

## April 2013 Newsletter

### *The New Committee*

At the last AGM in August 2012 a new Committee was elected. Fifteen groups were represented on the day and the new team is as follows –

Chair	Audrey Koosmen NATF
Vice Chair	James Fitzgerald Wildcare Q
Secretary	Julia McConnell IGLs
Treasurer	Shirley Lack NARG
Media Officer	Ilona Roberts NRW
General Member	Shona Lorigan ORRCA
General Member	Jane Mills WRSC

And Non Committee Positions are -

Public Officer	Meredith Ryan FAWNA
Revenue Officer	Rochelle Ferris ASR
Minute Secretary	Meredith Ryan FAWNA
Webmaster/Forum Admin	James Fitzgerald Wildcare Q
Insurance Officer	Shirley Lack NARG
Nature Cons Council Rep	James Fitzgerald Wildcare Q
Newsletter Editor	Julia McConnell IGLs
Aust W'lfe Rehab Forum Rep	Ilona Roberts NRW



From Left: Jane Mills, Shirley Lack, James Fitzgerald, Audrey Koosmen, Julia McConnell, Shona Lorigan and Ilona Roberts.

### **Launch of NWC Grants Program**

Last year the NWC launched a 2 year Trial Grant Program. This was a very exciting event and engendered considerable interest among member groups.

The \$5000 grant allowed dispersal of \$1000 to each of 5 successful applicants. The aim of the program is to increase capacity of wildlife rehabilitators by providing grants to assist with the purchase of materials to build animal enclosures or equipment needed to rehabilitate native Australian wildlife within the state of NSW.

The program was very well received with no fewer than eleven applications being received from eligible applicants.

The applications were judged according to three criteria, 1 Need, 2 Excellence and 3 Value for Money, with the highest rating given in order of 1, 2, and 3.

The five successful applicants in no particular order were –

- Roz Holmes – Native Animal Trust Fund
- Raymond and Maria Wynan - Wildlife Rescue South Coast and Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans
- Dr Howard Ralph – Native Animal Rescue Group
- Wendy Attrill & Sandy Norris – Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
- Diane Hansford and Alan Wylie – Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers



Aviary built by Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers

We are pleased to let everyone know that applications for this year's grant will open once again on 1 May this year and application forms will be available from our website or from your NWC representative.

Don't forget to look out for the application form or ask you NWC Representative to send you one and submit your project for this year's grant – you have till 1 July to submit your application. Good luck to all.

## ***Wildlife Rehabilitator's Insurance***

We are very pleased to announce that Ann King, Deputy Chief Executive National Parks and Wildlife Service confirmed that insurance funding for wildlife carers in NSW is assured for a further 3 years.



*From Left: Audrey Koosmen, Ann King, Julia McConnell, Sally Barnes and Shirley Lack.*

The Committee met with Ann King and Sally Barnes, Chief Executive OEH in February.

The NSW Wildlife Council would like to thank the National Parks and Wildlife Service for this essential contribution to the well-being of our members.

## ***RMS Funding Continues***

The Committee is also very pleased to confirm that the Roads and Maritime Services has continued to fund the Council's administrative and other activities including the Wildlife Rehabilitators Grant Program.

The Council would like to specifically thank Kevin Roberts and his team for their continuing and generous support of the wildlife rehabilitators of NSW.

## ***Firearms Success!***

In 2012 the wildlife rehabilitator sector was shocked when the NSW Police Firearms Registry re-evaluated the Firearms Act which resulted in wildlife rehabilitators no longer being eligible to be issued with a licence to euthanase injured wildlife.

The NSW Wildlife Council went into overdrive and thanks to the tireless work of one of our members, the Alternate Representative for Native Animal Rescue Group, Phil Machin, in February this year the NSW Firearms Registry approved our documentation which will provide an avenue for suitably trained rehabilitators to again hold a licence for 'Animal Welfare' reasons.

The story isn't finished though and the Council continues the fight to have the Act Amended to recognise Wildlife Volunteers in their own category. View the whole story on our website at [www.nwc.org.au](http://www.nwc.org.au)

## ***Flying Fox Heat Stress Disaster***

In January of this year we experienced an unprecedented heatwave. This had a devastating effect on our Flying Fox colonies. Many groups were inundated with calls and hundreds of rehabilitators were called into action to do what they could to save colonies up and down the coast.

Despite all efforts, thousands of animals were lost. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) offered a small grant to assist wildlife groups which was matched by the NSW Wildlife Council. Whilst the funds were meagre in relation to the size of the disaster, the cost borne by affected groups and individuals was great and recipients were appreciative of the assistance and recognition of their work.

