**Chair: Audrey Koosmen**

**Meeting Open:** Time: 10.05

 ACCEPT/PRESENT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| First | Surname | Group |
| Meredith | Ryan | FAWNA (NSW) Inc |
| Lorraine  | Vass | Friends of the Koala |
| Audrey | Koosmen | NATF-Hunter Wildlife Rescue |
| Shirley  | Lack | Native Animal Rescue Group |
| Sandy | Norris | Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers |
| Jacquie | Maisey | Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers |
| Shona | Lorigan | ORRCA |
| Leesa | Pratt | ORRCA-Alt |
| Murray | Black | Port Stephens Koalas-Alt |
| Sonja | Elwood | Sydney Wildlife |
| Chris | Thompson | Sydney Wildlife-Alt |
| Libby | Hall | Taronga Wildlife Clinic |
| Jenny | Weston | Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers |
| Suzi | Watson | Wildcare Queanbeyan-Alt |
| Jessi  | Grace | Wildlife ARC-Alt |
| Linda | Stoev | Wildlife Carers Network Central West |
| Richard | Woodman | Wildlife Rescue South Coast |
| Justine | King | Wildlife Rescue South Coast-Alt |
|  |  |  |
| APOLOGY |  |  |
| Don | Eagleton | Australian Seabird Rescue |
| Cathy  | Gilmore | Australian Seabird Rescue |
| Rod | Miller | FAWNA |
| Paul & Christeen | McLeod | Koalas In Care |
| Brendan | Diacono | LAOKO-Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue |
| Kate | Randolph | NATF-Hunter Wildlife Rescue |
| Julia | Rose | Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers |
| Carmel | Northwood | Port Stephens Koalas |
| Miriam | Hazel | Wildcare Queanbeyan |
| Brad | Smith | Wildlife Aid |
| Meg | Pittman | Wildlife Aid |
| Kerryn | Parry-Jones | Wildlife ARC |
| Lorraine | Yudaeff | WINC |

Visitor:

Peter Stathis

Manager, Biodiversity and Wildlife, Conservation Section, Park Programs, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Robert Oliver

Manager, Wildlife Biodiversity Reforms, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Bronwen van Jaarsveld, Project Officer, Wildlife Biodiversity Reforms

Welcome by Chair Audrey Koosmen

Welcome to Sonja Elwood of Sydney Wildlife who has accepted the vacant Management Committee position

Introduction of new representatives Linda Stoev, WCNCW and Jessi Grace, Wildlife ARC

Acknowledgment of J. Hunt leaving Wildlife ARC Rep role

 [[1]](#footnote-1)A new member list will be circulated on receipt of formal notifications.

**Standing Orders suspended** for update briefing by P. Stathis, followed by Robert Oliver, Stakeholder Meetings update

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1. **Confirmation of the Minutes: Motion:** That the Minutes of the 20 February 2018 General Meeting No. 47 are a true and correct record. Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: M. Black : **Carried**
2. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**Cruelty Database:** Prototype data entry form attached to Agenda. **Discuss.** Need to:

* establish need;
* how data will be entered;
* how data will be accessed;
* how data will be used;
* who will use data

Discussion whether another category “Cruelty” could go on data sheet for fauna rehabilitators.

**Shared Resource List:** Sub Committee may not be operating due M. Hazel health and J. Hunt resignation from NWC role**.** Where to from here?

Suzi Watson and Justine King will form sub committee to develop ideas to further the intention to provide a library of useful resources that are available for member groups to utilise. The delivery/availability of these resources will be part of the sub committee’s remit.

**Road Wildlife Hazard alert mechanisms: J. King and S. Elwood.** Report attached to Minutes.

SE really helps when proactive Council on site.

