

Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc.
Minutes of 2018
Annual General Meeting
At Jerrabomberra Community Centre
25/31 Jerrabomberra Parkway, Jerrabomberra

Attendance & Apologies

Present: Melissa Pearce, Rebecca Quinn, Lesley Machin, Natalie Patrick, Anne Greenaway, Neil James, Pauline Chambers, Peter Midson, Phil Machin, Anne Willets, Cindi Shoesmith, James Fitzgerald, Sandra Latham, Sherrie Midson, Denise Morgan, Fiona Harrison, Bill Thomas, Tiga Williams, Chris Randell, Linda Daniels, Vivien Laycock, Maryanne Gates, Phil Machin, Eric Heatwole, Bernice Richmond, Rosemary Austen, Alicia Perritt, Jane Baker, Bill Waterhouse, Lesley Waterhouse, Helen Stevens, Kate Paule, Joanna Pagan

Apologies: Lisa Tatem, Miriam Hazel, Langdon Patrick, Lorraine Bell, Diane Hinton, Laurel Rosin, Di Stockbridge, Sandra Griffin

Meeting opened at 11:10 AM

Business

- 1) Minutes of 2017 AGM
There are no actions arising from these minutes of meeting, which have been drafted and posted online for 11 months.
- 2) President's Report – Phil Machin presented the President's report on behalf of the Wildcare Management Committee. See Attachment 1
- 3) Treasurer's Report – Linda Daniels presented the Financial report for the 2017-2018 financial year. See Attachment 2
- 4) Overall Species Coordinator – Natalie Patrick Presented the Overall Species Report on Behalf of the species Coordinators. See attachment 2
- 5) Election of members of the 2019 Wildcare Management Committee

Where there is only one nominee and unless there are any objections that person will be elected. For the other positions, there are up to four people who have nominated and I propose that we hold a secret ballot.

Motion: That the election of members, where there is more than one nominee shall be by secret.

Outcome: Carried unanimously.

Nominees were afforded the opportunity to add to their written statements, such as additional information or conflict of interest.

Neal James acted as the Returning Officer with 33 ballots received.

Declaration of 2018 Elected Committee Members	
President	James Fitzgerald
Vice President	Peter Midson
Secretary	Bridget Anderson
Treasurer	Linda Daniels
Fundraising Coordinator	Sandra Griffin
Communications Coordinator	Natalie Patrick
Members Representative	Sherri Midson
Members Representative	Sandra Latham
Training Coordinator	Eric Heatwole

6) Any other business

Cindi Shoesmith stated that LAOKO may be using unlicensed shooters. Wildcare could be held responsible if there was an incident in the jointly operated area around Michelago. The President stated that he had recently advise the LAOKO President of the need for all wildlife group shooters to have obtained an Animal Welfare permit, which ensures they have been trained in animal welfare.

Action: The incoming President, James Fitzgerald agreed to discuss the matter with the LAOKO President.

Cindi Shoesmith made a public apology to the Treasurer, Linda Daniels, for any offense she had caused in commenting on the veracity of Wildcare's finances earlier in the year.

Cindi Shoesmith and James Fitzgerald raised concerns about the committee's decision to jointly operate in the Michelago area with LAOKO. The President, Phil Machin, suggested that the likelihood of LAOKO volunteers operating in this area was virtually nil and little will change on the ground.

Action: The new committee will again discuss this matter.

Anne Greenaway commented that the new committee must ensure there is natural justice given to people in a dispute and that the committee has legal responsibilities in this respect. [Secretarial note. Disputes are to be dealt with in accordance with the Constitution and the By-Laws, which includes the use of NWC Conflict Resolution Guidelines. Members are bound by these rules.]

Meeting closed at 1:20 PM



Phil Machin
President
Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc.

Wildcare is quite a different organisation to that which started 26 years ago. It is a large, disparate group with over 300 members and an operating budget of tens of thousands of dollars. We depend on email and telephone to communicate, which is not ideal. And we provide an extraordinary service to the community and to the government.

Our glass is very much half full and we should all be very proud of what we do.

We have had a good year. Let me tell you why.

Administration

This committee with the help of some of you has made significant improvements, including:

- Updating our Constitution to the 2016 standard; including adding a key value “members are to hold values that preserve and enhance the welfare of native wildlife.”
- Refreshed the Public Fund Management Committee.
- Updated the By-Laws.
- Created a Standard Operating Procedures document. This only has one entry, but it's a start.
- Introduced a simpler membership application process.
- The governance of shooters has been improved.
- There's a Wildcare Possum Post Facebook page, for members only, with 130 members so far.
- Brittany has produced regular newsletters, and along with committee possum post messages we have kept you informed. But I apologise for not being able to publish minutes of meetings in a timely manner.
- The website content has improved greatly. I'm not an expert, but it might be we need to re-host the website and re-design it. I think Eric has found it difficult to manage.
- We have updated MOUs with LAOKO and WRSC. And we continue to work on WIRES Weddin Lachlan to get an agreement and to update MOU with NARG.
- We have created a Budget, which will mature over time and there is a Fundraising Plan.
- The display coordination team is back in business.

