

NSW Wildlife Council – General Meeting No. 54 – Minutes Draft1 - 1000
hours Tuesday 18 February 2020 – The Centre 14 Francis Street, Randwick

VISITOR: 10.15 – 11.00 HOURS: Prior to meeting commencement Ms. Paula Granelli, a Sydney Wildlife Member, spoke on the wildlife database and workflow system being developed by WildARC for Sydney Wildlife. The intention of the presentation was to raise awareness of the system development and to highlight the potential to expand the system to enable input from other entities e.g. vets. It was noted no funding for such an expansion was currently identified. A number of issues were observed about how to account for differences in workflows between different entities. The meeting attendees thanked Paula for her presentation and it was noted individual member groups are able to liaise direct with Paula should there be further interest.

Chair: Audrey Koosmen MEETING OPEN: TIME: 11 A.M.

Present	<u>Forename</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Group</u>
1	Don	Eagleton`	Australian Seabird Rescue-Alt
2	Lisa	Hood	Australian Seabird Rescue
3	Meredith	Ryan	F.A.W.N.A. [NSW] INC
4	Duan	March	Dolphin Marine Rescue
5	Ros	Irwin	Friends of the Koala
6	Audrey	Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue
7	Kate	Randolph	Hunter Wildlife Rescue
8	Shirley	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
9	Sandy	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
10	Leesa	Pratt	ORRCA
11	Ashley	Ryan	ORRCA-Alt
12	Land	Ron	Port Stephens Koalas
13	Brendan	Diacono	Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue
14	Sonja	Elwood	Sydney Wildlife
15	Chris	Thompson	Sydney Wildlife-Alt
16	Garry	Gnapp	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
17	Suzy	Nethercott-Watson	Wildcare Queanbeyan
18	Jo	Kelly	Wildlife Aid
19	Kerryn	Parry-Jones	Wildlife ARC
20	Linda	Stoev	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
21	Danielle	Seach	Wildlife In Need of Care-Alt
22	Raymond	Morrow	Wildlife In Need of Care
Apologies			
	Jacque	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
	Jenny	Weston	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
	Meg	Pittman`	Wildlife Aid
	Richard	Woodman	Native Animal Rescue Group-Alt
	Justine	King	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
Visitors			
	Peter	Stathis	Wildlife Licencing Team members
	Shona	Lorigan	
	Hannah	Ryan	
	Vanessa	Barratt	Proj Mgr FNPA Wildlife Heroes
	Josey	Sharrad	IFAW Team member/s
	Bek	Thompson-Jones	IFAW Team member/s
	Rebecca	Keeble	Regional Director Oceania

Welcome by Chair, Audrey Koosmen. New members welcomed including NPWS and IFAW guests. Co-operative participation sought for what was expected to be a lengthy meeting. All members were asked to keep an eye on their emails, including regularly checking spam boxes, and responding promptly when asked. It was noted it is important to ensure appropriate confidentiality and privacy.

Standing orders suspended for Observations and Shares: *e.g. the scale of fire emergencies throughout NSW since the August GM meeting followed by discussions with NPWS personnel.*

A separate Summary Report is provided and attached to the Minutes.

NPWS Peter Stathis: Thanked participants for the situation update; he found it very valuable and many points can be taken back to develop forward actions.

Hannah Ryan: *(Was Agenda Item 17)* Data review spreadsheet is now distributed to all groups. The timetable is for March to review that data template. Come the next reporting season, very many different people and agencies are looking to NPWS to release data. People want to hear the story of the current time. **SNW** commented the data won't show the story of the displaced animals. It won't tell the drought/fire story.

Koala Data is awaiting approval for publishing.

Training standards have been worked on for Wombats, Marine Reptiles, Birds of Prey and Birds.

Shona Lorigan: Koala funding Year 1 allocated in May to 17 recipients. Reports in 2 formats – one receipts for equipment with description of goods purchased. 2nd component was rescue stories. Low profile has been placed on this due to fires. I have not got one rescue story. One of the biggest parts of the Koala Strategy is to highlight the work rehabbers are doing. ¹Please try to focus on assisting Shona to help get these reports done.

Year 2 template was due back by December 7th. Fires have understandably delayed reporting but can we make this a priority please? Template for 2nd year spending - \$120K has to be allocated by the end of May.

