

NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

General Meeting #29

24 August 2013

“The Centre”, 14 Frances Street, Randwick, NSW

Chair: Audrey Koosmen

MEETING OPEN: 09:30 am

IN ATTENDANCE:

#	First	Surname	Group
1	Geoff	BARTLETT	HKPS
2	Jan	BRAZEL	Wildlife ARC
3	Rochelle	FERRIS	ASR
4	Peter	GRAHAM	LAOKO
5	Naomi	HENRY	Wildcare Queanbeyan (Alt)
6	Helen	KENNEDY	SMWS
7	Audrey	KOOSMAN	NATF
8	Shirley	LACK	NARG
9	Shona	LORIGAN	ORRCA
10	Jackie	MAISEY	NTWC
11	Julia	McCONNELL	IGL
12	Ian	McKENZIE	NATF (Alt)
13	Jane	MILLS	WRSC Inc
14	Gwen	PARRY-JONES	Wildlife ARC (Alt)
15	Ilona	ROBERTS	NRWC
16	Meredith	RYAN	FAWNA
17	Crystal	SPENCER	TVWC
18	James	FITZGERALD	Wildcare Queanbeyan (after 3pm)
19	Lorraine	VASS	FOK
20	Richard	WOODMAN	WRSC Inc (Alt)

APOLOGIES: P. McLeod, Koalas in Care, L. Yudaeff, WINC

MORNING TEA

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 24 MAY 2013

Moved: J. Maisey, Seconded J. McConnell Carried

2. BUSINESS ARISING

2.1. Grants to Wildlife Rehabilitators – Audrey Koosmen

12 good quality applications received and circulated to members. To be voted later in the meeting with the results published below.

M. Ryan, H. Kennedy, S. Lorigan to be counters.

2.2. NATF Wildlife Group Audit – Audrey Koosmen – Copy of Expression of Interest criteria circulated.

Selection criteria regarded as not being met included:

1. Internal Conflict Resolution clause not included in group's Constitution even though NATF has a separate Policy.
2. Phone service regarded as unsatisfactory; and
3. Membership coverage regarded as deficient in some areas of the group's geographic range.

It was further noted these deficiencies were very similar and common to what some other member organisation groups had to some degree or another.

2.3. Grant Opportunities – Rochelle Ferris

Grant opportunities circulated via email. Lead Environment Community Grants delayed. Applications not open at present.

2.4. FF Emergency Contingency Plan – Audrey Koosmen

Document prepared on Managing Heat Stress in Flying-fox colonies by Linda Collins, Sonya Stanvic and Vicki Macdonald. Need to improve document to be suitable for all NSW groups. DPI and National Parks are concerned with methods of dealing with past heat stress events; lack of PPE, equipment and unvaccinated rescuers/carers. Potential that unless things are done correctly, rehabilitators will not be permitted access to heat stress events. Need a better co-ordinated program, properly managed and accepted by Authorities responsible. Groups involved with flying-foxes generally accepting of need and willing to participate.

FOK asks whether IFAW would be willing to spearhead a public campaign. To be suggested to J. Sharrad, IFAW tomorrow. Is it too late to put up a motion for the NCC Conference? It was suggested a proper campaign is more likely to be successful.

RESOLVED: "That NWC engage with DPI to formulate sub-plans to be included in the State Disaster Plan to include but not be limited to such things as Heat Stress Events in Flying-fox colonies"

Proposed: J. Mills,

Seconded I. Roberts

Carried.

2.5. Strategic Plan – Shona Lorigan

Resolved J. Mills "That the Strategic Plan 2011-2014 as amended be adopted".

Vote of thanks to S. Lorigan, L. Vass and all those who have contributed a lot of work to this plan.

2.6. NSW Fox Rescue Organisation – Peter Graham

LAOKO has not completed this issue and there is ongoing action.

2.7. **Group Reps Non Attendance at Meetings** – Audrey Koosmen,

The Chair has contacted Secretaries of groups not attending with a common response of lack of time and too busy to attend given the distance and only having a small group of limited resources as the reason. Discussion took place reaffirming that the NWC was there for the benefit of all member organisations.