**AWRC 2018**

* Chair presentation has been provided to Organisers
* Poster Project on Grants underway – pull up display banner summarising 2012-2017 grants and the program
* NWC will be joining WIRES with information table to represent the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation community.
* AWRC 2018 Grants Program established – 5 applications received until 15-5-2018 – . Sydney Wildlife advises it is sponsoring its own members and is unlikely to apply for NWC grant.
* IFAW has funded Chair to attend the conference.
* Proposed A. Koosmen That NWC fund the Secretary’s accommodation cost to attend AWRC 2018. Seconded: L. Vass; **Carried** M. Ryan advises her cost is $450 for 5 night’s accommodation.

**RMS MoU –** Proposal was presented to RMS 15/3/2018 but no response received to date. A copy to be appended to the Minutes.

**Ongoing matters:**

* **Name badges for committee –** S. lack has prepared magnetic badges.
* **Committee Meeting teleconferencing options –** options have been researched and preferred method not yet decided.
* **Grief Counselling options available –** it was noted this is a topic for AWRC 2018 – this subject was raised in earlier discussions with OEH. Meeting advised of Bruce Englefield paper *A review of roadkill rescue: who cares for the mental, physical and financial welfare of Australian wildlife carers?*
* **Grants Updates on Website –** reports now received from all but 1 grantee – Secretary has to present these reports in a web-conforming layout and liaise with Webmaster re publication.
1. **Correspondence.** There was no correspondence of note that has not been circulated to the Email line.

**Media report – Victorian wildlife legislation.** Following discussion the decision of the meeting wasthat NWC needs to keep an eye on the subject but there is no need to react at this time: the topic of controls of rehabilitation releases due to overabundance is outside the present discussion paper scope.

1. **Chair Report** Circulated via email to Reps line and attached to Minutes.

**Proposed for acceptance:** A. Koosmen; Seconded: J. Maisey ; **Carried**

1. **Treasurer’s report.** Reports circulated and attached to Minutes Book copy of Minutes.

Proposed: Treasurer’s report is accepted S. Lack; Seconded M. Ryan, **Carried**

Treasurer advised NWC is waiting for reimbursement of the Koala Review Meeting costs. S. Lorigan during her meeting with OEH will request that payment is received by end of financial year i.e. 30-6-2018.

1. **Insurance Officer Report – M. Ryan -** one claim involving loss of income is ongoing. Several Incident Reports lodged but none are resulting in a claim to date. Reps reminded of the WH&S prudence of ensuring that Accident and Incident Report forms are lodged.

1. **Media Officer Report – S. Lorigan:** There have been ongoing Facebook posts andWebpage stories and hyperlinks**.** It is difficult to remove R. Ferris from Facebook as she was the originator of the file; no problems are envisaged with Rochelle continuing to have access.
2. **Macropod Code of Practice: 9) Koala Strategy and Updates to COP Update – S. Lorigan: Items 8 and 9 in tandem.** S. Lorigan advised the original review process of the Koala Code saw it going to an unprecedented number of EOH personnel for their views. The result was a considerable number of changes – those changes in the koala code needed to be reflected in the macropod codes for consistency. There are slight divides in views determining release considerations and it was recognised some flexibility will be required because release options can be many and varied depending on locations and circumstances. Both codes will be compared word by word to ensure uniformity. It will be necessary to relook at the whole decision tree from the Rehabilitation Code. The aim is to have the codes submitted for publication by the end of this week and ready for the AWRC 2018. Shona would like to particularly thank the koala code review people Friends of the Koala, Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF and others who have been available to provide help. Thanks were extended to Shona for her considerable time, effort, perseverance and expertise in getting these projects to near completion.
3. **– S. Lorigan: combined above.**
4. **Nature Conservation Council Report – A. Koosmen:** Regional Conference in Queanbeyan 26-27 May. Suzi Watson was nominated to attend for NWC. Suzi is not available on the 26th. AK and SW will [[2]](#footnote-2)liaise over attendance.
5. **Flying-fox Consultative Committee Report – J. Maisey:** Reports on the December Stakeholder Meeting attended by Dr. K. Parry-Jones and M. Ryan; and 27 March FFCC meeting attended by J. Maisey have been circulated to Email line.
6. **IFAW / NWC Wildlife Rescue App –** no update information available. Several contacts to enquire about the App have not been responded to.
7. **NWC Rehabilitator Grants –** Budget for 2018-2019 Grants $10000.

