

**NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC.  
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 18 MAY 2019  
The Freeway Hotel, 115 Reserve Rd, Artarmon NSW 2064**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. OPENING**

The President, Don Barton, welcomed delegates and opened the meeting at 9.30 am.

**Present**

Don Barton (President), Bill Blair (MAS), Radge Diakiw (SFRC), Peter Gibson (NSW RFS, RFA NSW), Kevin Kai (SFRC), Laurie Muldoon (NETAS), Neil Nelson (IFF), Greg Prowse (NSW RFS), John Robb (CCFRC).

At this meeting the following affiliates were represented: Central Acclimatisation Society (1), Central Coast Fly Rodders (1), Illawarra Fly Fishers (1), Monaro Acclimatisation Society (1), New England Trout Acclimatisation Society (1), NSW Rod Fishers' Society (2) and Sydney Fly Rodders' Club (2).

**Apologies**

Charles Atkin (BC), Gary Bickford (SFRC), David Black (MFC), Stefan Fuchs (CAA), David Graham (OTAS), Stan Konstantaras (RFA NSW), Milton Lazarus (BS), Don Salter (LS), Steve Samuels (MAS), David Screen (LS), Jim Screen (LS), Les Simshauser (HNF), Mark Schmidt (SFRC), Ray Tang (CAS), Mike Timbrell (NSW RFS) and John Vernon (LS).  
(Diakiw/Robb)

**2. MINUTES**

**16 February 2019 Ordinary General Meeting minutes for endorsement**

The Meeting agreed that the draft minutes be endorsed subject to renumbering **Agenda Item 5.3 Status of the National Carp Control Plan to Agenda Item 5.5.**  
(Robb/Gibson)

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**3.1 Items from the 4x4 Damage to Waterways** (See Agenda Item 3.3 Feb 2019 OGM).

Not yet completed.

**3.2 Murray Darling Basin Fish Kills.** (See Agenda Item 5.2 Feb 2019 OGM).  
NSWCFA President Don Barton's open letter was sent and published in the Freshwater Fisher.

**3.3 Updating Contact Details of NSWCFA Affiliates** (See Agenda Item 5.4 Feb 2019 OGM).

Peter Gibson, Radge Diakiw and John Robb continue to update and refine contact details.

**3.4 Status of the National Carp Control Plan** (See Agenda Item 5.5 Feb 2019 OGM).

Not yet completed but some aspects are addressed at Agenda Item 5.7 of these minutes

## **4 REPORTS**

### **4.1 Presidents Report**

See Attachment 1

Don Barton's Presidents Report (see Attachment 1) was accepted.  
(Robb/Diakiw)

### **4.2 NSWCFR Executive.**

Outcomes of the 3 Executive Meetings since the February NSWCFR OGM have been circulated to delegates.

### **4.3 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee**

Since selected outcomes of the RFFTEC meeting of 31 January 2019 were reported to the NSWCFR (See Agenda Item 4.3 of Feb 2019 OGM), Peter Gibson advised that:

- DPI has not released the completed consultant's report relating to the risk assessment into recreational fishing in Sydney water supply reservoirs to RFFTEC members even though the report was funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts.
- Some RFFTEC members objected to an out of session proposal from DPI to divert \$50,000 from the Dollar for Dollar program to fund estuary perch stockings in NSW coastal fisheries, because they felt that inland waterways needed as much funding as possible from the Dollar for Dollar program.
- After complaints, a Trusts subcommittee established to watch over the branding and social licence project of the \$500,000 Fish for Life Program has finally been advised that the Program has been approved. A webpage has now been established at:  
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fish-for-life>  
A media campaign is now being planned. Once established, organisations like the NSWCFR will have the opportunity to use the Fish for Life brand (see Agenda Item 5.4).
- A proposal is being developed to establish a fishing museum in one or more buildings at the former Fisheries site at Cronulla at Hungry Point Reserve. (see Agenda Item 5.5).

