

December 2020

Monthly update from the NSWCFCA Executive Committee (meeting held 25 Nov 2020) and General Meeting (held 21 Nov 2020).

This email includes a summary of minutes from both those meetings.

We have had one very interesting piece of correspondence from Adam Marshall, the Minister responsible for fisheries, about fishing in Sydney water impoundments. A few years ago the NSW Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust commissioned a study into regulations regarding the bans on fishing in these impoundments close to Sydney. The study seemed to disappear into a black hole and repeated attempts to find out its status were ignored by NSW DPI Fisheries and the Minister. However we have now received a letter from the Minister that says the issue is still under consideration...[you can read it at this link](#).

Correspondence is on website for your info

Recent interesting correspondence is on a page on our website www.freshwateranglers.com.au — we will keep that up to date so that member organisations can see what's going on. Please mention the website to your members so they can see our efforts on their behalf.

Get our newsletter

For nearly 20 years the NSWCFCA has published a free email newsletter. Please ask your members to sign up for it. There is a subscription link here: <https://us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8ee287affb9dbb289b12fbd77&id=77242d00ae>

Write a letter

If you are concerned about a topic especially relevant to your club, you can write to your local member, ministers and shadow ministers in the NSW government. There is a full list of their roles and contact details at this link: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/pages/all-members.aspx>

Monthly Exec Committee meetings

The monthly Exec Committee meetings happen via Zoom at 6.30 pm on the evening of the last Wednesday of each month except for December each year. Invitations are sent to all members of the executive committee—those people are listed on our website at www.freshwateranglers.com.au. If you want something raised at one of those meetings contact one of the exec committee members or email info@freshwateranglers.com.au.

Quarterly meetings are now on Zoom

The next quarterly meeting of the NSWCFCA will be on Zoom on Saturday 20 Feb 2021. All clubs get a full set of notices, minutes and financial reports for those meetings, via emails to their delegates, which we hope they pass on to their members.

Sharing these updates

These updates are sent to you so that you can share them with members of your club/association. Feel free to forward them, or cut and paste anything you think they might be interested in.

Contact us

Give me a ring or email if we can help. Main email is info@freshwateranglers.com.au, and my phone is 0425 211 313.

Regards

Peter Gibson

President

**NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC.
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 21 Nov 2020
Via Zoom**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES

The President NSWCFCA, Peter Gibson, welcomed delegates and opened the meeting at 10.05 AM.

Present

Peter Gibson (President NSWCFCA, NSW Rod Fishers' Society, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW), Don Barton (Central Acclimatisation Society), Steve Samuels (Monaro Acclimatisation Society), Radge Diakiw (Sydney Fly Rodders' Club), Bill Blair (MAS), Peter Johnson (NSWRFS), Ian Roache (Foundation Member), Don Salter (Lakeside Fly Fishing Club), Guy Verney (MAS), Ken Chapman (Foundation Member) and Jason Middleton (Canberra Anglers Association).

At this meeting the following affiliates were represented: NSW RFS (2), CAS (1), MAS (3), SFRC (1), LS (1) and CAA (1). In addition two Foundation Members were welcomed.

Apologies

Ray Tang (CAS), Peter Mason (Foundation Member), Mike Timbrell (NSWRFS) and Charles Atkin (Barrington Club).

2. MINUTES

15 Aug 2020 Ordinary General Meeting minutes for endorsement

The Meeting agreed that the draft minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.
(Diakiw/Gibson).

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Background correspondence can be found on NSWCFCA website:

http://www.freshwateranglers.com.au/?page_id=127

3.1 Matters Awaiting Response – not for specific discussion

- 3.1.1 Orange Council Off-take of Water From Upper Macquarie River** (See Agenda Item 3.5 Aug 2020 OGM)
- 3.1.2 RecFish Australia** (See Agenda Item 5.1 Aug 2020 OGM)
- 3.1.3 National Carp Plan** (See Agenda Item 6.1 Aug 2020 OGM)
- 3.1.4 NSWCFCA Major Raffle** (See Agenda Item 6.4 Aug 2020 OGM)

3.2 Items for Discussion Today

- 3.2.1 Angler Access Website** (See Agenda Item 3.1 Aug 2020 OGM)
 - Letter to Sean Sloan seeking Cameron Westaway to hurry up – attached.
- 3.2.2 Trout Strategy Developments** (See Agenda Item 3.2 Aug 2020 OGM)
 - MAS have received their temperature loggers from DPI. Samuels understands that Atkins has received also. CAS have received theirs – DPI defined sites based on stocking sites.

