



Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Inc

Meeting Minutes 31st January 2009

Held at South Sydney AFA Clubrooms

1. OPENING

The Chairman, Malcolm Poole welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 9.37am.

2. ATTENDANCE

Those in attendance where:

Malcolm Poole, Stan Konstantaras, Paul Cooper, Joe Garufi, Peter Gibson, Radge Diakaw, Max Castle

Visitors

Nil

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:

Michael Hirst
Mel Brown

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes read and moved that they be accepted by Stan Konstantaras, seconded Joe Garufi.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Most items moved to general business and a brief discussion occurred on the following topics;

- RFA application for funding was not successful from Volunteer Grants Project
- RFA accepted to join Recfish Australia for affiliate membership,
- Prospect Reservoir, Stan Konstantaras spoke to Microbiologist and RFA needs to get a submission up before Sydney Water for consideration.
- Desalination, correspondence with Sydney Water indicates that they will not monitor fish stocks for bioaccumulation of toxins either pre or post operation of desal, Stan Konstantaras to chase up.
- Winner's cheque from Peter Wynn for 2008 Sports Safety Awards received by Joe Garufi.
- Malcolm Poole suggested that we work to a mid March completion date for the RFA Access Policy.

6. TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurers Report- See attached report.

Bank Balance is \$65,729.00

Paul Cooper also mentioned that he was re submitting the 2004 documentation to Fair Trading as there was no record of it in their files.

BUSINESS ARISING from Treasurers Report

nil

7. DELEGATES' 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 has a clean up Australian day campaign underway amongst the state and national clubs focusing on rock platforms along the Australian coastline
- Port Expansion and Desal plant were still items of concern with regard to adequate compensation back to the anglers of NSW for loss of access in Botany Bay
- ANSA NSW website has been handed over to Viridia for management.

NSWCFA

- There has been a period of low activity following all the work the NSWCFA has completed re: Gaden
- More clubs were joining the CFA ranks
- Next meeting to be on the 21st of February at Kempsey.

NSWFCA

- Spoke about the meeting at South West Rocks to discuss marine parks
- Period of low activity over the holidays, similar to most associations
- The Sydney Metropolitan Branch held a Kids Day in January
- The SMD Branch had secured a laptop through the Volunteer Grants Project.

USFA

- A shortage of copies of the handbook is being experienced whilst funds for reprinting are sought
- Participating in Clean Up Australia Day

8. AGENDA ITEMS

8a) Gaden Hatchery

As per PR from Ministers office, it was agreed that the trust fund be used to run Gaden Hatchery. The Ministers Department was looking at the structure of a new management board. At this point in the time, the NSWCFA were concerned that once the Government got the Trust Fund commitment, all communication with NSWCFA has stopped and concern has also been raised that a meeting transpired without their involvement. Bruce Schumacher attended that meeting. NSWCFA will be chasing outcomes and will be keeping the RFA updated.

8b) RFA membership

Application form is complete and 10,000 copies have been printed
Distribution will occur at tackle shops, associations and clubs.

Stan Konstantaras and Joe Garufi will handle distribution and include a small with-compliments flyer. 200-300 larger packs will be compiled.
1000 smaller packs will also be distributed to all our members and contacts to utilise internally.
The RFA mailing list will be updated as per new database that is available to us.
The Join RFA leaflet will also be hosted on the website.

The meeting thanked Peter Gibson for all his work in compiling the brochure.

8c) ACCESS

Malcolm Poole is working on the access policy, but this has fallen behind due to his work on the Future Leaders project. Committee agreed that end March 2009 the RFA had to deliver its policy to government.

Malcolm Poole will also be working on the Access forum the RFA will be hosting in April / May 2009.

\$25K has been approved for accommodation, venue hire and travel to the conference venue.
Malcolm Poole and the NSW CFA are working closely on this project.

Malcolm Poole also noted that ACoRF approved \$30K for Prof Kearney to write a paper as a response to the NPA Torn Blue Fringe.

