

**NSW Wildlife Council – Minutes – General Meeting No. 43 – 1000 hours - Tuesday,
21 February 2017 – Room 1.04 - OEH 43 Bridge St., Hurstville**

Chair: Audrey Koosmen

MEETING OPEN: TIME 10.05 - a.m.

Brief welcome by Chair Audrey Koosmen.

NWC GENERAL MEETING NO. 43 ATTENDANCE - TUE 21 FEB 2017

1	Don	Eagleton	Aust Seabird Rescue
2	Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA (NSW) INC
3	Fiona	Dawson	Friends of the Koala
4	Lorraine	Vass	Friends of the Koala
5	Brendan	Diacono	LAOKO Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
6	Shirley	Lack	NARG
7	Audrey	Koosmen	NATF-Hunter Wildlife
8	Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
9	Jacque	Maisey	NTWC
10	Shona	Lorigan	ORRCA
11	Leesa	Pratt	ORRCA - Alt New
12	Carmel	Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas formerly HKPS
13	Deirdre	Henshaw	Wildlife ARC
14	Jacky	Hunt	Wildlife ARC
15	Richard	Woodman	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
16	Justine	King	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

APOLOGIES

Rod	Miller	FAWNA (NSW) Inc
Paul	McLeod	Koalas In Care
Peter	Graham	LAOKO Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
Jill	Dean	Native Animal Trust Fund-Hunter Wildlife
Sonja	Elwood	Sydney Wildlife
Joshua	Mesilane	WCN Central West
Miriam	Hazel	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Joanne	Kelly	Wildlife Aid
Brad	Smith	Wildlife Aid
Lorraine	Yudaeff	Wildlife in Need of Care

Guest Speakers:

10:00 AM	Evan	Quartermain	Wildlife Land Trust <i>Launching the WLT's Wildlife Carer's Release Network</i>
			Sydney University "Salmonella and wildlife - how you can help" NWC contact list is to be provided to facilitate Kelly in sending sample collection kits to members
10:30 AM	Kelly	Simpson	IFAW – Update on Wildlife Rescue Mobile Phone App – the App is at testing stage and publicity/promotion opportunities discussed. All groups are asked to promote the App in a prominent place on their Website Home Pages.
11:00 AM	Josey	Sharrad	
11:00 AM	Rebekka	Thompson-Jones	IFAW

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11.40 – 12.05 Morning Tea Break

12.05 PM	Peter	Stathis	OEH– Update on Rehabilitator and NWC Survey and Biodiversity Legislation
12.05 PM	Ron	Haering	OEH

Peter Stathis and Ron Haering summarised the Scope of Works which have to date included more than 50 Compliance Audits, Group Executive Surveys, a Rehabilitator Survey and a survey on the NWC.

NWC was requested not to distribute any or part of the survey findings in the short term until the next steps are taken and they will be:

- A survey of vets and vet nurses
- Collation and analysis of all data
- Preparation of a summary report on the proposed reforms and comments sought from stakeholders
- Final report with recommendations to Government

Timing - the Biodiversity Conservation Act start date is 1 July 2017 but it is expected that existing General licences will be renewed for 12 months, aiming for the accreditation process to be implemented by 1/7/2018.

The meeting was informed that data responses related to individual groups will be advised to groups on a group by group basis, and already one group has been advised of matters that need rectifying/attention.

1.23 – 1.55 p.m. – Lunch break

Business of General Meeting No. 43 opens: 1.55pm after lunch break

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes** of the 22 November 2016 General Meeting No. 42

Motion: That the Minutes of the 22 November, 2016 General Meeting are a true and correct record.
Proposed: M. Ryan; S. Lorigan: **Carried**

2. **Business arising** from that meeting. Action list update
¹Feedback required from NWC member groups on Cruelty Database items and format list – Miriam Graham – not present – ongoing action

Letter from OEH to IGL's re. membership and insurance. Has this happened? Action:
²**Secretary to follow up with NPWS**

3. **Correspondence**

Request from Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference for sponsorship funding of 2018 Conference – AWRC is a separate Agenda item.