### **4.4 RFA**

Peter Gibson advised that over the last few months RFA NSW has been:

- lobbying political parties leading up to the NSW election.
- raising Harbour access issues particularly on wharves seeking greater transparency in how funds are allocated in Fisheries particularly as 65 to 70 DPI staff are funded by Trust Monies.
- interacting with NSW Fisheries on Rock Fishing Safety matters

The RFA plans to present Mark Banasiac MLC, of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, with a short list of issues from the from the RFA's 8R's document in response to his offer to help recreational fishers (See Agenda Item 5.6).

### **4.5 Treasurers Report**

The Meeting endorsed the Treasurers Report (Attachment 2) which was prepared by Don Salter. The Meeting noted that some member organisations had not yet renewed their memberships  
(Diakiw/Nelson)

### **4.6 Regional Reports NETAS**

Laurie Muldoon advised that the DPI Trout Strategy meeting was planned for 25 May at the Dutton Hatchery, Ebor. NETAS members are also assisting Fisheries in tagging grown out trout for Oberon. The drought continues in the region with water impoundments all very low with Keepit Dam still under 1% capacity and many areas on Level 4 water restrictions. NETAS will again this year organise a Fly Casting for Recovery day

### **Monaro**

- Despite the fish kill at the Gaden Hatchery the only stocking allocation not met was for brook trout.
- For the second time, Snowy Monaro Regional Council has voted not to allow fishing in Lake Wallace, Nimmitabel. MAS plans to engage with other organisations to encourage the Snowy Monaro Regional Council to reverse its decision.
- MAS notes that John Barilaro has modified his pre-election stance on culling horses in Kosciusko National Park. Pre-election he stated there would be an immediate cull of 50% of the horses. Post-election he stated that a cull would not take place until a full scientific and community review is conducted. MAS continues to work with interested parties to have the horse population in the park decreased.

### **Central West**

Don Barton advised that it has been very dry and sustained rain is needed to make a significant impact on the rivers and streams. Even though the conditions are not ideal there are pockets of fish in some waterways.

#### **4.7 Interclub Fly Fishing Meet Report**

John Robb advised that the May Interclub event again proved successful with 29 attendees. The event raised about \$1600. It was pleasing to note the variety of species captured over the weekend. The Meeting commended John Robb and his helpers for their efforts. A detailed report is at Attachment 3.

## **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Angler Access Website**

On 12 March 2019 the NSWCFCA wrote to DPI Fisheries expressing frustration about repeated delays in the launch of the Angler Access website. Since there was no response (although receipt of the letter was acknowledged) a letter was sent to the Minister on 26 April but again there has been no response. The Meeting rejected the assertion in the draft minutes of the most recent RFFTEC meeting that DPI had completed the action item: **to release the angler access website as soon as possible with social media publicity.**

The Meeting did however note that the recently released **Snapshot of NSW Trout Strategy** provides a link to the Angler Access website. However, the Meeting agreed that the website is deficient. It is “clunky”, difficult to navigate and disappointingly does not identify numerous access sites. And on many of the sites that are identified there is either no information provided or there is a statement stating that the site is under assessment.

The Meeting agreed that the Executive, at its June 2019 meeting, consider responses, if any, from the Department/Minister before deciding on further efforts aimed at getting an Angler Access website that meets the needs of anglers in NSW. The Meeting also agreed to seek the views of affiliates about the website.

## **5.2 Trout Strategy Progress**

Further to the NSWCFCA circulating the DPI **Snapshot of NSW Trout Strategy** on 7 May 2019, the Meeting noted that on 16 May DPI Fisheries advised the NSWCFCA of 3 workshops both planned and conducted on the Trout Strategy. The Meeting welcomed these workshops.

