

NSW Wildlife Council – General Meeting No. 53 – MINUTES - 1000 hours
Saturday, 17 August, 2019 - The Centre, 14 Frances St, Randwick, NSW

Chair: Audrey Koosmen MEETING OPEN: TIME: 10 A.M.

	<u>First</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Group</u>
<u>Present</u>			
1	Lisa	Hood	Australian Seabird Rescue
2	Meredith	Ryan	F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) Inc
3	Ros	Irwin	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	Richard	Woodman	Native Animal Rescue Group-Alt
8	Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
9	Jacquie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
10	Jacqueline	O'Neill	ORRCA
11	Leesa	Pratt	ORRCA-Alt
12	Carmel	Northwood	Port Stephens Koalas
13	Jenny	Weston	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
14	Linda	Stoev	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
15	Suzy	Nethercott-Watson	Wildcare Queanbeyan
16	Meg	Pittman	Wildlife Aid
17	Peter	Rodd	Wildlife in Need of Care
18	Doug	Gallagher	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

Visitors NPWS & IFAW

Peter	Stathis	Manager, Biodiversity & Wildlife Unit
Hannah	Ryan	Project Officer
Shona	Lorigan	Project Officer
Josey	Sharrad	IFAW
Bek	Thompson-Jones	IFAW

Apologies

Don	Eagleton	Australian Seabird Rescue
Julia	Rose	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Brendan	Diacono	Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue-LAOKO
Sonja	Elwood	Sydney Wildlife
Justine	King	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
Jo	Kelly	Wildlife Aid

Welcome by Chair Audrey Koosmen, including new members and introduction of DPIE and IFAW visitors.

Standing orders suspended for discussion with Mr. Peter Stathis and DPIE on Wildlife Reforms progress. There is a separate “Notes of Discussions” report.

Lunch break – Meeting reconvened 1.43 pm - Adjustment to Agenda item order.

Item 16 inserted here. IFAW / NWC Wildlife Rescue App update:

A more detailed report of discussions is included in the GM53 summary report.

IFAW reported on reasons for the delay in App being ready only for I Phones at this stage but android testing will be completed soon.

Promotional materials will be produced soon and groups encouraged to publicise widely once the App is fully up and running.

The IFAW budget is fully expended and costs have been about \$60K to date. Any added costs for extra functionality might need to be funded separately and the Chair advised NWC could consider this if costs are known.

Questions from the floor covered the subjects of Log in of Dead or Injured animal; access to “back end” data, and the need for collection of koalas whether dead or alive for genetic sampling and scanning for any microchip or permanent identification.

Thanks given to IFAW for their perseverance in putting the App together. It is a great tool and of immeasurable benefit to get help to native animals that need it.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes: Motion:** That the Minutes of the 21 May 2019 General Meeting No. 52 are a true and correct record. Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: Ros Irwin;
Minutes Confirmed

2. **Business Arising from the Minutes (not appearing as separate Agenda item):**
 - DPIE Firearms personnel – visit to speak to NWC delayed due to DPIE WL update. It was decided to cancel the idea of having them visit NWC at this time.
 - Media contacts – have these been provided to Media Officer? Group reminded.
 - Documents for shared resource list – after discussion it was decided this task is now going to be replaced by the NPWS Project Officer.
 - Wildlife Rescue App update– Josey Sharrad and Bek Thompson-Jones will be addressing meeting

3. **Correspondence.** Circulated to groups as received.

Other: Changes to member representation or details are included in new membership list distributed –

RRANA Helen Semmens – appointed Rep;

WINC Peter Rodd Rep and Raymond Morrow Alt

Australian Seabird Rescue Lisa Hood Rep

NSW Corrections Greg Saunders advises no longer involved with Wildlife Care Centre.

Secretary will leave the Corrections Alt position vacant.

Application for Membership to be considered: Nominees required.

