

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

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WPSA PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

An exciting year

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia elected a new President at the beginning of the year - Suzanne Medway. Suzanne was the former Honorary Secretary and Executive Director of the Society and is very familiar with the complete workings of the wildlife conservation functions of the Society. 2010 was a year of consolidation and renewal for the Society.

As a consequence of the global financial crisis the returns on our invested funds, while fully protected, have slowed down accordingly. At our Strategic Planning Day in May 2010 we reorganised a number of committees and identified a new direction for our public marketing image.

We have now registered the name **Australian Wildlife Society** as a business trading name for the Society and are optimistic that we can reach a new audience and membership group with this new trading name.

Wildlife conservation projects

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia has developed a diverse range of conservation projects and responsibilities in our mission to preserve Australia's unique wildlife, and this is evident in the breadth of our achievements over the last year. We deal with and support a broad spectrum of environmental issues, supporting and/or delivering various wildlife conservation projects and operating in a number of different, and sometimes difficult and isolated, locations across Australia. Some of our wildlife conservation projects focus on preserving a single species, while others deal with national problems on a continental or global scale – such as feral animals or climate change. Our volunteers work in locations all around Australia, from remote areas in the central desert to the capital cities – and all showing a tremendous dedication and commitment to preserving and protecting Australia's fauna and flora for the next generation of young Australians.

101st Annual General Meeting

There was a general sense of excitement and anticipation by the members attending this historic meeting that we were beginning a second century of wildlife preservation in Australia. But we also felt disappointment that the same issues that our



Directors of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia in 2010. L to R: Back row: Richard Mason, Judith May, Suzanne Medway, Vanessa Wilson, Clive Williams. Front row: Tony Cornell, David Murray, Patrick Medway, Noel Cislowski, Peter Hardiman

members faced in 1909 were still being experienced over 100 years later.

Serventy Conservation Medal for 2009

This special award was inaugurated in 1999 to commemorate the wonderful conservation work by the members of the Serventy family: Dr Vin Serventy, his brother Dr Dominic Serventy and his sister Lucy. Each member of the family has given a lifetime of commitment to the conservation and preservation of Australian wildlife.

The Serventy Conservation Medal for 2009 was awarded to June Butcher of Western Australia. June's



June Butcher

love of native animals resulted in her founding Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in 1986. Kanyana now has 140 volunteers and operates 365 days of the year caring for over 2,000 animals each year. Kanyana provides advice, hands-on care and expertise to ensure sick, injured and orphaned native animals are given a second chance and released back into the wild. June is also involved in the Department of Environment and Conservation's Western Shield endangered species captive breeding program for bilbies, having bred over 95 animals since 1996. June takes every opportunity to educate the community about wildlife, including training other wildlife rehabilitators, and overseeing an education team which contacts over 40,000 children and adults every year.

Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2009

The Community Wildlife Service Award is made each year to recognise organisations which make a significant contribution to the preservation of Australian wildlife.

The Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2009 was awarded to the Consultative Committee for Cassowary Conservation (C4). C4 is a consortium of local community groups, local councils, government departments and other agencies, with representation and advice from the local indigenous people (Djiru).



Cassowary

Through the working groups and the vision statement of "Knowing Keeping Sharing", C4 undertakes to protect Mission Beach's natural values to ensure a healthy environment, community and economy, where you can still see a cassowary in the wild.

Wildlife rescue calls

We continue to receive numerous and wide-ranging distress calls for help from members of the public about sick, injured and stranded wildlife. We are fortunate to have the support of the various national wildlife rescue services that do such valuable and selfless work to help rescue, save and rehabilitate our native wildlife.

University Student Grants

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia announced the winners of the ten annual grants of **\$1,000** each to honour or postgraduate students conducting research that will contribute to the conservation of Australian wildlife. The winners for 2010 were:

Bronwyn Fancourt – School of Zoology, University of Tasmania. Project: "Spatial and temporal variation in declining eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) populations in Tasmania".

Chrystal Mantyka-Pringle – School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management Centre for Spatial Environmental Research (CSER), University of Queensland. Project: "Decision making for conserving freshwater biodiversity under climate change and land-use change".

Helen Waudby – School of Natural & Built Environments, University of South Australia. Project: "The role of cracking clay soils in maintaining fauna and flora biodiversity in the arid rangelands of South Australia".

Joanna Burgar – Murdoch University. Project: "Bat succession in restored bauxite mine sites of the Jarrah Forest".

Katherine Selwood – Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU College of Medicine, Biology & Environment, Australian National University, Canberra. Project: "Reptile and beetle communities in a fragmented landscape: does emigration increase extinction risk?" Note: Unfortunately Katherine has had to withdraw from the Grants Scheme.

Martin Breed – University of Adelaide. Project: "Developing best practice approaches for restoring River Murray forest ecosystems that are resilient to climate change".

Sophie Arnall – School of Animal Biology (M092), University of Western Australia. Project: "Ecoenergetics of the western swamp tortoise: modelling the translocation viability of Australia's rarest reptile".

Tracey Moore – Centre of Excellence for Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health, School of

Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Murdoch University. Project: "Is the decline in health of *Eucalyptus wandoo* impacting wildlife?"

Ruchira Somaweera – School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney. Project: "Assessing the level of impact of cane toads on Australian freshwater crocodiles".

Erica Todd – School of Marine and Tropical Biology, James Cook University, Townsville. Project: "Assessing the long-term impacts of river regulation on ecologically diverse Australian freshwater turtles".