Email from CEO Wires enquiring dates and eligibility for Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants 2017-2018 – Grants are separate Agenda item

¹ **Attention All Reps – advise feedback on cruelty database**

² Secretary Enquire NPWS re. letter to IGLs

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Motion: That the Emails forwarded to Reps/Alt line are noted.

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

Business arising from the correspondence.

4. Chair Report – A. Koosmen (Full Report included at the end of the Minutes).

Acknowledgment of the death of Robyn Gough. Sympathy extended to her group Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers and to her family. Robyn showcased flying-foxes and how orchardists and flying-foxes can cohabit.

Including report on Biodiversity Legislation Koala Stakeholder Meeting and advice of forthcoming **General Consultation Briefing - Animal Keeper and Dealer licences**. A. Koosmen, S. Lorigan and M. Ryan will attend meeting on Monday 27 February 2017, NPWS office, 43 Bridge Road, Hurstville.

The Briefing will include:

- The consultation processes and timeframes for the development of BC Act licences, codes of practice and exemptions
- The proposed approach to a risk-based approach to managing wildlife activities
- The proposed approach to revising species lists for animal keeper and dealer licence classes
- Licence conditions and record keeping requirements
- Questions and answers

M. Ryan advises it may be too difficult to drive down – discussion about flight to attend meeting. Members were supportive of NWC covering flight costs if necessary.

Move: A. Koosmen that the Chair's report is accepted: Seconded Carmel Northwood:
Carried

5. Treasurer's Reports tabled: - S. Lack

NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL

Assets 15 02 2017

NSW Wildlife Council	78,483.47
Term Deposit	32324.74
Pay Pal Public Fund	134.99
NSW Wildlife Council Public Fu	1365.56
	-70
Total Assets	112,238.76
Liabilities	
Net Assets	112,238.76
Equity	
Retained earnings	68,531.27
Current Year Earnings	-24,710.08
Historical Balancing	68,417.57
Total Equity	112,238.76

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Profit and Loss Statement 1-07-2016 to 15-02-2017

Income		
Donations	Rectangular Snip	-\$500.00
Paypal donations		\$300.00
Interest Received		\$133.88
Total Income		-\$66.12
Gross Profit		-\$66.12
Expenses		
Accommodation		\$561.52
Catering		\$110.40
Printing, postage and statione		\$20.42
Website expenses		\$750.00
Travel		\$2,394.53
Total Expenses		\$3,836.87
Operating Profit		-\$3,902.99
Net Profit/(Loss)		-\$3,902.99

Created: 15/02/2017 12:49 PM

NSW Wildlife Council

P.O. Box 2191

Tomerong NSW 2540

ABN: 37 892 653 321

Email: babywombats@bigpond.com

Trial Balance

February 2017

Account Name	Debit	Credit	YTD Debit	YTD Credit
NSW Wildlife Council	\$0.00		\$78,483.47	
Term Deposit	\$0.00		\$32,324.74	
Pay Pal Public Fund	\$0.00		\$134.99	
NSW Wildlife Council Public Fu	\$0.00		\$1,365.56	
	\$0.00			\$70.00
Retained Earnings		\$0.00		\$68,531.27
Historical Balancing		\$0.00		\$68,417.57
Donations		\$0.00	\$500.00	
Paypal donations		\$0.00		\$400.00
Interest Received		\$0.00		\$458.18
Subscriptions	\$0.00		\$110.00	
AWRC Conference	\$0.00		\$1,090.51	
Accommodation	\$0.00		\$4,278.52	
Parking	\$0.00		\$241.58	
Macropod COP	\$0.00		\$6,025.68	
Catering	\$0.00		\$539.40	
Grants	\$0.00		\$5,000.00	
Printing, postage and statione	\$0.00		\$1,420.62	
Website expenses	\$0.00		\$1,500.00	
Meals for Committee	\$0.00		\$300.73	
IT Expences	\$0.00		\$44.00	
Travel	\$0.00		\$3,967.22	
Accountant fee	\$0.00		\$550.00	
Total:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$137,877.02	\$137,877.02

Motion: That the Treasurer's Reports as presented are accepted.

Proposed S. Lack, Seconded: Fiona Dawson- **Carried**

- Insurance Officer Report** – J. Dean is overseas. Group information provided to Nature Conservation Council for Volunteers and Public and Product Liability insurances. S. Lack received a claim for Sydney Wildlife member accident. S. Lack will process in J. Dean's absence.

