

MINUTES

NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

17th (2022) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24 February 2023

Fair Trading NSW has extended final date to hold 2022 AGM to 28 February 2023

Venue: **Hunter Wildlife Rescue Education Centre**

Hunter Wetlands Centre

1 Wetlands Place, Shortland 2307

Commencing 3 p.m.

CHAIR: *Audrey Koosmen*

MEETING OPEN: 3.20 P.M.

PRESENT & APOLOGIES: acknowledgment of country.

First	Surname	Group
Anna	Dicker	Australian Seabird & Turtle Rescue
Peter	Stathis	Facilitator
Meredith	Ryan	FAWNA
Shirley	Lack	NARG
Audrey	Koosmen	Native Animal Trust Fund-HWR
Kate	Randolph	Native Animal Trust Fund-HWR
Maddy	Meredith	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers
Julia	Rose	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Jacquie	Maisey	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
Leesa	Pratt	ORRCA
Herna	Ward	Port Stephens Koalas
Jan	Pilgrim	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
Kerryn	Parry-Jones	Wildlife A R C
Linda	Stoev	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
Ned	Gligich	Wildlife Carers Network Central West
Sherry	Broderick	Native Animal Rescue Group
Zoom Attendance		
Paul	McLeod	Koalas in Care
Christeen	McLeod	Koalas in Care
Ashley	Ryan	ORRCA
Alysson	Jennings	Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue
Chris	Thompson	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife
Jenny	Packwood	Wildlife Rescue South Coast

Apologies

Garry Gnapp Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers

Sonja Elwood Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife

Guests from ifaw – Josey Sharrad and Robert Leach

Chair welcome to new members and to current members with wishes for enjoyment of their time in the Hunter.

Introduction of Peter Stathis and thanks extended for his time at NPWS and now assisting NWC.

Emergency briefing instructions.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

1.1. Annual Declaration Register – form to be requested or obtained from Website and completed and posted, or scanned and emailed.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING #15 & 16 held on 27 March 2022 by Zoom meeting platform.

MOTION:

That the Minutes of the NWC Annual General Meeting #15 and 16 held on the 27 March 2022 as circulated are accepted as a true and correct record

Moved: L. Pratt

Seconded: S. Lack

Result: Carried

(Amended by Addition of S. Broerick on Zoom attendance list at AGM18 – 12/11/2023)

3. REPORTS:

3.1. Chair – Audrey Koosmen

MOTION:

That the Chairperson's Report be accepted

Moved: A. Koosmen

Seconded: J. Maisey

Result: Carried

3.2. Public Officer – Meredith Ryan – Motion for confirmation of signatures on the 2022 Annual Information Statements to Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission.

MOTION That the Public Officer's signature on the 2022 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Annual Information Statement as lodged is confirmed and that this meeting date is added to the AIS copy already lodged with ACNC

Moved: L. Stoev

Seconded: K. Parry-Jones

Result: Carried

3.3 Treasurer's Report – Shirley Lack

Audited Financial Statements and Balance Sheets for the annual period 1-7-2021 to 30-6-2022 for NSW Wildlife Council and the NWC Public Gift Fund were presented to meeting and will be appended to the Minutes.

MOTION:

That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: S. Lack

Seconded: L. Stoev

Result: Carried

Travel reimbursement forms distributed.

3.5 Other Reports

Public Officer - Meredith Ryan – Up to date on all reporting

Insurance Officer – Meredith Ryan. Nil claims pending at year end.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW – Audrey Koosmen

Have had a few Zoom meetings mostly lobbying for habitat – emphasis on koala habitat saving. .

Web forum Administrator – Rod Miller – invited members to offer suggestions for inclusions on website.

Media Officer – Sonja Elwood

MOTION: That the Public Officer, Insurance Officer, NCC Representative, Web Forum Administrator and Media Officer Reports be accepted

Moved: M. Ryan

Seconded: L Pratt

Result: Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING there was nil business arising.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE 2021-22 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION GRANTS

This Grant budget is made possible by a generous bequest from the Late J J Northcote.

