

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INCORPORATED

HELD AT THE PENRITH REGATTA CENTRE, PENRITH
20 AUGUST 2011

Opening

The President, Rodney Tonkin, opened the meeting at 9.35 am, welcoming delegates and invited guests.

Present: (Pre election)

Rodney Tonkin (President), Radge Diakiw (SFR), Brian Dobbie (FFB), Terry Flanagan (BRB), John Humphries (CCFC), Alan Izzard (BS), Laurie Muldoon (NETAS), John Robb (CCFC), Terry Rowling (CAS), Don Salter (Lakeside), Hock - sook Tham (BS) and Tom Williams (CAS)

Invited Guests:

Mitchell Isaacs (Minister Hodgkinsons Office), Malcolm Poole (RFA), Peter Turnell (DPI), Cameron Westaway (DPI).

1. Apologies:

Clive Brabham, Josh Burns, Ron Butler, Rod Dillon, Peter Gibson, Colin Henderson, Steve Newman, Ben Nieuwerth, Christopher Robertson, Steve Samuels, David Screen, Les Simshauser, Betty Williams, Steve Williamson and Dave Wilson.

2. Passing of Daryl Girling

The Council endorsed the expression of sadness and sympathy sent to the family of Daryl Girling. Daryl died on 25 June 2011, he was from the South West Anglers Association and was a vice president of NSW CFA for a number of years.

3. Minutes of the 2010 AGM

The Council endorsed the minutes of the AGM held on 18 August 2010 as a true and correct record. (Humphries/Williams).

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

4.1 Affiliation Fees

The Council noted that the affiliation fees for 2011/12 remain unchanged. The Council also noted that in line with last year, the NSW CFA was again expected to have a deficit of about \$2000 for this financial year. The Council agreed that the Executive put forward any proposal to alter affiliation fees for 2012/2013 prior to the next AGM.

5. President's Report:

The Council endorsed the President's Report presented by R Tonkin (Attachment 1). (Tonkin/Humphries).

6. Treasurer's Report

The Council endorsed the Treasurers Report (Attachment 2).
(Salter/Robb)

7. Election of Office Bearers

The President declared all positions vacant. There were 2 nominations for Senior Vice President. The Council elected Don Barton to the position of Senior Vice President. As there were no multiple nominees for the other positions, the Council endorsed those nominated. Below is list of Office Bearers for 2011/2012.

(Position)	(Nominee)
Executive	
President:	Rodney Tonkin
Past President	Steve Samuels
Senior Vice President:	Don Barton
Vice President R1:	Terry Flanagan
Vice President R2:	Hock – sook Tham
Vice President R3:	Josh Burns
Vice President R4:	Steve Samuels
Vice President R5:	Tom Williams
Vice President R6:	Ben Nieuwerth (interim)
Vice President R7:	Vacant
Vice President: R8	Laurie Muldoon
VR Fish Liaison:	Ben Nieuwerth
Honorary Secretary:	Radge Diakiw
Asst/Minutes Secretary:	Vacant
Honorary Treasurer:	Rodney Tonkin
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Gibson
Public Officer/Auditor:	Don Salter
Environmental Officer	Don Barton (acting)
Non Executive appointments	
Scientific Officer	Vacant
Honorary Auditor:	David Anderson
Website Editor:	Peter Gibson
Promotion Officer:	John Humphries
Scientific Advisor	Vacant
Delegates to RFA/NSW:	Radge Diakiw, David Screen
Honorary Solicitor	Stuart Beal
Delegates to Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee:	to be advised
Delegate to DPI NSW Trout Allocation Committee	to be advised
Delegate to the Murray Darling Basin Fishing Council:	Rodney Tonkin
Delegate to Fish Habitat Network Steering Committee	Alan Izzard

The Council agreed that the Executive investigate filling the vacant posts and then advise the Minister of our nominations to the Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee and to the DPI NSW Trout Allocation Committee.

8. General Business

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2010 AGM

9.

10. Next AGM

The next AGM is scheduled for Saturday 18 August 2012 most probably at the Penrith Regatta Centre.

Close

There being no further business, the President thanked the outgoing office bearers and closed the Annual General Meeting at 10.20 am.

Signed as a true and accurate record by:

President: _____

Dated: _____

NSWCFA 2011 AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In accord with Section 20.3.b of our Constitution, I have please in presenting the President's annual report. In reflection this is only the third time in the history of the 58 years of this association that a President has been called upon to serve a second term as President, the other being Dr John Halliday and John Sautelle during the period 1961 to 1972. It is normal that a President has imparted all that he has to offer within one three year term. Whist it is a great honour to serve the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers again in this capacity, it is my fervent wish that I haven't run out of wind in this my second term. I have no doubt you will inform me if that becomes obvious.

The transfer in administration from Steve Samuels to me proved to be a slow start for my administration given that my attention was drawn to the internal matters of South West Anglers' Assn. withdrawing from membership and another threatening to do likewise. Secretary Radge and I went to great lengths to answer the concerns raised, and in reflection this diverted our energies being focused on more positive matters. There is a clear message that arises out of all this however. That is, no matter is too undeserving of being discussed openly and constructively in this forum, and that we should find a way to meeting the concerns of individual delegates. NSWCFA policies should reflect support from all our Delegates given that they represent the voice of our affiliated bodies. At all times we must demonstrate respect for the views of others in this forum and that where necessary take the time to further the enlightenment of all for the benefit of NSW freshwater fishers. For to do otherwise will be at our peril. Without unity and State wide representation we risk losing our present status.

