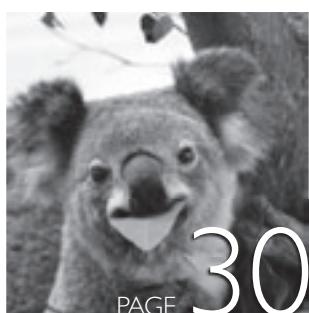
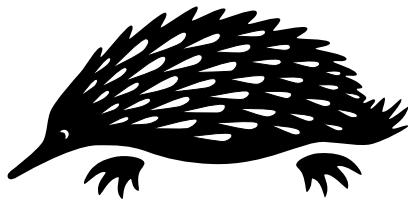


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AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE

*is the official journal of the
Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Inc.*

*Founded in 1909, the Society is dedicated
to the conservation of our unique
Australian Wildlife in all its forms.*

Print Post Approval No. PP243459/00117

Price \$10.00 (for non-members)

MEMBERSHIP

Ordinary:.....\$35
Pensioner/ Student:.....\$25
Family:.....\$45
Conservation and School Groups:.....\$55
Institutions/Overseas Subscription:.....\$65

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Production/ Printing: StuDio DiseNo
Budget Printing

Articles may be copied or quoted with
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REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

We would like to hear from our country members, anywhere in Australia, who would like to become regional councillors. The value to us is we would have a more intimate relationship with women and men who have a knowledge which could be valuable for conservation.

Such Regional Councillors would be sent the minutes of our Council meetings so they would know more about what we are doing. They could also submit motions for consideration and so play a part in Society decisions. By being listed in our newsletter State members could contact them in emergencies.

*All articles are written by
Suzanne Medway unless stated otherwise.*

From the President's Desk...

97th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

One of our most successful annual luncheons was held on 20 February 2006 when the Premier of NSW was our guest of honour. A large crowd of members and guests supported the annual event and everyone enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere and friendship that characterises our Society. The Premier gave an outstanding address and announced a number of new national parks and marine reserves to protect our native wildlife in all its forms.

Centenary Appeal successfully launched

The Premier officially launched our Centenary Appeal at the 97th Annual Luncheon and made a major contribution to the Appeal in his speech to members and guests. We acknowledge the Premier's strong support and generous donation to the Appeal and assure him of our continuing commitment to protect native wildlife across the state.

ECOWORLD Gardens

With the launch of the Centenary Appeal, funds for the new Wetland Environmental Education Centre - ECOWORLD Gardens - is now off to a flying start. While we have raised a considerable amount of money for this project, we will need much more if we are going to establish a viable first class Education Centre to educate the next generation of young Australians about caring for the environment.

Congratulations to the newly elected Councillors

I extend my sincere congratulations to the newly elected 2006 Councillors of the Society. With their election to office comes the great responsibility of moving the Society forward into the 21st century and to meet the needs of both our members and the protection of our precious native wildlife. It is a challenge that we can and must meet if we are going to save many of the species from extinction.

National Tree Day – Sunday 30 July 2006 Schools Tree Day - Friday 28 July 2006

National Tree Day is Australia's largest community tree-planting event. In 2005 more than 350,000 volunteers helped to plant over 1.5 million native trees and shrubs at over 4,000 sites around Australia

– more than 2,000 of these sites were schools! The number of schools becoming involved in Tree Day continues to rise each year, representing both a tremendous contribution and the importance young people place on the environment. The practical involvement in Tree Day brings a unique learning experience to thousands of schoolchildren across the country. For further information please visit www.planetark.com/treeday or call the National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000.

Vin Serventy's 90th birthday

Councillors and friends travelled to Pearl Beach to help Vin celebrate his 90th birthday. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed by all and many memories were shared by Vin and his guests about his lifelong passion of wildlife conservation.

Death of member

It is with regret we advise that a long-standing member of the Society, Raymond Trevor Grenenger of Leura, passed away in January 2006 after a nine month's illness. Trevor joined the Society in 1970 and was an active and concerned member during his service as a police officer serving throughout New South Wales. He often attended our wildlife field days and the Annual Luncheons at Parliament House. He was a keen advocate of the 'Clean Up Australia' campaign and kept his area of the world especially clean and tidy by picking up the rubbish found in the streets and laneways near his home in the Blue Mountains. We will sadly miss Trevor.