- RFFTEC bid for trout redd survey via drone trial.
- A number of grown out trout stocked in CAS and MAS – see regional reports.

3.2.3 Platypus Alliance/Opera House Nets (See Agenda Item 3.3 Aug 2020 OGM)

- Response from Minister Kean to our letter offering support to ban via regulation was disappointing – blaming COVID for inaction. Letter did offer a direct contact who President will pursue.

3.2.4 Retaining Access to TSRs and Public Reserves (See Agenda Item 3.4 Aug 2020 OGM)

- No specific action in respect to the strategy.
- Only related action of note is that about 70 reserves have been passed to Snowy Monaro Regional Council by Lands Department. The reserves are now effectively freehold to council and thus DPI (Fisheries) does not need to be consulted if council decide to sell them off. MAS are approaching council to argue for continued community access to waters related to 24 reserves. After the meeting, Samuels noted that Alistair McBurnie had been co-ordinating with MAS on this matter. DPI Fisheries, through McBurnie, are making submissions expressing concerns over angler access.
- Barton is aware that actions have been initiated in Oberon City Council to engage anglers in similar matters. Not seen anything with Bathurst.
- Samuels and Barton are concerned that other regions may find their councils have been given lands and this has not been widely advertised.
- Action on NSWCFCA (Diakiw) to approach Lands Department to identify state wide situation.
- Action on NSWCFCA (Gibson) to contact DPI Fisheries. This will recognise McBurnie's support in the Snowy region, but will express concern that it appears the general population of anglers were not given any warning by DPI about changes to local government responsibility. He will seek advice on the extent that DPI Fisheries are systematically addressing potential threats to angler access by these changes.
- Action on NSWCFCA (Diakiw) to contact bushwalkers and kayakers associations to raise awareness with them.

3.2.5 Age Profile of NSWCFCA (See Agenda Item 6.3 Aug 2020 OGM)

- Middleton proposal for NSWCFCA to co-ordinate clubs in running youth events seemed overly ambitious and President has deterred further action.
- Junior Vice President idea still extant. Gibson to draft ideas for presentation at next Executive Meeting.

4. REPORTS

4.1 President Report.

Provided in attachment.

4.2 NSWCFCA Executive.

- Exec Committee meeting minutes have been sent out to affiliates.
- Future minutes to be also sent to Foundation Members.

4.3 RFNSW

- Next RFNSW meeting to be held in Newcastle on 27 Nov. This meeting will host a combined session with the NSW commercial fishing advisory council.

4.4 RFFTEC

- Johnson reported next meeting is 8th Dec.
- Application for current funding round has recently closed, 57 applications arrived.
- Some discussions were held at the last meeting on the balance of funding fresh versus salt but Johnson was not permitted to describe in detail.
- Samuels advised that, in respect to the 70% salt/30% freshwater split, RFFTEC had in the past been briefed that freshwater faces much greater challenges than salt. Notwithstanding that requests from RFFTEC to RFSTEC for transfer have been approved in the past, Samuels argued that this fixed split was inappropriate.

4.5 RFA-NSW

- RFANSW have managed to have a limited meeting with Sean Sloan (unable to meet the Minister). His concern over poor reputation in social media was expressed.
- Further agitation on marine parks.
- Engagement with South West clubs...Vice Pres made a trip to meet a number of them in recent weeks.
- RFANSW has waived membership fees for 2020-21 to clubs that were members in 2019-20.
- Meeting with shadow minister of Agriculture Jenny Aitchison. She offered support with issues, and sought suggestions/background.
- Met recently with Mark Banasiak of Shooters, Fishers and Farmers. Strongly supportive and helpful with advice.
- Irrigation screens. RFANSW are asking various ministers, given an extensive suite of relevant environmental legislation in NSW, why the legislation is insufficient to protect fish from being destroyed in irrigation pumps, and why anglers are paying for solutions (\$148k RFFTEC for forum on screen initiatives). RFANSW is searching for a law firm seeking *pro bono* assistance to give advice. (Barton advised that CAS had been approached to donate towards screens).
- In a related thread, RFANSW was invited to meet John Culleton leading the NSW Fish Passage Strategy – benefits of natural recruitment vs hatchery but impacted by passage problems. Culleton is looking at building angling community groundswell of support for the NSW Fish Passage Strategy. RFANSW sought case studies and priority passage problems.