The incidence did highlight the need for the Council to be better resourced in the future. As such the Council will look for ways to improve our ability to be more financially responsive in times of future unexpected disasters.



*Some of the lucky survivors after rescue (Picture courtesy NRW)*

## ***Kangaroo Culling***

The NWC unsuccessfully attempted to have changes made to the conditions relating to the issuing of S121 & S123 Occupier licence applications. Our request was that neighbours should be consulted before the issuing of culling licences.

Our plan which sought adjustments to application licences would have been in line with the NSW Government State Plan 2001 which encourages the involvement of communities in decision making processes.

The proposal, if adopted would have afforded some protection for wildlife rehabilitators providing soft release sites for macropods. The current situation where an adjacent landholder with a property as small as 25 acres is able to undertake a cull without the knowledge of neighbours is quite unacceptable. Nevertheless our words have fallen on deaf ears – very disappointing.



The NSW Wildlife Council Inc. (NWC) is the peak policy body for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in NSW representing over 4,000 wildlife rehabilitators. Our aim is to improve outcomes for Australian wildlife, especially the sick, injured or orphaned. We report to the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, and are funded by grants from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Roads & Maritime Services.



Environment  
& Heritage



Environment  
& Heritage



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services



## Story of a Platypus



Picture and story, courtesy FAWNA

Just after midnight on 8th February 2013, Wauchope Police out on patrol came across the unusual sight of a sub adult male platypus wandering the streets of their town. Being versatile officers they were able to grab and contain the animal and at 1.30 am rang the FAWNA rescue 'hotline' volunteer to arrange help for this peripatetic monotreme. It is thought that this youngster may have been washed downstream from upper reaches of the flooded Hastings River and perhaps come into town via the stormwater drain system. He was checked out by experienced FAWNA volunteers and pronounced fit for release. The platypus is pictured on release in a Hastings tributary which is a known home for Platypus. FAWNA's release volunteer Meredith Ryan said "it was just magic to see him head down, bum up, immediately fossicking for his natural diet of adult and larval invertebrates in the river gravel".

## IFAW Joins Up with NWC



The NWC Committee has been very pleased to welcome Josey Sharrad from the International Fund for Animal Welfare to our last two meetings.

Josey is the Native Wildlife Campaigner for IFAW and has shown a keen interest

in the NWC and our activities. Josey provided a very interesting power-point presentation at our November meeting which you can read about in the Attachment to the November minutes which is available now on our website.

IFAW and the NWC are undertaking a very exciting joint project which will be launched within the next couple of months. You will be able to read about this on our website in the very near future.

Welcome Josey.

## NSW Wildlife Council Website

The Council is very proud of its new website which is definitely a work in progress.

It has recently re-vamped and implemented a greatly improved 'Group Finder' facility which provides members and members of the public an avenue to quickly find a rescuer for an injured animal. This facility utilises the Google Maps so works perfectly every time. It is only necessary to type in an address or suburb and click beside the little red balloon and the groups or individuals that service that area are instantly available. The finder provides both the rescue number and website link in an instant. This is a very exciting development that is an invaluable tool to provide a speedy and efficient rescue and we believe the only service of its kind, try it out at [www.nwc.org.au](http://www.nwc.org.au)

We have also updated our advocacy letters section which is always worth a look.

There is a new article from the Wombat Protection Society about Womdata and an entirely new section for 'Promotional Material'.

Our new 'Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy' which was adopted last year has now been added to the NWC Codes and Policy Section.

There is an entirely new section called 'Newslink' where general activities can be reported as they happen. Our very latest story is about the 'No Hunting In National Parks Rally' which features a lovely photo of our illustrious Treasurer with Bob Brown.

There is a new banner for our latest story about our success with the Firearms issue and there could be a changing banner in order to keep up with all of these events. This is still under consideration.

If anyone has any suggestions for additions or improvements to the website please send them to [secretary@nwc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nwc.org.au)

## Next Newsletter

If anyone has any suggested material for the next newsletter it will be gratefully received. Please send to



[secretary@nwc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nwc.org.au) Thank you.

This tiny baby 5 gram Copperhead was rescued from a cat at Katoomba 23 April 2013 – a very lucky little snake!



The NSW Wildlife Council Inc. (NWC) is the peak policy body for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in NSW representing over 4,000 wildlife rehabilitators. Our aim is to improve outcomes for Australian wildlife, especially the sick, injured or orphaned. We report to the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, and are funded by grants from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Roads & Maritime Services.



Environment  
& Heritage



Environment  
& Heritage



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services