

**New South Wales Speleological Council Executive**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday – 7th April 2022**

**7 PM Zoom Video Conference**

**Meeting opened:** 7:15 pm

1. **Attendance:**

Rod Smith, Lachlan Bailey, Glenn Stalgis, Peter Dykes
Apologies: Keir Vaughn-Taylor, Stephanie Murphy

1. **Business Arising from previous minutes**
	1. Files copied onto Google drive - Stephanie

Carried on to next meeting

* 1. NSWSC endeavor to get access to the data from the Jenolan Mapping Project – Peter to contact Jenolan and Julia James

Peter – Just before this meeting I was talking to Julia James. I’m going to meet her at Jenolan over the Easter weekend. We spoke about the mapping project and, according to Julia, the only thing left to be done is for her to write an introduction. Julia intends to provide a copy of the documentation to the ASF Library and another copy to SSS. I’ll see if I can secure a copy for the cave and karst numbering library as well.

I am concerned because Julia lives alone and is in her mid-eighties. If something happens to her, we don’t want to lose the data.

Lachlan – You asked me to invite SUSS and SSS to this meeting to discuss this. SUSS never replied, SSS said they had a committee meeting that clashed with this, and they wouldn’t be able to provide much information anyway.

* 1. Write a response to the Wombeyan plan

Lachlan – I’ve submitted both of the prepared documents to KMAC, NPWS and various politicians. I’ve had no responses, except Sophia said she sent it on to the rest of KMAC.

* 1. Incorporation of the NSWSC - Peter

Peter – I have downloaded the document and application form, which I can circulate. We need to explain why we want to be incorporated. The major reason is to access government grants directly as the NSWSC rather than through the ASF or an incorporated club.

Lachlan – Would we actually do that?

Peter – The only time we’ve done something like that was for the MacQuarie project which I was involved with. It is easier to get state based funding if we’re a state based organization.

Rod – Most projects are going to be run by clubs, so the only time this may be useful is when a number of NSW based clubs are involved. But then the grant application can be done by one of the clubs anyway. Unless there are other advantages in becoming incorporated, I don’t feel this alone justifies it.

1. **Reports**
	1. JCSRG (Jenolan Caves Stakeholder Reference Group)

No report

1. **General Business**
	1. Conservation Officer

Peter – We need a conservation officer. I’ve approach a number of people with no luck thus far.

* 1. Meeting politicians about Wombeyan

Peter – I’ll attempt to meet politicians after ANZAC Day. Is anything going to happen while all this rain is persisting?

Rod – Nothing physical, but beyond the scenes stuff could

Glenn – Agreed

Peter – So shouldn’t we be talking to the decision makers

Rod – Politicians can put downward pressure

Lachlan – We need background info first, and we don’t even know who is behind the proposal

Peter – And that will be the first thing the politicians ask

* 1. Meeting with the NPWS Karst unit

**Action Item:** Glenn to contact Sophia to attempt to organize a meeting

* 1. Rebreathers letter to Jenolan

Lachlan – I went to the meeting about the rebreathers, just to show the support of the NSWSC

* 1. Dip Cave

Lachlan – I met with Crown Lands. They are looking at getting the works at Dip Cave done by early winter. They’ve done away with the shotcrete plan, which is good news. They are currently looking more at clay and a liner solution, with stairs into the entrance to not damage the liner.

* 1. Spring Creek canyon

Lachlan – I emailed Bungonia asking whether the safety assessment had been completed and if ASF clubs could be allowed to do the canyon. I haven’t received a response yet.

* 1. Yarrangobilly

Lachlan – I met with the staff at Yarrangobilly about the permit applications. The main problem being the requirement to list all caves to be visited and on which days on the application. This provides trip leaders with no flexibility should external forces, such as weather, necessitate a change of plans. The meeting went quite well.

* 1. Jenolan cottage

Glenn – What’s happening with the Jenolan cottage?

Lachlan – Cottages not serviceable at the moment due to damage suffered during the recent storms and rain.

Glenn – Is there another alternative?

Lachlan – No. Previously we discussed all options and those cottages were it.

Rod – Are Jenolan looking at fixing the issues?

Lachlan – Yes, but it may not be a priority.

* 1. NSWSC meeting – 21st May at Wombeyan

Rod – I assume the date is fine, but what about the location?

Lachlan – I may not be able to make it

Peter – I will call Dave Smith in the next few days and see if that’s an option.

**Action Items:** Rod - Find out who’s up for election at the next meeting. Rod – Write a report for council on what the executive has been doing since the last meeting.

1. **Proposal for next meeting**

After the NSWSC meeting

1. **Close of meeting**

Around 8:25pm