

**NSW Wildlife Council – Minutes – General Meeting No. 46 – 10:00 hours –
Tuesday 21 November 2017 – Room 2.05 43 Bridge St., Hurstville**

Chair: Audrey Koosmen

MEETING OPEN: TIME: 10.10

	PRESENT		
	<u>First</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Group</u>
1	Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA (NSW) Inc.
2	Lorraine	Vass	Friends of the Koala-Alt
3	Audrey	Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF
4	Kate	Randolph	Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF - Alt
5	Shirley	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
6	Sandra	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
7	Shona	Lorigan	ORRCA
8	Leesa	Pratt	ORRCA-Alt
9	Sonja	Elwood	Sydney Wildlife
10	Chris	Thompson	Sydney Wildlife-Alt – until 12
11	Suzy	Nethercott-Watson	Wildcare Queanbeyan-Alt
12	Jacky	Hunt	Wildlife ARC
13	Kerryn	Parry-Jones	Wildlife ARC-Alt
14	Richard	Woodman	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
15	Justine	King	Wildlife Rescue South Coast-Alt
16	Joshua	Mesilane	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
	Apology		
	Greg	Saunders	Corrections NSW John Morony Centre
	Fiona	Dawson	Friends of the Koala
	Paul	McLeod	Koalas In Care
	Peter	Graham	LAOKO-Snowy Mtns Wildlife Recue
	Julia	Rose	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
	Jacquie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
	Julie	Jennings	Port Stephens Koalas-Alt
	Carmel	Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas
	Crystal	Mitchell	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
	Jenny	Weston	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
	Miriam	Hazel	Wildcare Queanbeyan
	Lorraine	Yudaeff	Wildlife in Need of Care

Welcome by Chair Audrey Koosmen and introduction of new representatives Chris Thompson, Sydney Wildlife, and Kate Randolph, Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF.

Robert Oliver, Implementation Manager, Wildlife Biodiversity Reforms, and Matthew Mo from the Wildlife Biodiversity Reform team NPWS reported on the Stakeholder meetings held on 15 November. A further meeting will be convened in February intending to present draft reforms for further consultation. A. Koosmen and C. Flanagan represented NWC at the consultations and separate reports are included with the GM46 Summary of meeting.

Discussion notes: Powerpoint Presentation is held by the Secretary but is not of emailable size.

Land Management reforms are taking priority and holding up wildlife licensing reforms.

Presentation completed 11:54

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- 1) **Confirmation of the Minutes: Motion:** That the Minutes of the 26 August 2017 General Meeting No. 45 are a true and correct record.

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

- 2) **Business arising** from that meeting.

NWC ACTION LIST FROM
AUGUST MEETINGS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Result</u>
1	¹ Carry over item to February meeting – Cruelty Database M Hazel	On hold
2	Carry over item for future meeting – AWRC 2018 Sponsorship -	Separate Agenda Item
3	All groups to provide media contacts to Media Officer - All please note At least provide list of names of local media outlets.	No longer required – Media Officer has good media contact list
4	² AK ask sub-committee to produce prioritised resource list for distribution to member groups - Audrey Koosmen	Ongoing
5	Groups who choose to share Constitution with WCNCW All please note	WCNCW received FOK's Const. No longer required
6	Distribute new Certificate to Group – Insurance officer	Completed
7	³ Media Officer – make recommendations for media strategy around BCAct Discussion paper – S. Lorigan	Awaiting Discussion paper
8	Secretary/President – invite Taronga Wildlife Hospital to join NWC. Licensee Elizabeth Hall	Accepted verbally; new membership paperwork in train. ⁴ Meeting approved accepting membership when form received. Questioned whether others might be invited. Not permissible under our current Constitution.

¹ Cruelty Database – M. Hazel present to February GM

² Items 4 and 9 - J. Hunt M. Hazel – prioritize shared resource list inventory and make recommendations re. access to information to ensure privacy where required.