Patrick W Medway AM
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Annual General Meeting 2006

The 97th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Waratah Room at NSW Parliament House, Sydney on Monday 20 February 2006. Over 30 members attended the meeting and adopted the 2005 Financial Report and elected the new Council for 2006.

Patrick W Medway AM was re-elected as National President, with Dr Clive Williams and Dr Dick Mason as Vice Presidents. Suzanne Medway remains as Secretary/Executive Director and Ralph Campbell was again elected to the position of Treasurer. The members elected to the Council are: Noel Cislowski, John Clarke, Al Glen, Judith May, Vanessa Wilson, Colleen Murphy, Dr David Murray, Carol Nolder, John Robertson, Peter Stevens, Peter Stock and Robyn Stock.



Councillors for 2006



President's report for 2005

Another very busy and successful year

2005 has been a particularly busy and successful year for the Society. The Council has worked hard to actively preserve our unique Australian wildlife in all its forms across our nation and has made numerous submissions to all levels of government to achieve added protection. Members of Council have travelled widely throughout Australia on this special mission to engage with local conservation groups in our task of supporting similar organisations in their efforts.

We are now embarked on a very positive course of action to promote and market the Society and its vital work for Australian wildlife. Our quest for a permanent national office is under way and hopefully will reach an agreed solution in 2006.

Membership is essential for our long term success and it is vital that all existing members continue

to encourage family and friends to join us. The membership leaflets are freely available from the National Office.

Our Society is extremely grateful for the wonderful support received from all our elected Councillors. They contribute tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Society function.

Mission Statement

The Wildlife Preservation Society is an independent, voluntary, non-profit organisation, formed in 1909, and is committed to the preservation of Australia's precious flora and fauna. We act as a watchdog and provide advice to government agencies and institutions regarding environmental and conservation issues concerning all aspects of wildlife preservation. Our mission is to conserve Australia's fauna and flora through education and involvement of the community. We are dedicated to the conservation of our unique Australian wildlife in all its forms through national environmental education programs, political lobbying, advocacy and hands on conservation work.

Our Society's two environment principles are:

1. We never lose a battle, since we gain new friends for the next. Never be discouraged.
2. In a democracy until the win is enshrined in legislation, it is never a complete victory. We learned that lesson from sad experience. Promises can be forgotten. Laws are harder to overturn.

96th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon



Richard Morecroft

Richard Morecroft, who is best known for his two decades as the principal news presenter for ABC Television in New South Wales and the ACT, was our Guest Speaker at the 2005 Annual Luncheon.

The Hon Graham West MP, Member for Campbelltown and Parliamentary Secretary, was our host.

A large audience of 150 members and friends enjoyed the fine food and celebrated a great occasion to mark the 96th anniversary of our Society's foundation in 1909.

Serventy Conservation Award

Wayne Reynolds of Sutherland was the winner of the Serventy Conservation Award for 2004. Wayne has an inspirational love for Australia's wildlife and has been responsible for the success of the Cape Solander Whale Migration Study carried out on the coast line of the Royal National Park, Sydney. The study takes place during June-July each year. He was the original volunteer for this project twelve years ago when he began his seven-day, 84-hour weeks, braving the winter weather to provide scientists and researchers with invaluable written and photographic records of the migrating whales along our coastline.



Wayne Reynolds with the Serventy Conservation Medal

Community Wildlife Conservation Award

The winner of the Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2004 was Waterfall Springs Conservation Association Incorporated of Kulnurra near Gosford, NSW.

Waterfall Springs is an outstanding example of a dedicated community group working to save some of the rarest and most vulnerable species of wildlife in Australia. Their mission statement is to co-ordinate and unite with the community and organisations to conduct recovery projects for endangered native species at Waterfall Springs Wildlife Park, which constitutes 33 acres of freehold land purchased by Lloyd Oldfield and his wife in 1990. Part of the property has been registered as a licensed sanctuary and part is zoned conservation and preserved as a Nature Park for flora and fauna. Their objective is to provide responsible community education relevant to the plight of endangered species.

They focus on the need for wild habitat preservation as the primary means of ensuring the long-term survival of Australia's vitally important native species, as well as managed breeding programs and habitat regeneration initiatives for currently endangered species.



Clive Williams, Debbie Breen and Richard Morecroft

Runner-up

The standard of the entries in the Serventy Conservation Award for 2004 were so high, that a runner-up's award was made to Elizabeth Hartnell. Elizabeth's greatest contribution to Australian wildlife has been in relation to the preservation of habitat for the endangered grey-headed flying fox.



