

NSW Wildlife Council Inc. – Record & Minutes of meetings

Tuesday 24 November 2015 – Commencing 10.00 a.m.

Guest Speakers – A. Smillie, Dreissen Insurance Brokers P. Stathis, Office of Environment & Heritage Special General Meeting for Constitutional Change Followed by General Meeting #38

Office of Environment & Heritage
Room 1.04 43 Bridge Street, Hurstville

In Chair: Meredith Ryan, Vice Chair

MEETING OPEN: 10.00 am

Welcome by Chair. Introduction of all members – S. Lack advised group of Audrey Koosmen's current health and passed on Audrey's thanks for all the good wishes.

IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Surname</u>	<u>FirstName</u>	<u>Group</u>
Stubbs	Cathie	Australian Seabird Rescue-Observer
Ryan	Meredith	FAWNA
Vass	Lorraine	Friends of the Koala
Northwood	Carmel	Hunter Koala Preservation Society
Graham	Peter	LAOKO Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
Lack	Shirley	Native Animal Rescue Group
Dean	Jill	Native Animal Trust Fund
Norris	Sandy	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
Maisey	Jacqueline	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Lorigan	Shona	ORRCA
Yerbury	Rachel	ORRCA – 2.40 p.m.
Elwood	Sonja	Syd Metro Wildlife Services
Roberts	Ilona	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
Henry	Naomi	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Woodman	Richard	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
<u>Visitors</u>		
Smillie	Alex	Driessen Insurance Brokers – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Stathis	Peter	OEH 11.20 - 12.32

APOLOGIES:

<u>Surname</u>	<u>FirstName</u>	<u>Group</u>
Eagleton	Don	Aust Seabird Rescue
Miller	Rod	FAWNA
McLeod	Paul	Koalas in Care
Koosmen	Audrey	Native Animal Trust Fund
Yudaeff	Lorraine	W I N C
Hazel	Miriam	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Brazel	Jan	Wildlife ARC
Blackley	Warren & Donna	Wildlife Care Network Central West

A separate report has been prepared including notes taken from presentations by the two guest speakers and question time following each Guest.

10.05 – 10.45 Guest Speaker

Alex Smillie, Insurance Consultant, Driessen Insurance Brokers Pty. Ltd. - NWC's Insurance for Member Groups.

Session closed for Morning Tea break 11 a.m.

11.20 – 12.40 Peter Stathis: Senior Team Leader, Biodiversity and Wildlife, Nature Conservation Section, Parks Conservation and Heritage Branch, National Parks and Wildlife Service update on Biodiversity Review Legislation and other matters affecting the wildlife rescue/rehabilitation sector.

Session closed 12.32. for Luncheon. Meetings to convene 1 p.m.

Special General Meeting – opened 1 p.m. – M. Ryan Chair:

Members Present and Apologies as per Page 1.

Special General Meeting for Constitutional Change for which the following Notice of Motion was given on 2 November 2015

Notice of Motion to the NWC General Meeting to be held on 24 November 2015 for a special resolution to amend the New South Wales Wildlife Council Inc. Constitution:

Proposed M. Ryan That clause 14 (1) (b) of the New South Wales Wildlife Council Inc. Constitution be amended from

“up to two other members, who are not required to be office bearers” to

“a minimum of two other members, who are not required to be office bearers”.

Motion seconded by: S. Lack Result: *(the Motion is passed on the affirmative vote of 75% of those present eligible to vote)* **Carried by unanimous vote.**

Close of SGM Time: 1.05 pm.

Opening Time: 1.05 p.m. **General Meeting #38**

In Chair – Meredith Ryan, Vice Chair

Members Present and Apologies as per Page 1.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes** of the 22 August 2015 General Meeting No. 37

Motion: That the Minutes of the 22-8-2015 General Meeting are a true and correct record.

Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: J. Maisey: **Carried** by unanimous vote

2. **Business arising** from that meeting. Action list update

<u>Action</u>	<u>ACTION LIST FROM NWC GENERAL MEETING</u> <u>22-8-2015</u>	<u>Result</u>
1	A/Secretary/Insurance Officer draft Notice to Members re. insurance disclosures	Completed
2	^[1] L. Vass, S. Elwood, S. Lorigan liaise with R. Ferris regarding all being able to post to NWC Facebook to keep site updated and relevant.	Group activated and working well. Lots of great posting and submissions by the team. ¹ Shona to send the report to reps – with the results. ² Rochelle to send twitter codes to Public Officer should it be needed.
3	^[1] S. Elwood or A/Secretary locate and distribute Audit Guidelines	Completed S. Elwood
4	^[1] Management Ctte draft letter re. NATF Audit	Not completed
5	^[1] Management Ctte draft letter to OEH re. Policy review	No required until biodiversity review legislation is announced
6	^[1] Koosmen/Lorigan draft letter to WIRES re. confirming discussions	Too much time has passed
7	^[1] Action: Peter Graham to source and secure land area for fauna release data from groups.	Ongoing – 45-55% response. Some concerned about privacy. Ongoing.
8	^[1] Management Committee formulate approach to government to re-establish bounty on foxes.	Ongoing – ³ PG to start a draft for discussion
8	^[1] Management Committee will consider any recommended Motions to put to the NCC Conference	Nil received
10	^[1] S. Lorigan finalise distribution of Strategic Plan	Completed

3. **Correspondence** CoReg from Aug18-Oct10 and from Oct11-Nov10 distributed to NWC Group email. Significant correspondence since – received 11 Nov reply from Minister appended to Agenda.

