

Australasian Wildlife Management Society

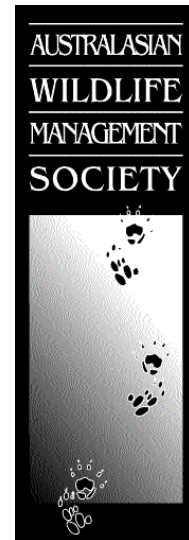
Annual General Meeting 2021

Agenda for zoom meeting Wednesday 8th Dec 2021

Scheduled for 4:30 pm AEDT, 1:00 pm AWST

Attendees:

Jim Hone, Wendy Ruscoe, Patrick Medway, Craig Allen, Kathrine Handasyde, Shannon Dundas, Margarita Medina, Maree Treadwell, David Forsyth, David Berman, George Wilson, Will Ashley, Tarnya Cox, Terry Korn, Andrew Bengsen, Nikki Van de Weyer, Sera Steves, Peter Caley, Megan Fabian, Tracey Kreplins, Al Glen, Thomas Newsome, Tim Henderson, Peter Shaughnessy, Samantha Shi, Georgia McManus, Graeme Finlayson, Andrea Byrom, Stuart Dawson, Eliane McCarthy, Mel Snape, Sebastien Comte, Adam Munn



Apologies:

Jordan Hampton, Malcolm Kennedy, Julie Old, Ben Allen, John Stuart

1. Minutes of previous meeting: Circulated prior to meeting

[Thomas Newsome moved to accept, Terry Korn seconded](#)

2. Presidents' report (Tom Newsome)

There was no nomination for President of AWMS for 2021, but I was pleased to accept the role of Acting President. This year has been especially challenging for researchers, practitioners, students and stakeholders as the COVID-19 impacts continued – but I'd like to start with some thanks to those who have kept AWMS going over the last year, especially the committee members.

Several committee members are departing us and leaving room for new people to join. Terry Korn has held the public officer position for (many) years now, and I want to especially thank him for his diligence in submitting the necessary paperwork and chasing signatures. Wendy Ruscoe has kindly offered to take over as the public officer – thank you Wendy.

We will also see departing from the committee Oliver Orgill, Bronwyn Fancourt, Andrew Bengsen and John-Michael Stuart – thank you all for your time and service to AWMS.

In my first report this year I noted how young the current Committee is, and I reflected how it felt like a changing of the guard with fewer grey hairs around – I see this as an opportunity to both build on the foundations laid and to shape AWMS into an organisation that can survive and thrive in today's fast social media driven world with escalating wildlife management issues.

In terms of achievements this year – I also noted in my first report that Committee identified the need for AWMS to engage more with members, to recruit more members, and to become a more active and vocal advocate for appropriate use of wildlife management to tackle environmental issues at the local, State and Federal Government level. I think we did OK, especially in a relatively difficult year and with no opportunities for face-to-face engagement, but there is a lot of room to improve.

Some initiatives/achievements this year included the distribution of a members survey because we are keen to hear your thoughts on the future direction of AWMS – the results of which we will distribute after the conference. We added a new page to the website listing public enquiries. This is in part because I think there is much more scope for AWMS to be a more active public advocate for appropriate wildlife management. The position statements go some way to achieving this, but they are static documents, don't cover all the issues and they become dated very quickly. I think there is scope to improve the position statements, but in general to be more active in writing submissions on matters of interest. To aid this, the AWMS committee may seek input from members with specific expertise to help draft letters or submissions to public enquiries. The committee would also welcome members thoughts on particular issues of concern that could use support from AWMS, i.e. via a letter. Please get in contact if so.

The committee did submit a response to the draft Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan – and although ignored based on the final plan approved – I'd like this and future letters/submissions to be uploaded on the website. We also corresponded with NSW State Parliament members about the kangaroo inquiry on the Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales, and we were approached to add another representative to the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel – which I have joined.

AWMS gives out a relatively large number of awards each year, but the number of applications for some awards (not so much the student awards) was relatively low over the past two years, so these need to be promoted much more widely. Similarly, the Braysher Management Fund and the Joan Southgate Travel Award could be promoted more, but the latter has obviously been affected by the travel restrictions. We did receive nominations for the Caughley medals this year which was great – the last was given out in 2016 – news to follow at the end of the conference.