ORRCA has a request regarding Director's and Officer's Insurance. Insurance is current and valid to 1 June – Action: ³S. Lack will provide C of C details to all Reps.

³ D&O Insurance Certificate of Currency to be sent to Reps Line – S. Lack

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7. Media Officer Report – P. Graham – Nil report

8. Secretary and Public Officer Reports – M. Ryan.

Membership : Justine King replaces Jane Mills, Alt WRSC

Membership: Leesa Pratt replaced Rachel Yerbury, Alt ORRCA - Letter to be provided

All required documents/reports lodgement is up to date with all Government bodies.

Move: M. Ryan that membership changes are accepted. Seconded: D. Eagleton; Carried

9. NCC Representation Report – L. Vass. Nothing to report beyond email correspondence circulated.

10. Update on Macropod Code of Practice – S. Lorigan advises on schedule with all responses collated. It is getting to the stage where it will go to independent review. SL wishes to thank the members of the review group. Some very insightful, well thought out and passionate responses and they are thanked for their diligence.

11. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants 2017-18 –

A revision was made to the Grant Application Guidelines as follows:

“Grants of up to \$1000 will be provided to the top 5 applications however only one Grant may be allocated to one Licence Holder.”

The Grant Application round will open on 1 May and close on 31 July 2017 at 5p.m.

Grant application guidelines were agreed to at the meeting.

Secretary to reply to CEO WIRES’ query regarding the 2017-2018 Grants Programme

12. OEH – Rehabilitator Survey – any matters not discussed during talk with P. Stathis and R. Haering, or matters arising from survey results.

L. Vass – whole process is very helpful – good response – credit to everyone who responded. No date was given for publication of report.

S. Lorigan believes it might be mid-year – after the Vet survey has been completed.

S. Lack felt it was a big eye-opener. Believe PS and RH are working on behalf of rehabilitators as best they can.

AK believes the NPWS road trip opened their eyes and greatly impressed them.

LV – impressed they were able to provide real data to the Environmental Trust.

RW – reinforce need for ⁴NWC link on group Websites. NWC needs to provide groups a current summary of NWC information that Reps can send out to groups.

13. Animal Cruelty Database Development update – M. Hazel

Reminder sent for feedback on the questions.

14. Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2018 – A. Koosmen

⁴ Attention All Reps – encourage NWC link on your group’s Website Home Page

Funding request received from organisers of the Conference. (It was formerly decided to be dealt with when NWC gets a formal response to its letter). There has been no response to date.

2018 AWRC is seeking sponsorship towards the conference.

Propose ⁵Secretary to write to Conference organisers asking for more details of their Sponsorship process to enable decisions to be taken. S. Lack – seconded J. Maisey – **Carried**

15. Strategic Plan Review – A. Koosmen

Update - Sharing of Group Policies and resources for the purpose of helping groups support and enhance governance by having resources available on the NWC Webpage. A list of possible subjects to share is to be prepared. Sub Committee of Jacky Hunt, Miriam Hazel, and Audrey Koosmen to report.

⁶M. Hazel is working on a Resources List

16. General and Other business:

The North Coast Shark Net trial – an Australian Seabird Rescue perspective – D. Eagleton, ASR

Report appended to Minutes. All publicity for this dire situation for marine fauna is welcome. ORRCA has been liaising with ASR on this issue. Local member Tamara Smith has a petition which all members are urged to support.
www.tamarasmith.com.au/stop_shark_nets

Acceptance of a standing meeting acceptance and accommodation booking – P. Graham

The meeting agreed that Pete be advised that he needs to follow meeting procedures – advise attendance and accommodation booking. Brendan Diacono will advise Peter Graham.

Wildlife Reporting Desk/Smart Phone App – Sandy Norris, NRWC – Sandy asks could there be a standard easy to use wildlife reporting App developed – it was agreed it was good idea but premature in light of uncertainty around the whole future licensing system.

Online Training modules – Sandy Norris, NRWC – could we develop online training modules where carers could learn things in their own time? Wildlife ARC has online induction training and 4 species trainings. ARC will share information on their system. ⁷Wildlife ARC will be invited to present their system to a NWC meeting.

