

NSW Wildlife Council – General Meeting No. 49 – MINUTES - 09.30 hours
Saturday, 25 August 2018, The Centre, 14 Frances Street, Randwick

Chair: Audrey Koosmen MEETING OPEN: TIME: 0930

PRESENT

No.	Firstname	Surname	Group
1	Cathy	Gilmore	Australian Seabird Rescue
2	Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA
3	Lorraine	Vass	Friends of the Koala
4	Audrey	Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF
5	Kate	Randolph	Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF-Alt
6	Shirley	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
7	Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
8	Jacquie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
9	Shona	Lorigan	ORRCA
10	Leesa	Pratt	ORRCA-Alt
11	Carmel	Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas
12	Sonja	Elwood	Sydney Wildlife
13	Jenny	Weston	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
14	Colin	Hall	Wildcare Queanbeyan-Alt
15	Suzy	Nethercott-Watson	Wildcare Queanbeyan
16	Kerryn	Parry-Jones	Wildlife A R C
17	Meg	Pittman	Wildlife Aid-Alt
18	Linda	Stoev	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
19	Richard	Woodman	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

APOLOGIES

Brendan	Diacono	Laoko-Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
Julia	Rose	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers-Alt
Libby	Hall	Taronga Wildlife Hospital
Lorraine	Yudaeff	Wildlife in Need of Care
Justine	King	Wildlife Rescue South Coast-Alt

Visitor:

Peter Stathis

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

Welcome by Chair Audrey Koosmen and introduction of new representatives/alternate delegates or first time visitors to a NWC meeting: Colin Hall, Wildcare Queanbeyan and Meg Pittman, Wildlife Aid

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Standing orders suspended for update briefing by P. Stathis on Biodiversity Conservation Act (BCA) matters. A separate report will be circulated.

- 1) **Confirmation of the Minutes: Motion:** That the Minutes of the 15 May 2018 General Meeting No. 48 are a true and correct record. Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: J. Maisey : **Carried**

2) **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

	Activity	Result
1	Secretary circulate member list with changes	Completed. More changes. ¹ List to be updated and circulated after August meeting.
2	Chair/S Watson liaise re. NCC Regional Conference	James FitzGerald attended as NWC rep and will follow up with report - ² Suzie N-W to follow up
3	The Secretary will prepare a briefing document detailing the steps required to conduct the 2018 NWC Rehabilitator Grants Program.	Outline drawn up and expanded by current Grants Team members S. Watson and S. Norris. S. Lorigan thanked team for including her as Media. Document now prepared for future use. ³ Final update needed. SN SNW
4	Keep active the suggestion that some publicity be given to the reasons why NSW has such a robust wildlife rehabilitation system.(Subject of Rogue operators-public holding wildlife)	Ongoing
5	Include Shared Resources	How are we going to institute this shared resource library? See Item 3 C/f
6	WRSC share MoU template with WCNCW	Subject of MOUs separate Agenda item
7	Secretary make submission (Code of Practice Authorising Flying-fox Camp Management Actions 2018)	Completed

3) **Shared Resource List:** Suzi Nethercott-Watson and Justine King

Background and recommendation document appended to Minutes

Proposal: That the current action on shared resources is closed down in its current format and reinstated to investigate with OEH the sharing of best practise examples that would assist with the accreditation process and could be shared with NWC membership. Proposed: S. Nethercott-Watson; Seconded C. Northwood **Carried**

4) **AWRC 2018**

- Chair presentation was well received and has been included in the Conference proceedings available on awrc.org.au
- Poster Project on Grants – pull up display banner summarising 2012-2017 grants and the program until conference date was designed by Secretary and displayed. Cost \$99.
- NWC and WIRES shared an information table to represent the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation sector. OEH provided copies of the Codes of Practice including the recently-published Macropod COP, and

¹ Distribute updated list

² SNW – seek NCC Conf report from JF

³ SN SNW final update Grants Checklist

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IFAW shared some giveaway items to be distributed from the table – bags, keep cups. A NWC informational pull up banner was designed by Secretary and displayed. Cost \$99.