4.6 Regional Reports

Region 8 New England

- Atkin provided an email advising his ongoing efforts approaching various to clubs to (re)join NSWCFR. In this context, letters previously sent to Hastings and Scone clubs have received no response.

Region 4 Central Tablelands

- In the absence of Timbrell for regional report, Barton reported stocking in CAS. Rainbow fry released in September were unexpectedly joined by some

Brown trout fry from Gaden. Ten thousand rainbow trout fingerlings from Dutton were released in the Fish River below Oberon Dam last Monday..

- Members of CAS are involved in Macquarie Perch recovery project next week.
- Barton spoke about a pumped hydro project being pursued at Yetholme (<https://www.alturagroup.com.au/central-west-pumped-storage-hydro>) – this in the context that all regions need to be alert to such projects that impact of water extraction and water usage and habitat.

Region 4 Monaro

- A number of grown out trout, up to 8 inch, have been stocked in several sites.
- Meetings with Snowy Hydro further developing the plan for the grow-out facility to present to NSW Planning.
- 3 Mile Dam road closures by KNP/NPWS have been incorrectly being attributed to Snowy Hydro. Cameron Westaway has been approached to broker resolution.

Region 2 Sydney

- Nothing received.

Other Areas

- Middleton reported on the Capital area:
 - Restrictions of angler access on the Goodradigbee.
 - NCA about to conduct natives stocking.
 - CAA have not taken up NSW DPI \$for\$ native stocking.
 - Further reported on NSW Waterways ban on night time access to the waterways (eg Brogo).

4.6 Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee

- Significant investment is going into Gaden, ie \$3M grant for visitor's centre, \$5M Snowy Hydro 2.0 grow out and \$3M for refurbishment of the hatching room. Committee meetings or updates to committee members are still not occurring in spite of these serious matters.

4.7 Trout Allocation Committee

- NTR as ad hoc one-on-one meetings have been conducted.
- Will keep this on the agenda as Apr 2021 may see return to normal practice.

4.8 Snowy Lakes Strategy Committee

- Not met since Nov 2019.

4.9 Treasurer's Report

- Financials as at 31 Oct 2020 attached.
- Most affiliation fees received. A number of Affiliates remain outstanding, including several 'probables' which Salter is chasing up.
- Balance is high as costs will continue though most income has arrived.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 CSDAC

- Correspondence/conversations have been conducted by Gibson to identify how CSDAC can engage with NSWCFR given lack of information technology is being progressed.

6. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

6.1 Fish Passage

- A key state wide issue – passage and extraction – to be the priority issue for NSWCFCA.
- Strategy and tactics for next five or ten years to be developed. (Samuels/Barton)

6.2 General Thoughts

- Raising profile of NSWCFCA:
 - Via promoting individual Affiliates via advertisements in “Freshwater Fishing” – Middleton has advice of the potential of discount. He can undertake the task including RFFTEC grant bids.
 - Fishing destinations in NSW – Gibson concerned this is arguably a DPI Fisheries responsibility.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Action to Amend Constitution

- Remains on back burner.

7.2 Items From the Floor

Nil.

8. NEXT MEETING 20 February 2021

Likely via Zoom.

9. Close

The President thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 12:00 PM.

President's Report 21 November 2020

As this is the first President's report that I've presented, I firstly want to take the opportunity to thank Don Barton for his past years as President. Don served more years than anyone should have had to, and I am sure we are all grateful for not only the job he did presiding over the NSWCFCA, but also for the numerous occasions on which he represented us at government committees and various conferences, and for his expert lobbying, particularly on inland water issues.

I also want to thank a few people who have made the transition from Don's presidency to my own very easy: Radge Diakiw and Bill Blair for their combined secretarial efforts, and Don Salter for his incredibly reliable management of our finances.

During Don's term as President we had already started transitioning towards greater use of virtual meetings to run the NSWCFCA, and this of course accelerated because of Covid-19 restrictions. It has saved our members a lot of time and expense attending face-to-face meetings. And in fact, Covid-19 seems to have given us an unexpected boost—I think we now have more members taking an interest in being involved because they are able to engage with us via Zoom, etc, without the expectation that they spend many more hours and dollars on the face-to-face meetings. We have seen a few more new faces, and new energy and ideas, in the monthly executive committee Zoom meetings this year.

However, this doesn't suit everyone. We have become aware that a surprising number of delegates, or potential delegates, don't have access to suitable internet connections or are not in the habit of communicating via virtual meetings, emails, and so on. We must move forward—but we do need to keep one eye on how these changes affect our representation and engagement with members.

