. To be followed up by Secretary.

3.8. Public Fund Bank Account Update – Shirley Lack

An account has been opened with Westpac Nowra – NSW Wildlife Council Inc. Public Account.

3.9. Smart Phone AP Update – Shirley Lack

IFAW and the NWC have formed a partnership to develop an App for Apple and Android phones. IFAW will be using both internal and external IT people to develop the App and will finance it. The App will work in conjunction with our website which will be the first port of call.

3.10. NWC Constitutional Review Panel - Audrey Koosmen

Needs to be an ongoing process. Groups that were not satisfied with some of the changed Clauses in the Constitution may propose further changes to the NWC.

3.11. WIRES Correspondence re Firearms Registry – Audrey Koosmen

A. Koosmen sent a letter to Secretary, WIRES in response to letter to NWC on Firearms licensing matter.

3.12. NATF Wildlife Group Audit – Audrey Koosmen

Audit progress at a standstill. It has been 6 months since NATF letter to Minister and there is still no reply. It has been 5 months since letter to OEHL on the audit process and there has been no response. NATF will deal internally – requests for meetings at all levels have not been successful.

3.13. Codes of Practice, Wombats, Macropods & Reptiles – Audrey Koosmen

The Management Committee would like to hold these over until 2013 and look at it again from the February meeting. Macropod and Wombat were the two main ones to start, followed by Reptiles.

3.14. Grant Opportunities – Audrey Koosmen

R. Ferris volunteered to take on sourcing of grant opportunities. Need to action follow-up with R Ferris re her availability and ability to progress.

3.15. On Line Vets – Audrey Koosmen

Refer to report on Josey's IFAW presentation.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Chair – Audrey thanked her team on the Management Committee and spoke of the achievements of the new Management Committee since its inception last August, which were –

- Ⓟ Redesign, activate and upgraded new Website
- Ⓟ Relocate Postal Address to P O Box 13, Lawson
- Ⓟ Redesign and amend our letterhead
- Ⓟ Wildlife App refer IFAW report
- Ⓟ Communication with RMS and OEHL re operational funding and insurance
- Ⓟ Draft Strategic Plan for final development at this meeting
- Ⓟ Talks between Chair and IFAW with a view to forming a closer working relationship

- Ⓟ The Committee has continued lobbying Government in relation to the Kangaroo issue and the Shooters licences.
- Ⓟ NWC has joined Better Planning Network. BPN is NSW focussed and trying to increase participation with all the disparate groups involved from the Green to White Paper planning process.

4.2. **Secretary** – Files of Correspondence In and Out since the last meeting was emailed to the List. Acceptance proposed J. McConnell, seconded S. Lack – Carried.

4.3. **Treasurer** – NWC management committee took the decision to purchase an inexpensive data projector (\$399). Moved A. Koosmen, seconded H. Kennedy that a suitable carry case be purchased – Carried. Treasurer’s report tabled for acceptance S. Lack, second G. Bartlett – Carried.

4.4. **Membership** – apologies from Secretary for sending out incorrect list. A new list will be issued shortly and all members to advise any changes required.

4.5. **Insurance** – No claims lodged. A few reports received from WIRES re possible claims. It is NWC Policy that individual rehabilitators may not make direct contact with anyone other than the group’s NWC representative/alternate. NWC should send a reminder to all group Secretaries that this process should be reinforced with their memberships. Groups who wish to nominate an Insurance contact person to the NWC Insurance Officer should do so in writing else all enquiries are to be made through the groups NWC rep.

4.6. **Media** – Media release re Grant Funding to NWC members distributed and placed on Webpage. No photographs received from grantees. Group reps to be asked to follow through to provide photos. Groups to provide Media Officer with their media contact list. Josey, IFAW will see if she might be able to assist here.

4.7. **NCC Contact** - I. Roberts believes a print out may be available of all the Motions to the Conference. Conference was very intense. Focus on Sunday was sustainable population. FOK received Environment Award. NWC’s Motion re Flying-foxes was accepted “That the Nature Conservation Council of NSW call upon the government of New South Wales a) to cease issuing permits to disperse flying-foxes. Instead assist local government to establish additional roosting habitat away from residential or other sensitive areas. b) to accept responsibility for the protection of flying-fox camps and actively raise community awareness and understanding of the importance of flying-foxes and the need for their conservation as stipulated by the NSW Camp Management Policy 207. c) NCC write to DPI and Environment ministers seeking assurance that flying-foxes, being native animals and already having established policies for camp and orchard management, are exempt from being declared ‘emergency pests’. Coral Sea is going to be proclaimed as a protected area, as well as marine environment around the southern parts of Western Australia. NSW is the only State with no marine sanctuaries. People Power Pressure reported as being an extremely effective means of advocacy. Thank given by acclamation to Ilona for representing NWC.

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS** Meeting reconvened 1.30 p.m.

5.1. **Relations between RSPCA and Wildlife Rescue Groups** - Peter Graham – J. McConnell reports on Peter’s behalf. In PG’s area RSPCA does not “do” wildlife and suggests RSPCA may be able to provide some funding for wildlife. Could NWC set up some sort of partnership with RSPCA for funding in some wildlife care areas? Chair pointed out that in some areas there is very little assistance for fauna and in other areas the situation is quite different. For instance in NATF area there is a very good relationship with RSPCA, same for the Wildcare Queanbeyan area. MOPs take fauna to RSPCA shelter in Tweed for collection by TVWC. Propose M. Ryan that we ask “should NWC seek funding for wildlife rehab groups from RSPCA” – seconder S. Lack – Votes: All against. Motion defeated. Proposed A. Koosmen, seconded Geoff Bartlett, That NWC invites RSPCA to provide a guest speaker for the NWC February 2013 meeting – Carried.