Applicant Name	Group Name	Grant Total	Project Summary	
Attrill, Wendy	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	\$1817.00	3x1.5x2.1M Flying-fox Creche aviary	
Australian Seabird & Turtle Rescue	Australian Seabird & Turtle Rescue, Ballina	\$2000.00	Brinsea TLC40 Advance ICU incl car inverter & delivery	
Cornell, Sharnie	Australian Seabird & Turtle Rescue, Central Coast	\$1850.00	Brinsea TLC40 Advance ICU incl car inverter & delivery	
Olive, Robert (Award Not Taken)	Australian Seabird & Turtle Rescue	\$2805.00	Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Tank filtration unit	
Dolphin Marine Rescue	Dolphin Marine Rescue	\$1834.00	1.5 x 2.3 x 1.8M Seabird Aviary	
F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) INC	F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) INC	\$4000.00	5 X 4.8 X2M Multi species demountable aviary	
Fernance, Kelly	F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) INC	\$2885.00	5x2.4x2M Multi species demountable aviary	
Winner, Cheryl	F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) INC	\$1400.00	Brinsea TLC40 Advance EX Intensive Care Unit	
Dawning, Jen	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers	\$2168.00	10 x 10 x 2M Macropod enclosure shade clothed	
Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers	\$2500.00	Repair & Refurbish 20x10x4M Raptor Aviary damaged in storm	
Megan Robinson	Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers	\$3674.00	3 x 2 x 2M Multi purpose marsupial aviary	
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	\$2000.00	Brinsea TLC50 Advance ICU.	

Applicant Name	Group Name	Grant Total	Project Summary	
Susan Brookhouse	Independent GL	\$1140.00	40x20x2M Macropod yard repairs/replacement	
Sunraysia Wildlife Carers Inc	Sunraysia Wildlife Carers Inc	\$2568.00	Renovation of Macropod enclosure colourbond fence	
Paananen, Paula	Wildlife A.R.C	\$3860.00	Feed and crèche cage to complete large flying-fox release complex	
Samantha Bishop	Wildlife A.R.C	\$1974.00	Vivarium large	
Wildlife A.R.C	Wildlife A.R.C	\$1400.00	\$1400 Wildlife Rehab Equipment of GROUP choice	
Oliver, Elizabeth	Wildcare Queanbeyan	\$4000.00	Conversion of 5.5 x 3.5 x 2.4M structure to a Rehabilitation and wildlife transport hub facility	
Wildcare Queanbeyan	Wildcare Queanbeyan	\$2900.00	2 OF 1.5 X 1 X 1.5m Elevated immediate care aviaries	
Willacott, Alyssa	Wildcare Queanbeyan	\$1950.00	Brinsea TLC50 ICU	
Trista Kyriacou	Wildlife Rescue South Coast	\$2870.00	Brinsea ICU	
Wildlife In Need of Care W.I.N.C	Wildlife In Need of Care W.I.N.C	\$3341.00	Trailer Mounted release cage for possums, gliders and birds	
Value of grants offered			\$54936.00	

6. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

MOTION:

That Peter Stathis is appointed to the position of Returning Officer for the combined 17th NWC AGM Elections.

Moved: A. Koosmen

Seconded:

K. Parry-Jones

Result: Carried

The Chairperson declares all positions vacant, vacates the Chair and hands over to the Returning Officer to conduct the election process.

Certificates of appreciation handed to P. Stathis for his assistance from NWC and from HWR.

Nominations returned by Post or email:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Name of Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Chair:	Audrey Koosmen	Shirley Lack	Kate Randolph
Vice Chair:	Sonja Elwood	Audrey Koosmen	Shirley Lack
Treasurer	Shirley Lack	Kate Randolph	Audrey Koosmen
Secretary	Meredith Ryan	Shirley Lack	Audrey Koosmen
Media Officer:	Sonja Elwood	Meredith Ryan	Shirley Lack
Gen Mem 1	Kate Randolph	Audrey Koosmen	Shirley Lack
Gen Mem 2	Leesa Pratt	Audrey Koosmen	Shirley Lack