This year seems to have been a period of trying to chase down issues that have bothered us for some time: the disappointing performance of the DPI angling access website; lack of timely reporting from RFNSW and the Trust committees; the long-running lack of action on yabby trap regulations; and the complete disappearance of the review initiated by the previous Minister for fisheries, Niall Blair, into recreational fishing in Sydney water impoundments.

We have made very little impact on some issues but I propose to keep these on a background agenda and chase them down until we get to some resolution—although I suspect some will end up in dead ends. It is very disappointing that after seeing little progress with DPI on some of these issues, referring them to the ministers responsible has resulted in the problem just being referred back down to DPI officers who are powerless to change anything, or in several cases the lack of ministerial/departmental action is blamed on drought, bushfires and more recently Covid-19. The ministers, or those who write the responses for them, are continually falling back on the flimsiest excuses for their lack of action.

By the end of this year I think we will have done our utmost to either get a resolution on the outstanding problems, or at least exposed the failures to our members. I am not scared of being a thorn in the side of the department or government when necessary, but our members will not want to see us continually going over old ground—we do need to look towards new issues that need a constructive effort from us, and I hope we will get some ideas in today's meeting.

Peter Gibson

21 Nov 2020

NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC
- GENERAL MEETING 21 NOV 2020 -
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 4 MONTHS ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

	£	£	£
(a) STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	<u>4 mths</u>	<u>YTD 4mths</u>	<u>Last Yr</u>
Income:			2020
Affiliation fees			
Monaro Acclimatisation Society	580	580	580
Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs	580	580	580
NSW Rod Fishers Society	502	502	580
Sydney Fly Rodders Club	464	464	377
ACT Fly Fishers	429	429	409
Illawarra Fly Fishers Club	215	215	215
The Barrington Club	202	202	171
Central Coast Fly Rodders	139	139	133
Lakeside Fly Fishing Club	97	97	96
Clarence Fly Anglers	32	32	32
Canberra Fishermens Club		0	122
NETAS		0	90
Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society		0	75
Bass Kempsey		0	61
Hunter Native Fish		0	58
Southern Bass		0	46
Canberra Anglers Association		0	
Central Acclimatisation Society		0	
Asquith Magpies Fishing Club		0	
Hastings Fly Fishers		0	
	3,240	3,240	3,625

Foundation membership subscriptions & donations	491	491	2,076
Investment & Other income			
Net surplus - Interclub meet Wallerawang	0	0	
Current account interest (Wpac)	2	2	6
Raffles, donations	0	0	
	<u>3,733</u>	<u>3,733</u>	<u>5,707</u>
Expenditure:			
"Freshwater Fisher" monthly newsletter	1,468	1,468	4,408
Website, email service expenses	226	226	227
RFA affiliation		0	220
Bank fees		0	170
Meeting expenses	64	64	600
Insurance		0	324
Membership survey and comms		0	
Annual Return lodgement fee		0	
	<u>1,758</u>	<u>1,758</u>	<u>5,949</u>
Net surplus (deficit) for period	1,975	1,975	(242)

**(b) STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 OCT
2020**

Accumulated working funds

Balance b'fwd 1 Jul 20	6,608	6,608	6,850
Net surplus for period	1,975	1,975	(242)
Balance c'fwd 31 Oct 2020	<u>8,583</u>	<u>8,583</u>	<u>6,608</u>

Represented by:

Current assets

St George Bank - Grants account	1	1	1
Westpac - current, cash reserve accounts	8,582	8,582	6,607
	<u>8,583</u>	<u>8,583</u>	<u>6,608</u>

Total assets

<u>8,583</u>	<u>8,583</u>	<u>6,608</u>
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Current liabilities

Interclub meeting receipts in advance	0	0	0
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Total liabilities

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
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Net assets

<u>8,583</u>	<u>8,583</u>	<u>6,608</u>
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DA Salter
8 Nov
2020

NSWCFA Executive Meeting using ZOOM
Wednesday 25 Nov 2020 at 6:36 pm
Outcomes

Participants

Peter Gibson, Radge Diakiw, Don Barton, Don Salter, Charles Atkin, Steve Samuels and Bill Blair.