Motion: That the Correspondence Registers from 18 August to 10 November are accepted.

Proposed: M. Ryan Seconded: P. Graham: **Carried**

4. **Chair Report – Ni report** - A. Koosmen is on sick leave – Email from Audrey read.

5. **Treasurer’s Report** - S. Lack

Period from 1-7-15 to 31-10-15 Motion: That the Treasurer’s Report of Income and Expenditure from as tabled is accepted and inserted in official Minutes copy.

\$80366.07 Main Account; Term Deposit \$31525.87; Public Fund \$514.80 – Total Funds \$112336.74

Income: \$50000 **Expenditure:** \$14526.03

¹ S. Lorigan forward Facebook report to Reps

² R. Ferris provide Twitter Codes to Public Officer if required

³ P. Graham draft Fox bounty submission

Proposed: S. Lack Seconded: J. Maisey : **Carried**

Motion: That approval be given to Treasurer to pay all accounts as they fall due until the next committee meeting in January.

Proposed S. Lack, Seconded M. Ryan **Carried**

BPN Membership Join as full member at \$40 annual fee or remain as no cost affiliate?

Motion: That NWC ⁴joins Better Planning Network as a full member at cost of \$40 per annum.

Proposed by S. Elwood; seconded L. Vass - **Carried**

6. Insurance Officer Report – S. Lack – nothing to report. Last claim has been finalised.

Group Incident reports that may lead to an insurance claim should be lodged at the earliest possible time with the NWC Insurance Officer.

A suggested Incident report will be forwarded to Groups⁵

⁶Management Committee will determine whether a Policy on Insurance procedures should be updated/developed and distributed.

Insurance Topic – Carmel Northwood – HKPS – it should be noted that the individual claimant will always have to cover 15% of medical and ancillary non-Medicare expenses.

7. Public Officer Report – M. Ryan.

a) Form A12 Annual Summary of Financial Affairs lodged on 4 September 2015

b) Annual Information Statement to Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) lodged and appended to Minutes.

c) If Constitutional amendment as approved at the Special General Meeting will ⁷need to be lodged with Fair Trading NSW with payment of the appropriate fee and also lodged with ACNC. Query required whether we need to advise Register of Environmental Organisations.

8. Wombat Best Practice Guidelines has been finalised and approved by OEH. Details distributed to all NWC Groups.

Motion: That Shona Lorigan and all participants in the formulation of the Wombat Code of Practice are commended for their hard work and perseverance in bringing this Code to a successful completion. Action: Note of thanks to be prepared for distribution via email to participants. ⁸S. Lorigan and S. Lack to liaison on distribution list – M. Ryan to draft Thank You.

Proposed M. Ryan; Seconded S. Lack : **Carried**

⁴ Treasurer activate BNP Membership

⁵ Insurance Officer and A/Secretary prepare Incident Report

⁶ Insurance Officer and Cttee determine re. Insurance Procedures Policy

⁷ Public Officer lodge Constitutional Change with relevant bodies.

⁸ Lorigan Lack & Ryan liaise on Wombat Code Thank You

9. **Bird of Prey Code of Practice** progress report – S. Lorigan – submitted to NPWS and it now moving through the long final approval process. Determined that ⁹NWC should ask for a progress report in February 2016

10. **Forward Strategic Plan** – Distributed to NWC groups after minor editing amendments made by management ctte. Groups invited to comment.

11. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants – S. Lack update report

Wendy Attrill, NRWC – email of thanks and report on purchase of humidicrib read. Equipment has been used by five animals so far.

Kelly Wall NARG – wombat compound – report and photos received

Vanessa Large will return her 2015 grant funds due to inability to complete the awarded project. The next person voted No. 6 on the list was Ian Usher of WRSC for a reptile rehabilitation facility - \$2136 cost.

Motion: That Ian Usher of WRSC ¹⁰be granted \$1000 towards the cost of Reptile Rehabilitation facility.

Proposed S. Lack. Seconded S. Elwood – **Carried**

12. **Wildlife Rescue App – update** – S. Lack – J. Sharrad IFAW informed progress via email which was distributed to groups.

13. Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference Report – L. Vass

Report circulated via email on 18 November 2015 and appended to Agenda.