## **5.3 Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee**

### **5.3.1 Lack of Communication and Reporting Arrangements**

On 26 April 2019 the NSWCFCA expressed concern to the chair of the Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee (GTHMC) about the lack of communication between DPI and members of the GTHMC. The NSWCFCA also sought clarification of reporting arrangements for the GTHMC. The response (7 May) from the chair failed to address concerns about lack of communication and did not fully clarify GTHMC reporting arrangements. For this reason, the Meeting agreed to seek further information.

### **5.3.2 Bill Blair Nomination to GTHMC**

The Meeting endorsed the MAS initiative to nominate Bill Blair to the GTHMC as a replacement for John Humphries.

## **5.4 Fish for Life Program.**

The Meeting agreed that the NSWCFCA join the Fish for Life Program. The Meeting also agreed that the NSWCFCA encourage member organisations to consider involvement in the Fish for Life Program. The Fish for Life webpage at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fish-for-life> provides an overview of the Program. See Agenda Item 4.3. (Gibson/Robb)

## **5.5 Fishing Museum**

The Meeting agreed to support a proposal to establish a recreational fishing museum in the grounds of the former Fisheries site at Cronulla at Hungry Point Reserve. The Meeting noted that as well as a museum there may be opportunities to conduct meetings/workshops on the site. See Agenda Item 4.3. (Gibson/Nelson)

## **5.6 Meetings with Political Parties**

The RFA has invited the NSWCFCA to propose 3 priority topics from the RFA's 8R's document so they can be raised when the RFA meets with Mark Banasiac MLC, of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. The Meeting agreed, as a matter of urgency, to ask affiliates to identify 3 priority topics from the RFA's 8R's document. See Agenda Item 4.4.

**\*The 8R's document was prepared in consultation with the NSWCFCA. A copy of the document which incorporates response from the political parties and a request for input was circulated to affiliates on 19 May 2019**

## **5.7 Carp Control Plan Impacts Survey**

The University of Canberra, on behalf of the National Carp Plan, has asked a representative of the NSWCFCA to participate in a confidential survey on understanding potential impacts of the National Carp control plan. The Meeting agreed that Don Barton accept the invitation.

## **5.8 Magpies Fishing Club Membership Application.**

The meeting noted the Magpies Fishing Club Membership Application and, in line with the Constitution, forwarded it to the Executive for consideration.

### **5.9 Future Guest Speakers**

The Meeting noted that Don Barton was investigating inviting Kate McBride (the Murray Darling Basin campaigner) to present at a future meeting. The Meeting also noted an offer from Wilson Harris of the Colong Foundation to give a presentation on the implications of raising the height of the Warragamba Dam wall. The meeting agreed that this matter be referred to the Executive for further consideration.

### **5.10 NSWCFCA Financial Future and Affiliation Fees for 2019/2020**

The Meeting considered responses to the NSWCFCA Financial Future document. Of the member clubs that responded, none indicated that they would not accept increased affiliation fees for 2019 / 2020. Some affiliates put conditions on paying higher fees.

A member organisation agreed to the fee increase recommended in the NSWCFCA Financial Future document but would review their decision after 2 years. Their future involvement would depend on the NSWCFCA:

- Being able to increase its membership to effectively maintain a solid financial status and provide value for money; and
- Being able to demonstrate it can effectively represent anglers across NSW

Other matters raised in the responses included:

- **Insurance costs** – The NSWCFCA pays \$300 others pay up to \$2000 so the NSWCFCA will check the level of cover provided by the premium:
- **The \$400 bank fee to maintain a credit card facility** - the Meeting agreed to discontinue the credit card facility at the end of August but enable payments by cheque and Electronic Funds Transfer. A PayPal account will also be established. This facility will enable those registered with PayPal to still use credit cards for payments.
- **Freshwater Fisher** – Some responders questioned the cost of the Freshwater Fisher (\$4457 in 2018 / 2019). Whilst the Meeting would welcome proposals to reduce the costs, the Meeting agreed that the Freshwater Fisher should continue. Peter Gibson advised that he was investigating ways of enabling affiliated organisations a convenient way getting their members to get the Freshwater Fisher.
- **NETAS Affiliation Fees** – The Meeting noted that NETAS had a long-standing arrangement that set the NETAS affiliation fee at \$50. Laurie Muldoon advised NETAS offered to increase their affiliation fee to between \$80 and \$100.