Elizabeth Hartnell receives her Award Certificate from Richard Morecroft

Visit to Waterfall Springs

In early June, members and friends visited Waterfall Springs, which is home to four endangered species of wallabies - brush-tailed rock wallaby, yellow-footed rock wallaby, bridled nail-tailed wallaby, and tamar wallaby. We experienced a unique behind-the-scenes tour of the Sanctuary and enjoyed morning tea and lunch afterwards with the manager, Debbie Breen, Lloyd Oldfield and the volunteer staff.

Our Society's President of Honour

Dr Vincent Serventy AM is still very active in our wildlife preservation programs. He is in constant touch with the media, mainly through Letters to the Editor, and has many of his informative letters published on wildlife and conservation issues.

Strategic Planning Day

The Society's annual Strategic Planning Day was held on 11 May 2005. The direction for the future work of the Society was decided, including the development of our environmental education program and the new ECOWORLD Gardens wetland education project. This day was chosen to mark the Foundation Day of the Society on 11 May 1909.

Wildlife Animal Expo

The Society again staged a major display at the 2005 Wildlife Animal Expo at Rosehill Gardens, attracting large crowds of visitors interested in all aspects of wildlife and animal management.

Mark Richmond from Crocodile Encounters joined us with an animated public display featuring live wildlife, which always attracts great interest. The conservation stories behind wildlife and their environment has a strong appeal to the public and assists in our public education program for wildlife preservation.



John Clarke, Suzanne Medway, Carol Nolder, Ralph Campbell and John Robertson

Visit to the Warrumbungles

Our Society organised a members' visit to another interesting part of Australia in September – the Warrumbungles in New South Wales, visiting many of the natural sites and national parks in the area. Special thanks to Carol Nolder and Mike Augee for their outstanding efforts.

Seminars with Birds Australia

For some years this Society has sponsored seminars conducted by Birds Australia and this year we provided this support again. The seminars have been of high quality in the past and this year's program was no exception.

NSW Pest Animal Control Council

Our Society's President, Patrick Medway, continued as representative on the NSW State Pest Animal Control Council. The Council was pro-active in reducing the number of feral animals across the State.

Increased funding allowed a wider range of programs to be activated to reduce feral animals' impact on the agriculture industry and native fauna. We have applied for increased funding to be allocated to prevent the cane toad from entering NSW.

“Australian Wildlife” magazine

Our magazine continues to be widely acclaimed by our members and the wider community. Our Editor, Suzanne Medway, works tirelessly to gather articles and photographs for each edition and has raised the standards high in reporting on our conservation work across Australia. More articles are always welcome to assist in making the magazine interesting and worthwhile.

Conferences and wildlife seminars

Councillors attended and contributed to a number of important wildlife meetings throughout the year and assisted in promoting the work of the Society across Australia.

Our Society was represented at the Australian Wildlife Management Society conference in Hobart in December 2005. We were delighted to see a number of our new members attending this important national annual wildlife conference.

Quoll Research Advisory Committee

As we have been outspoken about our concern at the loss of habitat and the decline in numbers of native quoll, our Society was again represented on the NPWS Northern Region's Quoll Research Advisory Committee.

New book launch

Conservation Victories and Battles Yet to Win

Dr Vincent Serventy AM launched this new book which chronicles many successful conservation battles to protect and save the Australian environment across a wide range of controversial issues.



Dr Vincent Serventy AM launches his new book

Written by Dr Vincent Serventy AM, who as President of Honour of our Society is still a prominent conservation and environmental activist, and Patrick W Medway AM, this book covers conservation battles ranging from the campaign to extend the protection zone of the Great Barrier Reef to the restoration of the Towra Beach RAMSAR site. Examples of conservation victories achieved by some of the actual people who were on the ground at the time of these conservation battles are faithfully recorded in great personal detail.

Financial Report - summary

The Society's Councillors continue to exercise effective control over our finances and reviewed and adjusted the investment portfolio during the year to take advantage of higher interest rates.

Donations, bequests and gifts

During the year we received many generous donations from our members, who continue to support the work of the Society in the preservation of Australia's precious wildlife. We

are most grateful for the generosity of these special members. All donations to our Society are applied directly to our projects and saving wildlife.