We entered into an agreement with LAOKO to jointly manage the area around Michelago. This sounds like we are giving the farm away, but I expect little will change on the ground. LAOKO benefits so they can claim to cover the whole of the Cooma-Monaro Shire.

This year the committee reminded the Office of Environment and Heritage that there is a need to review their policies to make it easier to get agreements with WIRES. I heard only yesterday that perhaps by the end of the year OEH will publish a draft wildlife management strategy that will take account of some of this.

Thank you

I am very conscious of the huge amount of work so many of you do on behalf of Wildcare – particularly macropod and wombat carers who have large numbers of animals. Committee and non-committee office bearers, rescuers, shooters and carers do a great deal. Thank you.

The biggest bouquet to my mind goes to the roster team. I think there are 27 people who do a roster. The Roster Secretary has done a great job. The roster team is our front window. The first point of contact and you have done so very well. We do need more people to come on-board.

Another bouquet has to go to the Macropod Coordinator and her team. This year we have had an extraordinary influx of joey kangaroos – the largest in our history. I recognise how hard you have worked. Members came to help and we went from 33 to 55 carers in just a few weeks. But we need more carers to spread the load.

And a bouquet to our darter, Cindi, who quietly does so much work on our behalf.

Another quiet achiever is James, our koala guru.

A big thank you to all the committee members – there are now 17, of which eight are appointed. Committee work can be contentious, but it is immensely satisfying. Thank you to those who are leaving the committee, especially Miriam who has done the Secretary job over the last three years.

Our Member Reps have done a splendid job and proactively engaged with members and represented them well. They have made a huge difference.

Our Treasurer has done an exceptional job in maintaining our finances, introducing a level of accountability and discipline that may have lapsed over the years. Last year I think our operating deficit was \$8,500. This year it was \$1,500. It might be we have a surplus this year. The Financial Report is available and Linda can answer questions in a minute.

Thank you to all our fundraisers, which should be all of us. It's not all about sausage sizzles. Rissa has been hitting the markets and running the chocolate sales. The display coordinators, with their team of knitters and sewers, have been selling goods; Alicia with the calendars; Maryanne and Bec selling advertising space on our road signs; Bridget is implementing some excellent ideas; and we have had success generating public donations and some grants. And we are supplying snake bandages to Mont Equipment Adventure in Fyshwick.

Bridget has done a great job in re-organising the training role. We have run the normal round of training, including at Young. Bridget drew the committee's attention to be aware of the mental health of members and Frances Carleton, held an inaugural Mental Health Workshop. In my view this is an excellent initiative.

Our NSW Wildlife Council reps in Suzy and Colin, have been active in protecting our interests

Merran and I have kept Wildcare message alive in the media with regular monthly articles. And Helen, Melissa and I got to be on TV. Maryanne organised a radio advert.

The Future

We have much to look forward to. We have refreshed the governance of Wildcare, albeit in my opinion the committee is too large and the Executive have no role. More is less. In the meantime, Job descriptions need to be made more meaningful with people's authority clearly defined.

For me the next big area to look at is operational management. A team will always beat the individual and I feel we need to start to re-build our networks in local areas. A delegated

team approach, maximising the use of all experienced carers, will spread the load, give more job satisfaction and provide succession planning.

We need to get together more – not just general meetings, but how about informal workshops, to discuss how we are going?

Philip Machin

President, Wildcare

Hi everyone

For those of you that may not know me, my name is Natalie Patrick. I was appointed Overall Species Coordinator in December last year.

Well 2018 has certainly been a busy year for Wildcare. Firstly I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Wildcare's most valuable asset - our volunteers and members - from our roster staff, rescuers, transporters and carers through to our fundraisers, sewers and shooters, and everyone else who silently contributes in the background - without each and every one of you, we couldn't do the important work we do for our native wildlife.

Thank you to our species coordinators, who day after day manage the intake and placement of animals, at times a seemingly endless task. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank all the members of the Committee for their ongoing dedication in managing the day-to-day running of Wildcare.

I'd like to quickly run through some of the statistics and highlights of the 2017-18 financial year:

Birds

Roster received close to 1100 calls relating to birds during the year with approximately 800 coming into care. The most common bird related calls were:

- Magpies (170 calls) (In Care/Released = 63, DOA/Died/Euthanised = 62, Other = 45)
- Galahs (143 calls) (In Care/Released = 52, DOA/Died/Euthanised = 58, Other = 20)
- Crimson Rosellas (130 calls) (In Care/Released = 52, DOA/Died/Euthanised = 58, Other = 20)
- Sulphur Crested Cockatoos (113 calls) (In Care/Released = 29, DOA/Died/Euthanised = 57, Other = 27)
- Kookaburras (51 calls) (In Care/Released = 31, DOA/Died/Euthanised = 12, Other = 8)

On behalf of Maryanne our Bird coordinator, thank you to all of our wonderful bird rescuers and carers. Last year was busy and this year is shaping up to be the same. The beginning of Spring has already seen an influx of baby birds come into care. Thank you to all of you and please continue to do the great work that you do.