The Meeting agreed to recommend to the Executive that the NSWCFCA Affiliation Fees for 2019/2020 be increased in accordance with the recommendations of the NSWCFCA Financial Future document. Namely that the current individual membership of \$1.75 be increased to \$2.90 with a cap of \$580 for affiliates with more than 200 members. The Meeting also referred the comments relating to the NSWCFCA Financial Future document to the Executive for further consideration.

## **6. NEXT MEETING 17 AUGUST 2019**

The Meeting noted that the next Ordinary General Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held at the Freeway Hotel, 115 Reserve Rd, Artarmon NSW 2064 on 17 August 2019.

## **7. Close**

Don Barton thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 2.40 pm.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT****18 May 2019****Interclub Meet**

Congratulations are due to all participants, individuals and clubs, who got involved and supported the event and the CFA.

Special congratulations and thanks are due to John Robb for organising the event. One also appreciates the involvement of members of the CFA executive who attended the event; Radge Diakiw and Immediate past President Rodney Tonkin, who made a very special effort to attend (thanks to Dave Graham of OTAS for assisting in that regard). I also note with appreciation the unwavering support by Rolf Quass (Hunter Native Fish) who regularly donates a significant number of flies for prizes, and the contribution of so many noted in John Robb's report who assisted in many ways with the running of the event.

**Trout Strategy**

Following on from the NSW Trout Strategy Workshops which were held mid-last year, NSW DPI will be conducting further informal **workshops**. The first of these **meeting** was held at Gaden Trout Hatchery on the 10th of April and two further will be held further in New England and Central Tablelands. Fisheries advise that these will provide the opportunity for anglers to meet DPI staff and hear about new and current research, enhancements to hatcheries, stocking and management arrangements and DPI/ angler communication.

I urge all anglers to try to attend one of these, if they have not already done so.

**Macquarie Perch**

On Tuesday 7 May it was my privilege to see the first truly wild Macquarie Perch in some 30-odd years, electro-fished by Luke Pearce from a minor stream in the Abercrombie region. Luke took a DNA sample to help map the genetic variation available.

A surprising number of small River Blackfish were also momentarily captive while useful data was recorded.

Less inspiring was a number of small redfin also electro-fished. It seems likely that these came from a source upstream, possibly a farm dam.

We really have to insist on more being done about redfin; raising awareness of the damage caused by redfin, making it an offence to have live redfin in possession in any circumstances (as is the case in Queensland) and adding a custodial option to the range of penalties for translocation of noxious fish.

**McPhillamy's Gold Mine at Kings Plains, near Bathurst**

Once again a mining project involves matters of concern for the future of the freshwater fishery, primarily:

An associated tailings dam (tailings contains heavy metals such as arsenic) of around 620 hectares, which could put the Belubula River at risk through possible failure (either catastrophic or simply involving seepage) and could continue to be of concern once the mine has been exhausted and the dam covered with fill.

Demand on water resources and impact on local hydrology;  
Water will be diverted from the Cocks River catchment. Although this is mine water that will be treated at the new reverse osmosis plant at Mt Piper Power Station, it's nevertheless a loss to the eastern catchment. the main pit is expected to reach a depth of

460 metres, in an area where springs are vital to the viability of streams as habitat for fish. Of course, any seepage could result in contamination of groundwater, as well as the main River.

The Belubula is a River of major interest to freshwater anglers, as it normally carries reasonable numbers of trout in the upper regions and healthy populations of murray cod and golden perch downstream as far as the Lachlan, which it meets halfway between Cowra and Forbes.

Anglers are urged to keep a close watch on the project.

