



WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

PO BOX 42 BRIGHTON LE SANDS NSW 2216

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Inc has developed broad and diverse conservation projects and

unique wildlife, and this is evident in the range of our achievements over the last year. We deal with and support a broad spectrum of issues, deliver many different conservation projects and operate in a number of different and sometimes difficult locations across Australia. Some of our conservation projects focus on conserving a single species, while others deal with national problems on a continental or global scale - such as climate change. Our volunteers work in locations all around Australia, from remote areas to the capital cities – and all showing a commitment to conserving

Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

These events, held in NSW Parliament House, Sydney

Bob Debus MP, Minister for the Environment, hosted our 2007 Annual Luncheon and gave a short address on his environmental achievements over the last decade. Peter Cundall (ABC TV) was our 2007 Guest of Honour. Peter gave a very moving and interesting address to the guests at the Luncheon and spoke “off the cuff”. He said he never prepares a formal speech but just “rambles” on about his work.



Peter Cundall being presented with a Wollomi Pine by President Patrick W Medway

The Serventy Conservation Medal for 2006

This special award was inaugurated in 1999 to commemorate the conservation work by the members of the Serventy family – Dr Vincent Serventy, Dr Dominic Serventy and Lucy Serventy. Each member of the family gave a lifetime of commitment to the conservation and preservation of Australian wildlife.

The Serventy Conservation Medal for 2006 was awarded to Lindsay E Smith OAM of Unanderra in New South Wales for his outstanding wildlife conservation work involving seabirds.



Lindsay Smith being presented with the Serventy Conservation Medal for 2006 by The Hon Bob Debus MP, Minister for the Environment

Lindsay Smith has, through his devotion to wildlife

seabirds, especially the albatross. Lindsay, with others, has been actively studying the seabirds visiting the coast near Wollongong for over fifty years. This represents the longest continuous albatross study in the world. He was involved in the foundation of the Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association in 1994. As a result of

was brought to the attention, not only of Australians, but of people throughout the world.

Strategic Planning Day on our Foundation Day

Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2006

The Community Wildlife Service Award is made each year to recognise organisations that make a significant contribution to the preservation of Australian wildlife. The Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2006 was awarded to the Friends of the Koala Inc from Lismore in New South Wales.

Friends of the Koala is a non-profit community group run by volunteers dedicated to conserving koalas in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. Volunteer rehabilitators operate a 24 hour rescue service for sick, injured and orphaned koalas. Friends of the Koala play an active role in promoting habitat restoration in the Northern Rivers Region. The group supports research, in particular in the prevalence of disease in koala populations and in mapping current koala populations and their distribution.

James Turner, Centre for Behavioural and Physiological Ecology, University of New England, Armidale. Project - The e 1241 The thermlogi241bi2(e 12ty)12tpygmy-possums.ject

Conferences and wildlife seminars

Councillors attended and contributed to a number of important wildlife conferences and meetings throughout the year. We actively initiated and sponsored some of these conferences and participated in others:

- ARAZPA Conference in Wellington NZ
- World Conservation NCC Dinner in Sydney
- Hunter Wetland Conference at Newcastle
- Australasian Mammal Society Conference in Armidale
- National Tree Day planting – Rockdale Wetlands
- Clean Up Australia Day at Bicentennial Park, Rockdale
- AWMS Conference in Canberra
- Wildlife Council Conference at Randwick, Sydney
- Nature Conservation Council Annual General Meeting in Sydney
- 2007 Wildlife Study Tour of Kangaroo Island

Environmental education

Our National Office continues to receive and answer hundreds of routine wildlife calls each week from school students wanting to find out more about our native wildlife and the conservation of its vital habitat. We provide a wide range of information brochures on native wildlife both on our website and in hard copy for posting. We have now developed a draft Environmental Education program for implementation in our new Environmental Education Centre.

Financial Report summary

control over our finances and reviewed and adjusted the investment portfolio during the year to take advantage of the interest rates. We now look forward to continued strong growth in our investment portfolio.

Donations, bequests and gifts

During the year we continued with our bequest program to encourage donors to support our work through and general publicity.

We are grateful to all our members for considering using the bequest program to help the Society with long term planning.

Dr Vincent Serventy AM BSc BEd DSc

Our President of Honour, Dr Vincent Noel Serventy AM, died on Saturday 8 September 2007, aged 91 years. Vincent will be sadly missed by several generations of Australians who were strongly influenced in their love of Australia and its unique wildlife. His persistence in writing to prime ministers, premiers and ministers continued right to the end. He was truly regarded as the

honoured as such for his tremendous contribution to wildlife preservation throughout his lifetime.



Patrick Medway and Vin Serventy planting a tree in Vin's garden

The future

Acting on sound legal and accounting advice, the Council has implemented a major sustainable program for the future work of the Society. With a new and modern constitution to cope with the administrative and structural changes necessary for the Society to

Approved Environmental organisation with the Federal deductible donation to the work of the Society, which is helping to establish our long term viable future.

Centenary celebrations in 2009

The Centenary Committee has developed a strong centenary program to celebrate one hundred years of wildlife preservation across Australia. It is proposed to launch the program in January 2009 and proceed with monthly events across Australia. A highlight is

Serventy Memorial Classrooms as a focal point for our new environmental education program for primary and secondary students.

Ecoworld Gardens

We progress with development plans for the establishment of our major Wetland Environmental Education Centre in the Rockdale Wetlands Sydney. The Rockdale City Council has given advice on how we should proceed

March 2008. Once formal approval has been granted, we will develop Stage 1 of the project by building the double classrooms to commence the education program for local schools.

Patrick W Medway AM
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
31 December 2007