Jervis Bay or Solitary Islands Marine Parks reviews have not been completed to date, still having issues with quorums on advisory committee groups

8d) Website and promotion

Joe Garufi spoke on website and that it was up to date as of today.

Peter Gibson and Viridia have taken over the management of the site.

Joe Garufi thanked the outgoing webmaster for all of her help in building and designing the site.

Malcolm Poole was working on generic and specific display stand banners for the Future Leaders project.

Peter Gibson recommended the RFA compile an electronic newsletter along the same lines as the CFA Freshwater Fisher. Peter Gibson will complete a sample one as an initial trial with the intention of continuing the project in the future

Peter Gibson also mentioned he is working on a "dealing with the media" document for the RFA to circulate amongst the clubs.

8e) Policies and Political Parties

The NSW CFA has been chasing fishing policies from all the NSW political parties and gave us an update on the progress to date:

1. The Greens do not have a recreational fishing policy but pointed out sections of general policies that were relevant.

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2. Labor directed them to NSW DPI
 3. The Coalition invited them to talk and would be releasing something closer to the election
 4. The Shooters Party have theirs online
 5. All were happy to talk except the Christian Democrats

It was noted that we have policies from previous elections and we should be looking at these and passing on a 'wish list'. The RFA needs to compare policies closer to the next election.

Malcolm Poole suggested that we may want to review our 2006 Marine Park Policy to include any relevant and current information that may have transpired since 2006. Stan Konstantaras commented that the policy was sent out for review and it is all still current and relevant. Suggestions included that we want more input into the MPA policy making process.

Peter Gibson is to pass on some of his Sporting Shooters Association material to highlight how they operate with a view to organise a meeting to discuss their MO.

Malcolm Poole was hoping to meeting with John Tingle and Robert Brown of The Shooters Party to talk about fishing and then talk to Robert Smith from The Fishing Party to determine where the RFA's political strength lies.

8e) DPI

6 conservation managers had been reduced to 3 and the loss of the Sth Coast manager will have a huge impact. A Sydney based manager will be looking after the region and Malcolm Poole wants to seek feedback from RFA members on their opinions on the south coast loss.

This is part of a process that will have bigger implication in the future as more mini budget impacts are felt.

NSWCFA will take this up as an individual position approach.

RFA believes that conservation is a core government management activity.

8f) Projects

The Future Leaders (FL) project was on track to be a success and updated budgets have been sent to the committee for comments. Approx \$88K was being managed by NSW DPI, with an additional \$23K being managed by the RFA as ongoing project work.

Filming was being scheduled for the Freshwater Safety DVD in early Feb 2009, regular updates are being sent out to the committee.

The Access project was on the back burner until the FL was completed.

The Ethnic Media project was still trying to raise an additional \$12K for a national rollout of translated rockfishing safety adverts. Stan Konstantaras had secured \$5.5K from the Trust with another \$4K from industry donated and was hoping to raise \$21K in total by the end of February 2009.

Joe Garufi to work on new Trust Fund grant for distribution.

General Business

- Discussion occurred around the subject of peak body issues faced by the RFA and we spoke about how we keep this issue on the boil. Some points were made about how we can move forward and that this was to be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- Max spoke about the rally at Cessnock on the 7th of Feb.
- Discussion occurred around the access issue at Merroo and the RFA was not happy with this outcome and would be seeking a meeting with the Minister.
- We spoke about the new marine safety regs that should be out soon, Stan Konstantaras to chase up.
- Max is still liaising with Director of Maritime re: Botany Bay and working closely with Maritime on boatramp infrastructure.
- Peter Gibson mentioned that we should be looking for a sponsor for the new newsletter.
- Meeting discussed RECFISH sponsorship and the strategic revenue options paper.

With no more general meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.39 pm.

Stan Konstantaras
RFA of NSW Secretary

Meeting dates 2008 / 2009

Saturday, 9 May 2009	RFA meeting
Saturday, 8 August 2009	RFA meeting
Saturday, 14 November 2009	RFA meeting - AGM