Since the recent NSW government election we have witnessed the announcement of a new Minister of Primary Industries and Small Business who has established Dr Geoff Alan as the Principal Director of Fisheries, and four directorships in Recreational Fisheries, Fisheries Research, Fisheries Compliance, and Aquaculture/Conservation/Marine Parks. This amounts to a significant step forward in providing cohesion within NSW Fisheries, restoring that which was lost in the previous Government. I would like to think that previous NSWCFA submissions and negotiation together with RFA-NSW may have contributed somewhat to this reform. We are please today to have Peter Turnell, Director of Recreational Fisheries here to be or guest speaker. NSWCFA working with NSW Fisheries continues to be recognised as a significant factor in the management and improvement of our NSW freshwater recreational fishery.

Issues before Minister Katrina Hodgkinson are submissions on changes to our fishing licensing, a shame and name proposal, and objections to any suggestion on introducing bow hunting fish in freshwaters. The latter is raising an objection before being fully informed as to what is being proposed, for as I understand the situation, ACoRF has yet to establish exactly what is being proposed. The next important task ahead is the proposed repeal of the Fisheries Act 1935 and the opportunity, not only to include provision for Acclimatisation Societies, but also perhaps going one step further to update/improve other elements of the legislation in the Fisheries

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Management Act 1994. Here perhaps is the opportunity to gaining better representation on the Minister's advisory bodies. I have been please to establish communication with Mitchell Isaacs, the Minister's Liaison Officer – Water & Fisheries, who we also welcome here today.

Review of the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) Plan has been a factor in gaining inter-state fisher co-operation in that we have seen the formation of the MDB Fishers' Council (MDBFC), comprised of peak fishing bodies from South Australia, Victoria, NSW, ACT, and Queensland. Formed by a memorandum of understanding, the MDBFC is working on providing a well informed and constructive communication for all fishers to bring pressure on including in the MDB Plan consideration for our native fishery. The focus in the draft communication at this stage appears to be one of achieving better management of our waterways, rather than solely seeking a high level of retention for environmental flows at the expense of irrigation. To date funding this project has been sourced in part from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust and other States are following our example. An economic survey has been undertaken by Ernst & Young to establish the significance of fishing and the associated commercial concerns in the MDB. This work needs further development to establish the significance of fishing to our society and economy. I also attended a MDB Plan Forum in Orange at which an interesting and relevant presentation was given by Professor Kevin Parton of Charles Sturt University, Orange Campus, on the economic impacts of providing environmental flows and compensatory alternative sources of agricultural involvement that could be achieved. Professor Parton was not available to speak to us today.

Even so, this group contains a potential in the longer term for securing a much awaited forum to breaking down State boundaries & help solve common problems to fishery and fisher matters. The MBDFC being a bottom up formed and driven Inter-State association has the potential of addressing some of the challenges identified in Martin Salter's Keep Australia Fishing report. However, if this is to succeed beyond the present immediate task, then it will require both leadership and secure funding. A task ahead of us is to determine whether or not we want to be proactive, rather than as in the past merely be reactive, and take up this initiative for the benefit of our freshwater fishery.

Regarding angler access, a number of fisher organisations were represented at the TSR Forum that the National Parks Association organised at Orange recently. The outcome of this forum was the formation of a group to take the suggestion arising from this discussion forward. Whilst a good representation of fishing organisations were present, including RFA-NSW and the NSWCFCA, to my knowledge no one volunteered to represent fishers on this group. A report on the proceedings of this Forum is included in the papers for this General Meeting.

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There have been two opportunities for NSWCFCA to nominate for grant monies during the year. These include seeking \$20,000 from the 2011-2012 Community Action Grants for Simon Clulows' New England research into creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly freshwater fishery, and the successful grant of \$4,500 for the MDB Plan communication project from the Recreational Fisheries Trust Fund. The Central West Lake Canobolas fish habitat improvement project has now been completed, taking 12 years and costing \$152,000 in grant and Council support funding. The good habitat restoration work that Bass Sydney has undertaken is also most commendable.

I wish to acknowledge and thank most sincerely the help and co-operation received from the Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries), with especial mention to the support and help provided by Cameron Westaway and Sarah Fairfull. The guest speakers throughout the year are of special significance in that Delegates are kept up to speed on matters relating to our fishery. Our appreciation goes to Simon Clulow, Cameron Lay, and Chris Robertson. It is my intension to continue this process of having invited speakers to our meetings. Also, it is timely that the engine room folk to this organisation be acknowledged for their dedication and involvement. They are Secretary Radge Diakiw, Treasurer Don Salter, Editor Peter Gibson, Past President Steve Samuels, Senior Vice President Tom Williams, and Promotions Officer John Humphries who each year makes a significant contribution in fund raising through the Inter-club weekend activity. I also wish to acknowledge our representatives who provided their time and input into other organisations, such as the RFA-NSW, the Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee, the I&I NSW Trout Allocation Committee, and the Snowy Mountains Lakes Strategy Committee.

I move the adoption of this 2011 AGM report,

Rodney Tonkin, NSWCFCA President

20 August 2011.