³ Media Officer – Propose Media Strategy on publication of BC Act Rehabilitation Reform Discussion Paper

⁴ Secretary process new membership when documentation complete

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9	J. Hunt M. Hazel - Shared Resources committee to include the document (Retention of Seized Fauna Policy) in the Shared Resource inventory.	Neither present – no reports were received. May require a Members Only section Log in to the Website.
10	Change Post Office Boxes & redirect - Secretary	NWC Postal Address is now: P O Box 335 WAUCHOPE NSW 2446
	Other tasks	
	Lodge Form A12 - Secretary/PO	Completed
	Update ACNC List - Secretary/PO	Completed
	Update Australian Business Register - ATO Secretary/PO	
	Lodge ACNC AIS - Secretary/PO	Completed
	Complete & Distribute Summary Report from GM and AGM - Secretary	Completed
	Complete Summary Report OEH presentation - Secretary	Completed
	Complete & distribute Draft Minutes General meeting - Secretary	Completed
	Complete & distribute Draft Minutes AGM - Secretary	Completed

3) Correspondence

AWRC 2018– separate Agenda Items
 Invitation to Sydney Wildlife Fundraising Dinner (S. Elwood advised the function raised between \$50-60K)
 Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Newsletter
 Emails between NWC and Insurance Broker Driessen re. Accident Claim M. Griffith
 Numerous items of email traffic – distributed to Reps line

Motion: That the correspondence above and emails forwarded to Reps/Alt line are noted.
 Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: J. Mesilane: **Carried**

Business arising from correspondence:

Address changed with QWRC
 Insurance claim ongoing

4) Chair Report – Tabled and appended to Minutes

Proposed for acceptance A. Koosmen; seconded S. Lack **Carried**

5) Treasurer’s Reports tabled and full reports attached to Minutes: -

Proposed A. Koosmen that detailed financial reports are not included in the Minutes copy placed on the Website. Seconded K. Parry-Jones, **Carried**

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⁵Disclosure made of coding error in Audit expenditure item presented at the AGM – Expenditure item Equipment \$6025.68 was actually costs associated with the Macropod Code of Practice workshop expenses. Minutes to be amended at the 2018 AGM and ACNC and REO to be notified of error.

Motion: That the Treasurer’s Reports as tabled are accepted.

Proposed S. Lack, Seconded: J. Mesilane- **Carried**

6) Insurance Officer Report – M. Ryan

Claim pending A. Griffith, Wildlife ARC. Leg fracture. Claim form has been lodged and extra information requested on 21/11/2018.

7) Media Officer Report – S. Lorigan There have been a couple of Facebook stories sent through by member groups. S. Lorigan thanked L. Vass for her assistance in NWC media.

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

Form A12 Lodged – Fair Trading NSW

Annual Information Statement 2017 Lodged – Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Copy of activity report tabled and appended to Minutes.

ACNC Responsible Person list updated

Treasurer has lodged Annual Return for Register of Environmental Organisations

9) Update on Macropod Code of Practice – S. Lorigan

Independent reviewer has completed his review. S. Lorigan is attempting to meet with OEH to go through the review item by item. The Macropod COP is at the final stage now, and we are hoping for the release around February. Thanks extended to S. Lorigan for her excellent work.

10) Koala Code of Practice – Report – S. Lorigan

Meeting to review the existing Koala COP was held 3 and 4 September – all groups with Koalas on their licences were invited. Only 14 people attended on the day due to late cancellations. It was a wonderful 2 days with passionate and knowledgeable rehabilitators. The 1st draft was distributed with the response deadline of 22/11/2017. Several groups have not yet responded to the request for comment.

Next stage is submitting Draft 2 for comment early December, allocating until the end of January for reply. It will either go to Draft 3 or direct to independent review. OEH is taking a more active role in this process due to Koalas being part of Saving our Species. Treasurer has advised NWC has been reimbursed for all costs associated with this Code review to date.

