



Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Inc

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
RECREATION FISHING ALLIANCE OF NSW INC**

**South Sydney AFA Clubhouse,
Cnr Hastings and Macquarie St, Chifley
Saturday 30th January 2010 @ 10.30 am**

1. OPENING

Vice President, Max Castle welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 10.30 am. Malcolm Poole, President of the RFA had to return home due to an illness in the family and handed the running of the meeting to Max Castle, VP of the RFA of NSW.

2. ATTENDANCE

Those in attendance where:

Stan Konstantaras (ANSA NSW) , Joe Garufi (ANSA NSW) , Max Castle (ANSA NSW) , Mel Brown (USFA NSW) , Radge Diakiw (NSWCFCA) , Peter Saunders (USFA NSW) , Peter Gibson (NSWCFCA)

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:

John Humphries and Mal Poole

4. GUESTS

nil

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes presented and moved that they be accepted by Stan K, seconded Max Castle. Stan noted that minutes of previous meetings are online and delegates and committee members should access them this way.

Available at following link <http://rfansw.com.au/Meetings.html#minutes>

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Future Leaders Project is still ongoing, with funding helping Fraser Perry on an overseas study trip, laptop and camera. Final payment will be due upon presentation of an invoice from the RFA when project is complete.

Professional Fishing Guides and Instructors Association membership fees are still outstanding. Peter Gibson will chase PFG&IA President, Steve Williamson when he is down in Jindabyne.

The DII Conservation Managers position at Batemans Bay was saved.

The issue of using electric reels by competent anglers has been discussed at and ACoRF level, a decision is still pending. The issue surrounds the catching of deep water fish species by utilising a mechanical advantage.

The issue of Prospect Reservoir is still ongoing and the RFA still does not have access to the DII applications even though they have been produced by staff paid for by the RFSTEC.

The RFA Crown Reserve Project is still before the Minister for final approval.

Nelson Lagoon – Max Castle gave an update on a meeting he attended with Bryan van der Walt and 3 NPWS Rangers. They worked on some enhancements for recreational anglers in the area and offered to assist NPWS with some rehabilitation works to the lagoon. It is hopeful that a good outcome is achieved and access to the RFH will be retained. This RFH is in a National Park.

7. TREASURES REPORT

Stan gave an overview of the current project reporting and general RFA accounts.

Current Bank Balance is \$56,799.51

This consists of:

\$52,285.51 of project funding

\$4,514.00 of RFA funds

Currently there is only one project (L63 – Resource Folder) in deficit as we wait for a 2nd payment on this project.

This deficit is \$2,627.00 and is covered by the RFA funds in the interim. Surf Life Saving Australia have also been approached to contribute \$1000.00 to meet this out of pocket expense, (which they have agreed) leaving \$1,627.00 to recoup from the next installment of funding on this project. NSW DII will be advised of the situation during the next round of reporting on the project. The shortfall occurred due to the unforeseen transport costs of the resource material to the mailing house in Victoria.

8. DELEGATE REPORTS

The delegates present were asked to provide an update/overview on their group's activities as a way of updating the other delegates and as a way to further gather support for issues if needed.

ANSA NSW

- ANSA NSW had its AGM in late October 2009 and was not an election year.
- Currently a big push for its catch and release brag mats.
- Working with ANSA National on the Mako Shark Issue and the National Rockfishing Safety Launch.

NSWCFA

- Next NSWCFA meeting is on the weekend of 20 – 21st February.
- NSWCFA has appointed a conservation liaison officer who is responsible with dealing DII. This arrangement is working well. Karl Schaerf is the NSWCFA nominated officer
- The NSWCFA is awaiting the outcomes of the NSW RFA Access Forum and is hopeful some information will be made available prior to their next meeting.
- The NSWCFA is seeking a meeting with new Fisheries Minister, Steve Whan. The CFA has had a good relationship him during the Gaden Hatchery issue of last year.

- The NSWCFCA is also liaising with Minister Costa's Office for access to water storages. They are seeking a general policy review to increase the current level of access.
- NSWCFCA still concerned about the potential loss of access at electricity /dams should they be sold off.
- Tilligerra Dam is still on the agenda with the NSWCFCA; however its development may have stalled.
- There has been no recent meeting of the Gaden Management Committee and they are still waiting for a business plan and financial plan which concerns the NSWCFCA.
- CFA have offered to include Fisheries articles in Freshwater Fisher newsletter.
- A recent open day at Gaden was a success.

NSWFCA

No report presented

NSW USFA

- The NSWUSFA advised that the USFA have split with the Australian Underwater Federation.
- The NSW USFA is still having issues with the taking of slipper lobsters in Jervis Bay Marine Park, under DII rules they are allowed to. JBMP are stating that they are protected. They are also concerned with lack of representation to the marine park advisory councils.
- They have agreed to work with the RFA on a spearfishing safety DVD that they are currently producing.
- There is still a need to quantify how many people spearfish in NSW.
- 10,000 new copies of the handbook have been reproduced.
- NSWUSFA looking at having a dedicated spearfishers flag apart6 from the standard diver's flag.
- Advised that DII Draft Cod Recovery Plan was not adequately displayed by DII for consultation. NSWUSFA also advised that a Mulloway Draft Recovery Plan is due out soon.
- NSWUSFA is also concerned with the restrictive bag limits on abalone and crays.
- Draft POM on Mulloway is coming out soon for comment.
- Big problem with seals in a number of locations – chasing children in swimming pools.
- Color of diving flag still a concern to divers. – International flag preferred. Maritime handbook to be checked.

