

NSW Wildlife Council – General Meeting No. 52 – MINUTES - 1000 hours  
Tuesday, 21 May, 1st Floor, 43 Bridge St., Hurstville Room 104

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Chair: Audrey Koosmen    MEETING OPEN: TIME: 10.10 A.M.

**PRESENT:**

Count	First	Surname	Group
1	Don	Eagleton	Australian Seabird Rescue-Alt
2	Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA
3	Ros	Irwin	Friends of the Koala
4	Audrey	Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF
5	Kate	Randolph	HWR-NATF-Alt
6	Brendan	Diacono	LAOKO-Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue
7	Shirley	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
8	Richard	Woodman	Native Animal Rescue Group-Alt
9	Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
10	Jacquie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
11	Leesa	Pratt	ORRCA-Alt
12	Murray	Black	Port Stephens Koalas-Alt
13	Sonja	Elwood	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife
14	Chris	Thompson	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife-Alt
15	Jenny	Weston	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
16	Suzy	Nethercott-Watson	Wildcare Queanbeyan
17	Jo	Kelly	Wildlife Aid-Alt
18	Jessi	Grace	Wildlife ARC-Alt
19	Linda	Stoev	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
20	Doug	Gallagher	Wildlife Rescue South Coast-Alt
21	Justine	King	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

**APOLOGIES**

Lorraine	Yudaeff	WINC
Kerryn	Parry-Jones	Wildlife ARC
Libby	Hall	Taronga Wildlife Hospital
Jacqueline	O'Neill	ORRCA

Welcome by Chair Audrey Koosmen and introduction of Guest Speaker, Matthew Crane, *Leader, Exhibited Animals Animal Welfare, Department of Primary Industries, Biosecurity and Food Safety.*

DPI and OEH Powerpoint presentation outline was presented by Robert Oliver, DPIE/OEH, to be sent with Minutes.<sup>1</sup>

Discussion re. Ethics Committee approvals and Exhibitor's licence followed the joint PowerPoint Presentation; this outlined approvals requirements for non-releasable rehabilitation animals used in group training courses and at community events as exhibits and for wildlife awareness.

Previous approvals no longer apply. Ethics Committee approvals need to be obtained for use of these animals in member training courses. An Exhibitors Licence needs to be obtained to use these animals in public or community activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Send Powerpoint with Minutes

DPI and DPIE representatives agreed to the meeting's request that a Decision Tree be drawn up<sup>2</sup> to clarify the licences required for unreleasable rehabilitation animals to be used in member training courses to demonstrate catching and handling techniques and initial assessment of wildlife intakes into rehabilitation.

Suggestion we go to DPIE to approach the Minister<sup>3</sup> for an exemption from the Exhibited Animal requirements for all NWC groups for public exhibited animals and animals used only in member training or both training and exhibits.

S. Elwood suggested for internal training Animals that she would be prepared to work on documentation for an ethics licensing application – groups would need to provide a brief CV for any person who would be handling these animals. (Ethics approval would be required for both categories).<sup>4</sup>

There are some activities already listed in exemptions and we need to look at where NWC groups may fit.

Some current activities of groups do not meet the approvals required. **The meeting was advised the current Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy July 2010 (Clause 25 dot point 2) no longer applies.**

Comment: From UNE and CSIRO you can only get 1 year approval and annual renewal is required.

**Action: NWC working party to be established<sup>5</sup>:** Sonja Elwood, Suzy Nethercott-Watson; Brendan Diacono will liaise to discuss Ethics and Exhibits licensing requirements for NWC member groups who may wish to use unreleasable animals for training and Public exhibition.

**At 12 noon** update briefing by R. Haering on Biodiversity Conservation Act (BCA) matters affecting the rehabilitation sector. Supported by Shona Lorigan and Hannah Ryan.

Ron is currently analysing the 60 submissions and 600 comments

Accreditation will go ahead. Several groups may be used as a trial to start. Licences will be renewed until 30/6/2020.

#### ***Notes from discussions:***

80/20 rule - memberships outside area. The 2011 Policy Review tried to provide wriggle room for groups to accept non-resident members with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with neighbouring group/s. There are already people outside some groups'

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<sup>2</sup> DPI and DPIE Crane/Oliver prepare Decision Tree

<sup>3</sup> NWC Committee consider Ministerial approach for exemptions for unreleasable animals

<sup>4</sup> SE and all groups explore approach for blanket approval licence

<sup>5</sup> SE, SNW, BD establish working group

boundaries and it was felt there needs to be flexibility that might allow up to 20% of a membership to be resident in a neighbouring area. It will need more discussion whether to accept 20% or another percentage. Some groups could be opposed to the idea and all points of view will be listened to. The example was given of a rehabilitator not wanting to adhere to the standard of rules and regulations of one group and preferring to become a member of a neighbouring group that did not enforce the same high standards.