As we will see later, there are a number of positions available on the committee and I really hope we can get a full committee together by the end of this AGM. The committee provides a way for members to influence the future direction of AWMS and to make a positive impact to wildlife management through awards, bringing people together at conferences, and through the different public outreach options AWMS engages in. For the last two years the committee has been functioning on a slightly reduced capacity, and the lack of face-to-face conferences has hindered the last minute round-up of candidates - but please do put your name forward if there is a position vacant, especially if you are from New Zealand – we would really like some more New Zealand representatives.

From a financial perspective, AWMS has remained in a relatively stable position but has had no major income streams over the last two years with the online conference options. Next year, we would really like the conference to take place in New Zealand, pending a few people to put up their hands to be on the organising committee. We last had a conference in New Zealand in 2016 – so it is long overdue.

With that – I'd like to say thanks again to the committee this year, and I wish all the best to AWMS members for your ongoing support.

Regards,

Thomas Newsome.

Dave Forsyth moved that Terry Korn, Ollie Orgill, Bronwyn Fancourt, Andrew Bengsen and John-Michael Stuart be officially thanked for their contribution. Tarnya Cox seconded.

Tarnya Cox moved to accept the report, Stuart Dawson seconded.

3. Correspondence (Stu Dawson)

During 2021 AWMS made a concerted effort to increase their engagement with various public enquiries.

- AWMS was approached by Mark Pearson (Animal Justice Party NSW) to confirm our support for the kangaroo harvest industry. A direct reply was sent, drawn largely from the existing AWMS position statement on the commercial harvest of kangaroos.
- AWMS made a submission to the Kosciusko Horse Management Plan draft. This submission was drafted by the committee.
- Requests from a conference organizing company in WA trying to draw AWMS to Perth, and offering support for the conference. We had meetings, and have come to the conclusion that the support was too prescriptive to be useful.
- Numerous questions regarding AWMS Awards.
- Numerous questions regarding registration for the 2021 conference.

Tom Newsome moved to accept; Terry Korn seconded.

4. Treasurer's report (Sebastian Comte)

Based on the status of the accounts on the 05/12/2021 the AWMS financial position is keeping the stable and positive trend of the last two years. The total assets increased from \$246,494.61 in FY2019 to \$268,284.41 in 2020 and then stabilised at \$272,530.29 today. A full breakdown is below:

Current Assets	2019\$	2020\$	2021\$	Today\$
CBA chq a/c	50,037.30	82,464.42	79,105.41	76,824.09
CBA term deposit	67,844.78	68,637.95	68,706.78	68,712.52
CBA Transaction a/c	4,327.15	1,738.28	2,015.24	9,535.60
PAYPAL a/c	4,255.38	5,836.95	16,054.90	17,487.84

CBA public fund	120,030.00	109,606.81	104,659.80	99,970.24
Total Current Assets	246,494.61	268,284.41	270,504.64	272,530.29

Note that the total current assets above includes the public fund, which is audited separately (total \$99,970.24) – the remaining balance is \$172,560.05.

Total income in the 2021FY was \$28,797.95. Expenses totalled \$26,577.89 which provided a net income of \$2,220.06.

As of 8/12/2021 for the 2022FY, total income is \$9,767.68. Running expenses are \$7,611.70 for a net income of \$2,512.16.

INCOME	2019	2020	2021	Today
Refunds	(1,691.37)	(1,433.00)	(250.00)	524.00
Publishing Income	319.01	253.87	227.67	193.68
Conference Income	93,706.00	79,209.90	19,438.46	7,245.00
Membership Fees	12,050.00	10,710.00	9,260.00	1,805.00
Workshop Income	-	-	-	-
Interest	203.00	845.21	121.82	356.18
TOTAL INCOME	104,586.64	89,585.98	28,797.95	9,767.68
EXPENSES				
Audit	2,385.00	2,486.00	2,744.50	2,156.00
Advertising	2,480.78	1,613.29	1,628.11	151.00
Awards	5,524.71	6,399.21	7,000.00	4,120.00
Bank Charges & Paypal	2,224.15	1,821.89	493.47	140.62
Conference expenses	72,757.33	42,112.74	13,772.52	68.72
General expenses	-	-	-	-
Insurance	871.08	909.56	939.29	975.36
Member Clicks	-	-	-	-
Printing and Stationary	3,708.05	-	-	-
Subscriptions	66.00	-	-	-

