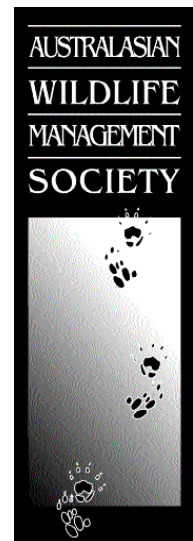


**Australasian Wildlife Management Society
Annual General Meeting**

Date and time: Tuesday 25th November 2008, 5.00pm,

Location: Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia



1. Opening

The meeting was opened by Dave Forsyth at 5:10pm. It was attended by 24 members.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received for Ben Reddiex, Steve McLeod, and Mike Braysher. Wendy Ruscoe moved and Terry Korn seconded that apologies be received.

3. Minutes of previous AGM, Monday 3rd December 2007, Canberra

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were posted on the AWMS website and copies were available at the AGM. Peter Fleming moved that minutes be taken as true and accurate account of the previous AGM. Terry Korn seconded this motion and the minutes were formally accepted.

4. Matters arising from the 2007 AGM minutes

4.1 Explore alternatives for the term deposit on the basis of interest rates and on ethical grounds (Sylvana Maas).

Sylvana Maas recommended that the term deposit be maintained. It is difficult to move accounts and the account needs to be in a national institution so that any Treasurer can access it. There was no further discussion.

4.2 Draft an MOU for local organizers of AWMS Conferences outlining their responsibilities by the end of January (Terry Korn, Ben Reddiex and Sylvana Maas).

Terry Korn reported that an MOU was drafted and provided to the organisers of the 2008 Conference. The MOU was based on past AWMS conferences and guidelines developed by other organisations (provided by Doreen Culliver). The draft can now be moved to a final form. Sue Briggs recommended that the MOU be posted on the AWMS website.

4.3 Response to Elaine Murphy's emailed letter regarding the 2006 Conference (Dave Forsyth).

A letter was sent by Dave Forsyth to E. Murphy on 16 January 2008. In the letter, the following points were made:

- The Treasurer consulted the auditor who advised that profit/loss share can be a mutual agreement of the AWMS Committee and the Conference organiser;
- The AWMS Committee will draft an MOU for Conference Organisers to help prevent any potential future misunderstandings about conference arrangements and expectations by the Committee and organisers;
- For future conferences, an agreement between the Committee and organiser regarding profit sharing will be reached;
- The Conference organiser will participate in Committee meetings in the year of the Conference.

Dave Forsyth commented that Terry Korn had been the liaison with the 2008 Conference organisers and Andrew Woolnough had participated in AWMS Committee meetings throughout the year. This had worked very well.

4.4 Other matters arising from the minutes.

Terry Korn suggested that in future, reports such as Treasurer's be attachments.

Sue Briggs commented that there were still some unresolved issues regarding interactions between CSIRO *Wildlife Research* and AWMS (item 12 in the minutes expands on this issue).

5. President's report (Dave Forsyth)

My two-year term as President ends at this AGM and I am not seeking re-election. I sincerely thank my fellow committee members during the past two years - Terry Korn, Desley Whisson, Sylvana Maas, Peter Fleming, Cathy Herbert, Dave Ramsey, Steve Lapidge, Steve Sarre, Andrea Byrom, Steve McLeod, Wendy Dimond, Ben Reddiex for all their hard work and assistance during the past two years.

The committee has worked hard to keep the society functioning and is attempting to increase the relevance of AWMS to members. However, all but one of the elected committee has a full-time position, and I think I speak for all of us when I say that we all wish we could have spent more time on AWMS matters.

I would like to acknowledge my employer - the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment - for permitting me to spend paid time on AWMS matters and to make use of its facilities. I also thank the employers of the other committee members for their support.

Given that the annual conference is AWMS' main activity for both members and non-members, in my tenure as President I have been fortunate to work with two excellent conference organizers. Jim Hone organized the 2007 Fenner Conference on the Environment, held at the Shine Dome in Canberra, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew Woolnough, Al Glen and Duncan Sutherland and colleagues for organising this conference.

I would also like to thank the conference sponsors: the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation, the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd., Sirtrack, EcoGene, and Alcoa. I would also like to thank CSIRO Publishing for sponsoring the student prizes and the photography competition. The financial support of all our sponsors is greatly appreciated.

Ben Reddiex has recently resigned as Newsletter Editor after four years. I know that Ben found it difficult to extract articles or even snippets of information to go into the newsletter. I thank everyone who provided articles for the newsletter. I hope that we can all better support the new Newsletter Editor in terms of providing articles and information for at least two issues a year.

As you will hear from the Treasurer, AWMS is in a very sound financial position. In fact, we continue to have an embarrassment of riches. If any members have ideas about how some of that money could be spent, please raise it with a committee member.