How do groups roster phones and rescues? – F. Dawson, FOK – general discussion about various methods of arranging rescues.

What is next Code of Practice going to be? Which Codes are due for revision? L. Vass suggested the Koala Code could be due for revision. No comment on the next code to be developed.

⁵ Secretary contact AWRC 2018

⁶ M. Hazel – Resources list continue preparation

⁷ Secretary to invite ARC to speak at the next General Meeting on its online training modules.

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Other Business: ⁸D. Henshaw will provide local group CWA contacts – a great resource of help with fundraising and other activities available to member groups.

Meeting Close: Time 3.50 p.m... **Dates of next general meetings:**

Tuesday 23 May	OEH Hurstville
Saturday 26 August	The Centre Randwick
Sunday 27 August Annual General Meeting	The Centre Randwick

Signed/Chair Date

CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to another year and what a year this has been already for many of us and our wildlife. Many regions have been badly affected by storms, floods and bushfires which have destroyed habitat, food resources and has seen the extra work overload for many of us as well as the terrible effect on our wildlife. Then the recent heat stress event saw thousands of flying-foxes die or needed to be rescued across NSW. We must remember it is not only the flying-fox that suffers in a heat stress event but all our fauna from small to the very large. But through the efforts of us all we do manage to help and save many of our wildlife, work we should all be very proud we do.

We do have a few changes to our membership on the NWC. I would like to warmly welcome to their first meeting at the NWC; Justine King the new WRSC Alternate, Leesa Pratt new ORRCA Alternate and Brendan Diacono Snowy Mountain Wildlife Rescue Alternate.

I would like to thank Jane Mills the outgoing Alternate for WRSC for her time on the NWC and for the support shown and work she did in few roles she held as the WRSC Rep and Alternate over the past years, thank you Jane. Thank you also to Rachel Yerbury outgoing Alternate for ORRCA for her time with us.

Both I and Lorraine Vass attended on behalf of NWC the first Stakeholder Koala Workshop in Port Macquarie on the 1st February. The workshop was coordinated by Office of Environment and Heritage OEH to look at developing a NSW Koala Strategy Plan and to address the 11 recommendations from the report of the Independent Review into the Decline of the Koala Populations in Key Areas of NSW. Koala stakeholders from all koala care groups across the state were invited to attend. I personally came away with a positive feeling and found it so good to see so many koala care groups there and sharing their concerns and knowledge and I thank OEH for bringing us all together in this workshop. At lunch time many of those who attended were given a special tour through the Koala Hospital at Port.

On the 27th February I, Meredith Ryan and Shona Lorigan will be attending on behalf of the NSW Wildlife Council NWC the Stakeholders Consultation Briefing on Animal Keeper and Dealers Licences for Reptiles and Birds at NPWS Office in Hurstville. This is the first of many such meeting to be conducted by OEH covering many topics dealing with wildlife. We must have a voice in this meeting due to the large amount yearly of mainly reptiles that the wildlife groups see each year that are often through the licence system to keep reptiles as well as seeing birds from same situation. Many reptiles are ill-treated, often release or handed over to a vet clinic and then the wildlife group picks up these animals which are often ill and in distressed conditions.

Our Macropod Code of Practice is coming along and thank you to all who have reported back as requested, big thanks again to Shona for hours of work she is putting into bringing all the comments and replies together.

I finish on a sad note; we have lost other Wildlife Warrior. Vale Robyn Gough who the wildlife community lost just recently. Robyn had battled for some time with very ill health, sadly her battle was lost. Robyn was a long term and founding member of Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers. She was a mentor to many, an educator and friend. Robyn

⁸ D. Henshaw to provide CWA details.

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had a passion for her beloved flying-foxes as well as all species of native wildlife; she fought hard for years to save flying-foxes and their habitat. She and her husband John had a stone fruit orchard and showcased how a large orchard could be netted and allow humans and flying foxes to live in harmony. Robyn will be missed by so many people, she touched so many hearts with her kindness and warmth, may she now Rest in Peace.

Warm regards all,
Audrey Koosmen.

Report to February 2017 NWC meeting on North Coast Shark Net Trials from ASR perspective.