Telephone/Internet	208.06	426.32	-	-
Refund	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	90,255.16	55,769.01	26,577.89	7,611.70
NET PROFIT	14,361.48	33,816.97	2,220.06	2,512.16

Current signatures on the bank accounts:

Society bank account:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Conference liaison officer

These signatures will need to be updated once the new committee has been elected.

Public fund:

Public officer, President, Vice President, Treasurer

These signatures will need to be updated with the new public officer signature.

Term deposits:

Public fund term deposit: Matured on 05/11/2021 (0.50%).

It will be reinvested once the new committee is elected and the signatures are updated

Society term deposit: invested until 08/08/2022 (0.30%)

2021 Audit:

Audit finalised on the 29/10/2021 without any issue reported.

Final documents attached to this report.

[Kathrine Handasyde moved to accept, Terry Korn seconded.](#)

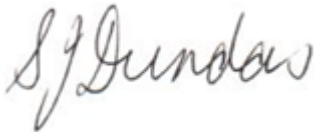
5. Membership secretary's report (Shannon Dundas)

Our membership numbers have increased from last year. The current membership numbers stand at 216.

The breakdown is:

Year	2021
Full	130
Student	51
Institutional	12
Retired/Unemployed	19
Lifetime	4
Totals	216

This compares to 159 for 2020, 183 for 2019 and 230 for 2018. The discounted conference fees for this year seems to have boosted our membership numbers. We had 44 new member applications (31 Full, 9 Student, 4 Retired/Unemployed) from the start of November. Remember to fill out our member benefits survey on the AWMS website.



Shannon Dundas

AWMS Membership Secretary

Sebastian Comte moved, Al Glen seconded.

Kathrine Handasyde asked if we have joined memberships with other societies. We currently have a SAWMA exchange for conference attendance, but not membership. Not many NZ members, so this is priority. Tarnya Cox pointed out that SAMWA get a members discount on. Kathrine Handasyde, suggested we get a speaker from PNG. Konnie had no luck previously. Tarnya Cox suggested a developing country scholarship for developing nations.

6. Student representative report (John Stuart)

No update due to COVID

[Al Glen moved to accept, Stuart Dawson seconded.](#)

7. Position statement coordinator's report (Andrew Bengsen)

The main action on the position statements front this year has been the feral horse statement that Dave Berman has been drafting, in consultation with the executive committee. Dave submitted a revised draft in October based on feedback from the committee. This revision coincided with an independent submission to the Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan by the executive committee, and it was decided that further work on the draft position statement should wait until that submission had been completed. This occurred in November 2021. The proposed plan for the draft feral horse position statement is to now edit the statement to incorporate further feedback from committee members and return it to Dave. The final draft will need to be circulated to all AWMS members before adoption.

I am very keen to see someone new serve the Society as Position Statements Coordinator. It's not a terribly onerous job, but I haven't been giving it the attention that it needs or that the Society deserves. It's also become apparent over the last couple of years that the Society needs a mechanism to articulate a well-considered position on relevant issues in a more timely manner than is possible with the current position statement format. Recent examples include submissions to the Australian Senate inquiry into Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia, and the NSW Government's Draft Kosciuszko National Park wild horse heritage management plan. At present, the process for responding to these opportunities has been ad hoc and has largely fallen on the shoulders of those people who are most willing to put their hands up to help. I think it could be useful for the committee to formalise a process and responsibilities for generating timely responses to topical issues, and for pre-emptively identifying opportunities. This is consistent with the Society's stated aim of influencing policy and management decisions through the provision of clear, explicit and pragmatic advice on options for wildlife management and associated risks.