Donation to help save the Gouldian finch

Our Society made a cash donation to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to be allocated to their Gouldian finch research project on Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. The Sanctuary is one of northern Australia's most important nature reserves and provides wonderful habitat for Gouldian finches.

Whale watching donation

Our Society recently purchased a small Wildlife Caravan to be based at the Cape Solander Whale Watching Platform at Kurnell for use by the team of volunteers who work on the Cape Solander Whale Migration Study that is being carried out on the coastline of the Botany Bay National Park, Sydney. The study takes place during June-July each year. In previous years the volunteers have hired a caravan but this year they did not have sufficient funds and approached our Society for help and assistance.



Wayne Reynolds, whale watching volunteer, Patrick Medway, and Vanessa Wilson, National Parks Ranger in charge of the volunteers, at the hand over of the donation of the caravan

University Student Grants Scheme

Our Society was delighted to announce the inaugural winners of the five annual grants of \$1,000 each to honours or postgraduate students conducting research that will contribute to the conservation of Australian wildlife. The winners for 2005 were Anja Divljan for her project on 'Age determination and age structure in Australian flying foxes'; Shelly Lachish for her project on 'Managing Tasmanian Devil populations affected by the devil facial tumour disease'; Justine Murray for her

project on 'Spatially-explicit habitat modelling of the brush-tailed rock wallaby in eastern Australia'; Monica Ruibal for her study to investigate the social ecology of the spotted-tailed quoll using faecal DNA; and Michelle Stockwell for her project to investigate the role of chytridiomycosis in the decline of the green and golden bell frogs. By awarding the grants our Society aims to benefit the preservation of Australian wildlife by supporting applied scientific research with a conservation focus and to further the Society's commitment to environmental education by supporting students with a research interest in conservation.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the volunteers, especially Suzanne, who assists and runs the National Office and the various projects and activities on behalf of the Society.

My sincere thanks to everyone concerned for their hard work and commitment.

Patrick W Medway AM
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



97th Annual Luncheon

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, members retired to the NSW Parliament House Dining Room for a very successful luncheon hosted by Alison Megarry MP, Member for Menai and Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment. Our guest speaker was The Premier of NSW, The Hon Morris Iemma MP.

Master of Ceremonies, Noel Cislowski, opened the luncheon proceedings and invited the newly elected National President, Patrick W Medway AM, to officially welcome the Premier, guest speakers, members and guests.

Address of welcome by National President

Patrick Medway extended a very warm welcome to all members and guests to the 97th Annual Luncheon and Presentation of our special Wildlife Conservation Awards for 2005. He said that the Premier did the Society a great honour with his presence and it was pleasing that he accepted our invitation to join us and be our Guest Speaker. Our Society has a wonderful working relationship with the Minister for the Environment, his Office and its many departments, in our ongoing quest to save our precious native wildlife in all its forms. Patrick asked the Premier to convey our best

wishes to the Minister and thank him again for his kind support for the conservation work of our Society. We appreciated his strong support for the Towra Point project which is now successfully completed.

Patrick then welcomed Alison Megarry MP and thanked her for coming and praised her commitment to the environment and wildlife preservation. Our Society looks forward to her support as we continue our conservation work.

Dr Vin Serenty and Carol Serenty were also given a very special and warm welcome. It was great to see our President of Honour with us and we commend him for his continuing commitment to helping save our precious wildlife. You may have read some of Vin's Letters to the Editor in the national newspapers from time to time. Our Society trusts Vin will keep up the good work in this his 90th Year.

We were absolutely delighted to welcome past Awardees of the Serenty Conservation Award: Margaret Throsborne from Cardwell near Mission Beach, Bernie Clarke from Sussex Inlet, Dr Judy Messer from the NCC, Ron and Val Taylor, John Fenton from Hamilton in Victoria and Wayne Reynolds from Cape Solander Whale Watching Team.

Patrick also welcomed the new 2005 winners of the two Conservation Awards from Alice Springs and Mareeba in Queensland.

Our Society's special Life Members were given another warm welcome; Dr Vin Serenty, Dr Dick Mason, Dr Clive Williams, Bernie Clarke, Betty Dahl, Max Blanche, Philip Hammon, Philippa Hoffman and Joan Yap.

Patrick congratulated all the Councillors of the Society on their election to the 2006 Council and expressed appreciation for their continued and valued support for our wildlife conservation work across Australia. The Councillors' election and commitment to Council helps make the running of the Society as a voluntary organisation possible so he urged them to keep up their commitment and good work for the Society. The challenges ahead are equally daunting as we move towards establishing the new Wetland Environmental Education Centre and National Headquarters for the Society. With such foundational support we can now achieve some long term goals for the future of the Society in the next year or so.

