

## Wildlife In Sandy Point group meeting 27 November 2021

**Attendees:** Adrian and Rose, Jill Treeby, Jan Hallas, Penny Furphy, Christy Feier, Kerrie de Cort, Anda Banikos, Marg Grumley, Diana Scambler, Geoff King

Apologies: Di Cornwell, Di Cooper, Merryn Bevis, Georgia Roberts, Venessa Weaver, Larelle Bugge, and Henri Eaton

**Correction** to the 27 November meeting agenda: Reference regarding funding under item 8 should read "Lord Mayor Charitable Foundation" not "Humane Society".

**Thank yous:** Di Cooper for her work in Wombat rescue. She has retired from the position which will be rolled into the WiSP rescue duties. Di Cornwell for her \$100 donation.

1. Christy Fejer welcomed everyone including Anda Banikos. Anda provided an overview of the importance of protecting Strzelecki koalas and offered SKAT/Friends of Earth's new pamphlet that asks sightings to be reported and gives options for getting involved in South Gippsland koala conservation. Anda shed light on how Strzelecki koalas are not counted separately and aren't covered by state endangerment protections as a subspecies. We discussed collaboration and continued participation in SKAT initiatives. Anda also offered to display anything WiSP has at the 5 December at the Foster Market (it was reported our pamphlets were there). We weren't able to get a "display" in time however among some member it was agreed a collage with the recent rescues and releases as well as the Title "Wildlife in Sandy Point: Rescue Habitat and Community Engagement" would be produced for the Foodies Market and other opportunities that arise.

Action: Christy to liaise with Jan for her photos and make up the laminated poster before 22 January. Anda offered reference to model examples for tree guards and control of sea spurge. Christy to follow up.

Progress: Christy contacted Anthony Amis and has received FOE koala results to 2018. She has committed to providing data to FOE given their data is used by scientists in the field much like Birdslife. Anda and Christy have met to discuss having a panel of potential collaborators for the Koala Program event being held 22 January. Anda will be representing Landcare Fish Creek.

2. Cancellation of the koala count was discussed. It was agreed a cancellation policy, regarding the conditions and criteria, be developed for any future counts so that no individual has sole responsibility (this year an informal process involving 4 people was used). This will include a "stand by" option so that notices will go about a potential cancellation before that option is called if time permits.

Action: Christy to draft a policy and get input for other WiSP organizers before the next koala count scheduled Sept 2022.

3. Discussion was held on rescues and releases with the highlight being the release of Baby Alice on 10 November (see attached Foster Mirror article – please note our carer's name is Jenny

Scheppers and this will be corrected through The Mirror). Baby Alice is the first successful treatment of chlamydia for our carer and the village (only our second case reported).

Our total number of rescues in 2021 was 15 (13 koalas, a microbat and a ringtail possum). Six of the 13 koalas survived and were released back into Sandy Point. Unfortunately 7 koalas were either dead at the time or later died (5 from mange). Neither the microbat nor the possum survived. It was identified that an additional rescue kit was required for Penny. It was also acknowledged that Marg has helped Jan unofficially for years and this needs to be reflected in the call out tree and needs to be acknowledged within the group.

Action/Progress: Christy has procured the items for Penny's kit. Needs to get to Penny. Marg to be included in updated call out tree.

4. Work plan update (progress not already listed) – Procured and distributed rescue kits whereby Kerrie, Georgie, and Jan have kits to carry with them. A spare kit and all of Di Cooper's wombat gear is kept in the shed for retrieval. The third koala display has been delivered and paid for. The Sign Committee is waiting to purchase some posts to mount it. There are supply issues but they are hoping soon. Dates for future meetings and events have been schedule and are reflected in the SPCC calendar where appropriate (and are listed at the end of the Minutes). Tins have been purchased and labels printed. They've been distributed as well.
5. The summer activities were discussed. A week long Koala Survey and subsequent "presentation of results and fundraising event), inclusion of a "Wildlife" category in the Art Show and a market (selling of second hand items that can be forwarded to Salvos ie non electronic) were decided on.

Progress: The **Koala Survey** is scheduled for **8-15 January** and has been included in this year's **Around the Town** (thank you Di Cooper and all). We are going to have a table at the **Foodies Market** on **8 January** (at the entrance) to promote our group and the Koala Survey and presentation (as well as ask for donations). We'll have our good news story (the poster of rescues and releases) to help inspire givers. We'll have the results and Koala Program event on 22 January. We've locked in the **WiSP Yard Sale** for **23 March** (Long weekend). The format will much the same as the Foodies Market where people get a table to present their stuff for a fee. Thank you to Anne Kinne for the great idea and for supporting our cause. We've had verbal acceptance of our Art Show sub category.

Action: Guests for the Koala Program event need to be determined and the format agreed to. All events need to be promoted through social media and where applicable the Foster Mirror. Planning for the Yard Sale will be done at our scheduled 27 Feb meeting. Christy to email Di Cooper to formally request the "Wildlife" subcategory in the Children's Art Show.

6. Funds and fundraising. Currently there is \$63.05. This reflects payment of the koala project display invoice and Di Cornwell's generous donation. Penny outlined the Lord Mayor Charitable Foundation's funding. She highlighted that they are only small grants and are targeted to small animal shelters and organisations. We thought Jenny would be a good candidate and our group should request funding for our on-going rescue expenses.

Progress/Action: Penny and Christy had further discussion about the fund and Christy submitted a funding request on behalf of WiSP. Christy will update the group on any results.

7. We discussed the vegetation and habitat program. We need to think how to extend it to birds etc without disrupting breeding, nesting seasons etc. Christy asked Geoff King to help come up with a plan (with schedules) knowing most work will be scheduled in cooler months.

Action: Christy to contact Geoff in the new year.

8. Other discussions

Adrian brought up the issue of undesirable plants (stranglers etc) in the Ash Ave Reserve. He wondered why they haven't planted manna gums. We discussed koala/wildlife corridors and planting mannas along the Great Rail Trail.

Marg reminded the group they were having a working bee around the picnic area and suggested that the group connect more closely with Foreshore Committee.

Di reflected some of the issues with Federal and State agencies with regard to activities on the ground and having the right protective frameworks legislatively. All agreed, we need to work with these groups to see what information and resources they might offer. Anda offered that Landcare Fish Creek has night surveillance cameras for our use much like what is happening from Venus Bay to Walkerville.

Action: Christy to progress stated issues with Adrian with the intention of sending a letter to Council. Christy and all to come up with ideas to engage other stakeholders. Christy to talk to interested parties regarding night surveillance and will include it as an agenda item next meeting in February.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm.

## **Forward dates of interest - Meetings, Events, Workshops Working Bees etc:**

**8-15 January - The Koala Survey**

**8 January – Foodies Market**

**22 January 2:00- 4:00pm – Koala Survey Results and Program Event**

**27 February 10:00 – 11:30 - Meeting**

**23 March 12:00 – 5PM – WiSP Yard Sale**

Comments edits or addendums to Christy Fejer