Codes of Practice – review group workshopped a bird code in November – Draft 2 has gone out to all the review groups plus to a couple of groups that could not attend – most likely there will be 2 Codes developed; General Birds; Sea birds, Waders and Water birds. Next Codes – Possums and Gliders to be workshopped during March or April. ²

Priority for Codes requested from groups.

¹ Koala Strategy funding recipients asked to expedite reporting as soon as is possible for them.

² Groups to advise via NWC their species priorities for new Codes of Practice and for revision of existing Codes.

Monotremes

Reptiles would be the final Code

All existing codes will be reviewed. Inconsistencies have crept in. 3 Codes will need more consideration – Flying-foxes, Wombats and Birds of Prey. What is the best way to approach this – over 3 days with different people? Or workshops held on different dates?

Governance Project: email to all groups mid-February. This is based on the 2016/17 work done by Peter Stathis and Rod Haering. It is recognised administrative work can be overwhelming. NPWS wants to launch a program to enable groups' admin people to do that better. Areas of focus include:

General Governance

Leadership Training

Finance training – fundraising – reporting requirements

Media/Social Media

Suggestion was made that the NWC is copied in on all communications sent directly to group Presidents/licencees. NWC will take up the subject at committee level.

Training Video was shown and agreed it could be given to groups. Some negative feedback was given on perceived preponderance of WIRES identification via logo on rescue clothing. Groups were reminded they were asked for high resolution images for inclusion in the video and while some was received it was not of high quality apart from Sydney Wildlife which is significantly featured. Reminder that Landscape view should be used for any video material provided.

PS Biodiversity Conservation Act reform is currently “parked”. Rehab Strategy held up by fires and is awaiting ministerial signature. Drought/Fire/Flood reconceptualised. Robert Oliver's team has gone.

Government has put out an immediate response to the fires. It has been circulated to groups. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/wildlife-and-conservation-bushfire-recovery-immediate-response>

Wildlife and Conservation Bushfire Recovery Immediate response January 2020

Lots of fire mapping is required to identify prime habitat lost and some of the long term effects from the fires.

Where are our release sites?

Where can we or should we be releasing in abnormal times?

Supplementary feeding by states and individual groups. The fires have thrown all recommendation not to feed wildlife out the door and a working party under the aegis of WHA has developed recommended wildlife food lists. There will be an exit strategy when habitat and food resources start to recover...

Future of wildlife incident response. \$500K of \$1M will be going to Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. Two positions will be created to embed wildlife incident response. There will be a wildlife incident responder. There will be a rapid response. Susan Crocetti and Gina Hart will be taking up these two positions working until 2021 to get wildlife featured in incident response.

FNPW is running the Wildlife Heroes Program and we need it to succeed. The Fund can pull in outside funding. All groups need to get familiar with it. We can't revert to the old anonymous ways – everyone needs to be strategic. There will be enquiries and you need as a sector to be part of the enquiries that will be coming up. We need a position on where rehab needs to be in the future.

Vanessa Barratt: Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife is a national charity for National Parks. We have become aware that we did not take the space we should have as the national fundraising body for wildlife in Australia.

Wildlife Heroes identified needs in the sector and showed that lots could be done to help the sector and resource it better. Better administrative support, and a strong media team.

First thing you saw was emergency resource funding; and it got flipped and suddenly it was on us. Not what was planned. Goals – funding in NSW for 3 years. We would like it to be a permanent program supporting wildlife rehab and for the Fund to be an advocate to corporates, governments and the public.

We plan to schedule – more grant rounds –

Durable assets

Vaccinations

Training

AWRC

Meeting with groups

Help prepare for next summer

How can we help you cope with what you have currently gone through?

Mental health tiredness, coping

Announcement of Commonwealth money to Wildlife Heroes to go across Australia

Aim towards a national approach on some things. We need to increase power as National rehabilitators. There is too much fragmentation.

Manifestations of wildlife care – training and capacity – jobs in groups that are not necessarily animal care – drivers, social media, admin, finance, etc. not animal focus roles.

The first steering committee meeting will be held late February. 4 planned per year. We intend to keep Wires and NWC representation, IFAW, Vets to make sure group represents the balance of NSW wildlife care including single species groups and specialised areas. There is a Board that we account to.