The meeting agreed to alter the Grants Terms and Conditions to flag the possibility of groups being eligible for a grant in exceptional circumstances and applications subject to approval of the management committee.

Sandy Norris and Suzi Watson agreed they would form the sub-committee to manage the grants program for 2018-2019 to commence with publication of the grants program to the membership and the rehabilitation sector in the first week in June. Applications would open on Sunday 1 July and would be close at 5 pm Friday 10 August 2018. Grants would be voted on at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 26 August. [[3]](#footnote-3)

1. **General Business:**
2. **Should Secretaries of Groups receive NWC circulated material?**  L. Stoev WCNCW Consderable discussion on the topic leading to **Proposal:** L. Stoev That Group Secretaries be copied in on outgoing communications from NWC to Reps and Alternatives email line: Seconder: L. Hall : **Result: Proposal Not carried.**

Noted: OEH is concerned that NWC activities are not better known among groups’ memberships. Groups are encouraged to send out the Meeting Summary Report to inform their members. There appears to have been more interest about the NWC since the advent of the Summary Reports.

1. **Rogue Operators and their destabilisation of the Licensed Rehabilitation Organisation Network** – R. Woodman – WRSC – Concerns expressed that public activities with wildlife are contrary to all good practice and regulations and when these are promoted or are visible lead to a very mixed message to the public. RW suggested one of the things NWC could do is to explain to the [[4]](#footnote-4)public that the rehabilitation processes have been set up for good wildlife welfare management and successful outcomes. Wildlife should be rehabilitated within a formal system and fundraising options should only be available for licensed situations.

1. **Wombat Mange Management – Policy** – R. Woodman – WRSC – WRSC has adopted the Policy sent out to Reps and Alts and it is available for anyone to share. It would be nice if this Policy could be a reference or standard that everyone can use. LS WCNCW advised Local Land Services had a wombat information session recently, including mange and other management options. **Action:**  [[5]](#footnote-5)Policy to be included in Shared Resource Library.
2. **“Do Rehab Group boundaries need to be clarified”** - Murray Black, PSK Murray described his difficulties ensuring koala data collected on behalf of several groups is accurate for encounter locations. Murray propounded that idea that group boundaries might be realigned on a locality basis as a more accurate geographic identifier to avoid confusion among groups and the public and to help with data collection, mapping, public education and phone apps.

It was questioned why is there a need for any realignment and the conclusion was it seems it might be mainly a data recording problem for MB who records data for several groups.

1. **Boundaries – Shades of Grey** – Linda Stoev WCNCW How can groups manage a buffer zone near group boundaries for purposes of Authorising members? There was general agreement that MoU’s are an accepted form of overcoming this problem. [[6]](#footnote-6)WRSC will send WCNCW copy of a suggested MoU.
2. **Code of Practice Authorising Flying-fox Camp Management Actions 2018. M. Ryan.** Submissions due 24 May 2018.Recommended:
* Insert the word “Independent in 13 (4) c) “Engage an independent flying-fox expert”
* In 14 (3) request addition of a hyperlink to contacts for Rehabilitation Groups that is not currently provided (groups are required by the Code to be advised of actions that might disturb camps).

Meeting agreed [[7]](#footnote-7)Secretary should submit comment by the due date.

1. **Any other business:**
2. **Memorial for Helen George –** J. Maisey for J. Rose. Julia feels that as combined groups we should do something. AK to ring John George to sound out whether he feels any sort of memorial would be appropriate, bearing in mind verbal advice of Helen’s wish that no fanfare should accompany her passing.
3. **Meeting with WIRES CEO Leanne Taylor, AK, SL and MR** 14-5-2018

**Topic of re stakeholders meetings on Surrendered/unwanted/lost/Found fauna**.

Concern that rehab groups were going to be lumbered with holding the animals and the resultant cost of care

**One Number phone –** concerned there was no consultation and no knowledge what is planned.

**Non releasable rehabilitation animals for permanent care:** ZAA may not be independent enough to be the determining body where these animals go.