Apologies

Mike Timbrell, Peter Johnson and Jason Middleton

Actions Arising Oct 2020 Exec

- Angler Access Website
 - Only consequences from letter to Sloan/Marshall was acknowledgement of receipt.
 - Diakiw to draft letter to Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and Opposition if nothing received by Christmas

- Opera House Trap Ban
 - Response from Kean blamed COVID restrictions on public engagement but provided a departmental contact.
 - Gibson to reply to the Environment Department contact, cc'd to Kean, Platypus Alliance expressing concern that COVID restrictions were not a valid excuse for inaction.
 - Item to be prepared for next Freshwater Fisher.
 - Both should note recent effort by scientists to class platypus as endangered species.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-23/push-to-list-platypus-as-threatened-species-nsw/12910920>

- Angler understanding of access to water
 - Differences such as visitation rates/pressure will lead to different approaches in different regions. There is no one-size fits all solution.
 - This matter is now on hold as a CFA issue.
 - Timbrell may be continuing consideration as a local level initiative only.

- Constitutional amendment
 - Nothing to report at this time – action remains extant.
 - Will attack next year – especially in the timeframe of the 2021 AGM.
 - We need to monitor the question of AGM being conducted over electronic means – the constitution may need a specific change to be approved independent to wholesale rewrite.

- Honours Project – “angler fishing experience” and impact on water of grazing practices
 - Nothing to report at this time – action remains extant.

- RecFish.
 - Nothing to report at this time – action remains extant.

- CAA.
 - Middleton reported at Nov OGM that CAA will return – no formal correspondence or Affiliation Fees.
 - Salter to contact CAA and seek only 2020/21 fees.
- Impoundments Report.
 - Gibson sought advice from the contracted consultant. They have not heard of any progress in consideration by relevant Minister.
 - Gibson will ask the Shadow Minister to seek advice, also send a query to the Chair of RFNSW.
- Single Contact Database.
 - GoogleDocs being tested by Gibson and Diakiw for shared storage.
 - Further refinement of our contact list/SOPs continues.
- "Procedures manual".
 - Procedures describing NSWCFCA banking system process is in final draft by Gibson. Similarly, procedure for dissemination of Exec Outcomes/President monthly report etc . Both were scheduled for Nov OGM but was missed. Resolved version to be tabled for information at Feb OGM.
- Recruiting additional Affiliates is on-going.
 - Approaches to Hastings and Scone clubs was unsuccessful. Atkin will pursue further due to personal connections.
 - Atkin has an ongoing program for other clubs in his region. He will set up an invitation to our next OGM for identified clubs to attend as guests.
 - We mustn't forget the west in due course.
- CAS Affiliation to NSWCFCA.
 - Executive meeting of CAS recently resolved to pay the outstanding fees for 2019/20.
 - This payment will instead be considered to be for 2020/21.
- CSDAC representation on NSWCFCA.
 - Robert Curr, President BDAS (affiliate of CSDAC) has been identified as CSDAC representative. He was invited tonight but no response seen.

Other Business

- Actions from Nov OGM
 - Contact Lands Department re reserves – Diakiw
 - Emailed and verbal response from Lands Department seems to contradict the actions being taken by Snowy Monaro Regional Council to review Plans of Management. Diakiw has disseminated this email to Exec for consideration and advice to him of any continuing concerns eg whether other regions have had management changes being developed without public engagement.
 - Diakiw to write a letter to his contact in Lands Department seeking clarification of these concerns.
 - Contact DPI Fisheries re reserves – Gibson
 - Advice from Cameron Westaway is that DPI Fisheries themselves are unaware of changes. DPI are themselves pursuing clarification.

- Contact bushwalkers etc re reserves – Diakiw
 - To be undertaken
- Age profile/junior participation
 - No action at this time.
- Fish Passage/water extraction – Gibson has contacted Fisheries to suggest Jason’s idea of online presentation.
- Follow up Culleton/Gordos on case studies etc to promote fish passage — Gibson
 - Response received from Mr Culleton that these will be sent this week to meet Freshwater Fisher deadlines.
 - When Culleton was asked about the RFA question asking why existing legislation could not be invoked to pursue irrigators etc for their impact on fish populations, he stated that he believed older irrigation systems were not covered by the current legislation – only new installations/modifications.
 - No responses have been received by RFA from their original letter to various ministers on that and other funding matters.
 - NSWCFR to continue consideration of future actions in this matter.
- Middleton proposal(s)
 - Defer till Middleton can attend and present his proposal(s).

Next Executive Meeting

The Executive agreed to conduct its next meeting on Wednesday 27 Jan 2021 at 6.30 pm using Zoom.

Close