DECLARATION OF RESULTS for the following positions;

EXECUTIVE;

<u><i>Nominee</i></u>	<u><i>Name of successful candidate</i></u>
Chair:	Audrey Koosmen
Vice Chair:	Sonja Elwood
Secretary:	Meredith Ryan
Treasurer:	Shirley Lack
Media Officer:	Sonja Elwood
Gen Mem 1	Kate Randolph
Gen Mem 2	Leesa Pratt

Other Positions;**Positions in Constitution**

<u><i>Position</i></u>	<u><i>Name of Nominee</i></u>	<u><i>Nominated by</i></u>	<u><i>Seconded by</i></u>
Public Officer	Meredith Ryan	Shirley Lack	Leesa Pratt
Webmaster	Rod Miller	Meredith Ryan	Maddy Meredith
Fundraising Officer	Vacant for now		
Education Officer	Vacant for now		

Other positions

Minutes Secretary	Meredith Ryan	L. Stoev	K. Randolph
Insurance Officer	Meredith Ryan	L. Pratt	S. Lack
NCC Representative	Audrey Koosmen	Meredith Ryan	L. Pratt
Newsletter Editor	Leesa Pratt	L. Stoev	A. Koosmen

DECLARATION OF RESULTS for the following positions;

<u><i>Nominee</i></u>	<u><i>Name of successful candidate</i></u>
Public Officer	Meredith Ryan
Webmaster	Rod Miller
Fundraising Officer	Vacant for now
Education Officer	Vacant for now
Minutes Secretary	Meredith Ryan
Insurance Officer	Meredith Ryan
NCC Representative	Audrey Koosmen
Newsletter Editor	Leesa Pratt

Returning Officer hands over the Chair to the newly elected Chairperson and Management Committee.

7. RESIGNATION OF AUDITOR 2022-2023

The current auditor, Cheryl Hopkins, has advised she will no longer undertake Auditor work. Audits are not required by ACNC for small charities.

MOTION:

Proposed: That the NWC ceases annual financial audits while it remains in the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission category size of Small Charity.¹

Moved: S. Lack

Seconded: L. Stoev

Result: Carried

7. AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES 2022-2023

¹

For reporting periods starting from the 2022 Annual Information Statement, charity sizes are: Small charities are **those with annual revenue under \$500,000**. Medium charities are those with annual revenue of \$500,000 or more, but under \$3 million. Large charities are those with annual revenue of \$3 million or more.

NWC BANK ACCOUNT (ANZ)

Motion for any changes required – nil

NWC PUBLIC FUND BANK ACCOUNT (WESTPAC)

Motion for any changes required *(Not recommended to make changes to the Public Fund as all Responsible Persons need to be submitted to REO for approval). Nil*


Attention is drawn to NSW Fair Trading Fact Sheet Statutory and reporting obligations: Incorporated associations, August 2010: The Public Officer is, by virtue of that office, an authorised signatory for the association.

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND GENERAL MEETING: (Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 August would return NWC to its pre-COVID meeting schedule)

Try to find venue and accommodation and advise as quickly as possible.

MEETING CLOSED: TIME 4.37 P.M.

Certification:

Minutes are a true and correct record (Signed) 

Date: 12 November 2023

NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL INC .
Annual General Meeting
Friday 24th March 2023 .
Venue Hunter Wildlife Rescue / Education Centre
I Wetlands Place Shortland.

Chair's Report

I would like to say firstly how wonderful it is we are finally meeting face to face after so long apart. I would also like to welcome everyone present and on zoom to the Hunter Region and do hope you enjoy your few days here with us . Hunter Wildlife Rescue is so pleased to be able to host these meeting over the next two days.

BIG WELCOME to any new members on the NWC thank you for coming on board.

I would like to take this time to thank Peter Stathis for giving his time up over the weekend to be our Returning Officer and also to lead our Planning session on Saturday. On behalf of NSW Wildlife Council and its member groups I wish to thank Peter for all his support he gave to the wildlife sector and the NWC while in the position he held at NSW NPWS. I strongly believe through his work he made such a difference in showing how the work we all do plays such an important role in all levels of conservation to the government and our work was brought to a much higher level of respect. Peter came along to all of the NWC meetings he could when we met in Sydney; sometimes at a weekend when he was not at work ... so again thank you Peter.