Don Barton  
President

<b>NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC</b>			
<b>- GENERAL MEETING 18 MAY 2019 -</b>			
<b>FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDED 30 APRIL 2019</b>			
	\$	\$	\$
<b>(a) STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>3 mths</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>	<b><u>Last Yr</u></b>
<b>Income:</b>		<b><u>10mths</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
<b>Affiliation fees</b>			
NSW Rod Fishers Society		350	320
Monaro Acclimatisation Society	350	350	350
Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs		300	300
ACT Fly Fishers		212	235
Sydney Fly Rodders Club		212	212
Illawarra Fly Fishers Club		140	135
The Barrington Club		102	98
Canberra Anglers Association		74	226
Central Coast Fly Rodders		70	82
Southern Bass		59	51
Lakeside Fly Fishing Club		56	61
NETAS	50	50	
Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society	42	42	47
Bass Kempsey		38	38
Clarence Fly Anglers		32	33
Central Acclimatisation Society		0	182
Sydney Coarse Angling Club		0	37
Hastings Fly Fishers		0	
Canberra Fishermens Club		0	
	442	2,087	2,407
<b>Foundation membership subscriptions &amp; donations</b>	1,050	1,100	300
<b>Investment &amp; Other income</b>			
Net surplus - Interclub meet Wallerawang		0	1,648
Term deposit interest (St George)		0	(79)
Current account interest (Orange, Wpac)	1	5	8
Raffles, donations		0	30
	1,493	3,192	4,314

<b>Expenditure:</b>						
	"Freshwater Fisher" monthly newsletter		1,103	3,679	4,457	
	Bank fees		99	330	396	
	RFA affiliation		220	220		
	Insurance			218	300	
	Membership survey and comms		98	98		
	Meeting expenses		64	64	200	
	Website expenses		50	50	218	
	Annual Return lodgement fee			0	45	
	Allowances			0		
			1,634	4,659	5,616	
	<b>Net surplus (deficit) for period</b>		(141)	(1,467)	(1,302)	
<b>(b) STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 APL 2019</b>						
<b>Accumulated working funds</b>						
	Balance b'fwd 1 Jul 18		6,320	7,646	8,948	
	Net surplus for period		(141)	(1,467)	(1,302)	
	Balance c'fwd 30 Apl 2019		6,179	6,179	7,646	
<i>Represented by:</i>						
<b>Current assets</b>						
	St George Bank - Grants account		1	1	1	
	Westpac - current, cash reserve accounts		9,186	9,186	7,645	
			9,187	9,187	7,646	
	<b>Total assets</b>		9,187	9,187	7,646	
<b>Current liabilities</b>						
	Interclub meeting receipts in advance		(3,008)	(3,008)		
	<b>Total liabilities</b>		(3,008)	(3,008)	0	
	<b>Net assets</b>		6,179	6,179	7,646	
DA Salter						
7 May 2019						

**Report of the NSWCF A Interclub  
Fly Fishing Meet, 3-5 May 2019**

The NSWCF A Interclub Fly Fishing Meet is run at Wallerawang each year by the NSWCF A and consists of teams from affiliated Clubs/Associations competing in five competitions for the overall Best Club trophy. This year 29 members attended from the following eleven clubs: Sydney Fly Rodders (SFR), Lakeside Fly Fishing Club (LFFC), Central Coast Fly Rodders (CCFR), Central Acclimatisation Society (CAS), Wallerawang Branch of CAS (WCAS), NSW Rod Fishers Society (RFS), Illawarra Fly Fishers Club (IFFC), Orange Trout Acclimatisation Soc (OTAS), Hunter Native Fish (HNF), Canberra Anglers Assn (CAA) and The Barrington Club (BC).

**Weather.** Friday saw rain most of the afternoon and it continued into Saturday morning but cleared to cool and fine for the remainder of our stay.