2.8 **Paid Secretariat/CEO** - Audrey Koosmen

Discussions took place in detail and at length.

Basically, the main points (but not I solely) covered whether the position should be “head hunted” or sourced via an independent recruitment agency and whether it be for 1 or 2 days per week. It was agreed the successful applicant would be required to liaise closely with the Executive and not be able to act unilaterally.

MOTION: “That Chris Lloyd be appointed on a 3 month or part thereof trial basis as Executive Officer of NWC under Contract to be developed by the Executive”,

Moved: P. Graham Seconded: R. Ferris Votes: 11 for, 4 Against, 1 abstention.

2.9 **Wombat COP** – Audrey Koosmen

Wombat Best Practice Guidelines for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Wombats is the initial name for the provisional period (18 months). Revision will take place in about 18 months to see if any changes need to be made. First meeting in July, second meeting in August to review and refine. This documents best techniques and practices. When reviewed, the Best Practice Guidelines will be presented to OEH for approval and adoption. Thanks given for the excellent input from a wonderful group of wombat rehabilitators. NARG expressed a huge vote of thanks to Shona Lorigan for her competent and at times difficult work dealing with passionate wombat rehabilitators representing NATF, NARG, Wildlife Rescue South Coast, Wildcare Queanbeyan, 2 observers from IFAW, and Wombat Protection Society. NATF thanked OEH for their meeting room facilities and catering and other support.

Letter of thanks to be sent to OEH for their contribution.

2.10 **Kangaroo Issue** – Audrey Koosmen

Section 121 licences to “cull” kangaroos. Phil Machin has continued his advocacy for greater consultative processes prior to issue of permits. OEH letter implied NWC proposal would cause extra administrative burden. It was suggested that NWC should be approaching OEH Kangaroo Management Section in Dubbo. This is an ongoing matter. Other NWC member groups have been asked to help lobby for reform with their local parliamentarians. NRWC asks why NWC is not contacting other pro-kangaroo groups e.g. , NCC, IFAW, WWF, WSPA.

2.11 Tilligerry Habitat – Geoff Bartlett tabled

“Summary of debate in Port Stephens about dogs on/off-lead exercise areas in conflict with koala habitat.”

It appears Council review may be favourable to ensure dogs are not allowed off-lead in koala habitat. HKPS has put in a substantial submission and recommends no further action be taken until final outcome is known. No response received from the Tilligerry Habitat Association to the letter sent by NWC. WRSC suggested that should Port Stephens Council ensure protection of Tilligerry Habitat that NWC write congratulating them on their decision.

3. REPORTS

3.1. Chair – to be presented at AGM

3.2. Secretary – sent to List. FAWNA’s thanks to NWC read to meeting.

3.3. Treasurer – 24 August Treasurers report tabled and distributed. Appended to Minutes.

Chair gave sincere thanks to Treasurer/Insurance Officer for her hard work in reducing the insurance premium from \$24,000 to \$7,500. Endorsed by acclaim.

RMS grant is due for renegotiation next year.

MOTION: “That cheques issued from May to June be passed.”

Moved: S. Lack, Seconded M. Ryan Carried.

3.4. Membership – new list distributed

3.5. Insurance - The previous insurer had paid out \$100 on a broken wrist claim which will be queried. Under AON insurance the maximum claim allowable was \$7,000 Under Vero Profin Insurance the maximum amount will be \$5000.

3.6 NCC Contact – NRWC felt NCC survey did not allow sufficient options. Further info requested on 1) Forests and wildlife; 2) Native vegetation; 3) Letter/submission writing

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1. Wildlife in Need of Care – Audrey Koosmen

MOTION: “That we accept WINC “Wildlife in Need of Care” as a member of NWC.

Moved: A. Koosmen. Seconded: H. Kennedy Carried.

It will be advisable to prepare some MOUs with neighbouring groups for certain species and in disaster situations.

4.2. Australian Greens’ Proposal for Financial Assistance to Wildlife Carers – Lorraine Vass

Should NWC make a formal response to the Greens for this proposal that \$5 million annually be set aside for this purpose. Greens were invited to attend the meeting as guest speaker but were unable to provide a person. Wildcare Queanbeyan's understanding is that the Greens have a policy of supporting sustainable use of wildlife. If this is the case NWC should be attempting to have this policy removed.