What a time it has been over past four years. I feel we have all had to work so hard and are still recovering from first drought then fires then floods; all this indeed played a huge toll on our groups. Many of us were enormously overloaded with many more animals, but as we do, we all went in and tackled all that was thrown at us. Everyone should be proud of what we achieved; without us all where and what would happen to our NSW wildlife?

I do thank Wires for the support offered to groups across the country with grant funding. Their food grant has helped many groups to provide free food to their carers. As we all know food is one of the most expensive things we must meet in wildlife rehabilitation. I also thank IFAW for their ongoing support across NSW to the groups; they are always first to call wanting to help when a disaster strikes and in any event when they see animals need help.

I welcome Robert Leach from IFAW to our meetings and I know you will all get along with Robert very well. I have had the pleasure to have met him and worked alongside him in our Training here in the Hunter.

Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Equipment and Enclosure Grants were successful again this year seeing many groups and members helped out with equipment and enclosures they could not afford. NWC grant funding allows much better caring for animals through improved facilities.

It is great to see Code of Practice development continuing and we are nearly to the development of our last final two codes. It has been wonderful meeting so many knowledgeable members at these Code consultations. I do thank NPWS for listening to NWC when it was requested we get these codes developed way back in those very early NWC meetings. Again I strongly feel Peter's push behind getting these codes completed.

NWC has representation on the Bushfire and Emergency Response team; something I do hope will help the wildlife sector during emergencies. Some may be aware EPA will now be lead agency in all Emergency incidents in NSW that was for many years led by DPI.

I attended a meeting they called a Wildlife listen session in Sydney and a meet and greet with Coordinator from EPA. We were asked to tell what is working and what is not. I must say there was more of Not working than Working around the room. EPA made no promises but will work on how to improve the system to better assist the wildlife groups.

NWC 2021 Flood relief - NWC supported members groups across the state with funding for those affected badly by these floods. On behalf of Hunter Wildlife I wish to thank NWC for the funding we received to repair our wombat pens and one flying-fox aviary that were badly damaged. Our thanks go also to Wires and IFAW for their support during and after the floods.

We, as the council, have not been as active as we would have liked to be over the past few years but I feel the huge workload we have all been under has to be taken into consideration. I do hope we can move forward after our Planning session on Saturday but this will only happen with members coming forward and taking on roles to help. The Management Committee cannot do the bulk of the work nor should it be expected to. We all on the outgoing Committee have much to do in our own groups, so it would be wonderful to see members put their hands up to take on a role in Planning session, NWC needs to move forward as a strong voice for NSW wildlife.

I would like to close in thanking the outgoing NWC Management Committee, I give special thanks to Meredith Ryan who does the bulk of the NWC work keeping the operational matters running and also to Shirley Lack for her great book keeping and looking after our funds so well ... thank you ladies.

I thank you all for all great work everyone does. As I said before where or what would happen to NSW wildlife without us all? We all deserve to be proud of the work we all do and the positive results for our wildlife. .

Warmest regards
Audrey Koosmen
Chair NWC

**NSW Wildlife Council AGM
Media Report April 2022 –
Feb 2023**

Sonja Elwood

This report covers the eleven-month period April 2022 until present, February 2023, since the last AGM.

NWC Facebook Page:

Since the last media report membership of our Facebook page has increased from 8,633 March 2022 to 8,716 with a further 9,336 following NWC's page. Although page likes have slowed interest in our page has still pleasingly continued. Our page "follows" reflect a number of organisations both professional, voluntary, NGO and media "pages" that now follow our network (organisations and companies are not given the opportunity to "like" a page as an individual can).