I am pleased to end my tenure as President with AWMS in such a strong financial position, but I am concerned about the long-term decline in the society's membership, from around 400 at the society's inception in 1988 to around 230 this year. I think the decline in AWMS' membership probably reflects a real decline in the role of wildlife management in both Australian and New Zealand agencies since the 1980s. I suspect that state and federal agencies now employ fewer wildlife managers and scientists than in the 1980s, and I can see no reason why that trend might change in the foreseeable future. Mitigating the effects of current and projected climate change may increase the role of wildlife science and managers in agencies, but this is by no means given.

For example, whereas water security and climate change were major discussion items at the recent 2020 summit convened by Kevin Rudd in Canberra, biodiversity management did not rate a mention. To maintain and increase relevance, I think that wildlife scientists and managers in Australia need to work towards gaining strong representation within policy and management initiatives relating to climate change and water security.

Finally, I would like to thank AWMS for the opportunity to serve as President. I hope that I have made a useful contribution to the Society and I look forward to a continuing involvement with AWMS.

6. Correspondence (Desley Whisson)

(i) Response to Elaine Murphy

A letter was sent to Elaine Murphy (16 January) addressing her concerns about the budget for the 2006 Conference hosted by Landcare Research (discussed under 4.3).

(ii) Sponsorship requests for 2008 AWMS Conference

Letters requesting sponsorship for the 2008 Conference were sent to:

- Department of Environment and Conservation WA (29 June)
- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (29 June)
- Chevron (30 June)

(iii) Importation of Savannah Cats into Australia

A letter was sent (30 June) to Minister Garrett supporting a review into the proposed importation of Savannah Cats into Australia. This was followed by an online formal submission to DEWHA (16 July) opposing the importation of Savannah Cats into Australia. A letter was received (12 August) from DEWHA (Kerry Smith, Wildlife Branch) thanking AWMS for the submission and advising that on the basis of the review, Savannah Cats will be prohibited from importation into Australia.

(iv) Sponsorship of Symposium (Landcare Research, NZ)

A letter was received (13 August) from John Parkes, Landcare Research, Lincoln NZ requesting \$6000 in sponsorship for a symposium on "Search and detection: theory and application in disease and wildlife management" to be held on 10 November 2008. The Committee agreed to sponsor the symposium and Dave Forsyth notified John Parkes of this by email (14 September).

(v) Letters of invitation to overseas delegates to attend Conference

A number of letters of invitation to attend the 2008 Conference were sent to overseas delegates who requested letters to enable them to apply for visas.

(vi) Letter of thanks to Ben Reddiex

Ben Reddiex tendered his resignation from his position as AWMS newsletter editor (16 October). A letter was sent (23 October) thanking him for his service.

Terry Korn moved and Graeme Coulson seconded that the correspondence be accepted.

7. Treasurer's report (Sylvana Maas)

AWMS has a financial balance of \$74,135 (see attached auditor's report). Major expenses were audit costs (\$1,100), Secretariat (\$2,062), and symposium sponsorship (\$5,232). Total income was approximately \$23,343 which included the profit of \$14,497 from the 2007 Conference, and \$5,804 in membership fees.

Sylvana recommended that the term deposit (\$20,000) be maintained and adding to this from the operating account. She also recommended AWMS consider how best to apply some of its funds.

Members suggested that the following should be considered:

(i) Symposium sponsorship

John Parkes suggested that symposium sponsorship is a good use of AWMS funds. He thanked AWMS for support of the symposium on "Search and Detection" hosted by Landcare Research on 10 November. There were 25 papers and 60 registrants. John will write an article for the AWMS newsletter and will make copies of the presentations available.

(ii) Student grants

Guidelines could be developed for a competitive student grant process. Specific criteria could be set including a maximum grant amount, and deadline for when proposals are due. Dave Forsyth commented that the idea of student grants had been discussed previously but was considered to be too problematic and not a good use of AWMS funds. The idea, however, could be readdressed by the new AWMS Committee.

(iii) Sponsorship of students to attend conferences

Funds could be used to sponsor student registration at Conferences (AWMS and other).

(iv) Support of conservation projects

The idea of supporting specific conservation projects (e.g., endangered species recovery) was raised. There was general lack of support for this from members due to the small amount of money AWMS could contribute, the difficulty in setting for criteria on what to support, and it not really being AWMS role to fund such projects.

(v) AWMS infrastructure

Funds could be used to pay for work of AWMS committee members, for example, Newsletter Editor. The website could also be improved.

(vi) Membership

Funds could be used on a strategy to increase AWMS membership (as discussed at 2007 AGM)

Cathy Herbert moved, and Terry Korn seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

8. Membership report (Cathy Herbert).

Cathy Herbert reported that there are currently 222 members including:

- 155 full members (19 New Zealand and 136 Australian),
- 10 retired members,
- 57 students (50 Australian, 5 New Zealand, 2 other).

Some members have already renewed membership for 2009 (58 members), 2010 (20 members) and 2011 (1 member). Membership has increased due to the 2008 Conference (prior to and during Conference).