11) Nature Conservation Council – A. Koosmen AK was unable to attend the NCC Conference. There were no motions presented to NCC for the Conference.

⁵ Secretary to investigate correction mechanism for Audit coding error

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12) IFAW/NWC Wildlife Rescue App – IFAW⁶ is awaiting advice on the expected launch date from the Agency updating the app.

13) Agenda item suggested by J. Rose, NTWC . “I have been wondering if there could be information added to the IFAW app about wildlife crossing ‘Road Hazards’? Or is there already a NRMA one we can add to? For example; Wombats on Buckets Way and other roads where a ‘reduction of speed recommendation’ could be added. Has this been looked into?”

Preliminary pre-meeting enquiry has resulted in response from IFAW that it might be difficult for current App, but agreement that the information would be valuable. AK and MR believe it is up to groups to identify “wildlife hot spots” in their own areas and negotiate with local Council, or RMS, whoever is the road manager for appropriate warning signs at hazardous locations for wildlife. This stresses the importance of good data recording to identify and “prove” those locations.

Discussion:

AK believes it is the responsibility of individual groups to negotiate with local councils.

JK believes it would be good if GPS devices had alerts for known wildlife spots.

SE advised RMS has a Biodiversity department and are approachable about wildlife matters.

RW local Council is pro-active about wildlife hot spots and signage.

LV FOK has active liaison with road managers.

Action:⁷ SE and JK to discuss with their road manager contacts and report back.

⁸ Suggestion a RMS contact could address a NWC meeting to resurrect discussion on biodiversity conservation activities.

14) Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016:

Stakeholder Meetings: – A. Koosmen – discussed during Oliver/Mo presentation and included in Chair Report

15) Biodiversity Conservation Act – Discussion Paper reported on by P. Stathis at August meeting – not yet published and available for comment. NWC has been advised there is still hope that it will be published in 2017.

Need to encourage participation in the public discussion paper submission process.

LV Background Discussion Paper will be making recommendations. We have the opportunity for comment and we must prepare ourselves to make the most of it. It was agreed there may be a necessity to meet as a group after publication of the Discussion Paper to co-ordinate a response.

Carry over from August meeting: Recommendation to pre-prepare a media release of the stats contained in the discussion paper. Distribution recommended to all local media, stakeholders and local politicians.

⁶ Secretary maintain liaison with IFAW re. App launch date

⁷ S. Elwood/J. King – discuss options for road wildlife hazard alert mechanisms with Road Managers

⁸ Committee discuss RMS as possible Guest Speaker to NWC Meeting

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16) Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2018 – Information: <http://sydney.awrc.org.au>

Dates: Mon 02 July to Thu 05 July, 2018
Venue: Sydney University, Abercrombie Business School
Registration fee: \$250.00
Three Conference Themes:
Animal Welfare
Treatments and Care
Engagement and Administration

17) AWRC 2018 Sponsorship request RW advises the sponsorship results exceeded expectations and the excess is going to reduce the registration fee.

Proposal: K. Parry-Jones That NWC offers to reimburse every NWC member group \$250 upon receipt of evidence of a paid registration fee/s for the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2018. Seconded: M. Ryan **Carried**

⁹Secretary to write to Leanne Taylor AWRC 2018 Sponsorship Officer advising of NWC's decision.

¹⁰Treasurer will investigate price and availability of name badges identifying participants to NWC.

17AWRC 2018 – call for conference presentation abstract

<http://sydney.awrc.org.au/call4papers.html>

OEH has expressed its wish that NWC will do a presentation on the NWC and its activities. Action:

¹¹Sonja Elwood will prepare Abstract to present to Executive prior to submission. Friday 24/11/2017 submission to Secretary.

18) General NWC business:

19) Electronic meetings – update –¹²S. Lorigan will research methods of telephone conference meetings and report to committee.