Patrick said that he was humbled to think that we have just held our 97th Annual General Meeting and Annual Luncheon in the Parliament House Dining Rooms with the Premier as our Guest

Speaker. When the Society was originally formed in 1909 no one could have imagined or predicted the extent of the growth or influence the Society has gained over these many years in wildlife preservation work across Australia.



Patrick Medway

A beautiful Australian poem

Noel Cislowski introduced a lovely young school student, Catherine Gaussen, to recite *My Country*. This was a special treat for all the luncheon attendees.

My Country by Dorothea Mackellar (1885 - 1968)

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes.
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins,
Strong love of grey-blue distance
Brown streams and soft dim skies
I know but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!

A stark white ring-barked forest
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.
Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us,
We see the cattle die-
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold-
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land-
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand-
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

Dorothea Mackellar



Catherine Gaussen reciting *My Country*

Luncheon Host

Alison Megarrity MP, Member for Menai and Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment gave a short address and introduction of our Guest Speaker.



Alison Megarrity

Guest speaker – The Premier of NSW

The address by The Hon Morris Iemma MP, appears in its entirety below:

Vin Serenty, President of Honour, Patrick Medway, National President, Executive officers, Councillors and members of the Wildlife Preservation Society.

It is appropriate that we have gathered today in Parliament House because this year, the people of NSW celebrate 150 years of parliamentary government.

And it is hard to believe that for almost two-thirds of that time, the Wildlife Preservation Society has been there persuading governments from both sides of politics that protecting our biodiversity is a duty we owe the nation and the world.

I honour each and every one of you, unsung heroes of that long struggle. I particularly honour Vin Serenty who has lived to see the conservation dreams of his youth realised in his lifetime.

The dimensions of that achievement are still hard to grasp.

In March 1995 there were 328 parks and reserves. We've more than doubled that. There are now 680.

We've conserved two and a half million hectares in just a decade, including one million hectares of magnificent new parks in the State's West, a region always under-represented in the park system.

Last year we took the monumental step of saving the very best of the Western Brigalow forests, including the Pilliga and the Goonoo.

Around 350,000 hectares of these forests are now to be permanently conserved.

This is the single most important one-off addition to the Western reserves in the State's history.

We have also recently purchased the historic Yanga Station in the Riverina, the State's most poorly represented bioregion.

At a stroke we've doubled the area of national park in the Riverina, saving 150 kilometres of priceless Murrumbidgee River frontage as well as the largest privately-owned Red Gum forest in Australia.

All great achievements.

But the NSW Labor record will not stop there.

On November 29 last year, I made a major environmental statement, my first but by no means my last.

In my statement I committed the NSW Government to the biggest single conservation funding package in the State's history – the City and Country Restoration Program.

Some of you were there but for those who were not, I'll quickly rehearse the main points.

The starting point is the program's size – \$439 million over five years.

No government in 150 years has outlaid more in a single sweep.

This funding will allow us to tackle some of our most significant environmental challenges:

- restoring our icon wetlands

- protecting our marine environment
- securing high conservation crown lands
- and reducing the ecological footprint of our urban centres.

The centrepiece of our package is the Riverbank program, a new \$105 million environmental fund to buy water for our most stressed rivers and wetlands.

As you are all aware, many of the state's iconic rivers and wetlands are suffering from decades of over-allocating water supplies.

That means places such as the Macquarie Marshes, the Lowbidgee and Gwydir wetlands, and the Narran Lakes are declining in size and health.

With the Riverbank program we will start reversing that decline.

Wetlands help keep rivers healthy and provide rich habitats for wildlife. RiverBank will ensure this biodiversity is preserved and enriched.

Another major part of our package was the announcement of two new marine parks on the Batemans Shelf and Manning Shelf.

These new marine parks will protect more of our State's very best ecosystems and threatened marine species.

Ten years ago we had no marine parks. We now have six.

Our package didn't stop there.

Further significant parts of the City and Country Restoration Program include:

- \$80 million for urban sustainability grants;
- \$76 million to fund environmental research, restoration and waste reduction;
- \$18 million to crack down on illegal dumping;
- \$13 million to buy high conservation crown leases; and
- a new waste and environment levy to drive innovative waste technologies.