Small Mammals & Bats

Possoms and gliders have had a funny year. We've had a large number of brush tail mothers with pouch young come into care for various reasons. But we've had very few baby possums come into care this season, not quite sure why that is. You never know, it may rain babies in January and February!

The basic possum course this year resulted in a number of new, enthusiastic and capable possum carers so we are reasonably well set up for care, but we are in desperate need of more aviaries and release sites. We can't continue using the same release sites or we run the risk our earlier releasees making war on our new releasees. If you're able to help, please get in touch with Denise.

We also had three endangered squirrel gliders rescued, unfortunately two died from their injuries, but one is still in care. It's both surprising and pleasing to know that we have a squirrel glider colony in Murringo near Young.

We currently have 19 members vaccinated to handle bats with two more in the process of getting vaccinations. It's fantastic that we now have the numbers needed to handle rescues across Wildcare territory.

We also now have the capability to ensure microbats kept over winter will re-enter the world fit enough to maintain flight and to hunt. Denise and Peter have constructed a flight aviary on their

property large enough to fly the most common species coming into care. We've also begun micro chipping some of our microbats for identification and to ensure they are returned to their correct rescue site.

Our members also assisted WIRES rescue some fifty grey-headed flying foxes after part of their roost came down in high winds in Cowra during winter. It was a roost of two thousand and some 300-350 died and others were euthanised on the spot because of their injuries. Fifty however were saved, so thank you to all our bat rescuers and carers for the incredible job that you do.

We also helped 35 echidnas during the year, primarily to relocate them away from dangerous territory. Because they are territorial we aim not to take them too far, and at this time of year, they may have a puggle stashed away in a burrow. A few required veterinary assistance and longer term care because of their injuries.

Wombats

On behalf of Lesley, I'd like to express a huge thank you to all of our wombat rescuers and carers. This year, like past years, there was a large number of calls relating to wombats. I'd like to give a special mention to a couple of our most dedicated wombat rescuers and assessors that responded to about 20% of all wombat rescues last year, Diane Hinton and Val Moran. Thank you both so much for your ongoing and dedication. Also thank you to our shooters who perform the very sad but sometimes necessary task of euthanizing wombats.

As always we hope more of you might consider getting involved with wombat rescue, care and release. If you have a suitable property and are willing to consider building a wombat compound please get in contact with Lesley, she can give you more information on what is involved. And of course we can always do with more suitable release sites.

Macropods

There were almost 2100 calls relating to macropods last financial year. As a result there were an incredible amount of joeys coming into care – almost double the number we usually see. As you can imagine, with numbers this high, it has been an ongoing struggle for our macropod coordinator, Helen and our dedicated macropod carers. We now have about 55 active mac carers. But despite the increase in carers this year, we still need more. And of course we also need to identify more pre-release sites. On behalf of Helen, I'd like to thank all of our rescuers, shooters and carers for the incredible job you have done this past year, especially the carers who have been absolutely tremendous!

If you have cared for macropod joeys in the past or would like to start caring, please get in touch with Helen.

Snakes

Unsurprisingly, over the warmer months we had a large number of calls relating to those beautiful but deadly danger noodles! Roster took 226 calls relating to snakes during the financial year. The 5 most common locations (and accounting for approximately 53% of all snake calls) were:

- Wamboin with 36 (23 Tigers, 11 Browns & 2 Red-Bellied Blacks)
- Bungendore with 29 (20 Tigers, 8 Browns & 1 Red-Bellied Black)
- Murrumbateman with 21 (17 Browns, 2 Tigers & 2 Red-Bellied Blacks)
- Yass with 18 (16 Browns & 2 Red-Bellied Blacks)
- Bywong with 17 (11 Tigers, 5 Browns & 1 Red-Bellied Black)

Most common was the Brown Snake (137), followed by Tiger Snake (65) and Red-Bellied Black (24).

Now of course we couldn't do what we do to help the community without our fearless snake rescuers. Thank you to all of you!

Reptiles

Yet again this year we had more calls relating to reptiles and more being rescued. We had close to 50 Turtles and 50 Blue Tongues come into care this year. There was also a variety of other lizards that came into care: Shinglebacks, Bearded Dragons, Cunningham Skinks and two small Rosenberg's Monitors.

On behalf of Alicia thank you to all of our reptile carers and rescuers.

Thank you all!