20) What Counselling is available to wildlife rehabilitators – Julia Rose, NTWC /Jacquie Maisey

Grief and stress/burnout counselling of wildlife rehabilitation activities on rehabilitators and their families.

Sydney Wildlife has set up system via Macquarie University

HWR has used Salvation Army counselling

FOK has a casual arrangement with Southern Cross University

Is it something that could be discussed with insurance co.? Ask question about cover for costs associated with treatment of stress coping mechanisms for rehabilitators and their families.

Action: ¹³NWC Insurance Officer to raise with NCC Insurance Officer. Has this been raised by other groups?

¹⁴Chair to investigate counselling options.

⁹ Secretary advise AWRC Sponsorship Officer of decision

¹⁰ Treasurer investigate NWC name badges for committee and people attending AWRC 2018.

¹¹ S. Elwood prepare Draft AWRC 2018 Presentation abstract

¹² S. Lorigan research teleconferencing options for committee meetings

¹³ M. Ryan discuss counselling options with NCC Insurance Officer

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AK members' mental health & stress coping mechanisms are things that member mentors and co-ordinators should look out for.

21) Use of Email – A. Koosmen Please think before pressing that send button.

Emails are a steady source of defamation actions – emails are regarded as public documents. Emails are not secure.

Secretary asks that people do not tag different subjects on the wrong subject line.

22) Website: ¹⁵

- a. 2018 Grants are not up to date: To be fixed – waiting for photos
- b. **Codes of Practice:** JW recommends COPs should have a heading in their own right and PDF format copies should be placed on the Website rather than rely on a link to the environment.nsw.gov.au website which has been unavailable recently.
- c. Should unratified **Minutes** go up on Website? It was suggested a note be placed in the Minutes Section of the Website advising that Meetings are held quarterly and that Minutes are put on Website after ratification.
- d. **Training:** Should we take down Training Calendar as no groups are providing their information? Suggestion: a note is placed on Training to contact the local area licensed group for details on available training courses.
- e. **Find your local carer group** – balloon. Not possible to do until there is a correct map produced. Meeting advised Webmaster believes this is very difficult unless it is linked to an existing mapping system.
- f. **Advocacy** – one item
- g. **Media** – all on front page – drop it off
- h. **Newsletter** – has not been done – remove

23. Other business

Communications with Groups: Members were reminded it is part of their responsibility to bring NWC activities to the attention of their groups. The Secretary will endeavour to produce a Summary Report from each General Meeting as soon as possible after the meeting.

News from FOK. The group has introduced a paid position into what for 30 years has been totally voluntary. This is a momentous change taking 12 months to implement. Position: Facilities Manager looking after the two buildings, two vehicles. Implementation was assisted by a professional who became interested in offering advice and guidance services.

Flying-fox release program – Wildlife ARC KPJ – Wildlife ARC released 400 last year. There were 150 down South; Wambina is considering closing as a release facility after 2017/18 season. All equipment needs renewing. Kerryn is trying to organise a release cage on a local National Park (Central Coast). She believes there might be a real problem in forthcoming years. Sydney Wildlife is concerned. Is there a better way of managing – should there be a flying-fox group set up?

¹⁴ A. Koosmen investigate counselling options

¹⁵ Secretary liaise with Webmaster over updates required

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JM – Mudgee flying-fox camp hasn't departed. Suggestion a casual group forms where release options can be documented. ¹⁶Chair will canvass possibility of bringing OEH to the table to understand problems caused by flying-foxes in adverse times – starvation and HSEs – on release capabilities of groups. ¹⁷MR – this should be brought up at the 6 December Flying-fox consultative committee meeting.

SL - Wombat Protection Society offered all groups that deal with Wombats help treating mange.

Dates of next general meetings:

No. 47 - Tuesday, 20 February, 2018	Room 1.04 OEH Hurstville (booked)
No. 48 – Tuesday, 15 May, 2018	Room 1.04 OEH Hurstville (booked)

Meeting Close: Time pm. 3.10 p.m.

