

## **MONARO ACCLIMATIZATION SOCIETY MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BIDGEE LODGE, 6 NOVEMBER 2021**

### **1.0 Meeting opened at 1.13**

### **2.0 Attendance**

S Samuels, R Whiteway, N Buckland, J Bray, J Killip, Smith, F Smith, P Batho, B Batho, D Flinn, B Blair, G Barlin, M Sawa, M Ogilvie, D Collier.

### **3.0 Apologies.**

G Wood, N Buckland, K Pfeiffer, J Miller.

### **4.0 Previous Minutes.**

That the minutes as circulated be adopted, Flynn/Collier.

### **5.0 Business Arising from Minutes.**

5.1 We have a new permanent inspector located at Gaden, Jesus Taurezca. The President suggested that we invite him to the next meeting to help him get to know the area.

5.2 The President and Secretary gave an outline of the MAS submission , prepared by Kerry Pfeiffer, to the Draft Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan. The Submission will be put up on the MAS website, but the main recommendations were:

- To reduce the area given over to horses to about 100,000 acres with that are to be arranged so that the headwaters of the Eucumbene, Murrumbidgee, Murray and Snowy Rivers are not included in the retention Zone, and any waterways within the 100,000 acres should be fenced to exclude horses and minimise waterway destruction
- Subject to this the waterways of the Mosquito and Currango creeks fall outside of the retention Zone
- Provide a requirement that post 2027 that the horse retention Zone be fenced to keep the horses within the Zone
- Fencing of waterways be no less than 500 metres from the waterway
- Recognise the need for rehabilitation to waterways inside and outside the retention Zone and require a waterway rehabilitation plan to be developed as a requirement of the plan .

It was stressed at the meeting that this is only the start of action to reduce horse damage to the park, its waterway and the fishing.

### **6.0 Correspondence out**

6.1 Letter of support to Vickie Wallace of the Snowy River Alliance who are seeking have the Moonbah run into the Snowy below Jindabyne Dam so as to restore some of the connectivity between the Snowy and its tributaries.

6.2 Letter to Paul Broad CEO Snowy Hydro thanking and congratulating Snowy Hydro for undertaking remedial works on the portal inflow to the Eucumbene River.

### **7.0 Correspondence in**

7.1 Letter from Paul Broad CEO Snowy Hydro acknowledging Letter from MAS and reconfirming their commitment to supporting local business and recreation.

### **8.0 Reports**

#### **Treasurers Report**

Balance at 1 October 2021 \$10,865.89.

### **9.0 General Business**

9.1 There are changes being prepared to the Cruelty to Animals Act to classify fish as sentient animals that may impinge upon anglers. There is a petition going around that can be accessed through the Recreational Fishing Alliance and other places opposing any restrictions on anglers that may result from legislative change. For now it is proposed to:

- Leave it to the action to the RFA
- Keep tabs on it and get involved if necessary.

9.2 The president put in a submission to the Special Activation Plan for the Jindabyne region developed by the NSW Government. Of particular concern to us was:

- No consideration of the economic benefits of angling to the region and no consultation on this
- Potential closure of access roads to the eastern side of Lake Jindabyne as part of development there
- Hatchery Bay designated for development including high rise with no recognisable access to the Lake. Also our grow out facility pipeline to Gaden Hatchery is meant to originate there and go through that area
- Mooted holiday units at Island Bend and no mention of how it would affect the existing camping there

On the east side Lake access, NSW Fisheries have had discussions with the Lands Department and it seems likely that access roads there will be preserved.

9.3 Developments to the Hatching Shed at Gaden Hatchery with funding recently received will take place between April and October next year and could potentially affect next seasons production, though Mitch thinks that they will battle through. Production this season has been outstanding.

9.4 The president met recently with Snowy Hydro, NSW Fisheries and the consultant employed to develop the plan for the grow out facility. All agreed that the plan will remain as first mooted, ie: to produce 200,000 10 inch fish per annum.

9.5 The Lake Eucumbene and Jindabyne stocking carried out in May was successful with the fish up to 30 cm already.

9.6 Fisheries have asked anglers to contribute information to the Angler Access Project. While this is potentially contentious, the meeting agreed to the president and Bill Blair contributing on an exploratory basis. Two access issues were raised on the Upper Maclaughlin and the upper Moonbah. Agreed that we should refer them to Fisheries and the Lands Department for resolution

Closed 2.43 pm

**Next Meeting, Bidgee Lodge Cooma, 1pm Saturday, February 5 2022, will include the AGM.**