- The NWC offer of grants of one registration fee per group was taken up by a number of groups (see Treasurer's Report to AGM)
- The Secretary thanks NWC for reimbursing her accommodation cost of \$450 to attend the Conference. She reports she learned a lot from the papers and found the networking opportunities for a two-way exchange with rehabilitators from around Australia of great benefit to her in her Secretary NWC role, to her own group and personally.

Ongoing matters:

- 5) **Correspondence.** Wildlife Queanbeyan copy to OEH re. MOU (separate Agenda item); Confirmation and changes to member delegate information from groups – reflected in the revised member list; extensive emails and copies already distributed to group.
- 6) **Chair Report to be presented at AGM:**
- 7) **Treasurer's report.** Treasurer's report circulated to group via email and appended to Minutes. Proposed: Treasurer's report is accepted S. Lack; Seconded J. Weston, **Carried**
- 8) **Insurance Officer Report – M. Ryan** - two Volunteers insurance claims involving loss of income and allowable incidental expenses are progressing satisfactorily.
A revised Certificate of Currency has been provided for the Public and Products Liability Policy and the Associations Liability Insurance Policy has been confirmed.
- 9) **Media Officer Report – S. Lorigan:** Query came through the NWC Website on August 17 from a freelance journalist asking for a spokesperson from NWC. A Koosmen responded to request.
- 10) **Codes of Practice Update: S. Lorigan/Chair:** On hold. All Codes under development or review have been completed and released – Macropod and Koala Codes of Practice and small revisions to Wombats and Birds of Prey COPs to change legislation titles and terminology. There have been two queries on the Koala COP but these are unknown at the moment. Further consultation will take place with OEH.
- 11) **Nature Conservation Council Report – A. Koosmen:** Chair has registered for the Conference on Sat 20 October 2018. Is there a Motion to put forward? When conference details are provided further consultation will take place.
- 12) **Flying-fox Consultative Committee Report – J. Maisey:** Report submitted by J. Maisey and sent to Reps line and attached to Minutes.
- 13) **IFAW / NWC Wildlife Rescue App update – A. Koosmen:** Email update received from IFAW detailing ongoing App promotional activities required. It is important that groups actively promote the App as IFAW budget does not allow for promotion. It was noted by IFAW that there was only one NWC group that actively promoted the previous App.
- 14) **IFAW corrections of errors aren't being done on the App – Move to Agenda item.**
- 15) **NWC Rehabilitator Grants update and voting – S. Norris and S. Watson**

Everyone has been distributed their Voting papers. It would be good if they were handed back today for voting. Jacquie Maisey will be assist Sandy Norris with Voting.

16) General Business: Submissions: Secretary – M. Ryan: After consultation with member groups and Chair, the Secretary has prepared and has lodged submissions to OEH for NWC on:

- Draft Flying-fox Camp Management Code of Practice on line 22/5/2018
- Review of the management of non-releasable native animals comment on proposed outcomes document 4/6/2018
- Towards a risk-based approach to wildlife licences under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016– 5/8/2018
- Comment OEH Translocation Operational Policy 8/8/2018

The Secretary noted there was a dearth of input from groups to these four submissions making these tasks difficult ones. She thanks those few who did contribute to the NWC submission and the two groups who sent their own submissions with a copy to NWC.

17) How do groups acknowledge volunteer input? S. Nethercott-Watson

What reward and recognition systems do organisations have in place to highlight, thank, profile, acknowledge their members and any comment on how effective they are in creating a positive and valued culture?

Port Stephens Koalas have a training accreditation achievement certificate. Life Membership.

Sydney Wildlife Achievement Award . Life Membership. Acknowledgment in *Board Bits*.

FAWNA Life Membership for extraordinary service; Annual Bryce Laut Members' Achievement Award voted on by membership; 10 year and 20 year certificates and citations.

FOK nominations externally; carer of the month; tree of fame;

HWR lots of photos in Newsletter thanking all members; acknowledging member of the month or rehabilitator of the month; however singling out individuals caused some problems.