Notice of Motion: That this report on the NCC 2015 Annual Conference is received and noted.

Proposed L. Vass; Seconded S. Lack ; **Carried**

Notice of Motion: That the NWC Executive nominate an appropriately qualified representative to participate in the review of the NCC's Kangaroo Policy.

Proposed L. Vass; Seconded P. Graham ; **Carried**

Potential nominees: Naomi Henry. ¹¹Her nomination to be presented to Executive.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

14. **Rescue Baskets – Bulk import purchase for NWC groups** – M. Ryan – The NWC will continue to examine the feasibility of importing animal baskets B-003-20L as a whole group. Packaged in cartons of 12 so orders should be in multiples of 12.

⁹ A/Secretary follow up progress of Bird of Prey Code with OEH

¹⁰ Treasurer send \$1000 grant to I Usher

¹¹ N. Henry nomination presented to Executive

15. Telephone Rescue – costs – N. Henry – Difficult to compare. Some responses have come in from groups, there are many options and it is very difficult to compare. NATF has a \$99 plan that covers diversions only. Naomi is doing this review to see if we can get a better deal for all groups. Another message will be sent out to get this information – ¹²A. Secretary will send a message out to Reps.

16. Koala-related announcements – L. Vass – Koala Health Hub from Uni of Sydney – next newsletter will be this week

- Anti – Chlamydia vaccine has been worked on for 5 years. Now there is a grant for the University of Sunshine Coast to work on the Koala retrovirus. Both these projects will now work together. Vaccines can take some time and the Chlamydia has had 8 field trials and 21 research papers – but no time frame on getting the vaccine yet.
- NSW scientific committee has fiddled with the extended geographic area and Lorraine and other groups have made a submission. It covers from the Tweed River to the Brunswick River – not just the Byron shire boundaries.
- KOK has lost their care coordinator Pat Barnidge to cancer on 23 October, which has left them wobbly but they are going to spring back

17. EOH website descriptions of group boundaries – M. Ryan

Several NWC groups have requested amendments to their boundary descriptions on the NWC Website – these have been actioned but no changes have been made to the OEH website.

December 5 is the deadline for groups to respond.¹³

Recommended that groups view their boundary description on <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/RehabFaunaContact.htm> or as presented with the meeting Agenda.

18. Report received from Hunter Koala Preservation Society on Koala Workshop is appended to Minutes.

Meeting Close: Time 3.00 p.m. **Meeting agreed 10 a.m. is preferred meeting start time.**

19. Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday, 23 February 2016	OEH Hurstville
Tuesday, 24 May 2016	OEH Hurstville
Saturday, 27 August 2016	The Centre, Randwick
Sunday, 28 August 2016 AGM	The Centre, Randwick

Signed/Chair Signed M. Ryan, Vice Chair Date 23 February 2016

¹² A/Secy send Message to reps following up on phone costs

¹³ Reminder M. Ryan to groups to respond on group boundaries by 5 December.

24 November 2015 NWC General Meeting MINUTES Attachments:

Agenda Item 7b) Annual Information Statement to Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

Highlights of NSW Wildlife Council activities – financial year 2014-2015 report as appended to agenda.

Agenda Item 13 Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference Report – L. Vass

Report circulated via email on 18 November 2015 appended to Agenda.

Minutes Item 17: Extract from OEH Website descriptions of Wildlife Rehabilitation groups contacts and boundary descriptions.

As appended to Agenda

Minutes Item 18 - Report for NWC members from Hunter Koala Preservation Society

Hunter Koala Management Workshop – 2015

The Tom Farrell Institute - University of Newcastle, HKPS and Dr Chris Mclean (University of Wollongong/ Niche Environment and Heritage), organised this workshop held on the 13th of November 2015 at the university.

Its purpose was to network, share information and collaborate on identifying the issues, threats to and potential actions to inform a Workshop Report and Action Plan. We invited representatives from wildlife and conservation groups, wildlife parks, Councils, OEH, political parties and researchers from around the Hunter. Unfortunately the majority of those invited didn't attend but the group of 30 or so who did found it informative and valuable.

On the day a number of speakers presented information on data and research and we heard what organisations are currently involved in or planning which assisted to identify the gaps and what is needed to save our local populations. We then discussed the identified issues and the needed and possible actions, these notes and the presentations will be compiled for the Workshop Report.

In short the action plan was identified as;

- getting 'endangered status' for Port Stephens Koalas which requires a better understanding and data on the population and habitat (via 'citizen science' - community sightings and/or scientific research),
- to establish research partnerships (Universities, Councils, umbrella organisations and community groups),
- to identify, establish and protect corridors,
- Education/community awareness campaigns (such as road signs), and
- securing funding for above.

Many thanks to those who contributed to the day and we hope the goodwill, passion and partnerships will help us protect our Koalas.