9. AGENDA ITEMS

9 a. Project Updates

Stan spoke on the recent projects undertaken by the NSW RFA.

- ☐ Stan presented outcomes of RFA Ethnic Media Project, advertisements placed and media monitors reports. 30 separate advertisements and articles were run in the Ethnic media in relation to the rockfishing safety launch. 27 non ethnic stories were printed in the English press, 9 radio interviews and new items logged along with some minor TV coverage. All this occurred in the space of 3 weeks.
- ☐ Freshwater safety DVD is being edited and work has begun on the boating safety DVD.
- ☐ Max Castle gave an update on the Access Project application.
- ☐ Stan updated the members present on the outcomes of the Ecotourism project.
- ☐ Stan updated the committee on the success of the first rockfishing safety workshop in Sydney that 10 Chinese, 10 Korean and 10 Vietnamese anglers attended

9 b) Recfish, Trust Fund and ACoRF updates

Max Castle gave those present an update on what has been happening on this front. He is now the ACoRF delegate to RECFISH and reported that the RFSTEC rejected an application for funding that RECFISH had submitted and that he was concerned that it was knocked back even though it contained a substantial proportion of work relation to the proposed Commonwealth Bioregional Planning.

Max is planning to ask RECFISH to submit the application during a phone conference next week. The RFA feels it would be better for RECFISH to make a submission on behalf of NSW anglers in this process than relying on ACoRF who lacks the expertise.

Max also reported that RECFISH has enough funds until May / June 2010.

Max also gave those present an update of RFSTEC.

9 c) Boat Owners Association Meeting

Stan gave those present an update on a meeting with the BOA in Dec 2009. Further meetings are planned in 2010 to establish common ground between both groups.

9 d) Access

Max gave an overview of the projects that have come out of the recent Access Forum that the RFA hosted in late 2009.

Peter Gibson and Radge Diakiw requested an update for the next scheduled NSWCFMA meeting. Which is the 20th – 21st Feb Mal to provide.

RFA is also going to write to Fisheries Minister to expedite some of these outcomes before March 2010. Stan and Peter Gibson to draft letter.

9 e) Recreational Fishing Inquiry

A substantial amount of discussion centered on the terms of reference for this project.

1. That a select committee be appointed to inquire into and report on the benefits and opportunities that improved recreational fisheries may represent for fishing licence holders in New South Wales, and in particular:
 - (a) the current suite of existing regulatory, policy, and decision-making processes in relation to the management of recreational fisheries in New South Wales, including the process for the creation of Marine Protected Areas and Marine Parks and the efficacy of existing Marine Protected Areas and Marine Parks,
 - (b) the effectiveness and efficiency of the current representational system of trusts and advisory committees that advise government departments and statutory authorities,
 - (c) the value of recreational fisheries to the economy in New South Wales,
 - (d) the gaps in existing recreational fishery programs, including the number and location of Recreational Fishing Havens, and
 - (e) ecologically sustainable development issues related to improving recreational fisheries.
2. That the committee report by 25 November 2010.

It was decided to form a sub committee of RFA members to draft a response back to the RFA in 3-4 weeks (no later than 30th Feb 2010).

The sub committee members are:

1. Peter Gibson (NSWCFA)
2. Max Castle (ANSA NSW)
3. Peter Saunders (USFA NSW)

9 f) Marine Parks

Max Castle gave an update of the MP permit system meetings he has been involved in. The RFA rejected that a general permit is needed for all activities. The outcome was that a discussion paper is being prepared with a few options. The main focus is on fishing competitions. Competitions involving 30 anglers or less fishing with a MP will not require a permit and then there will be a sliding scale of permits covering 30 – 100 anglers, 100 – 500 anglers for example.

Max spoke about the fact that the extreme greens were pushing for lower catch limits in marine parks and that marine parks are not providing the outcomes they expected.

Max stressed that the Marine Park Act does not involve fisheries management and we need to challenge some moves by the MPA to reduce/ control bag limits in parks.

Peter Saunders mentioned that the Slipper Cray was a perfect example and a big problem in JBMP. USFA is speaking to DII and requested that the RFA assist them in resolving this issue. Currently there is a no take policy on octopus in the JBMP, contrary to DII fishing regulations.

10. General Business

- Peter Saunders to provide details of spearfishers who are working on safety DVD to the RFA with a view for the RFA to participate in the project.
- The NSWCFRA requested that a copy of the Freshwater Safety DVD draft be made available for them at their next meeting.
- Stan will draft letter to MPA seeking status of current studies, planned studies and priorities for research in Marine Parks in NSW.
- Peter Gibson and Stan will draft a list of questions to all political parties in NSW seeking comments on recreational fishing policies prior to the next election.
- Mal to provide feedback on Lane Cove Council wharf issue for the RFA
- Peter Gibson is working on the next Recfisher and will be seeking input from members.
- Stan to issue DII Code of Practice for Competitions to members
- Max is looking to establish guardians for each RFH. (South Coast initially).
- Maritime to discuss Riverkeepers at the next RVAC – MC will advise.
- RFA supported approaching RECFISH regarding a submission to the Fishing Inquiry.
- Next RFA Newsletter programmed for end of Feb 2010.
- USFA are to commence the publication of a Newsletter soon.
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With no more general business Max Castle closed the meeting at 3.20pm

**Stan Konstantaras
RFA of NSW Secretary
31st January 2010**

Abbreviations:

DII – Department of Industry and Investment – Fisheries NSW

ACoRF – NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

RFSTEC- Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee

RFH – Recreational Fishing Haven

NPWS- National Parks and Wildlife