- 5.2. **Website** – The Executive – List advised of revamped Website. Members generally positive. Hunter Koalas phone number on the Website is incorrect – it should be 0418 628 483 for the 24 hour rescue service. IFAW requests permission to use the database information from the website on any new App developed – permission granted.
- 5.3. **Funding for Flying Foxes** – Julia McConnell – on behalf of Jackie Maisey. NTWC suggests some sort of financial help may be needed for groups running flying-fox crèches as the cost of fruit and supplements will be prohibitive for some groups and individuals. Proposed J. McConnell “That some form of grant funding may be required for this particularly unusual year for flying-fox rescues to cover the costs for the longer than normal time in rehabilitation” seconded I. Roberts – Carried. Suggested that IFAW be approached in the first instance. I. Roberts to attempt to collate data on flying-fox projected costs for 2012 season crèching of flying-foxes for possible financial assistance. There seem to be varying reasons why flying-foxes are coming into care in greater than usual numbers. The RBG dispersal may be affecting the Sydney region – the animals are in good body weight, whereas in the FAWNA area the reasons for care are mainly netting and barbed wire entanglement with very poor body condition. Funds were offered to Sydney Wildlife for care costs of animals affected by the RBG dispersal; this offer was refused. NCC to be advised of statistical data collected on flying-foxes rescued for the 2012 season.
- 5.4. **Bow & Arrow Issue** – Julia McConnell – on behalf of Jackie Maisey. J. Maisey suggests that licences should be required for “hunting” bows and there should be a “code” regarding “targeting and animal death point”, the requirement to report injured native animals to NPWS or face a fine. “No Hunting in National Parks” campaign manager, Justin McKee, was to approach NWC to join the alliance of groups opposed to hunting in national parks. L. Taylor to pass on contact to A. Koosmen.
- 5.5. **Chlamydia in Koalas** – Julia McConnell on behalf of Jackie Maisey – NTWC is assisting Adam Polkinghorne Qld Uni Tech on his research in Chlamydia in Koalas along the Dividing Ranges. He is working with Australia Zoo towards a vaccine which is exciting. I have suggested to WIRES Uralla that they should join us on this one.
- 5.6. **Passing of Jean Starr** – Founder of Koala Preservation Society of NSW passed away last week. Jean Starr was one of Australian’s earliest Koala rehabilitators and took on the training of koala carers throughout Australian. The loss of another of Australia’s Wildlife Warriors is a sad event but she has left a powerful legacy behind her. The Jean Starr Walk has been named at Port Macquarie’s Koala Hospital. Jean was a very dear friend to Audrey and Paul Canfield gave a eulogy at Jean’s funeral saying how much her influence had inspired koala research particularly into Chlamydia.
- 5.7. **Wildlife Rescue Inc Media release** - Release tabled and FAWNA’s response read. Reference also made to response to Coffs Coast Advocate from WIRES North Coast Branch. L. Taylor suggests that no communication with WRI is the best method. Suggest that neighbouring groups should consider joint media campaigns to counter WRI’s negative stance. Difficult to deal with this issue while no laws have been contravened. Discussion took place about ways around groups attending to wildlife rescue calls that come direct from Wildlife Rescue Inc. WIRES expressed concern about privacy issues, permission to enter premises, and third hand information. A direct link is needed from person reporting to licensed group/volunteer attending the rescue. WRI is bringing the reputation of wildlife rescue into disrepute. Question – what is Wildlife Rescue Inc’s motive? B. Thompson suggests that contact is made only via legal channels. Some question whether animals that go to vets are ending up with licensed rehabilitators or into care with unlicensed individuals. Suggest a joint approach should be made by WIRES, NATF and FAWNA to OEH expressing their concern. Those three groups to liaise re a joint letter. Tell Vets that carers should be able to produce a Licence Authority prior to collecting fauna.
6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - Meeting congratulated Friends of Koala on the Nature Conservation Council Environment Award 2012.

Sam Kendall - FOK working on various plans of management for koala conservation and habitat provision.

James Fitzgerald - Cooma-Monaro shire has some money available for a Koala Plan of Management. DPP Appealed the leniency of sentencing for a kangaroo cruelty case. Decision to be handed down late November

- looks hopeful. If successful it is hoped that the precedent will be set against such lenient sentences. The 3 accused provided evidence against themselves by putting photographs and comments up on Facebook.

Audrey Koosmen talked about cruelty case against Morisset kangaroos with a penalty of only 3 months. After 4 years animals can now be released back into that area.

Helen Kennedy - Thank you from Sydney Wildlife for response for help with care of flying-fox pups. 11 a day were coming in. The Council has provided a great network to deal with fauna emergencies.

Geoff Bartlett - Koala rescued in Boat Harbour about 6 years ago - person accused koala of attempting to smother his dog. Bystander admitted kicking animal - prosecution is underway. Geoff's wife, Betty has been named Patron of Hunter Koala. Congratulations given to her.

Ilona Roberts - Kings Forest Development in the Tweed contains one of the last remaining koala habitat in the Tweed - an attempt was made to ban dogs in the area - this was refused by Tweed Council.

IFAW Josey thanked NWC for the opportunity to learn more about NWC and offered communications support and to keep the lines of communication open.

NEXT MEETING - Thursday 28th February at Hurstville
Tuesday 28th May at Hurstville
Saturday & Sunday 24th & 25th August at Randwick

MEETING CLOSED: 3.25 p.m.