**It was agreed the Chair would pass information of interest back to Leanne Taylor.** The meeting is happy this relationship will be ongoing.

**Dates of next meetings:**

**GM 49 Sat 25 August, 2018 – The Centre Randwick**

**AGM 13 Sun 26 August, 2018 – The Centre Randwick**

**GM 50 Tue 20 November, 2018 – NPWS 43 Bridge St Hurstville Room 104**

**Meeting Close (time) 15:25**

**Signed/Chair………A. Koosmen………….Date……25 August 2018….**

NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL - CHAIR REPORT MAY 2018

I would like to welcome Sonja Elwood to the NWC Management Team. Sonya has agreed to take on the vacant management committee position until the August elections and I am sure will bring great skills to the table.

Welcome Linda Stoev, WCNCW and Jessi Grace, Wildlife A.R.C. to their first NWC meeting.

Sadly we have lost Jacky Hunt from the table. I would like to thank Jacky for her time on the NWC, the work she has done and the support she has given to NWC. She has represented her group very well and her smiling face at the table will be missed greatly. Jacky will be focussing on her new granddaughter, her extended family and in building a new home. The granddaughter is being spoiled madly. We send our good wishes to Jacky and her family and hope to see her back at NWC one day again.

NWC was invited by WIRES to share a table at the upcoming Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference and the NWC Management Committee was delighted with that offer and has accepted. We will have a free standing NWC banner and the updated NWC brochure available during the Conference. This will show a united front for wildlife groups across NSW.

More will be said on the Conference in the meeting’s agenda on what is happening and NWC.

We all have seen and I hope read the NSW Koala Strategy Plan and heard the news announced by the Premier last week. I do hope this will help all wildlife across NSW not just koalas as there is a major need for all species to be included in improved veterinary training and availability of wildlife hospitals. We are keenly watching what there may be in the way of funding to wildlife as well as support to wildlife groups and members

We all understand many of the species we rescue and care for are not considered important to the government as the threatened species are. To ride on the koalas back when it comes to habitat will perhaps help other creatures who share the koala’s habitat. I guess we all have to wait and see if what is promised happens!

I would like to thank Peter Stathis, Ron Haering and Robert Oliver for taking the time to address the NWC at each meeting. This allows everyone to ask them questions and learn progress on matters of concern to all.

We have lost Matt Mo from Robert’s team; he has now moved to Threatened Species unit and is dealing with Flying-foxes.

We have also lost April Suen from IFAW - she has moved on to a role with another company in communications.

Shona has been working hard with NPWS to see a final copy of the Macropod Code of Practice finished and approved. Let’s hope it is very close as we have all been waiting some time for it.

Shona is also is working on a revision of the koala code with NPWS so her time has been taken up trying to pull these together. Thank you Shona for all your hard work, we are all very grateful.

We welcome Peter Stathis and Robert Oliver to the May NWC General Meeting to update the Council on progress in the Biodiversity reform process.

Aud*rey Koosmen*

Chair NWC 13/5/2018

**NSW Wildlife Council – Report on Wildlife Hotspot Mapping**

*Justine King, Wildlife Rescue South Coast*

We have been working with Wingecarribee shire council on wildlife hotspots mapping locally, and also trying to assist the Save the Campbelltown Koalas that are being hit every night on Appin and Picton Roads. Feedback from RMS is that hotspots go hot and cold so my take of this is that it’s the local knowledge i.e. the local wildlife groups that would know which are active or not through their own stats and coordinators. A group of carers ran an effective Facebook campaign on a Bundanoon wildlife hotspot last year and there has been a significant reduction in wildlife being hit on that road.

Currently talking to Google about mapping wildlife hotspots for public viewing on maps.