Sunraysia Wildlife Carers Group Lic. MWL101408 Pres Shane Crowhurst; Secretary Lisa Crowhurst. Victorian border to meet RRANA West to SA border East to Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Rivers. Outline map provided showing all boundaries.

Moved S. Nethercott-Watson that NWC accept Sunraysia Wildlife Carers Group application for membership to the NWC Seconded P. Rodd - **Carried**

Secretary to write accepting membership and seeking all other information needed to include on NWC insurance and listings.

Reformed Peak Body – communication from Wildlife Rehabilitation Reform Working Party (Peak Body) Update – June 2019 appended to Agenda. **See Item 17.**

4. Chair Report: To be presented and attached to Minutes.

Proposed for Acceptance: A. Koosmen; seconded: K. Randolph **Carried**

5. Treasurer’s report. Treasurer’s report was emailed to group, and amended report will be appended to Minutes.

Proposed: Treasurer’s report as presented at meeting and attached to Minutes is accepted
S. Lack, Seconded: L. Stoev **Carried**

6. Insurance Officer Report – M. Ryan –

- One volunteer insurance claim involving loss of income and allowable medical and incidental expenses has reached its time limit and is closed.
- Awaiting advice from Broker re. open claim for repeat surgery.
- Two Association Liability matters have been notified to the Insurer resulting in claims files being opened. One remains open with a September deadline and the other has not continued.
- Associations Liability Insurance Policy has been temporarily extended while the Insurer is scrutinising the information provided by groups (update requested prior to General meeting) Policy extended until 28 August. PSK was advised as they are a Company and not an Association they are not covered and this will be verified with the Insurer and the answer confirmed in writing.
- Certificates of Currency for both Public and Products Liability and Volunteers Accident insurance have been provided to groups for year ending 30 June 2020.

7. Media Officer Report – S. Elwood: Nil report

8. Codes of Practice Update: Chair/S. Lorigan: Marine Reptile development workshop was held in Port Macquarie on June 4 and 5 The Draft COP is at Version 3.

9. Nature Conservation Council Report : Nil report

10. Biodiversity Conservation Act Stakeholders Meetings update: A. Koosmen: covered in separate Chair Report

11. Flying-fox Consultative Committee Report – J. Maisey : 13 June meeting report appended to Agenda was distributed to the Reps email line on 1 July 2019.

On 14 October there has been a Heat Stress Event meeting convened in Sydney from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. J. Maisey and M. Ryan attending

Groups wished to put their names forward to attend and these were:

A Koosmen, J. Hopper, HWR,
Peter Rodd, WINC,
A delegate from WRSC;
Jo Kelly, Wildlife Aid
Wendy Attrill NRW

Meeting advised that it may not be appropriate at this time to include all those extra persons and Jacquie Maisey will query with M. Roache.

- 12. 2019-2020 NWC Rehabilitator Equipment Grants Scheme – S. Norris and J. Maisey:** 15 eligible grant applications were received by the closing date. 2 late entries were received and were not considered by the Grants Team. Thanks given to the Grants Team for organising the program this year.

- 13. Wildlife Rehabilitation permanent care animals. Animal welfare legal requirements -** Update on applicability and action under Animal Research Act 1985 and Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986. – S. Nethercott-Watson supported by other working group members; Sonja Elwood and Brendan Diacono were unable to be present.

2 potential legislative layers – permanent care animals used in training, and for displays. The first the Research Act applies; the Exhibited Animals Protection Act applies to the second. A paper has previously been distributed to group explaining proposals. Teleconference unsuccessfully attempted to argue that the logic is flawed. NWC has tried many different angles to demonstrate these flaws. We are trying to stop an extensive paperwork trail every year for no benefit to the animal. The Executive will organise a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture. We may not get very far in relation to animals' use that is covered by the Exhibited Animals Protection Act. We are going to apply for an exemption. Any group that has not sent in information on any use of permanent care animals please do so quickly.

Thanks were given to Suzy for her tenacity in following up this issue.