Getting input on grants. Need creative ways of putting money out. Have to be strict about the way money is handed out, for what and how it is accounted for.

Please contact the Foundation to discuss any needs. We will try to do everything to simplify the processes.

Secretary action - send Vanessa³ the NWC Grant Guidelines for information.

KPJ advises Wildlife ARC has decided to reimburse carer's food supplies.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes: Motion: That the Minutes of the 17 August 2019 General Meeting No. 53 are a true and correct record. **Proposed:** M. Ryan; **Seconded:** S. Lack : **Result** Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes (that do not appear as a separate Agenda item):

- **Sunraysia Wildlife Carers Group** – membership and insurance activated
- **Media contacts** – No longer required since excellent media list obtained.
- **2019-2020 NWC Rehabilitator Enclosure/Equipment grants** update – Grants Committee⁴ MR and SL present – need to make sure all grantees apply for extensions if needed,
- **Update on applicability and action under Animal Research Act 1985 and Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986:** Action was on Chair and Vice Chair to arrange meeting with NSW Agriculture Minister. Action outstanding.⁵ There will be a need for a Ministerial briefing paper for meeting request. Ongoing.
- **Wombat Manage symposium held in Queanbeyan on 31 Sep 2019.** Summary by Vice Chair was included in NWC Winter 2019 Newsletter. Thanks Suzy

4. Correspondence. Circulated by email to groups as received. Highlights are:

Suggestion that Secretary places a priority on Notices sent out to Reps.

- **NWC Newsletter recommenced with Winter 2019 issue:** Thanks and appreciation extended to Leesa Pratt, Editor, for finalising a very professional NWC newsletter between August 2019 and this meeting. Thanks also to contributors. Newsletter sent to all members and groups are encouraged to pass it on to their networks and outside lists. Next Newsletter in draft please send input to Editor. Spring/Summer edition expected to come out in the new year. Thanks to Leesa.
- **Wildlife Hero's** email seeking expressions of interest in sitting on the steering committee was not sent to NWC but was sent to member groups direct.
- **New Wildlife Reporting template P Stathis 23 October** - Email re data capturing sent to groups' licensee. This was subject of email correspondence between FAWNA President and NPWS copied to NWC reps since last meeting. See Agenda Item 16.

³ Secretary send Grant Guidelines, application form and agreement template to FNPW.

⁴ Grants Ctte send reminders for reporting on grants finalization, progress or request extension

⁵ Chair arrange meeting with Minister

- **NWC Submission 24 September to NSW Government Waste and Recovery Strategy.** Excellent submission copy sent to Reps. Submission tabled and meeting acknowledged the good work of S. Nethercott-Watson and L. Pratt.
- **QWRC Newsletter** received.
- **Reformed Peak Body** – communication from Wildlife Rehabilitation Reform Working Party (Peak Body) Update. Email of correspondence sent to NWC members on 3-11-2019. For discussion as a separate Agenda Item No. 12.
- **Justine King WRSC** – email of concern about accessibility of Randwick as a meeting venue. Meeting advised it costed accommodation, parking, and transport to Parramatta and it was not affordable. Travel time from the airport would not allow 10.00 a.m. meeting start and would require overnight accommodation in some cases.
- **Woolworths Food For Wildlife arrangements** two different programs were running and available to rehabilitation groups.

5. It is proposed that the normal Standing Orders of the meeting are again suspended to allow for immediate discussion of some planning matters as provided in the following NWC Proposed Areas of Focus for 2020: A discussion paper is attached to act as a basis for this Agenda Item.

The meeting discussed the proposed paper previously circulated to members and attached to these Minutes. The paper was developed post the NWC AGM in August 2019 where the attendees started a conversation about what the future priorities of the NWC might be. Suzy Nethercott-Watson developed the paper and led the discussion outlining the purpose of this agenda item is to gain agreement on the priorities of the NWC for the 2020 year and to discuss how these 'Areas of Focus' may be achieved, via possible sub-committee project teams.

The paper proposing four areas of focus was written months in advance of the Spring/Summer bushfires and ironically has Emergency Management as one of the four. Constraints such as available volunteer time and realism about what can be achieved were noted and agreed. It was agreed to adopt the four areas of focus and invitations were made for team leaders on the topics. The following were identified.

