



NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian wildlife

SUMMARY REPORT FROM GM 53 and AGM 14

(This report should be read in conjunction with the NWC General Meeting notes of discussions Peter Stathis and colleagues from NPWS))

Welcome to your new management Committee

Chair:	Audrey Koosmen, Hunter Wildlife Rescue- NATF
Vice Chair:	Suzy Nethercott-Watson, Wildcare Queanbeyan
Secretary:	Meredith Ryan, FAWNA (NSW) Inc
Treasurer:	Shirley Lack, Native Animal Rescue Group
Media Officer:	Sonja Elwood, Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife
Gen Mem 1	Jacqueline Maisey, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Gen Mem 2	Ros Irwin, Friends of the Koala

and to functional position incumbents

<u>Position</u>	<u>Filled by</u>
Public Officer	Meredith Ryan
Webmaster	Rod Miller
Fundraising Officer	Vacant
Education Officer	Kerryn Parry-Jones

Other positions

Minutes Secretary	Meredith Ryan
Insurance Officer	Meredith Ryan
NCC Representative	Audrey Koosmen
Newsletter Editor	Leesa Pratt

Thanks were extended to outgoing committee member, Linda Stoev from Wildlife Carers Network Central West for her dedication and service to NWC for the 2018-2019 committee year.

IFAW / NWC Wildlife Rescue App update:

IFAW regrets the time it has taken but is pleased to advise that the App is now loaded on the I Phone store and the Android version will be "up" after a couple of bugs have been fixed. Not everyone can be happy with how it looks. This App is our joint App – IFAW and NWC's. We are developing some promotional materials with some visuals that groups can use and we encourage all groups to put links on their websites. If there are any tweaks needed please let us know as soon as possible. The name on the App store is Wildlife Rescue IFAW. There will be a soft promotional release. NRMA, Destination NSW, RMS and National Parks are some of the 3rd parties that might be involved. We can let the Police know about it, maybe AVA. Any suggestions of App promotional partners are welcome.

App Funding – IFAW has spent its total budget to this stage – about \$60000 to where it is now. We will be seeking 3rd party sponsorship for any additional costs for upgrades or increases to functionality. We were a little bit naïve about the costs of the upgrade. Hopefully moving forward the App will be maintained and won't need further huge and expensive upgrades. The original App was built to i Phones and Android phones. Currently it is not compatible to Google Phone. We recommend you delete the original app and download a new app.

Questions about the Log a dead animal function: It will just sit at the back end at the moment. Is there any way this data can get to groups? Can it trigger an automatic email? These increases to functionality will need to be funded by another source. Chair advises that this is an area where NWC might be able to assist.

NWC invited IFAW to investigate the cost of making “back end” data available to the wildlife rescue group that would have received a rescue call for an animal that has been logged as dead or injured. IFAW will investigate the cost and advise Secretary/Chair.

Q: How would geolocations be used to determine where referrals from the back end go? RW NARG raises questions if other than voice calls are used they might not be monitored by groups set up only for voice calls.

What to do with the back end data? There is nothing on the log-in screen for advice to caller to Log in dead or injured animals other than on the App. PSK want to pick up all dead koalas so the information is vital for that group for its data collection, and for checking of microchipped animals for identification purposes. Perhaps koalas might be treated specially in the App.

PR Advises the WINC system gives a summary of all the phone data that identifies where the busiest areas are. This comes from their 1300 call provider.

RW Every koala, whether dead or alive, needs to be attended to for genetic sampling reasons. Their DNA is to go to the Australian Museum. Public needs to be advised that all koalas whether dead or alive need to be reported.

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.

Welcome to new member to NWC – Sunraysia Wildlife Rescue Carers Group.

Associations Liability Insurance - the Insurer is reviewing declarations received by groups. The insurance has been temporarily renewed while this process is completed.

Groups Public and Products Liability and Volunteers Insurance – has been renewed and Certificates of Currencies were sent to all groups in July.

Marine Reptile Code of Practice – the development process for a COP for Sea Turtles and Sea Snakes commenced in June with OEH and other interested parties attending a workshop in Port Macquarie. The COP Draft 4 will be reviewed by outside parties as stated in the NPWS summary discussion report.

Flying-fox Consultative Committee and other flying-fox matters 13 June meeting report previously sent to groups. NPWS has convened a Heat Stress Response meeting for Government Agencies and other interested parties in Sydney on 14 October. J. Maisey and M. Ryan will represent NWC; some groups at the meeting offered extra delegate names to be put forward to the organiser, M. Roache, representing NPWS.

NWC Rehabilitator Grants Scheme – 15 eligible applications were received. 2 late applications were not accepted as per the rules.

AND THE WINNERS ARE	Winning projects
Chris Baker, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers	Assistance towards construction materials of a 20x10x4 metre Bird of Prey aviary - \$1216
Judith Fielsen, Hunter Wildlife Rescue	Materials for a 9x3x3 metre Bird Aviary - \$1989
Diana Woodward & Geoff Roggenkamp, F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) Inc	Macropod Nursery pen fitout and upgrade - \$2000
Lorita Clapson, WIRES Mid-South Coast Branch	6x9x1.5 metre wombat pre-release enclosure - \$2000
Cheryl Cochran, Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	Intensive Care Unit for marsupial joeys, baby birds and juvenile flying-foxes \$1075
Jaimie Sealby, Wildlife ARC	Housing, lighting, heating & temperature control for reptiles and land turtles - \$893

Permanent Care Animals and their use for member training and at community events. Groups have been advised these animals formerly approved by NPWS may no longer be used for the approved purpose without DPI approvals which now will require animal ethics committee approvals and meet requirements under the Animal Research Act and the Exhibited Animals Protection Act respectively. A NWC sub-committee has taken on the task to recommend ways forward to ease this administrative burden by possibly seeking Ministerial waivers or blanket approvals. It is too early to offer possible solutions to this dilemma now facing groups that use permanent care animals for these purposes. Reminder: It is not a permitted activity under licence to use rehabilitation animals in either member training or in community events.

We are trying to stop an extensive paperwork trail every year for no benefit to the animal. The NWC Executive will be seeking 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. It is felt we need to go to the Minister and will make arrangements quickly.

Wombat Strategy to combat Mange. Suggestions were made in this area but it was pointed out that there is significant work already being done in this field. The Wombat Protection Society will be holding a symposium imminently to bring together people working in the field in an attempt to stop fragmentation of effort and to foster co-ordinated actions and provide advice to those who need it.

The Wildlife Data reporting template: See the NPWS summary report for progress.

Reformed Peak Body – separate group and NWC discussions: It was recognised that with the release of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy there will be need for reforms to the Sector and changes to the forward strategies and makeup of the Peak Body. The meeting proposed:

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**

The management committee will be taking steps to realise this best value scenario for the sector.

Future Meetings location: On **Tuesday 19 November 2019 – at 10 a.m.** NWC General Meeting No. 54 will be held at 43 Bridge Street, Hurstville.

Due to the NPWS move of offices scheduled for the end of 2019 it was resolved by the group that the new NPWS Parramatta location would be impractical as a future meeting place. Bookings have been made at The Centre Randwick as follows:

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

Summary report prepared by Secretary, NWC 25 August 2019