Signed/Chair Date

CHAIR REPORT

NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2017

I would like to welcome two new Alternates to NSW Wildlife Council; Kate Randolph from Hunter Wildlife Rescue and Chris Thompson from Sydney Wildlife. Thank you both for coming onto the Council to represent your group. I do hope you will find your time with us enjoyable and that you will bring to the table and share skills you may hold to help our Council run successfully.

Since we last met NWC members have been busy working on the review of the current Koala Code of Practice. NWC member groups along with Wires held a very successful weekend working together, recommending many changes to the current code. Again great thanks to Shona who was battling terrible eye problems over the weekend. With the help of Hannah from Wires Shona's facilitation of the weekend meeting was to her usual high standard.

NSW Wildlife Council was represented at the first NPWS Biodiversity Conservation Act stakeholder consultation meeting held on the 15 November 2017 to discuss management of unwanted, escaped or seized animals and non-releasable native animals. Cheyne Flanagan and I represented NWC. NWC alongside Wires spoke on mutual concerns we had about the costs associated with wildlife groups' holding of these animals for prolonged periods, the tying up of facilities and the stress and added workload these fauna caused to volunteer groups.

Much was said on the ballot system by NPWS to send non releasable fauna into the zoo and fauna park systems. We were very outspoken on the special needs these animals sometimes have due to

¹⁶ Chair – canvass OEH re. flying-fox release capabilities

¹⁷ K. Parry-Jones, M. Ryan, include flying-fox release capabilities of the rehabilitation sector at the FFCC on 6/12.

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disabilities that often zoos and fauna parks cannot handle. The need for special housing may sometimes be beyond fauna parks' capacity to provide and other concerns were raised about animal welfare. Animal welfare and best practice must be the guiding principle in decisions taken regarding unreleasable fauna.

I will leave Robert Oliver to talk on the summary of the outcome of the main points of that meeting when he addresses the NWC General Meeting on 21 November 2017.

NSW Wildlife Council has been invited to attend the NSW Flying-Fox Consultative Committee & Stakeholders meeting in Sydney on the 6 December 2017. Meredith Ryan and Dr. Kerryn Parry-Jones will represent NSW Wildlife Council at this meeting. I feel both ladies have the long-term experience and knowledge needed in flying-fox management to be our voice, thank you ladies.

I would like to wish or Vice Chair, Peter Graham, our very best wishes as he goes into hospital next week for an operation which we hope will help Pete with a current condition that has been troubling him for such a long time.

RIP Jill Taylor - It is with a heavy heart I report the passing of Jill Taylor recently after a long battle with cancer. Another Wildlife Warrior gone. Many early representatives on the Council knew Jill well. She was the first representative for the precursor of Port Stephens Koalas, the Hunter Koala Preservation Society, and was a very well respected and liked member of NWC. As well Jill was an inaugural trustee of the NWC Public Fund. Added to her in-depth involvement with koalas Jill was always first to pitch in and grab the tea towel to do the washing up or the catering.

Jill's particular passion was the beloved koala. She fought for many years to save their habitat throughout Port Stephens. Jill and I did many things together, we were arrested twice for chaining ourselves to trees on a mining site where primary wildlife habitat was being knocked down – all charges were dropped! We were proud when we learned we were being referred to as Two Koala Witches.

Jill's involvement with rescue and care of koalas started when she saw a burnt koala I had from the devastating 1994 bushfires in Port Stephens; from that day on for the rest of her life she devoted herself to saving as many as she could. She may have left us but she will always be remembered for her years of great work and passion over many years of protecting wildlife habitat.

Vale Jill - RIP flying high above in the tree tops with her beloved koalas.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Natalie Izquierdo has now moved onto a new role in NPWS working within the Save Our Species unit. Natalie was great support in co-ordinating the Koala Stakeholder meetings held in various locations in NSW. We thank her for working alongside us and wish her well in her new role.