18) Charitable Fundraising Authority No. CFN 20022 – Public Officer – M. Ryan: Now under delegation of the Minister responsible for Fair Trading NSW (instead of Liquor, Gaming and Racing). Renewal applied for and renewed until 1/9/2023. Previous NWC financial reporting did not have the required disclosures about charitable fundraising activities; however NWC has been approved after explaining the fundraising authority is maintained mainly to assist in securing grants.

19) Should all NWC Representatives and Alternates be active wildlife rehabilitators? – J. Maisey

After exchanges of opinion on this subject it was felt that it is the individual member groups' decision as to who is appropriate to represent their group whether that person is an active rehabilitator or one who deals with the management, governance or other aspect of their organisation. It was further felt that all types of people had something to bring to the table for the collective good.

20) Memoranda of Understanding with other groups – S. Watson

- How many wildlife groups have an MOU with a neighbouring group? Background given with difficulties in securing an MOU. Several members outlines types of arrangements with neighbouring or overlapping groups. It was mentioned that P. Stathis had recommended MOUs as a tool to avoid problems and provide certainty.

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Question asked whether Wires will develop MOUs with other groups. Recommended an approach should be made to the WIRES Board via the ⁴CEO.

- Do wildlife groups have a good relationship on the ground with neighbouring groups? Several groups outlined casual arrangements/agreements with adjoining or overlapping groups on animal rescue matters.
- Where there are overlapping operating areas, do wildlife groups have agreements with each other, to identify how wildlife issues are to be managed? See above dot point.
- To what extent have wildlife groups found cross border MOUs useful since they were recognised for the first time in the Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy in 2010?

21) Ongoing Wildlife Keeping Licensing (not rehabilitation) Stakeholder Meetings: A. Koosmen – S. Lorigan Next meeting 29 August 2018. A. Koosmen and S. Lorigan will attend.

Any other business:

22) Use of goat milk in wildlife rehab: A WRSC member is adamant that goat's milk is perfectly appropriate for rearing macropods. Groups who responded to this question are thanked for their responses. Response from G. Rich, Wombaroo, is that goat's milk is unsuitable for macropod use for a whole lot of reasons. ⁵R. Woodman will send analysis of goat's milk to S. Lorigan for comparison to the Macropod Code of Practice milk formula requirements.

23) Carmel Northwood – update on PSK hospital plans: Stage 1 of a rehabilitation facility has been open for 12 months. Funded with a \$150,000 grant and built on Port Stephens Council camp ground area that was losing money. Facility was needed because in the last 5 years the group had recruited one new home carer. Joint project with Port Stephens Council. Plans and diagrams made available for perusal. It could be used as a hospital. Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary. We need some permanent koalas to be a drawcard for tourism. Currently tourists do not treat wild koalas kindly and are creating an emergency situation with inappropriate disturbance for photographic opportunities. We believe if we have an education component we will get better support in the area, the local wildlife will be better funded, safer and locals can be encouraged to become involved with all fauna. It will also encourage Council to look more carefully at development applications that might affect koala welfare. Council will run a shop and camping facility. The whole project is a huge challenge and needs a lot more volunteers; and hopefully will encourage younger and committed carers. We believe this model will work well into the future and should help develop wildlife corridors and provide long term benefits to koalas. \$3 million funding secured. Need DPI licence to exhibit koalas. Number of koalas into care is plummeting. Previous efforts are not protecting the area's koalas and this is why this facility is so important. We have gone from 4 home carers to 90 active volunteers. Education and public awareness will be a prime activity and the hospital will collaborate with scientists and vets in future for diagnostic and necropsy type activities. Carmel was thanked for her update report.

24) Attendance at Biosecurity Round Table meeting 30-8-2018; Agenda was circulated – to be attended by Chair, representing NWC and HWR, and S. Lorigan for NWC.

25) Scoping paper and update on standardised koala training – A. Koosmen: Meeting in Port Macquarie with groups involved with Koalas including WIRES. Shona came along because of her time and commitment with the Codes. S. Lorigan believes the facilitation company was not best

⁴ Chair discuss MOU policies currently in place with Wires CEO

⁵ Woodman send analysis of goat's milk to S. Lorigan for further action

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chosen. Scoping paper came out for comment by attending stakeholders by 10 August. Comments from NWC have been sent in to OEH.