Powerpoint presentation with an update to Koala Genetic project – Shona Lorigan will forward for distribution to groups<sup>6</sup>. The funding available to groups for koala rescue equipment is based on reported koalas in the 2014-2018 period.

There will be \$1.2 M funding over 3 years coming to the whole rehabilitation sector – not from the koala allocation.

- 1) **Confirmation of the Minutes: Motion:** That the Minutes of the 19 February 2019 General Meeting No. 51 are a true and correct record. Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: R. Irwin: **Carried**

2) **Business Arising from the Minutes (not previously distributed):**

	<u><b>ACTION</b></u>	<u><b>RESULT</b></u>
1	S. Nethercott-Watson to seek report from JFitzGerald from NCC Conference	Action will not be completed - remove
2	Secretary invite OEH Firearms personnel to May GM	Deferred due DPI invite-invite to August GM Action <sup>7</sup>
3	Secretary contact groups asking them to send in NIL returns for seasnakes when OEH requests any updates	No update requests received
4	Secretary offer Policy Docs to member groups.	No requests
5	Secretary distribute follow up Forests survey when received	Under discussion
6	Secretary to ask groups to provide Media contact lists to Media Officer	Rqst via Minutes <sup>8</sup>

3) **Ongoing activities awaiting BCA details**

**Shared Resource List:** Suzy Nethercott-Watson and Justine King

This activity is awaiting recommendations from the BC Act Rehabilitation licensing “Discussion Paper/Strategy doc”. SNW<sup>9</sup> – will prepare a list of the documents required in the checklist.

4) **Correspondence.** Circulated to groups as received.

<sup>6</sup> Secy distribute presentation

<sup>7</sup> Secy invite firearms personnel

<sup>8</sup> Reminder **all groups** to provide media officer with your media contacts list

<sup>9</sup> SNW prepare document list as required for checklist

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**Other:** Changes to member representation or details are included in new membership list distributed - R. Woodman appointed Alt delegate to Native Animal Rescue Group.

Vale Jill Dean – tributes from members.

Invitation to OEH Firearms Ben Russell or Grant Eccles to address May NWCV General meeting on NPWS training and protocols was deferred in favour of DPI invited to speak on any changes to authorisations for non-releasable animals for groups' member training and community education. Russell and Eccles will be invited to GM in August.

Sydney Wildlife (25/2/19) forwarding SMWS Vet Manual for vet training consultations.

Matthew Crane DPI Invitation (7 April) to attend GM52.

OEH – NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy – Release of documentation. Consultation Draft Comment from NWC.

S. Nethercott-Watson 27/4/2019 – Two Green Threads launch notification  
[twogreenthreads.org](http://twogreenthreads.org)

**Reformed Peak Body** – communication from Wildlife Rescue South Coast 12/5/2019 Letter advised to meeting. RH was concerned why OEH was not involved in this. He advises OEH will go ahead with the Strategy and what it says.

**Discussion points on this topic included:**

There were expressions of dismay about the manner in which this matter is progressing.

Linda Stoev WCNCW advised she has joined the group. S. Elwood and C. Thompson also, representing Sydney Wildlife. ORRCA also had joined.

Meeting was reminded other groups are representing their own groups, not the NWC.

One member described awkwardness of being a NWC Rep and part of the group.

Why are WIRES not in NWC? If we want a peak body it has to represent all of the sector. People do not understand why WIRES split from the group. Opinion expressed "I believe they have 46% of the total volunteers in NSW. Giving them equal representation might bring them back on line".

Support expressed for strengthening of peak body. If we want a peak body it has to represent all.

Why would WRSC be the body to institute the reform to the peak body?

What is behind this, who is behind this?

Opinion given that one group one vote is unrepresentative. It was explained that the original NWC-steering committee spent at least 6 months in formulating the method of representation and voting.

Opinion expressed that if no reform to the NWC is evident, looking at the Draft Strategy, DPIE will form a different peak body.

Concern expressed about what would happen to Insurance organised for all groups, the rehabilitator grants and all the good things NWC does in its current form? NWC and WIRES have worked well together in the BC Act stakeholder meetings and in Code of Practice development.