The City and Country Restoration Program is a massive commitment by the NSW Government – a commitment unmatched in its scope and ambition.

But, as I said on November 29, the achievements don't stop there. They will continue.

I said that. I meant it. And here's proof.

Today I can announce a major expansion of the NSW national parks system.

I'm proud to advise the NSW Government will create 21 new national parks and reserve, plus one new Aboriginal Area and 50 additions to existing parks and reserves.

All told, this means 24,000 hectares added to the national parks system, including glorious old growth forest, rainforest, wilderness and coastal wetlands, as well as eight sensitive coastal islands.

It is a magnificent addition to the NSW national parks system, and I am proud to announce it on the occasion of your 97th Annual General Meeting because you have fought so hard for these outcomes and deserve to be the first to hear the news.

Ninety-seven is a grand old age and it means one hundred is not far away.

I want to say two things about your forthcoming centenary.

The first is an unabashed appeal for money ... money for a great cause.

Your society is embarking on a bold plan – a Centenary Appeal to fund a new Wetland Education Centre in the Rockdale Wetland Corridor.

I urge you to generously support this appeal because it is all about educating the next generation to understand and value our precious wetlands.

To set a good example, I am delighted to be able to contribute the first \$5000 on behalf of the NSW Government, and with that donation I declare the Centenary Appeal officially launched.

I have one more observation to make about your centenary.

I want to say that I look forward to sharing your centennial celebrations as Premier in 2009.

I say that not only out of self-interest but because one thing is absolutely certain – the proud NSW environmental record over the past decade, our unprecedented record, will shudder to a halt if there is a change of government on March 24 next year.

Nothing could be more certain.

Already the Opposition has promised to de-gazette many of our national parks, as well as dumping the new Batemans Shelf marine park.

So it's a certainty our hard-won conservation gains will be torn to pieces under a Coalition Government.

Equally, nothing could be more certain than if this Government is returned at next year's poll, we will keep coming to gatherings like this and announcing more national parks and other measures to protect the precious landscapes we value and love.

My cards are on the table:

- two major environmental announcements in just 7 months
- with many more to come.

That's my record.

That's my commitment.

I'm proud to share it with you today.



The Premier of NSW, The Hon Morris Iemma MP



Suzanne Medway moved a vote of thanks to the Premier

Happy birthday to Vin Serventy

Past recipient of the Serventy Conservation Award, Bernie Clarke OAM, proposed the Toast to Vin Serventy on celebrating his 90th Birthday. The members then sang 'For he's a jolly good fellow' much to Vin's delight.



Bernie Clarke



Dr Vincent Serventy AM receiving his birthday toast

The Serenty Conservation Award for 2005

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



The Serenty Conservation Medal

The famous words of the renowned African Ecologist, Baba Dioum, encapsulate the philosophy behind the Serenty families' dedication to the environment:

*In the end, we will conserve only what we love,
We will love only what we understand,
And we will understand only what we are taught.*

Vin Serenty and his family have taught us all to love and understand our unique Australian wildlife through their untiring efforts over so many years.

Each year the Serenty Conservation Award is made to a very special person who has been outstanding in their commitment to the preservation of Australian wildlife. **This year the Award was made to Lyall Kenneth Metcalfe of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.**

Ken (as he is known) has an inspirational love for Australia's wildlife and has a lifelong interest in nature conservation. In his older years Ken has continued his volunteer conservation work throughout most states of Australia. Ken now lives in Alice Springs NT where he acts as a Regional Councillor for our Society and assists with many Northern Territory Parks clean ups.

Ken as recipient of the Serenty Conservation Medal for 2005, while not as old as Dr Vin Serenty, has nonetheless made a lifetime contribution to the conservation movement. Ken Metcalfe joined our Society as a 19 year-old and has been active ever since. His activities have lasted over a period of more than 45 years. These began in Sydney where he acted as Honorary Ranger for Hornsby Shire Council, Sutherland Shire Council, as Honorary Ranger for NSW under the Fauna Protection Act and in a salaried position within the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. He also became a registered flora collector for the National Herbarium, Sydney. During this time Ken found time to act as an Honorary Fire Patrol Officer and even captain a local Bush Fire Brigade.