Peter Shaughnessy moved, and Sue Briggs seconded that the membership report be accepted.

9. Position Statement Coordinator's report (Peter Fleming for Steve McLeod).

A position statement on "Managing Disease in Wildlife Populations" (authored by George Wilson) has been posted on the website. Another has been prepared on "Climate Change and Wildlife"

(authored by Dave Forsyth, Barry Brook and Catriona McLeod) and a draft should be posted on the website by mid-January with a final statement posted by March.

John Parkes moved, and Terry Korn seconded that the Position Statement Coordinator's report be accepted.

10. Newsletter editor's report (Dave Forsyth for Ben Reddiex).

There have been two newsletters issued during the year. There was insufficient material for more than this. Ben Reddiex resigned as Newsletter Editor in November. Anyone interested in taking on this role should contact the AWMS President.

Andrea Byrom moved, and Wendy Ruscoe seconded that the Newsletter Editor's report be accepted.

11. General Business

11.1 Business/management strategy for helping AWMS set a direction for the future (Terry Korn)

In 1995, the AWMS Committee (Charles Eason, President) developed a business strategy for AWMS, which was published in the AWMS newsletter. There is a need to revisit the strategy as demonstrated by the discussions on how AWMS should spend its funds. It was proposed that a working group (5 or 6 people) be appointed and with the assistance of a professional facilitator, workshop ideas and develop a business strategy. This would potentially cost about \$5000. Terry Korn asked members at the AGM to support the principle and leave it to the working group to determine the actual process.

Discussion followed regarding the amount of funding required for this, and membership of the working group. Members suggested that up to \$10,000 should be approved; and that the working group comprise a representative from New Zealand, and include both academics and managers.

Motion by Terry Korn:

That the 2008 AGM support the establishment of a working group to develop a draft direction statement/business plan for the Australasian Wildlife Management Society by 30 June 2009; and that the 2008 AGM endorse a budget of \$10,000 to the working group. The working group is to proceed according to terms of reference to be developed by the newly elected AWMS committee.

The motion was seconded by Patrick Medway. There was no further discussion.

11.2 2009 AWMS conference (Dave Forsyth).

Napier (Hawkes Bay) and Palmerston North (both on the North Island of NZ) have been proposed as locations for the 2009 Conference. There was unanimous support by members for Napier.

There was discussion regarding who would be the local organisers. Wendy Ruscoe stated that there were several AWMS members who would be willing, and that Landcare Research could also assist. Phil Sargisson (Sirtrack) said that Sirtrack would also support a Conference in Napier. Sirtrack sponsors two wildlife rehabilitation projects in that area so could host field trips to view them. Sirtrack could also provide facilities for social functions such as the welcoming icebreaker.

Sue Briggs moved that AWMS support a conference in Napier. This was seconded by Sylvana Maas. The new AWMS committee will need to follow up on this.

12. Relationship between AWMS and CSIRO Publishing (Dave Forsyth)

There have been no formal discussions between AWMS and CSIRO. Camilla Meyers (CSIRO Publishing) commented that further discussions with AWMS will need to be deferred until all major changes within CSIRO Publishing have occurred. There are new editors and editorial boards. She stated that the relationship between AWMS and the CSIRO journal *Wildlife Research* is important and should be considered in the context of the new management plan for AWMS; and be a discussion item at the 2009 AWMS AGM. CSIRO publishing has sponsored the student prizes at the 2008 AWMS Conference.

13. Election of office-bearers (Dave Forsyth).

The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and General Committee Member were declared open for 2009 and the membership notified via email on 21 October. The following nominations were received and seconded in writing:

President:	Terry Korn
Vice-President:	Peter Fleming
Secretary:	Desley Whisson
Committee member:	Wendy Ruscoe

There being no other nominations received for these positions, nominees were duly elected and congratulated on their appointments by Dave Forsyth.

No nominations were received prior to the AGM for the position of Treasurer. At the AGM, Terry Korn nominated Sylvana Maas and this was seconded by Daryl Jones. Sylvana Maas agreed to continue as Treasurer in 2009.

The 2009 AWMS Committee is:

President:	Terry Korn
Vice-president:	Peter Fleming
Secretary:	Desley Whisson
Treasurer:	Sylvana Maas
Committee Members:	Dave Ramsey and Wendy Ruscoe
Membership Secretary:	Cathy Herbert

The following non-elected positions are:

Immediate Past President:	Dave Forsyth
Position Statements:	Steven McLeod
Newletter Editor:	<i>vacant</i>
Public Officer:	Sylvana Maas
Website manager:	Aaron McGlinchy
Wildlife Society Liaison:	Greg Baxter
Student representative:	Wendy Dimond

13. Meeting close

The AGM was closed by Dave Forsyth at 6:11pm. Terry Korn thanked Dave Forsyth and Andrea Byrom for their contributions to AWMS during their membership of the AWMS committee.

Minutes prepared and submitted by D. Whisson (Secretary).