**Fly Tying.** The competition was run in three divisions with each competitor submitting three flies.

**Novice:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Richie Teague (CCFR)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Max Gear (CCFR)**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Mac Lyall (CCFR)** and 4<sup>th</sup> **Louis Pirona (BC)**. **Intermediate:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Andrew Corkish (SFR)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Neil Nelson (IFFC)**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **James Screen (LFFC)** and 4<sup>th</sup> **Jeff Medhurst (CCFR)**. **Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Radge Diakiw (SFR)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Col Breese (CCFR)** and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Phil Burton (SFR)**. Best team – Fly Tying: **CCFR**, followed by **SFR**.

**Photography:** 24 photos were submitted for judging by the assembled members in two categories.

**Novice:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Mac Lyall (CCFR)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Neil Nelson (IFFC)**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Mac Lyall (CCFR)** and 4<sup>th</sup> **Neil Nelson (IFFC)**. **Advanced:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Murray Stewart (WCAS)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Richie Teague (CCFR)**.

Best team – Photography: **CCFR**, followed by **WCAS**.

**Fishing.** A total of 23 fish were caught: one each of Rainbow trout, Brown trout and Bass, 15 x Redfin and 3 x Carp. A pleasant surprise were the two Murray Cod caught by Murray Stewart.

**Largest fish:** Stream Trout: 37 cm Rainbow (**Jim Screen, LFFC, Cox's River**), Impoundment Trout: 48 cm Rainbow (**Phil Burton, SFR, TCD**), Redfin: 30 cm (**Jeff Medhurst, CCFR, Lake Lyell**), Bass: 33 cm (**Ray Tang, WCAS, Lake Lyell**), Carp 55 cm (**Ray Tang, WCAS, Macquarie R**). **Best Other Species and Best Fish: Murray Cod 62.5 cm (Murray Stewart, WCAS, Macquarie R, near Bathurst)**. Best Fishing team: **WCAS**, followed by **CCFR**.

**Long Cast Accuracy** (3 casts, 20 m, distance of fly to the target flag): 1<sup>st</sup> **James Screen (LFFC, av 97 cm)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Phil Burton (SFR, av 110 cm)**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Jeff Medhurst (CCFR, av 135 cm)**, 4<sup>th</sup> **Neil Nelson (IFFC, av 140 cm)**.

**Short Cast Accuracy** (3 casts into each of 6 rings, max score: 60): 1<sup>st</sup> **Ray Tang (WCAS, 44 pts)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Phil Burton (SFR, 32 pts)**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Steve Bunney (CCFR, 30 pts)** and 4<sup>th</sup> **Radge Diakiw (SFR, 27 pts)**.

Best team – Casting: **SFR**, followed by **CCFR**.

**Best Club Trophy:** 1<sup>st</sup> **CCFR** followed by **WCAS** and **SFR**.

**Donors.** Thank you to Buckenderra Holiday Village (accommodation vouchers, 2 x \$470), Peter Gibson (fly boxes), Rolf Quaas (flies, over \$500 value), John Robertson, Greg Prowse and Sydney FR (Whisky & wine), IFFC (fly line), Phil Burton (flies), John Robb (Fly Boxes), DPI Fisheries (Catch Release Bags).

**Thankyou.** Thank you to Stefan Fuchs and Rolf Quaas for helping me with the running of the Meet. Thank you to Rolf Quaas for judging the Fly Tying comp, to Greg Prowse and Jeff Medhurst for running the raffles, to Charles Atkin, David Graham and Louie Pirona for BBQ cooking. Thanks to Radge Diakiw and Phil Burton for running the casting and to Rolf Quaas, Andrew Corkish, Charles Atkin and Stefan Fuchs for helping with the functions. Thankyou also to the many willing helpers who pitched in when needed and to all who participated in the competitions and made the weekend a great success. Lastly, thankyou to all who participated in the raffles, the proceeds of which contributed to a modest profit that will help the NSWCFCA carry out its mission: fighting for recreational fresh water angling in NSW.

John Robb, Coordinator