

# NSW Wildlife Council General Meeting No. 56 –held by Zoom on Saturday 24 April 2021 - 2p.m. to 4.22 p.m. – Minutes

Opening by Chair: 2.05 pm - A. Koosmen – welcome to new members present.

Attendance list. RSVP'd: = Y

<b>FirstName</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Group</b>
Lisa Y	Hood	Australian Seabird Rescue
Meredith Y	Ryan	FAWNA (NSW) Inc
Audrey Y	Koosmen	Hunter Wildlife Rescue / NATF
Kate Y	Randolph	Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF Alt
Elena Y	Guarracino-Alt	Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans
Guy	Palframan	Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans
Shirley Y	Lack	Native Animal Rescue Group
Sandy Y	Norris	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
Cheryl Y	Cochran	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers-Alt
Julia	Rose	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Leesa Y	Pratt	ORRCA
Ashley Y	Ryan	ORRCA-Alt
Rodney Y	Sanderson	Saving Our Native Animals
Sonja Y	Elwood	Sydney Wildlife
Chris Y	Thompson	Sydney Wildlife-Alt
Garry Y	Gnapp	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
Suzy Y	Nethercott-Watson	Wildcare Queanbeyan
Jo Y	Kelly	Wildlife Aid-Alt
Michelle Y	Evans	Wildlife Carers Network Central West-Alt
Linda Y	Stoev	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
Jenny Y	Packwood	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

## **Apologies**

Jacquie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Paul&Christeen	McLeod	Koalas In Care
Aliison	Kelly	Friends of the Koala
Libby	Hall	Taronga Wildlife Hospital
Janine	Davies	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
Kerryn	Parry-Jones	Wildlife A R C (no internet)
Meg	Pittman	Wildlife Aid
Danielle	Seach	Wildlife In Need of Care

## **Guest**

Peter                      Stathis                      DPIE NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

Introduction including how this meeting will operate on line – SNW

Welcome from Chair and acknowledgment of the harm from the floods in March. Chair applauded how wildlife is being acknowledged and the work of rehabilitators as First Responders. Good to see the government investing resources into the sector.

**Guest: Peter Stathis NPWS – Peter's presentation will be reported separately**

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Topics to be covered include:

- Accreditation
- Policy
- Development of standards
- Professional Development (Webinar series)
- Conflict Management Guidelines
- Data and reporting (demonstration of dashboard)
- Bushfire and Wildlife in Emergencies (Peta Norris' and Tim Johnson's work)
- Wildlife Heroes

Meeting resumed at 15.40 hours

## **Minutes of the Zoom General Meeting held on 23 September 2020.**

M. Ryan Proposed, S. Nethercott-Watson seconded That the minutes of General Meeting 55 held on Wed 23 September 2020 are confirmed as a true and correct record. - **Carried**

## **Presentation of Notice of General Meeting No 57 Annual General Meeting No 15 and Elections – discuss method, timing and remote attendance options**

**General Meeting No 57 and Annual General Meeting 15 are scheduled for Saturday 14 August at The Centre, 14 Frances Street, Randwick**

**A bulk accommodation booking has been secured for the night of Friday 13 August and Saturday 14 August, 2021. Available rooms will be allocated in order of receipt of bookings.**

The **General Meeting** will commence at 0930 until 1230 and will be followed by luncheon.

The **Annual General Meeting and Elections** will commence at 1.15 p.m. The only business to be transacted at this AGM apart from election of management committee positions and normal matters discussed at an AGM will be voting on the 2021-2022 NWC Rehabilitator Equipment and Enclosure grant applications. Audited financial statements for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 financial years will be presented to this meeting.

There was discussion and concern about an apparent clash of date with the AWRC reconvened from the cancelled 2020 Darwin Conference. A representative of the organising committee had advised the Vice Chair via email the 14<sup>th</sup> would be included however there is nothing published that includes that date.

It was put to a show of hands whether NWC should change its date. The majority voted to keep the 14 August 2021 as the NWC GM and AGM dates as booked and detailed above.

**Chair Report – Audrey Koosmen: Nil report.** With apologies from the Chair due to pressure of work.

**Treasurer Report – Shirley Lack:** Finance Reports 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and 1 July 2021 Year To Date. circulated to group. \$25,000 grant from Transport for NSW received and expenditures on Website and Bookkeeper during the period.

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**ACNC Annual Information Statement (AIS) 2020 Lodged** – Meredith Ryan. Propose A. Koosmen: That the Public Officer signs and lodges the 2021 AIS as and when it falls due. Seconder. Linda Stoev  
**Carried**

**Correspondence (not circulated to group): Meredith Ryan**

- 13/3 Testimonial HUHANSZ – Request S. Elwood
- 14/4 Advice received from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) confirming funding for next 3 financial years of \$25,000 per annum. Current year and next year have been invoiced.
- 15/4 Letter of Support to Morris Animal Foundation Denver CO., USA potential funder for Wildlife Assist App., Request M. Shaw Taronga Zoo and Wildlife Nutritionist.

Proposal to accept correspondence: Moved A. Koosmen, Seconded: M. Ryan **Carried**

**Media Report – Sonja Elwood – nil written report.** Sonja will be speaking on NWC groups' bushfire responses at the NCC Conference; has applied to speak at the AWRC conference and received an invitation to submit an abstract for Royal Zoological Society meeting. An update will be presented on social media at a later time.