It was recognised that a lot of things could improve but that is unlikely purely on personnel capacity while NWC depends on the volunteer unfunded labour from people already taking responsible positions in their own groups.

What is the objective? New set up under a different flag – how would it be?

When the Council first started it was suggested other non-rehabilitation sector people / organisations come on to the NWC group – RSPCA, DPI, AWL, Scientists, etc – it was all knocked back – the group at the time was formed only for rehabilitators. An Advisory Board would have ancillary people, not just the rehab sector. Is this now the time for change?

Will Government give us a model if we can't unify? It does not appear that DPIE is wanting to push us into a model but might provide one if there is no reform action. The current approach by NWC outsiders seems divisive. Reading the strategy it appears that a reformed peak body is going to be unified under a different model if accord is not possible. Opinion expressed it is not such an issue where the proposal came from; achieving a unified body that incorporates all groups is the important outcome. The Chair outlined the many attempts to bring WIRES back to the NWC membership

It is great that someone took the initiative which was good but resistance has come from there being no initial liaison with NWC. The timing is surprising and of concern due to expecting a draft proposal by mid-July. How do we bring that shared interest back together in an engaged way with NWC? Can the reform group come to the next meeting and give a presentation with proposals? Bad way of presenting the initial letter; written to NWC but sent to all groups with 2 weeks' notice for action.

It was felt finalising the accreditation process is far more important than work on a reformed peak body. Focus of the group needs to be on the former – a higher priority. OEH also agreed this was a higher priority.

Why doesn't NWC employ a facilitator to sit down with all interested parties to brainstorm ideas from all?

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The focus has been on wildlife rehabilitation groups and affiliates. RSPCA, and other bodies like Wombat Protection Society could be included as affiliate organisations in a reformed group. We need to get more people like that on board.

Is this the forum to discuss the recommended makeup? How do we go forward now? Believe RSPCA etc would dilute our message.

Let's not waste time and energy to appease people. Let's put our energy into important things that we need to get done in a fairly short time.

Propose: That NWC writes to WRSC to offer assistance in the process to work together to facilitate a unified peak body . Proposal abandoned

Suzy Nethercott-Watson proposed: That NWC offers to facilitate a workshop to be held in October 2019 to bring together the ideas for a unified peak body. Seconded Murray Black  
**Carried**

*[Not part of Minutes) Available dates The Centre, Randwick - accommodation and the lower conference hall available on 5th & 6th October 2019 OR Accommodation and lower conference room on the 12th October 2019 (not Sunday 13th)]*

**Chair stated the importance that members take back to their groups that we share wishes for reform that unite the rehabilitation sector and hopefully with all working at the same table.**

**-EDNA Citizen science – Justine King**

Liaison taking place with Melbourne Water to see how things might get started in NSW. A great way of identifying presence of species previously unknown in the area.

**OEH Saving Our Species – Translocation Policy review advised to Reps.**

**5) Chair Report:** Presented and attached to Minutes. Moved for Acceptance: A. Koosmen; seconded Ros. Irwin **Carried**

**6) Treasurer's report.** Treasurer's report was presented, and has been circulated to group via email and appended to Minutes.

Proposed: Treasurer's report is accepted S. Lack, seconded L. Stoev; **Carried**

All travel claims need to be submitted by 1 June.

**7) Insurance Officer Report – M. Ryan –**

- Two volunteer insurance claims involving loss of income and allowable medical and incidental expenses are progressing satisfactorily. One claimant has had repeat surgery and the other has not yet reached physiotherapy limit for treatment.

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- Two Association Liability matters have been notified to the Insurer resulting in claims files being opened. One is proceeding and the other is dormant.

**8) Media Officer Report – S. Elwood:** Thanked FAWNA and SMWR for their media contacts. Please all groups send their media list.

Media Officer has been invited back to reinterview on the Forest Research Policy.

In last 3 months Facebook up by 30% again – Likers 1487, followers 1525. 3 top posts 16/4 artificial hollows 7500 likes 133 shares; 2<sup>nd</sup> about NWC compassion fatigue 4900 people reached 73 people shared; 3<sup>rd</sup> 6/3 netting post 4400 likes with 72 shares. Koala post has a life of its own – 1000 people on that.