[Stuart Dawson moved to accept, Adam Munn seconded.](#)

[Questions: Adam Munn and George Wilson would like to be involved in the indigenous use of wildlife.](#)

[Mel Snape suggested we raise a wild dog/dingo position statement. Ben Allen started it. Also Peter Fleming and Guy Ballard, lets track down the draft.](#)

8. Newsletter editor's report (Margarita Medina)

Three newsletters were published (Dec 2020, May 2021 and October 2021)

- Dec 2020 – conference wrap-up, AGM minutes, website updates, postgraduate student award reports, 2021 conference announcement
- May 2021 – new office bearers, reports, outcomes and 2021 conference
- October 2021 – conference, meet the conference organizers’ (new section), committee positions available, Awards 2022

[Kathrine Handasyde moved to accept; Al Glen seconded](#)

9. Social media and media activity (Margarita Medina)

Website:

Last August we launched two new sections on the website:

A new tab was created in the AWMS website [Have your say](#), designed for posting surveys for our members and general audience. Currently we have the AWMS Members Benefits survey

A new page in the Resources section [Public enquiries](#), we had

- Draft Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan
- Indigenous Voices in Australia's Wildlife Health System
- Threatened Species
- Frogs in NSW

In the jobs board, we had more than 20 requests to advertise postdoc, PhD positions and jobs.

The awards we grant page was updated and all awards were advertised in June (at this point we thought that the conference was going to be face to face) except the Joan Southgate Southern Africa-Australia Travel Fund as applications open in February.

The people page was updated adding the acting president, secretary and SAWMA representative. The home page is updated regularly.

Social Media:

Social media platform	Dec 2021
Twitter	599
Facebook	3191 likes (3503 followers)
LinkedIn	48
Instagram	710

Most of our followers are on facebook and Instagram.

Our social media posts are mainly to advertise the website content (jobs, conference, surveys, public enquiries, newsletters, awards) but also trending topics content and news on wildlife management and conservation.

Tarnya Cox moved to accept; Wendy Ruscoe seconded.

10. Conference Liaison Officer’s report (Konnie Gebauer)

Virtual Conference Round 2!! We started off planning for a Hybrid (face-to-face and online) conference in Canberra, but had to move to an online only format in August 2021 due to the developing Covid situation in Australia.

As preparing and holding the conference is not without cost to the society, we decide to charge a small registration fee and not hold it for free as last year. As of today (8 Dec 2021) we have 203 people registered for the conference. The program contains 70+ presentations on a wide range of topics within the applied wildlife management field.

The conference could not have happened without the fantastic work by the Canberra based conference organising committee: Jim Hone, Terry Korn, Melissa Snape, George Wilson, Stephen Sarre and Margarita Medina!

I would also like to extend a special thank you to our Sponsors:

- A special thanks to our major conference partners: ACT Government, NSW Save Our Species, University of Canberra and DARt.
- Our Trade Exhibitors: Advanced Telemetry Systems Australia, Trapping Australia, Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control, Heli Surveys, Wildlife Drones, Lotek NZ Ltd., DARt and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.
- Advertising and Symposium Sponsors: Australian Deer Association, Great eastern Ranges and Wildlife Health Australia

* Preliminary numbers, costs and incomes as of 6 Dec 2021, which are likely subject to change as the conference is still ongoing at the time of writing the report

	AWMS2018	AWMS2019	AWMS2020 (Virtual)	AWMS2021 (Virtual)*
Registrations	176	100	345	205*
Full registrations	149	81	N/A	177*
1- and 2-day registrations	13	2	N/A	N/A
Sponsorship and trade exhibit delegates	14	17	N/A	28*
Presentations				
Talks	73	57 (15 min) + 9 (5 min)	58 (15min) + 14 (5 min)	61 (15min) + 15 (5 min)
Posters	30	2	N/A	N/A
Income				

Conference registrations, workshops and field trip	+\$ 76,650.00	+\$ 60,126.00	N/A (Free)	+\$12,325.00*
Sponsorship, satchel inserts and trade stalls	+\$ 21,990.00	+\$ 28,590.00	+\$ 2,750.00	+\$21,850.00*
Overall Conference Expenditure	-\$ 57,866.36	-\$ 62,959.02	-\$11,241.44	-\$10,800.00*
PayPal fees	-\$ 1,862.14	-\$ 1,470.93	-\$ 55.10	-\$ 50.00*
Balance	+\$38,911.50	+\$ 24,286.05	-\$ 8,546.54	+\$ 23,325.00*

Tom Newsome moved to thanks Konnie for an amazing job; Stuart Dawson seconded.