As previously reported page posts content remains a mix of:

- Re-posts from our member groups and affiliated groups such as IFAW and HSI and like organisations.
- News items or articles from science-based groups on innovations relating to wildlife, management and discoveries.
- Acknowledgements to carers/groups on projects, achievements and awards.
- Alerts relating to weather situations, grants or funding opportunities.
- Content important or pertinent to our sector or carers.
- Acknowledging days relevant to our sector e.g., Biodiversity Month, Threatened Species Day, World Environment Day, Volunteer Day, World Veterinary Day etc.

Posts and topics with the greatest reach in the past eleven months:

25/04/2022	Anzac Day	6.7K
29/01/2023	Baby Pelican – Twinnies Seabird Rescue	4.6K
17/05/2022	Never try to raise a native animal without training	4.5K
16/06/2022	NWC Grant Offering 2022-23	4.1K
26/05/2022	Vale Jillian Snell	4.1K
09/09/2022	HRH Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Post	3K
08/04/2022	Albino Kangaroo	2.6K
15/12/2022	Antechinus in care – Hunter Wildlife Rescue and Wildlife Arc	2.3K
15/07/2022	World Snake Day	2.3K
30/06/2022	Whale Entanglement - ORRCA	2.3K

NWC Insta Page:

The NWC's Insta page has also continued to increase from 948 to 1,170 as of 23rd February 2023. This platform is gains follows every time a post is added but creating content (with photos) is difficult for one person to maintain on a very regular basis

Recommendations:

- NWC membership and groups encouraged to like NWC FB and Insta pages.
- Ensure NWC logo on other groups social media platforms and websites with links to NWC webpage.
- Provide group articles for publication on NWC page – tag media officer or send post via FB messenger to NWC.
- Seek an agency or marketing professional with a view to developing and implementing a marketing plan to raise the NWC profile.
- Expand Media Officer role to form working party so more initiatives and/or press releases may be achieved and workload shared creating material for social media platforms.

End Report



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 April 2022

NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL PROVIDES INSTANT FUNDING TO FLOOD IMPACTED WILDLIFE CARERS

The NSW Wildlife Council (NWC), the peak body for wildlife rehabilitation in NSW, has recently issued almost \$48,000 to volunteer wildlife carers impacted in the recent flooding events. These volunteers play a vital role in the survival of native fauna.

The NWC aims to achieve optimal outcomes for native fauna, representing 26 licensed wildlife groups and approximately 4,000 wildlife carers in the state. To ensure incoming injured and orphaned wildlife are able to be assisted the Council acknowledges the necessity to distribute donations as soon as possible to carers and groups on the frontline where it is needed most during emergency events. The grants have helped a number of groups and carers involving wildlife from marsupial joeys, wombats, flying-foxes, marine reptiles, birds and more!

In announcing the release of funds, Audrey Koosmen, NSW Wildlife Council Chair, said, "Many of our member groups and carers have been very seriously affected in this recent flood event losing their fauna holding pens with flood waters destroying wombat burrows, fencing, equipment, aviaries and white goods all used for rehabilitating wildlife. The NSW Wildlife Council through generous donations received from the public has been able to fund repairs for those worst-affected. This is one way we can help our most hard-working wildlife volunteers across the state. I thank everyone in the wildlife sector for the great work they are doing to care so well for our wildlife in such challenging conditions."

Ms Koosmen added "It is a real privilege to be able to help these carers. The public donated generously to the NWC Emergency Fund to support our work with wildlife

and these donations will go where the public expect them to go – to directly benefit native animals needing our help”.

Wildlife Council member groups cover the whole of NSW with 4,000 volunteers trained to look after wildlife that need help. The NWC encourages its member groups and their volunteers who were impacted in the recent flooding to apply.

All grant enquiries to grants@nwc.org.au

MEDIA CONTACT

Sonja Elwood | 0424 979 907 | sonjaelwood15@gmail.com

Media Release:

April 10, 2022 - NSW Wildlife Council provides instant funding to flood impacted wildlife carers! Published April 11, 2022 – The Veterinarian Magazine – Winter Issue

Published April 11, 2022 – Illawarra News

Published April 12 2022– The Vet Practice (website)

Published April 20, 2022 – Hills to Hawkesbury Community News Magazin

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