It is believed this process may be used as a template for training resource development for other species.

- 26) WWF Koala project:** Email from Stuart Blanch re. coming to speak to the NWC group about accessing koala data. PSK has concerns about how people interpret and analyse data. E.g. given earlier today about a coded “dog attack” which might have been a dog in a yard, not an attack. L. Vass comment: WWF are active with campaigns against land clearing particularly in Qld., using the koala as their motivational icon. This proposed project has been presented in an unfortunate manner, and shows no understanding of how the sector operates in NSW. P. Stathis’ stress on the importance of brokering partnerships might create divisions rather than cohesion. I am not against the project and will take it back to my group; I would suggest we go back to S. Blanch and suggest he start the process all over again as an issue about land clearing with harm to koalas as an overall issue. I would like to see WWF itself engage a project officer to investigate koala data.

Action: ⁶Chair to send email to Reps. Reps to go back to their groups and seek feedback by (date to be nominated) on provision of their group’s koala data and whether they want Stuart Blanch to speak to the NWC November meeting. AK advises Stuart Blanch feels November too late. Alternative suggestion that a meeting with appropriate NWC Representatives be convened. ⁷AK and Carmel Northwood might initially meet with S. Blanch.

Reps asked whether they were willing to give up their data – FAWNA (non koala) sees merit in sharing data provided acknowledgment is given and it is for legitimate research reasons. FAWNA has charged for data a few times when the project is a commercial one.

- 27) Kangaroo Management:** Changes to licences to harm kangaroos information for landholders: **8 August 2018 Fact sheet** detailing the number of kangaroos that can be shot under a licence was distributed to the meeting. It is available for download from www.environment.nsw.gov.au
- 28) Cathy Gilmore - Pelican photo of Pelican with a tag at Woy Woy** – anyone know who might have tagged one? AK advises some pelicans were wing-tagged in Newcastle Oil Spill. Secretary suggested Libby Hall Taronga Wildlife Hospital be consulted.
- 29) Elections at AGM.** Need people to take on tasks and complete in an appropriate time frame. Secretary finding it difficult to complete tasks when others aren’t meeting their deadlines or when tasks are carrying over many months. There have been several nominations for general committee positions – all positions are vacant.
- 30) Boundary Issues:** Linda Stoev WCNCW questioned whether anything been done about issues that some groups have? Advised that boundary matters between groups are not an NWC matter and it was suggested to wait until the accreditation strategy is announced to take further action.

Dates of next meetings:

AGM 13 Sun 26 August, 2018 – The Centre Randwick

⁶ Chair consult with groups on WWF koala data project

⁷ Chair consider meeting with S. Blanch and C. Northwood

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

AGM 14 Sun 17 August, 2019 – The Centre, Randwick

Meeting Close (time) 11.45 am

Signed/Chair.....Approved at General Meeting....Date...20-11-2018....

Action Item from May NWC General Meeting - Shared On-Line Resources - (Suzy Nethercott-Watson and Justine King)

Background

The notion of coming up with a place for Sharing Resources was founded on the back of a conversation about Constitution changes and whether NWC members could share some copies of their Constitutions to the group who raised the matter. This sparked a conversation about how good it would be to have relevant group documents available for people to access and how it would save the 'reinventing the wheel' again. An action was taken by a number of members to consider the matter back in mid 2017 and at the May 2018 meeting with no progress to report Suzy and Justine took on the task of looking at the matter.

Objective sought from the Action

The principle of providing people information and minimising repeated churn to create and draft similar documentation, is a noble principle. There is also the slightly competing principle of not creating a whole lot of work to provide a resource base for people that is high in time and effort to present, and keep current, which is not utilised and could have been served by enabling people to just ask at a NWC meeting or through the NWC member email network, for people to area relevant documents.