**9) Codes of Practice Update: Chair:** Marine Reptile development workshop will be held in Port Macquarie on June 4/5. To update the guidelines for stranding of marine reptiles in New South Wales

**10) Nature Conservation Council Report :** FOK is co-hosting the regional conference in Lismore on 22 and 23 June.

**11) Biodiversity Conservation Act Stakeholders Meetings update: A. Koosmen:** Meeting was cancelled. Mentioned in Chair Report regarding rehabilitation groups not wanting to be the First Responders to unwanted native reptile pets.

**12) Flying-fox Consultative Committee Report – J. Maisey :** February meeting report tabled by J. Maisey see P4.

**13) 2019-2020 NWC Rehabilitator Equipment Grants Scheme:** It was agreed to continue the Grants Scheme and Sandy Norris and Jacquie Maisey would accept the primary organisational role supported by the Secretary and Treasurer; Proposed total budget of \$10,000 for grants to a maximum value of \$2000. One grant of \$2000 from the budget may be awarded to a group. Proposed: R. Irwin; seconded L. Stoev **Carried**

**14) EDNA Citizen science – briefing note P4/5: Justine King, Wildlife Rescue South Coast** covered in correspondence

**15) Data Officers' Meeting** to review the Data sheet for Fauna Rehabilitators – 20/5/19: Outcomes will be published to groups in due course.

**16) IFAW / NWC Wildlife Rescue App update:** Nil report and the matter will be <sup>10</sup>pursued and advised to Reps.

**17) Where to from here? Reformed Peak Body** working group or facilitated workshop to review the Council? See notes pages 2-6.

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<sup>10</sup> Secy enquire App progress of IFAW

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**18) Project Officer and Future Funding:** Theoretical at this stage? This topic can be pursued after the release of comments on the Strategy discussion paper.

**19) General Business items: Requests for resources: J. King, WRSC**

i) Does any group have a copyright/IP policy and release form for donors to sign when they give us their photos, designs, flyers, etc. ORRCA asks owner of photo how they want to deal with photo donations. FAWNA attempts always to acknowledge name of photographer if requested.

ii) what do other groups use for transport of species? Does any other rescue groups have an all in one document for members they can share? It was suggested the Department of Justice template might suit..

**Other:**

**Vet meeting at Taronga** was really worthwhile and well run. Good information will come from it and a lot of interest shown in the online training proposal.

**Meeting Close 3.40 p.m.**

**Signed/Chair** Original signed A. Koosmen **Date 17-08-2019**

**Dates of next meetings:**

**GM 53 Sat 17 August, 2019 – The Centre, Randwick**

**AGM 14 Sun 18 August, 2019 – The Centre, Randwick**

**FLYING FOX CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 2019 MEETING**

**ITEM 12: REPORT TO NWC GENERAL MEETING No. 52 – 21 May 2019**

The following are points that were raised at this meeting and that are in progress and should be completed by our next meeting.

- 1 A heat event management document is being produced
- 2 Help for vaccination subsidies through the Environmental Trust and other programs are being investigated.
- 3 NSW is working with Queensland Parks to develop heat stress guidelines.
- 4 Follow up with NPWS and report on possible next step for cross jurisdiction cooperation.
- 5 Follow up with HSI meetings with Queensland for export/import licenses for flying foxes.

The question of machinery use close to flying-fox camps was discussed and under the COP for Flying-Fox Camp Management there is no specified distance from the camp but the council must use the quietest machinery that is appropriate. Part 2 (6) (6)

The company Ecosure is no longer leading the development of heat stress guidelines. The Queensland Department of Environment and Science is working with CSIRO and others partly in response to the recent mortality of spectacled flying-foxes.

Environmental Trust has made available \$5 million for a 10 year habitat restoration project for flying-foxes. An Advisory Group has been established to develop a program and had its first meeting in November 2018. Any program has to be approved by the Trust before work can commence.

6 suspected cases of Hendra in the previous 6 months, since September 2018, 1 positive. None of the horses

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were vaccinated.

48 lyssavirus exposures in NSW since January 1st, 2 elsewhere. Of the 50 exposures in Australia 32 were members of the public. There were 9 bats reported having symptoms of ABLyssavirus however, only 3 tested positive.

2 shooting licenses issued, Only 1 was used and reported 3 dead.

An increasing number of GHFF's was reported in Batlow and Tumut. Severe hailstorm reported around Orange before Christmas, increasing bird and ff damage reported. DPI to investigate and report back.

Parliamentary inquiry into ff's is expected about the middle of the year.

Spectacled flying-foxes were transferred to the Endangered category on 15th February 2019.

The Commonwealth is working with the Queensland government to evaluate the recent heat stress event.

***Jacqueline Maisey, NWC Representative***