1. The announcement of North Coast Shark Net Trial by the Premier back in November 2016 was originally planned for the main wharf in Ballina. This is the wharf which was dedicated to Lance Ferris Wharf in 2009, in recognition of the work by the founder of ASR, the late Lance Ferris. Thankfully, common sense prevailed, and DPI after prompting from Rochelle Ferris, Kath Southwell (ASR GM) and others, and after discussions with the Premiers team, moved the announcement to the North Wall of the Richmond River next to the new Marine Rescue Tower. Lance would have turned in his grave if the announcement had been made at his wharf after the work that he had done to protect marine life.
2. The Minister, at the time (The Hon. Niall Blair), announced in Parliament around 10th November 2016 that “The nets will be removed at night, when marine life is more active” (see ELO Hansard Review 8-10 November). **The nets are not being removed at night.**
3. Ballina Shire Council voted in favour of the Shark Net Trial (two significant dissenters: one being Keith Williams and the other being his running mate at the last council elections). For those of you who don't know, Keith is Rochelle Ferris's husband and Vice-President of ASR. Byron Shire Council instead voted against the Shark Net Trail and instead opted for a trial of the Shark Watch program.
4. Turtle releases by ASR normally occur at a number of local Ballina beaches and sometimes at Lennox Head or Byron Bay (Main beach and The Pass). Due to the installation of the Shark nets in and around Evans Head, Ballina and Lennox Heads, and as long as they are there, future turtle releases will only occur at Byron Bay, which is net free and within the Cape Byron Marine Park.

This is Ballina and Lennox Heads loss and a potential negative for tourism.

Note: On 23rd January 2017, ASR released 4 turtles (3 Green and 1 Hawksbill) at Main Beach, Byron Bay.

5. Around 17th January, two dead Loggerhead Turtles (estimated age of around 25 years plus) were found washed up on Ballina beaches. Both displayed signs of having drowned.

Had these turtles possibly been entangled in the nets and either escaped or were released and subsequently died?

Three Loggerheads and one unknown marine turtle species were released from the nets in the initial monthly trial period.

Subsequently, DPI contractors have been trained by ASR in the tagging of turtles and any turtle released by them will easily be identified should they end of any beaches.

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6. You will note from the answer to the following question, from the DPI web site: *How will DPI evaluate this trial – what is success?* that it is not entirely scientific, but is based to a large extent on public reaction, i.e. “Two types of information will be used to evaluate the trial. First, how effective are the nets at catching target sharks with minimal impact on other marine animals. Second, how acceptable the approach is to the community in terms of reducing risk of shark bites.”

Based on the results from the first two months (see stats below) of the trial, the first criteria has been a complete failure.

7. The report by DPI on the first month of the trial shows, with the exception of the Evans Head net, that the majority of nets were only checked once a day. ASR was lead to believe that the nets would be checked at least twice per day. This is still not good enough as by DPIs own estimates an entangled dolphin or green turtle is unlikely to survive for more than 30 minutes.

8. The statistics from the trial for the first two months are as follows:

8th December 2016 to 7th January 2017 –

- 43 animals across 12 species were entangled in the nets.
- 31 (72%) were released alive.
- 12 (28%) were deceased. This included one Bottlenose Dolphin and one Green Turtle.
- Of the 12 that were deceased, only one was a target species.
- Only 4 individuals from the target species (White, Tiger and Bull Sharks) were entangled. Three of these were released. One died.
- DPI expressed that they were encouraged by the 72% that were released, ASR was saddened by the 28% that died.

8th January 2017 to 7th February 2017 –

- 72 animals across 11 species were entangled in the nets.
- 40 (56%) were released alive.
- 32 (44%) were deceased. This included one Bottlenose Dolphin, one Green Turtle, one Loggerhead Turtle and 6 Manta Rays.
- Of the 32 that were deceased, only one was a target species (White).
- Only 1 individual from the target species (White, Tiger and Bull Sharks) was entangled. This died.

9. On Wednesday 25th January, Ballina Shire Council voted 6 to 4 (a reduced majority compared with the original vote) to approach the NSW Government to install an additional shark net in front of the surf club at Lennox Head beach.