- 14. Wombat Strategy – Linda Stoev, WCNCW**

Creating a strategy to combat mange in wombat populations – can we start the conversation? *Background paper was emailed to group 11/8/2019*

Due to the massive amount of work being done in the field on mange this subject is already started. S. Nethercott-Watson advised Wombat Protection Society has initiated a mange symposium at the end of this month to stop the fragmentation that is happening at the moment. There is a lot of work that is going on. NWC can take action following the symposium to advise what programs are available and where stakeholders can join forces and what groups can do to initiate programs in their own areas. Landcare is an option for

help on ground with programs. The NWC could become involved to take a proposal to the Minister. RW, NARG – The use of Cydectin is incredibly labour intensive. Need regular doses and humans to apply it. Very demanding work in often difficult terrain.

It would be precipitate to recommend further actions prior to the WPS symposium

15. Data Officers' Meeting to review the Data sheet for Fauna Rehabilitators – update. It is noted that groups have not yet been forwarded the reporting templates for the 2018-2019 reporting year. Hannah Ryan covered this in her discussion.

16. Where to from here? Reformed Peak Body working group or facilitated workshop to review the Council? This meeting to discuss way forward following the suggestion for an October facilitated strategic planning meeting. Facilitated by whom?

Members have received the communications that have gone out for the Reform Group set up independently. Trying to understand where we are going.

Agenda Items submitted (L. Pratt) on this topic include:

- Vision for NWC in 2020
- Plans and strategy for working through OEH survey feedback/changes/recommendations
- Meeting frequency and options moving forward – are there options for virtual meetings? Something for incoming committee to decide.
- Committee roles and responsibilities, any changes? What's involved?
- Advisory board Vs New Peak Body Vs Reforming the NWC - any developments?
- WIRES and any strategic plans to engage them to move the sector forward.
AK believe it is important that the new NWC committee attempt to engage with WIRES at Board level to hear their thoughts and fears contact via the CEO. Chair will make contact.
LP JO'N believe WIRES will not come back to the group on the present arrangement. There needs to be direct meetings.
RW We need to retain focus on the desire to reunite with WIRES rather than have a separate Advisory Body and maintain our focus on the wish to make it happen.
SNW Timing – great initiative – but timing was unfortunate before we know what is happening with our licensing arrangements. NWC was not formally approached to be part of the working group.

Motion: That the NSW Wildlife Council recognises the best value for wildlife and wildlife groups is to have a united Peak Body to represent the sector.
Proposed Suzy Nethercott-Watson; Seconded C. Northwood **Carried**

- Plans on opposing the 'one number' OEH or now DPIE wish to impose on our sector.
This topic was discussed during the talks with P. Stathis NPWS and summarised separately.

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- Strengthening the Volunteer Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Sector, how can we all help do this? Between each other and to the public?
- How can we boost the NWC and what its vision and mission is?
- Look for ways to better fund the Volunteer Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Sector, how can we all help do this?
- Increase support and encourage members to participate in all NWC meetings, actions and activities. How can we do this?

17. Location of future NWC Meetings when DPIE relocates to Parramatta.

- Is it feasible for people who fly to travel to Parramatta for a meeting without requiring accommodation?
 - What parking is available
 - What is local area accommodation cost?
 - Would The Centre be a more practical venue for meetings?
- Meeting was agreeable that The Centre would be an appropriate venue for future NWC meetings.

Action: The Treasurer will investigate availability and cost of meeting dates and accommodation availability at The Centre, Randwick and make the appropriate reservations.

Meeting Close 4.30 p.m.

Signed/Chair.....Date.....

Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday 19 November 2019 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 54 – 43 Bridge St Hurstville NPWS

Tuesday 18 February 2020 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 55 - The Centre Randwick

Tuesday 19 May 2020 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 56 – The Centre Randwick

Saturday 15 August 2020 - 10 a.m. General Meeting 57 – The Centre Randwick

Sunday 16 August 2020 – 9 a.m. Annual General Meeting 15 – The Centre Randwick

Tuesday 17 November 2020 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 58 – The Centre Randwick

Attachments:

CHAIR REPORT – AUDREY KOOSMEN

I would like to welcome our new member Repts present today to the NWC Lisa Hood, Australian Seabird Rescue and Peter Rodd, Wildlife In Need of Care. It is nice to see new faces and I thank Cathy Gilmore and Lorraine Yudaeff for their time on NWC. Two new members who can't be here today are Helen Semmens, Rep from RRANA in Broken Hill and Raymond Morrow, alternate delegate for Wildlife in Need of Care WINC. You are both welcome to the NWC group.

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It has been another busy year and somewhat confusing as we do not know where we are going in the rehab sector and we hope we will hear more from DPIE as to what is happening in the sector at our meeting today. We have reported on the closure of the Office of Environment and Heritage and it being subsumed into the larger super Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, now referred to as DPIE.

All these changes have led to a fractured twelve months, with the scheduled Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BCA) Wildlife Rehabilitation Reform process delayed considerably from the proposed time frame for announcements. It was expected the strategy and accreditation announcements would come soon after the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in July 2018, but the materials were not released until March 2019 for a 6 week consultation period. In this delayed process rehabilitation licenses expiring 30 June 2019 were extended by another 12 months.

The upside is that NWC groups will have more time to ensure systems are in place that will satisfy the accreditation requirements in the 42 point accreditation checklist. We hope that DPIE will identify group governance documents that will meet their accreditation scrutiny; NWC has asked groups that are willing to share materials with other NWC groups to save much duplication of effort and reinventing the wheel. The added workload of the Reform process to groups has caused much angst among volunteers tasked with meeting new and unclear standards of governance. It is a time-consuming process for incorporated associations to change governance procedures. In the main these need special approvals at Special General Meetings convened for the purpose and for which appropriate notice has been given to all members.

Stakeholder Meetings during the year have concentrated on Animal Keeping matters and the animal welfare organisations have joined with both the NWC and WIRES in expressing their concerns that relaxation of controls on species able to be kept could lead to unintentional bad animal welfare outcomes. The need for public education programs has been highlighted throughout the consultation process. I must say it has been heartening that NWC and WIRES have been able to network effectively, supporting each other's views on many of the issues raised. We hope that current moves will result in WIRES re-joining NWC so the Peak Body can truly represent all licensed rehabilitators and groups in NSW. It has been mutually agreed that rehabilitation groups do not want to be left with the cost and responsibility of housing and caring for animals that have been seized for numerous reasons.

The Wildlife as Pets subject reared its somewhat confrontational head during the year and both NWC and WIRES mounted campaigns against any proposals to relax the protections currently afforded to native wildlife species. In February we were hit by the bombshell that permanent care animals currently retained under OEH approval by rehab groups for member training and community education purposes may be subject to approvals from Department of Primary Industries DPI/Animal Ethics Committees, and not by OEH as published in the Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy July 2010. This matter was explored with DPI at the May NWC meeting and a NWC Sub Committee is currently looking at processes and a way forward to formalise procedures under the Animal Research and the Exhibited Animals Protection Acts.

Through NWC's participation in the Flying-fox Consultative Committee the subject of Camp Heat Stress response has arisen. There is the belief that the Guidelines published for South East Queensland are not appropriate for NSW conditions and Kerryn Parry-Jones has been tasked with further work. There is a meeting of numerous Federal and State Government Agencies, local government, animal welfare and rehabilitation interests scheduled for October to address heat stress response in flying-fox camps. Jacquie Maisey and Meredith Ryan have contributed to the FFCC during the year and Kerryn Parry-Jones is a member in her own recognisance. Kerryn has invited groups to participate in a flying-fox study to ascertain the degrees of conflict between Black and Grey-headed flying foxes.