RMS also suggested the virtual fencing solutions by Wildlife Safety Solutions in Sydney [https://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au](https://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au/) who were working with Redlands Council in Queensland on a trial and in Tasmania for the Tasmanian Devil. I have links I can send to the committee for further reading. I understand that the feedback on the Tasmanian trial was successful with a 60% reduction in road kill events. Also keen to hear about the Queensland trial; I have emailed Wildlife Safety Solutions just waiting on a response

How does The Virtual Fencing work? The device is activated by approaching headlights, which cause it to emit sound and light stimuli that in turn alert, repel and prevent animals from entering the road.

The audible alert and blue and yellow strobe-type LED lights are an innovative concept based on proven technologies.

The devices are placed at 25-metre intervals along the road, forming a virtual fence.

The virtual fence uses the latest non-invasive audio and visual systems to alert animals and prevent vehicle contact.

<https://news.redland.qld.gov.au/2017/07/queensland-first-technology-to-keep-redlands-wildlife-safe/>

[https://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au](https://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au/)

<https://www.redlandcitybulletin.com.au/story/4808894/council-to-build-virtual-fence-in-effort-to-save-wallabies/>

<https://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au/case-study>

*16 May 2018*

**PROPOSED NWC ACTIVITIES 2018 – 2020**

**Prepared by NWC Secretary and presented to RMS**

**(These proposed activities anticipate revised licensing/accreditation arrangements under the Biodiversity Conservation Act for NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service approved volunteer wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups.)**

       **Facilitate by a grants scheme member groups’ attendance at AWRC 2018.** (Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference) *This project is underway.  All NWC groups have been offered funding (on a reimbursement basis) of one $250 registration fee for a member of each group to attend the July 2018 Conference.  Budget $6500.  This activity was in lieu of NWC offering sponsorship funding direct to the organisers of AWRC 2018.*

        **Poster Project at Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2018:** NWC Rehabilitator equipment and enclosure grants – a partnership project financed by NWC from NPWS and RMS funding.   *The project is in the planning stage.  NPWS and RMS will be asked to provide their logo to be included on a stand up display poster featuring this partnership project.*

        **Working with NPWS in development and implementation of wildlife rehabilitation accreditation under Biodiversity Conservation Act**.  *This action is dependent on publication of the BC Act Discussion Paper.  Groups have been licensed until 30 June 2019 after which date it is anticipated a new accreditation process will come into force.  A NWC Shareable Resources Inventory is in development and this will become part of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Groups’ Toolbox.*

        **Working with NPWS on Review of the current Code of Practice for Injured Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna**– to align all with the wildlife reform processes

        **Working with NPWS on continuing Code of practice generation and reviews**– koalas, macropods and reptiles to come with additional species groups to follow.

        **Working with government to develop and implement uniform training standards and resources for volunteers in NSW -** this is intended as a priority activity subject to appropriate funding

        **Upgrade rehabilitation facilities and equipment in NSW through the annual Rehabilitator grants program**.  *Continuing annual project.*

        **Scope the development of community education resources for use by groups.**

        **Establishment of a Flying-fox group to standardise and collect state-wide data**

        **Collaboration with Australian Museum on Koala Genome project as part of the proposed NSW Koala Strategy.***Current and ongoing project*

        **Refine Data Collection and Reporting with OEH to assist RMS with identifying road wildlife hot spots.**

        **Lobby relevant stakeholders on conservation matters affecting the rehabilitation sector and wildlife.**

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**Continue to database P 2.**

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1. Secretary circulate member list with changes [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Chair/S Watson liaise re. NCC Regional Conference [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Secretary will prepare a briefing document detailing the steps required to conduct the 2018 NWC Rehabilitator Grants Program. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Keep active the suggestion that some publicity be given to the reasons why NSW has such a robust wildlife rehabilitation system. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Include Shared Resources [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. WRSC share MoU template with WCNCW [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Secretary make submission [↑](#footnote-ref-7)