The solution could be phrased as a centralised pre-positioned set of documents option versus the 'ask as needed' just-in-time model.

If the centralised pre-positioned option was pursued it would be necessary to ask:

- What documents would it be best to share?
- Where would they be located?
- Who would be able to access these?
- How would they be managed for adding, removal or updating?
- What resources would be needed from NWC membership to help with the project?

Recommendation and Next Steps

It would less resource intensive and could be more targeted to be able to work on the 'ask as needed' just-in-time model and this would be the recommendation of Justine and Suzy having looked at this matter. There is however a possible circumstance in the near future where there may be benefit in having the centralised model stood up for a certain period of time and this is in light of the expected new Wildlife group accreditation that OEHL is developing.

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OEH has indicated that as part of their audit process they came across a number of what they would call 'good practise' examples of documents. In the new accreditation arrangements that OEH are developing it is assumed there will be the expectation that there is a baseline set of documents that an organisation may need to have.

We propose that we turn the 2017 general action into one which works with OEH to get copies of the documents they regard to be best practise, and will be relevant for accreditation, and establish a Google doc/dropbox or easy access equivalent as a way of NWC members gaining access.

If agreed by NWC Justine and Suzy will liaise with OEH to establish what documents would be relevant and would draft an outline for the next NWC meeting (or circulated prior if the accreditation process was moving quickly and such documents would be useful prior to then) on how access would work.

REPORT ON THE JULY FLYING-FOX CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Jacqueline Maisey

The meeting was attended by 10 members and 5 members contributed by phone hookup. The RSPCA will be invited to select a rep to join the Committee.

Update on the National Flying-fox Monitoring Program

The monitoring program has now been funded till 2020.

Discussion is underway with CSIRO to share data from the program.

CSIRO has been asked by the Commonwealth to display finer resolution data on the web viewer. CSIRO is also undertaking research on Flying-foxes in urban areas as well as research in Queensland on Little Red Flying-foxes.

There has been no progress since the March meeting on the GHFF Recovery Plan.

Update on parliamentary inquiry into flying foxes

The parliamentary inquiry into flying-foxes is still being developed by the Commonwealth. At a recent meeting of Environment Ministers, it was agreed that state jurisdictions would have input to the inquiry report.

Minister Frydenberg has again extended the time before a decision on up-listing the Spectacled Flying-fox to endangered will be announced.

Consultation on Wildlife licensing will close on the 24th July.

Flying fox Camp Management is the subject of a proposed COP.

The existing license arrangements for harming flying-foxes for commercial crops will be retained. Comments are welcome on any conditions that should accompany such licenses.

Analysis of the 99 submissions received is underway to inform the next draft of the COP

Flying foxes grant program and habitat restoration program

Some councils have an extension to allow works to be completed.

Chris Hudson will attend the next meeting and will be responsible for further work on the grants program as well as implementing phase 1 of the \$5 million habitat restoration program.

Update on progress to date

Matt Mo provided updates on two contracts to predict flying-fox roost habitat that may be occupied in the future near sensitive sites such as schools and hospitals.

Recommendations from the projects will guide the next phase of research.

The work will be used to form phase 1 of the habitat restoration program

Update on shooting licenses

NPWS will report on the data from the last 2 years in the next couple of months

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Kerryn Parry-Jones spoke on the dwindling capacity of flying fox rehabilitators to cope in the face of a constant stream of injured and undernourished flying foxes coming into care especially after heat events that now seem to happen every year in multiple locations.

Vanessa Williams from OEH will raise these issues with the Biodiversity and Wildlife Team in NPWS.

Health update provided by Keira Glasgow, NSW Health

The NSW annual zoonosis report found;

In 2017, 229 exposures to bats in Australia were reported by NSW residents, of which 219 required post exposure prophylaxis 96%.

Slightly over half were persons aged 40-70, 51%.

52% were males.

Occupation was reported for 184 exposures, of which 23% were considered at high risk, wildlife carers, vets, etc. The remainder were MOP's.

The majority of exposures were from megabats, 74%.

That's all till the next meeting in October where Meredith will take my place as I'll be away.