Other research projects that NWC groups have contributed to or participated in include:

- genetic sampling of koalas
- study looking for antibiotic resistance found in wildlife faecal samples (scoop a poop)
- Q Fever testing
- provision of macropod roadkill statistics
- mental health of wildlife rehabilitators
- cost of wildlife rehabilitation
- National Flying-fox Camp Monitoring Project

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- Forests survey
- EDNA Citizens Science

Statistical Officers and representatives from various groups met at the behest of DPIE to discuss ways to revise the current report template for rehabilitation animals rescued and taken into rehabilitation. Results from that meeting on 20 May have not been published.

The \$10000 budget for Rehabilitator enclosure & equipment grants process continues in 2019.

A Marine Reptile Code of Practice development workshop was convened by DPIE and held in Port Macquarie on 4 and 5 June including representatives from the NWC coastal groups that are licensed to rescue marine reptiles and marine turtles. Shona Lorigan, DPIE Project Officer, facilitated the workshop and following further individual consultations with participants the resulting Draft Code of Practice is at Draft 3 stage. Again the networking opportunities were much appreciated by all participants.

All groups that are licensed for Koalas have been offered funding from the Koala Strategy budget. This funding is for equipment from a prescribed list that will help koala rescue and care. We hope that all groups took up the funding offer.

Telephone rescue lines for many of the NWC groups were severely curtailed or interrupted due to Telstra withdrawing a vital divert capability due to "incompatibility with NBN". This resulted in patchy service being offered by affected groups and much concern. The NWC Secretary was able to help resolve the stalemate by convincing Telstra the importance of the features they had withdrawn without proper notice. After considerable communication inter-group, most were made aware of the problem and how to overcome it. The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman was of invaluable assistance. Many groups have now transported to less expensive communications technology that offers what they need.

Our Media Officer, Sonja Elwood, has kept members on Facebook up to date with matters of interest to the wildlife rehabilitation cohort. Rod and Meredith have updated the Webpage with stories pertinent to our sector.

The Management Team has worked hard in what has been a fractured year, waiting for decisions on the pathway forward under the Biodiversity Conservation Act wildlife rehabilitation strategy, and I thank VC Jacquie Maisey, Treasurer Shirley Lack, Secretary Meredith Ryan, and Sonja Elwood, Suzy Nethercott-Watson, and Linda Stoev for their commitment to NWC.

I would like to thank the NWC member representatives and alternates for their participation through the year, whether by attendance at meetings or involvement in email debates on various topics, or in taking on specific tasks. Our colleagues at OEH, now DPIE, have had their own difficulties with staff recruitment, and negotiating their way forward with departmental changes, state elections, and planning for the premises move to Parramatta. We must remember that wildlife rehabilitation makes up just one small part of the Wildlife Team's overall responsibilities. We have valued DPIE's attendance at our quarterly meetings to update NWC on the process forward and while we would like to speed it up to add certainty to our forward planning we thank all NWC members for their patience through this drawn out reform process.

We trust that the future will see a unified Peak body for wildlife rehabilitators and that is what DPIE and NWC are working towards through the reform strategy under the BCA.

Audrey Koosmen – 14 August 2019

Wildlife Rehabilitation Reform Working Party (Peak Body) Update – JUNE 2019

I have been asked to write to you to advise

that the Wildlife Rehabilitation Reform

Working Party met for the first time on

Thursday June 20. The group is a true working

- Leanne Taylor - WIRES
- Chris Thompson – Sydney Wildlife
- Peter Southwell – WIRES

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party and plans to disband once its final report is completed. Present at the meeting were: (in alphabetical order)

- Steve Amesbury – Coordinator
- Sonja Elwood – Sydney Wildlife
- Justine King – Wildlife Rescue South Coast

Coast

- Kristie Newton – WIRES
- Leesa Pratt – ORRCA
- Linda Stoev – Wildlife Carers

Network Central West

Apologies:

- Anne Cherry – Wildlife Rescue South Coast
- Jacqueline O’Neill – ORRCA
- John Marshall - WCNCW

These organisations agreed it would be helpful to engage in a dialogue to consider the options available in light of OEH advice that it would deal either with a unified, reformed peak body or appoint an advisory board, which (for OEH purposes) would replace the peak body as their key partner in the roll-out of the strategy.