**New Members – M. Ryan** - Michelle Evans, WCNCW-Alt

**Insurance Report – M. Ryan** Early notification warning that groups will need to complete sometime in May or June the Proposal forms for Association Insurance funded by NWC. It will require number of volunteers, Last Year revenue, This Year revenue and projected next year revenue. Insurance Officer has a list of revenue declared to ACNC in 2020 AIS's and can send each group their last year's proposal copy which might make completion quicker and easier for the 2021/2022 year.

Insurance Q and A template sent to groups in April – a simple synopsis of what type of activities volunteers can undertake. Groups may adapt to their own purpose or use the Template as it was given.

A couple of incident reports received from groups that are unlikely to lead to a claim. One claim has been submitted for a fractured ankle that may result in a claim for physiotherapy and home help costs.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **Rehabilitator Equipment and Enclosure Grants 2021-2022:**

Current committee will continue Jacquie Maisey, Sandy Norris, Shirley Lack, and Meredith Ryan  
Program Timetable:

*Tue 1 Jun – Grants announcement*

*Fri 18 Jun – Applications open for 6 weeks*

*Sun 31 Jul – Applications close 5 p.m. (no exceptions)*

*Tue 10 Aug – Voting papers circulated to Reps group via email*

*Sat 14 Aug – Voting at AGM)*

Notice of Motion: Proposed S. Lack, Seconded M. Ryan "That the 2021-22 NWC member-only-group rehabilitator grant budget is set at \$40,000, and that any NWC group may be awarded a maximum of 2 individual member grants and 1 group grant; grant application amounts may be between \$500 and \$2500; independent general licensees may be awarded one grant". **Carried**

**Accreditation: Audrey Koosmen. Follow up to P. Stathis update.**

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Groups to be invited to identify areas they may need assistance in meeting the evidence required on the *Transitional accreditation supporting checklist for existing group*.

All groups are encouraged to share policies documents with other groups that may need and seek assistance.

Members encouraged to advise the NWC Secretary of any governance areas they might need help with. There may be existing material available to help reinventing the wheel. SE reiterated her standing offer to share Sydney Wildlife's policies.

Question SL NARG – concerned about species specific licences. Does that mean I can have my own licence for wombats and not have to worry about being in a group? AK expressed concern about all these splinter and/or unlicensed people going out fundraising and NPWS aren't doing anything about it. SL says all you need to do is to demonstrate why you should be licensed for a specific species. LS if they can't police the system now how are they going to do it?

**Wildlife Emergency Response Taskforce WERT – A. Koosmen, S. Elwood:** NWC groups were invited to nominate to attend a 2 day workshop at Rural Fire Service Olympic Park headquarters on 6 and 7 May. Attendee list will be finalised and advised to nominees around 26 April. *Peta Norris, NPWS is the contact.*

AK - There is an online meeting on 30 April for the work team. Reports will be forthcoming after the 6/7 May workshop.

SE had wished out in the field that there was some software platform available for use in emergencies. Since the Black Summer fires Sonja has been working with Worldwide Veterinary Services developing an emergency response for wildlife software platform and app. This is being trialled by DPIE and RFS on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Evacuation planning for Wildlife Rehabilitators: Suzy Nethercott-Watson** was conscious during the fires that we don't have an evacuation plan or policy for people with wildlife in care. Preliminary work Suzy has done drafting a document to start the process going will be sent to the Reps line asking for comment or contributions.

## **Wildlife Assist – project aimed to develop and communicate evidence-based guidelines for providing supplementary food, water and shelter to wildlife following disasters (such as bushfires) – Meredith Ryan**

- Taronga is developing app (iOS, Android and Web versions) to collect data from volunteers supplementary provisioning (SP) - \$100k funding from federal government's Environment Restoration Fund
- Seeking funding (>\$600k applied, awaiting results) with University of Sydney and RSPCA Australia for 3 year project "Optimising the welfare outcomes for Australian wildlife after bushfires through provisioning."
- Collaborating with rescue groups and volunteer organisations (such as NWC and ARC) to assess actions over Black Summer bushfires and collect data on SP ongoing as well as looking at human motivations and impacts of SP
- Collaborating with researchers (such as USyd, and AWC), and land managers (such as Bush Heritage) to perform planned experiments assessing effects of SP
- Collaborating with state and federal government nationally to communicate recommendations

**Two Green Threads: Suzy Nethercott-Watson** will outline upcoming training. There are resources available on the website. Campaign initiatives Refill the Bucket. Adopt message of looking after

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wildlife and looking after ourselves. Face to Face to training commencing around the state – first one to be held in Port Macquarie on 15 May and others will follow.

AK complimented Suzy Nethercott-Watson for a different and magnificent advanced macropod workshop over 2 days for Hunter Wildlife Rescue. Any interested groups should contact Suzy direct.

**Is now the time to discuss Forward Strategic Planning – what, how, when?** Audrey Koosmen

Item carried forward to next meeting.

Meeting closed 1622 hours.

Minutes a True and Correct Record *Audrey Koosmen 27 March 2022*