11. Report from SAWMA Liaison Officer (Ben Allen)

Ben has approach Pip and Rick, who have agreed the Joan Southgate should be put on hold till travel is possible.

- “follow the path you proposed ie fund the current grant that has been stopped due to covid, and then advertise the fund again once this one has been fulfilled and borders are open again.”

Kathrine Handasyde moved to accept, Al Glen moved to second.

12. Public fund report (Vacant)

- Terry Korn to resign as Public Officer at the AGM, effective from 1 January 2022
- Wendy Ruscoe will be the AWMS Public Officer effective from 1 January 2022

Meetings – Only one meeting (25 June 2021) was required during the financial year to address business.

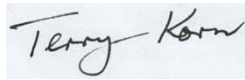
Submission of the Annual Statistical Return - submitted on 23 August 2021 and accepted on 11 October 2021.

- Committee Membership – The current committee consists of:
 - Terry Korn PSM - Chair
 - Tarnya Cox
 - Greg Baxter
 - Lyn Nelson
 - Will Batson (resigned in late 2021)

The minimum number of members of the PFMC permitted by law is three so Will does not have to be replaced to comply with the legislation.

I will continue sitting on the committee and in the chair role until I submit the 2021/2022 Statistical Return about August 2022, after which I will resign. A new chair will then need to be appointed by the AWMS committee.

Financial Report – The Treasurer has submitted the audited AWMS financial reports at the AGM, including the report for the AWMS Public Fund. In summary the fund has a balance of \$104,659.80, spent \$5000 on awards and earned interest of \$52.99 from its investment account.



Terry Korn PSM

Chair

AWMS Public Fund Management Committee

8 December 2021

Tom Newsome moved to accept, Al Glen seconded.

Tom Newsome moved a motion to thank terry formally, Tarnya Cox seconded.

Tom Newsome asked if the money is spent quickly enough or spent enough. Terry Korn points out the donor cannot say how the money is spent. As long as the money is spent in accordance with society, it's all good. Tarnya Cox pointed out that we should move some money so that we are not making a profit.

13. General business

- Tom raised having the conference in NZ
 - Action item – recruit a local committee, AWMS com to liaise with Al Glen
 - Al Glen – Predator free new zealand might be a sponsor. Wellington, Napier, New Plymouth. We have had a Napier conference in the past.
- Terry Korn – Public officer – Wendy will be taking over from Terry Korn from the 1st of Jan in 2022.
- Konnie asked if we can set date, we decided to wait until we know the dates of ESA and NZEcol

14. Election of Office Bearers

Position	Nominee	Nominated	Seconded
President	Thomas Newsome	Stuart Dawson	Tarnya Cox
Vice President	Jordan Hampton	Thomas Newsome	Sebastien Comte
Position Statement Coordinator	Tracey Kreplins	Stuart Dawson	Kath Handersyde
Student Representative (AUS)	Eliane McCarthy	Thomas Newsome	Stuart Dawson
Student Representative (NZ)	Nikki Van de Weyer	Thomas Newsome	Wendy Ruscoe

Ordinary Committee Member	Malcolm Kennedy	Stuart Dawson	Tom Newsome
Ordinary Committee Member	Peter Adams	Stuart Dawson	Tarnya Cox
Ordinary Committee Member	Susan Campbell	Stuart Dawson	Wendy Ruscoe
Ordinary Committee Member	Adam Munn	Tom Newsome	Al Glen

Tarnya Cox – suggested we amend the constitution to make sure the VP gets the President role. To be circulated out of session, and take it to the next AGM.

Also a deputy treasurer role, can we look at raising it as a constitution.

15. Next meeting

Aim for the 6th to 8th of December 2022. Pending venue availability