Through these discussions, the participating organisations hope to gain a more informed view of the options, and the benefits, opportunities, risks threats associated with each option. The working party will eventually summarise the pros and cons of each option, and make recommendations, primarily for the benefit of their management boards/committees. The working party is happy to share the results, so that other stakeholders can consider the options being proposed.

The meetings are collaborative, and not considered confidential. If you would like information, you are welcome to discuss with any of the participants. If any other groups wish to engage with the process as participants, or to provide additional input, or just to receive updates and/or information please let me know, and that will be communicated to the working party without delay.

In its first meeting, the working party focussed on:

- Identifying our stakeholders, and their needs / expectations
- Questioning whether now is the appropriate time to begin the process
- Identifying the drivers for change (beyond the obvious OEH requirement)
- Briefly discussed how some of us envisaged the “future state” – i.e. what would the ‘ideal’ outcome might look like, and how would it differ from today.

There was a unanimous decision to continue the dialogue. At the next meeting we will focus on the available options, and the associated benefits, drawbacks, opportunities and risks. While the broader discussion on Thursday touched on options, no detail was gone into.

Regards,

Signed Steve Amesbury On behalf of The Wildlife Rehabilitation Reform Working Party



NSW Wildlife Council Inc.
Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian wildlife

FLYING-FOX CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - Thursday 13th June 2019
HELD AT – Goulburn Street, Sydney

Mike Roache OEH will follow up with the Queensland Government about plans to develop heat stress guidelines.

The Queensland government is planning to engage CSIRO to develop science-based heat stress response guidelines.

Vanessa Wilson OEH will continue to work with Queensland government on getting cross-jurisdiction between states for emergencies in flying fox colonies.

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License conditions for Eurobodalla Water Gardens will be looked into and discussed at the next meeting.

OEH will request the Commonwealth send a rep to each meeting, so far they haven't sent a rep and some questions by the committee can only be answered by their office.

There are large influxes of flying foxes to the south coast of NSW and into Centennial Park.

OEH has engaged a communications agency to develop materials to help council staff and affected residents in the case of severe stress resulting from flying fox camp influx.

Eurobodalla, Byron and Tweed Shire Councils are testing the completed model for communication for Shire staff.

The Environmental Trust has provided \$5 million for a 10 year habitat restoration program for flying foxes. An advisory group has been established to develop the program for approval by the Trust.

The Saving our Species (SOS) project is nearing completion. In the coming year, OEH will work to ensure priority camps have camp management plans, and ideally heat stress response guidelines.

There has been 6 flying-foxes test positive for ABLV so far this year, more than all 2018. All exposures were to vaccinated carers. They were 2 little reds and a GHFF in the Hunter, 2 in the Illawarra, 1 GHFF from the Tablelands and 1 on the Mid North Coast.

The first case of Hendra was confirmed in a horse in the Hunter Region. DPI may host a local workshop for vets and horse owners. This is the first case outside the known area. It is unknown whether a black flying fox was involved.

2018 zoonoses report is now available online.

For the first time fruit growers are experiencing more fruit damage from birds than from flying foxes. This in many cases is due to exclusion netting. Netting costs: \$50 - \$60,000 per hectare. The total cost for a full setup, including trees is \$120,000 per hectare. The industry is exploring the possibility of another netting subsidy at federal and state levels. Apart from the obvious benefits of netting water requirements are cut by 20%.

No shooting licenses are current at this time.

Oeh has funded CSIRO for the 2019-20 year for monitoring of colonies.

Jacqueline Maisey
NWC Representative
Distributed 1 July 2019