Ken Metcalfe is congratulated by The Premier

Wherever Ken has gone he has become involved in conservation and related activities. He was an honorary Ranger for Coffs Harbour Council and since his move to the Northern Territory he hasn't allowed the heat to affect his zeal. He has been actively involved in the Alice Springs volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, won a Tidy Towns Award for small towns, won a Power and Water Award for vegetation and water conservation in a small Aboriginal community north of Alice Springs. In 2001 Ken was runner-up in the Territorian of the Year award and in 2002 was awarded the Volunteer of the Year for Emergency and Safety.

In the army there is an old saying, "don't volunteer for anything". In the conservation movement that just wouldn't wash. We'd achieve very little if we didn't work together. We depend on volunteers and it is fitting that a volunteer like Ken Metcalfe should be recognised for his lifelong contribution.



Dr Vincent Serventy AM presents the Serventy Conservation Medal to Ken Metcalfe with the help of Alison Megarry

Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2005

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

Dr Clive Williams announced that the Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2005 was awarded to the Mareeba Wetland Foundation of Northern Queensland. The story behind the Mareeba Wetland Foundation winning the award is a great example of conservation and community participation and is an inspirational example of what local action can achieve.



The Community Wildlife Conservation Award

The Mareeba Wetland Foundation combines valuable conservation work and environmental education. With the assistance of volunteers it operates as a not-for-profit organisation; all its income is invested into sustaining the program. The success of the Mareeba Wetland Foundation provides a valuable lesson in dealing with Governments for those concerned with wildlife conservation.

Our Society congratulates the Mareeba Wetland Foundation on the success that it has achieved for conservation and the environment with this very worthwhile project.



Alison Megarry presents a Certificate to Gwyneth Nevard of Mareeba Wetland Foundation, with Clive Williams presenting the crystal Award

Gwyneth Nevard upon accepting the Award on behalf of the Mareeba Wetland Foundation thanked the Society and said that this was an award for all the people who have been involved with the Mareeba Wetlands over the last ten years. Gwyneth explained that the Mareeba Tropical Savannah and Wetland Reserve is located at the foot of the Hann Tableland, 6.5kms north of the township of Mareeba on the Cairns Highlands in North Queensland. Everyone is very welcome to visit the Reserve at any time.



Gwyneth Nevard

The Mareeba Wetland Foundation came into being ten years ago as a result of a group of local people, spearheaded by Tim Nevard, becoming increasingly concerned about the fate of the last substantial area of publicly-accessible Reserve of savannah woodland close to Cairns, as it was proposed to clear it for sugar cane. The overflow from the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area was causing rising salinity in the reserve. Putting these two things together, Tim developed the idea of the Mareeba Tropical Savannah and Wetland Reserve, which would use this overflow water to create a series of regionally-important wetlands. The Mareeba Wetland Foundation was established as a not-for-profit community conservation organisation to create and manage these Wetlands into the future for wildlife and for people.



A view from the verandah of the visitors' centre

Since its inception, the 5,000 acre Mareeba Wetlands, as the reserve is known locally, has grown into one of the most important regional sites for native wildlife. **It has 206 recorded bird species, an innovative fire management regime and conservation programs for the re-introduction of Gouldian finches and freshwater crocodiles, as well as possibly the largest recorded breeding colony of buff-breasted button quail in the country.**



Beautiful Gouldian finches

Largely through voluntary support, the Reserve has become an important attraction for visitors, and now provides visitor facilities, walking trails, canoes and guided tours, and last year added overnight accommodation. It has an active

volunteer program, and a large and supportive membership. Through its work, the Foundation has provided an insight into the ecology of tropical savannas and wetlands to tens of thousands of people who have been able to visit the Reserve since it opened in 1999.



View across the Reserve from the lookout

Mareeba Wetland Foundation President, Mr Nevard said "It's fantastic for the Foundation to receive this Award from the Wildlife Preservation Society, as it recognises the contribution of many people who have helped put the Reserve back into ecological working order over the last ten years".

A grand social occasion

The Luncheon was a great success with representatives of many conservation organisations attending as well as our loyal members and regular supporters. With the Premier of NSW as the guest of honour, the day gave lots of opportunities for conservation networking.



Pamela Young, Leigh Nolan, Al Glen, Dan Lunney, Peter Hay, Steve Wilson, Vanessa Wilson, Richard Kingsford

Once again, we held a very successful raffle and a silent auction to support the work of the important conservation work of the Society.



