

**New South Wales Speleological Council Executive**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday – 20th July 2023**

**7 PM Zoom Video Conference**

**Meeting opened:** 7:15 pm

1. **Attendance:**

Rod Smith, Lachlan Bailey, Glenn Stalgis, Peter Dykes, Brittany Meers, Keir Vaughn-Taylor

Visitors: Bruce Welch  
Apologies: Emily Butcher

1. **Business Arising from previous minutes**
   1. Talk to Andrew Baker - Rod

Rod – I have spoken to Andrew. Among other things he recommended that an initial approach to NPWS since their restructure is best done through KMAC. He also agreed that KMAC is a legislated body, but the karst unit is not.

Bruce – The legislation includes who KMAC advises

Peter – We need to talk to the minister, face-to-face. Who should go? It must be during the week.

Keir – I can go

Glenn – Sure

Brittany – I need some notice, but I could attend

**Action item** – For everyone to help Peter come up with a list of what we want to discuss with the minister. Send to Lachlan to put together in a document for Peter.

* 1. Area conservation conveners – Peter

Peter – I haven’t had a chance to work on this yet

* 1. List of Jenolan grievances - Keir

Keir – I sent something a while ago, but I can resend it

Bruce – Keir, Lachlan and I can work on agendas for various meetings

* 1. Letter to Crown Lands regarding Dip cave – Keir

Keir – We got the GIPA. It’s a treasure trove of information. The main report is dire, we need to go against this. They tested twice for asbestos, and found it. We could clean up the asbestos ourselves. Send proposal to the planning department.

Bruce – Which department?

Keir – The one in charge.

Lachlan – I proposed doing a clean up in Dip cave before all of this, and they said no.

Bruce – Maybe the NSWSC should explore the option of managing the caves on the Wee Jasper reserves.

Peter – Without controlling access what would be the impact on public liability?

Rod – It doesn’t hurt to ask.

**Action Item** – Keir to write something up to enquire about the NSWSC managing Wee Jasper

* 1. Meeting NPWS regarding gating Tuglow and Colong – Peter

Peter – I haven’t had a chance to work on this yet

* 1. Landholder introduction document - Lachlan

Lachlan – Keir edited it and sent to Narrengullen. We decided to wait to see how it goes first.

1. **Reports**
2. **General Business**
   1. Review of karst areas numberers and taggers

Lachlan – This came out of the recent NSWSC meeting. The document is out of date, including the fact that there were a couple of people that passed away. I sent out an email to clubs to get feedback on the current status, and there was a roll over to new people in some cases. There were a couple of cases of clubs wanting to pass on the responsibility. VSA are responsible for Indi, so we should probably invite them to the next meeting.

* 1. Cave safety and training in non-ASF clubs

Lachlan – NUCC encountered a group from UNSW outdoor club that were, in the opinion of those on the trip, lacking in their cave rigging knowledge. NUCC are happy to reach out to them to offer training etc., but we wanted to check with the NSWSC first.

Peter – Do it

* 1. Reimbursement to Bruce Welch for the GIPA

Rod – I will discuss it with the ASF Executive when we meet in just over a weeks time.

* 1. Exec elections

Rod – We were supposed to have elections for all the executive positions in May, but this got missed. We should, therefore, hold the elections in October. The question is, should we start the 2 year term from October, or assume the 2 year term started in May (making the next election in May 2025)?

The agreed consensus is the second option

* 1. Ovens Mountain

Lachlan – I met with Glen Bowman, from KSS, regarding a proposed Hydro scheme in the Macleay Valley. The proposed infrastructure is not in karst, but the access tracks are through karst areas.

* 1. Peter – The archive up here at Jaunter is complete, just some minor works to do (e.g. painting). Then I just need to move the material into there. I would like copies of environmental data up here.

1. **Proposal for next meeting**

14th September

1. **Close of meeting**

Around 9:15pm