4.3. **NCC Annual Conference** - Lorraine Vass

Time to think of possible motions for the next Conference (Sat 19 October 2013)

4.4. **The (NSW) Great Koala Count** – L. Vass

The Great Eastern Ranges initiative part of the National Parks Association – whole of NSW. Nov 7 – Nov 17, 2013. For further information www.npansw.org.au/koala Document with details to be scanned and distributed.

4.5. **Facebook** – L. Vass

Can the NWC Facebook “like” other Facebooks? Not what we are trying to do. We are trying to encourage members to post directly on to the Wildlife Council Facebook. R. Ferris (ASR) does not wish to continue managing the Facebook while no-one is posting to it. It is irrelevant if people don't use it. One month deadline for decision to be made whether or not to continue.

4.6. **Wildlife Rescue Inc. Phone system**

FAWNA and KPS responses read to meeting.

A Round-table discussion elicited many comments:

In summary, the meeting indicated there was merit in pursuing some type of co-ordinated phone system to help areas struggling to provide a service. As a Wildlife Council we should be looking to better serve animals state-wide. RMS has systems set up and could be the appropriate body to provide this service at a State level.

MOTION: “That the NWC looks into the possibility of a 1300 number, or some centralised system, that would meet the needs of each organisation, being set up”

Moved: P. Graham Seconded: N. Henry Vote 9 For; 6 Against.

P. Graham to undertake preliminary investigations about feasibility.

MOTION: “That NWC invites Mr. B. Ashcroft, WRI to give a presentation on his suggested wildlife rescue phone system”

Moved: S. Lorigan Seconded J. Mills Carried.

4.7. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) L. Vass

A lot of work has been done by RMS on Koalas – commitment to retrofit underpasses on Pacific Highway with off the ground shelving to facilitate koala movements. Upgrade from Woolgoolga to Ballina and Tweed Byron is creating considerable interest and perhaps it might be time to invite RMS back as a guest speaker to a NWC meeting. Since last approach to RMS the NWC website has been developed and FOK agrees it would be timely to re-establish contact.

4.8. Conduct at Meetings.

Need to be more polite and show more respect for other people's views and accept divergent viewpoints and appreciate the wealth of knowledge. Wildcare Queanbeyan says how impressed they have been about the meeting today.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Distribution of information to member groups. It was felt that some/most groups already receive information that is on forwarded by Secretary. Agreed NCC posts not be distributed.
- The subject of WIRES resignation was raised and the NWC would like to see the reasons for it. It was reported that WIRES would be writing to OEH and the Minister giving a detailed explanation of their resignation from NWC.
- NWC Website still claims to represent 4000 wildlife carers. Agreed this needs to be changed. The WIRES resignation letter will be sent to the group.
- **National Forum** – now called **Wildlife Alliance Australia** – NWC will need to appoint a representative. Barbed wire and netting seems to be the main issue to be dealt with. J. Marlowe SMWS has been approached to be the NSW representative which is inappropriate as she is not a group delegate to the NWC. The vacant position should be included in the AGM Agenda.
- H. Kennedy (SMWS) advises someone is falsely claiming to be soliciting donations for Sydney Wildlife. Matter is being investigated.
- What happened about OEH providing feedback about the reporting system.
- R. Haering to be invited to attend next meeting.
- RSPCA Website Injured Wildlife page only has links to a few groups. NWC to ask RSPCA to include a link to NWC website on their website.

6. NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 19 or 26 November; 18 or 25 February 2014; 20 or 27 May 2014; 23/24 August 2014

7. NWC REHABILITATION GRANT WINNERS:

1. Bill & Julia Mc Connell, IGL, Reptile Housing
2. Gerardine Hawkins, WRSC, Flying-fox Concrete floor
3. Charmian Eckersley, NATF, Raptor Flight Aviary
4. Lesley & Bill Waterhouse, Wildcare/NARG, Wombat Clippers etc
5. Judy Cooper, NARG, Flight aviary all birds, Raptors.

MEETING CLOSED: 5:00 p.m.