The four key areas of focus for 2020 would be:

Plastics/Waste Impact of Wildlife and Habitat – Team Leader Leesa Pratt

Emergency Management and Wildlife – Audrey Koosmen, Leesa Pratt, Ros Irwin and Suzy Nethercott-Watson

Land Development and Wildlife Management – Ros Irwin and Suzy Nethercott-Watson

Droughts and Wildlife

6. Chair Report: To be presented and attached to Minutes. **Proposed** for Acceptance:

Audrey Koosmen; Seconded J. Kelly; Carried

7. Treasurer’s report. Treasurer’s report presented, and appended to Minutes.

Proposed: The Treasurer’s report emailed to group and tabled at meeting is accepted
Proposed S. Lack ; **Seconded:** M. Ryan , **Carried**

Public Fund balance and reserve amount required; include GoFundMe and Bushfire Appeal funds dispersal was discussed. It was recommended that funds in outside appeals be consolidated as a matter of urgency to allow decisions on disbursement. In the interim the meeting voted that \$1000 in fuel vouchers be provided to RRANA to assist their members who have to travel such long distances on rescues.

8. Insurance Officer Report – M. Ryan –

- One Association Liability matter has been notified to the Insurer but does not qualify as a claim.
- Associations Liability Insurance Policy – AL has been renewed and premium paid
- One Incident Reporter has sought a claim number for an as yet unspecified insurable event. This is not possible without a claim form being completed including a treating practitioner report.
- One incident report submitted for a hand injury

9. Media Officer Report – S. Elwood: Annual Report August 2018 to 2019, and Report August 2019 – February 2020 tabled and attached to Minutes.

10. Codes of Practice Update: A Koosmen : Birds Code of Practice development workshop was held on 4-5/11/2019 in Sydney. Birds will likely be split into 2 groups: General Birds and Sea Birds, Waders and Waterbirds

Possums & Glider Code likely to be workshopped in March or April and groups are requested to advise their priority for other codes. Monotremes followed by Reptiles would complete the list.

Shona Lorigan advised some inconsistencies have crept in and all existing codes will be reviewed.

11. Nature Conservation Council Annual Meeting: Sonja Elwood tabled report. Attached to Minutes.

12. Wildlife Rehabilitation Reform Working Party (Peak Body) Update. Email of 3/11/19. Item to be discussed. Time did not permit this discussion.

13. Biodiversity Conservation Act Stakeholders Meetings – any updates?: A. Koosmen: No activity due to disbandment of the team working on this.

14. Flying-fox Consultative Committee Report – J. Maisey : distributed via email

15. Flying fox Heat Stress Workshop held in Sydney on 14 October. A. Koosmen

Outcomes of the workshop were emailed to the Group line.

16. I Spy Koala App – Murray Black PSK (this item not discussed)

Has anyone used it? Are there any problems? How do we promote it?

17. Data Reporting instructions for the Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector - Hannah Ryan, NPWS. See minutes P2.

18. Any other general business: Attendees to declare items at start of meeting to be listed here.

- Justine King, WRSC, seeks collective knowledge/opinions on use of Pindone (and other) baiting. *Reference community notice for 12 February Bundanoon Rabbit control LLS course.* Brief discussion on use of Pindone-laced carrots, and the need for any baiting to be strategic once target prey is first identified. Analogy used of wildlife cameras being used near feeding stations to identify feral animals so targeted culling can commence quickly.

Meeting Close 5 p.m. with thanks to all for their participation.

Signed: Chair **Date**

Secretary disclosure: *Due to a technical fault a section of these Minutes in their draft form was lost. This version was reconstituted through discussions with management committee members present at the meeting and agreement reached on the contents in a Teleconference on 3 May 2020.*

To avoid a similar happening in future the Secretary will ensure a security copy of the Draft Minutes taken on the meeting date is lodged with a nominated committee member.

Dates of next meetings:

Meeting postponed due COVID-19. Tuesday 19 May 2020 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 56

Subject to COVID-19 recommendations:

Saturday 15 August 2020 - 10 a.m. General Meeting 56 – 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 57 – The Centre Randwick