2010 Conservation Group Grants

The Council of the Wildlife Preservation Society carefully considers all requests for grants from other wildlife conservation groups and places a special emphasis on native wildlife research, conservation and the preservation of wildlife habitat. The Society makes regular contact with wildlife caring groups across Australia to find out how they are faring, what their main projects are and how we can be of assistance to them in preserving native wildlife. We lobby organisations and government bodies on their behalf and make donations to assist them in their special conservation projects.

During the year major donations were made to:

Numbat Tracking Project in Western Australia - the Society's contribution to this project will be ongoing. The project was particularly successful this year, as the actual radio-tracking ran very smoothly and the project participants were able to follow and document the movements of a female numbat and her four young for two weeks. They were also able to capture a total of 31 numbats and thus lay down a solid foundation for next year's research and recovery work.



Female numbat with nesting material

Wombat Awareness Organisation in South Australia – funds were donated to this non-profit organisation to assist in their mission of large-scale rescue and rehabilitation of the southern hairy-nosed wombat (*Lasiornhinus latifrons*). This includes wombat protection and conservation, protection of fragmented populations, developing new co-existence plans for landowners, lobbying for tougher regulations on culling and undertaking research into public opinion, population status, human impact

and a Murraylands Mangle Management Program. Their aim is to revolutionise the perception of wombats by promoting welfare and conservation of the species.

Tolga Bat Hospital – funds were donated for the conservation of bats and their habitat. Tolga do this by the rescue, rehabilitation and release of hundreds of bats each year; the provision of lifetime sanctuary for many bats that are too severely injured to return to the wild or have been retired from zoos; education about bats through schools and at the onsite visitor centre; habitat restoration work at two colonies – Tolga Scrub and Lakeside – facilitating research into flying foxes by various universities and government bodies; advocating for bats; and providing a rich volunteering experience at the hospital. Tolga Bat Hospital is a not-for-profit community group, comprising a Landcare group and a registered charity which aims to improve the public's perception and understanding of bats. The group takes its name from the nearby Tolga Scrub, a fragment of critically endangered Mabi rainforest that is home, at various times of the year, to up to a million fruit bats.



Young orphan grey headed flying fox in care

Bilby project in Western Australia - the funds donated have been put towards a bilby conservation project in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The breeding program – part of CALM's conservation project **Western Shield** – began in 1997 with the capture of four male and two female bilbies from the Great Sandy Desert. A third female was acquired from the Jiggalong Mission in the Pilbara. The Broome complex currently houses three males and two females with a breeding pair also being relocated to Perth at Kanyana Native Fauna Rehabilitation Centre.

Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre – our Society donated funds to purchase two water tanks that were needed to act as water storage and settlement tanks for incoming water supplies to the turtle rehab tanks. Because the centre's pumping site is located up a tidal creek surrounded by mud flats, the dirty water

quickly blocks up the filters, creating less-than-ideal conditions in the rehab tanks. The two new water tanks were needed to act as primary settlement tanks, removing a lot of the sediment and suspended solids from the incoming water before it reaches the filters on the rehab tanks.

Fourth Crossing Wildlife - we sponsored Fourth Crossing Wildlife's attendance at the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Adelaide in June 2010. We felt it important that WPSA be represented at the 7th national conference for those dedicated to the welfare, rescue and rehabilitation of native wildlife. The conference shared the latest information about the rescue, rehabilitation and release of Australian wildlife. There were approximately 30 presenters from across Australia, including speakers from wildlife care organisations, government, the veterinary profession, research institutions and the RSPCA.

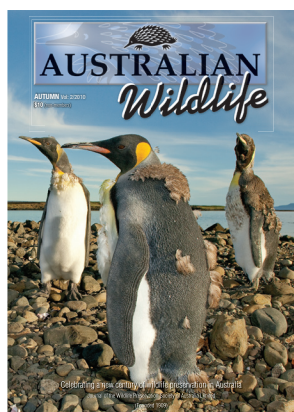
Wirrimbirra Sanctuary - we continued to support the Wirrimbirra Sanctuary and made a sizeable donation towards their fundraising efforts to raise money to establish a koala enclosure. The history of the Stead Foundation is closely intertwined with the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia because its key pioneers – Vincent Serventy and Thistle Harris – were actively involved in both organisations.

Australian Wildlife magazine

Our coloured magazine is the 'flagship' of the Society and has proved to be extremely popular amongst our members.



Summer Cover



Autumn Cover



Winter Cover



Spring Cover

Our fortnightly Email Wildlife Newsletter has proven to be very popular with our members and we encourage them to forward it to their family, friends and associates.

Conferences and wildlife research 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.

Financial Report summary

The Society's Councillors and Finance Committee continues to exercise tight and effective control over our finances and reviewed and adjusted the investment portfolio during the year.

Donations, bequests and gifts

During the year we continued with our bequest program to encourage donors to support our work through advertising in the Solicitors' Pro-Bono publication and website and general publicity. We are very grateful to all our members for considering using the bequest program to help the Society with its long-term planning. Contact the National Office for more details.

Celebrating a new century of wildlife preservation

Our Society adopted a new logo in 2010 to reflect the next one hundred years of wildlife preservation and conservation work. This new logo is now being used on all new publications and signage of the Society to encourage greater community support for our work.



Celebrating a new century
Founded in 1909

A special thank you to all our members

May I wish every member of the Society a healthy and happy 2011 and thank them most sincerely for their tremendous support and continued dedication and commitment in helping the Society to preserve and protect our native wildlife for future generations of young Australians.

Suzanne Medway JP
PRESIDENT
31 December 2010