Regards
Audrey Koosmen

**NEW SOUTH WALES WILDLIFE COUNCIL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017 ACNC
ANNUAL INFORMATION STATEMENT**

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In 2016 the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 under which wildlife rehabilitation volunteer groups are licensed was replaced by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BCA). The latter Act commenced during the reporting year but was not accompanied by complementary Regulations that determine how licensing of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation volunteer operations will be regulated in the future. An extensive multi-faceted audit process was undertaken by the Office of Environment and Heritage's National Parks and Wildlife Division of all volunteer groups operating under a Section 120 licence for the purpose of rescue and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned protected fauna in NSW.

New South Wales Wildlife Council and all its twenty five member groups were required to participate in the Audit process which covered but was not limited to:

Governance
Policies and procedures
Oversight
Operations
Individual inspections of volunteer premises and practices
Training standards
Ability to provide service
Record keeping and reporting

While no formal report from the Audit process has been published more than one year after the conclusion of the process, the NWC sector as a whole has passed "muster". The Sector is anxiously awaiting publication of a Review Discussion Paper on the entire wildlife rehabilitation sector in NSW. It is anticipated this will include recommendations for how the sector will operate under the new Act, whether under an accreditation system or by licence or by some other instrument.

The review process has made it difficult to progress business as usual and we summarise here the activities and achievements of the 2016-2017 year:

BCA Stakeholder consultations: A series of consultative workshops were held with stakeholders on proposed changes to licence classes and the contents of the public register of BCA wildlife licences. The Council participated along with representatives from Government, Animal Keeping Organisations, RSPCA and the animal welfare sector, and WIRES.

The 2016-2017 Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants Program saw \$5000 in grant funding awarded to individual licensed volunteer rehabilitators for the following projects:

- In the Snowy Mountains Area, three demountable and portable multi-purpose enclosures for rehabilitation of a number of species of wildlife.
- On the Illawarra Coast, a sea and shorebird enclosure and catching equipment for waterbird species.
- In the Northern Rivers 2 fully-fitted temperature controlled reptile rehabilitation enclosures
- On the Southern hinterland a contribution to a large wombat rehabilitation/release enclosure.
- In the Hunter Region a Possum enclosure extension that allows for rehabilitation of multi species concurrently.

Consideration is to be given to increasing the amount of grant funding for the 2017-2018 year

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Insurance for Member Groups and/or Volunteers: The Council funded the following insurance for member groups during the year:

- Public and Products Liability
- Volunteer Accident
- Association Liability

Codes of Practice (COP): in the year the Birds of Prey COP, developed the previous year, was approved by NSW Government and published. Workshops took place for the development of a Macropod COP, and this is expected to be finalised, approved and published in the forthcoming year. Preliminary preparations were undertaken for a review of the existing Koala COP and the first meeting was scheduled for early in the 2017-2018 year.

Representation at Wildlife Conferences: the Council was represented at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Melbourne Conference in 2016, the Wombat Conference, the Koala Conference and the Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference.

Meetings: The Council met as a group quarterly and held the Annual General Meeting.

Liaison: continued with such Agencies and NGOs as Office of Environment and Heritage, Roads and Maritime Services, Department of Primary Industry, RSPCA, IFAW, Nature Conservation Council and other environment NGOs, and presented submissions on a number of papers related to government legislative change and wildlife species matters.

Collectively NWC member groups and their volunteers handled successfully and with humane outcomes countless thousands of injured and orphaned fauna at little or no cost to government. These individuals and groups met public expectation that there is some body or agency that will provide good rehabilitation or suitable animal welfare outcomes for all free-living wild native creatures that need human assistance in some way.

Summary: The New South Wales Wildlife Council looks forward to some decisions being made about the wildlife rehabilitation sector so forward planning can take place to improve and enhance this sectors vitality into the future.

*Report submitted by:
Meredith Ryan
Public Officer*