Carol Nolder organised a very successful raffle and is helped by Catherine Gaußen to draw the prizes



First prize winner, Harold White of Blakehurst, being presented with a Limited Edition Print by Lee Daynes

Serventy Conservation Medal winners

When organising the Luncheon, we were particularly delighted that all but one of our past Serventy Conservation Medal winners accepted our invitation to attend the 97th Annual Luncheon. The past winners since its inception in 1998 are:

- 1998 Margaret Thorsborne of Cardwell, Queensland
- 1999 Bernie Clarke OAM of Sussex Inlet, New South Wales
- 2000 Dr Judy Messer AM of Balmain, New South Wales

- 2001 Ron and Val Taylor AM of Roseville, New South Wales
- 2002 John and Cicely Fenton of Hamilton, Victoria
- 2003 Lance Ferris of Ballina, New South Wales
- 2004 Wayne Reynolds of Sutherland, New South Wales
- 2005 Ken Metcalfe of Alice Springs, Northern Territory

Margaret Thorsborne, who travelled all the way from Cardwell in Queensland, received the inaugural Serventy Conservation Medal in 1998 for her work in environmental conservation and wildlife preservation in the Hinchinbrook area, Queensland. Margaret Thorsborne has a lifelong interest in nature conservation especially local fruit pigeons, cassowaries and long term monitoring of Torresian imperial-pigeons that migrate to nest on local islands off the Queensland shores in summer of each year and help save them from imminent extinction.



Margaret Thorsborne

Bernie Clarke OAM came up from Sussex Inlet on the South Coast of NSW. He received the second nomination and Award in 1999. A strong Botany Bay conservationist and environmentalist he received the Award for his lifetime devotion as a local environmentalist and long-time Towra/Botany Bay campaigner to save the local wildlife and its vital habitat. Bernie also became Patron of the George's River Keeper program in 1997, which aims to keep the river and bay free from pollution. He has been working and fighting to protect the Kurnell Peninsula for decades. He was recognised and awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to conservation on 12 June 1989.



Bernie Clarke OAM

Dr Judy Messer AM, Vice-Chair of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, was awarded the Serenty Medal in 2000 for her outstanding contribution to both local and international conservation and environmental protection work. Judy has been, and still is, a tireless worker for biodiversity conservation and environment protection generally. She was Chairperson of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW from 1984 until 2000, with only a two-year break, and is currently the Vice-Chairperson of the NCC. She was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2005 for her services to conservation and the environment.



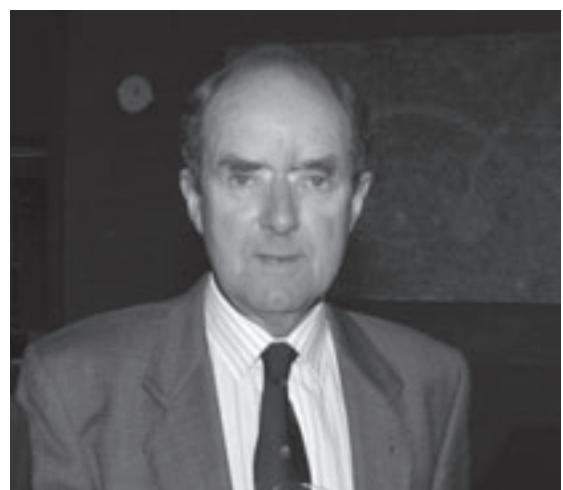
Dr Judy Messer AM

Ron Taylor AM and Valerie Taylor, who have done so much to save the wildlife of the Great Barrier Reef, were awarded the Serenty Conservation Medal and Award for 2001. They have been tireless workers promoting a greater understanding of the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and the urgent need to protect and preserve the unique wildlife found on this world heritage coral reef. On Australia Day 2003 Ron Taylor was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to conservation and cinematography.



Ron and Valerie Taylor and Wayne Reynolds

John Fenton of Lanark Station at Branxholme in south western Victoria was able to attend, but unfortunately his wife Cicely could not make the journey this time. John and Cicely received the Serenty Conservation Award and Medal in 2002. John and his family have spent nearly 50 years transforming his property Lanark from three windswept paddocks to the complex ecosystem it is today by planting out 80,000 trees. The return of almost all the birds that once inhabited the region to the Fenton's grazing property in Victoria's western district is perhaps the greatest of Lanark's many miracles. The number of birds which can be found on Lanark has risen from 40 species in 1956 to more than 155 species in the last few years.



John Fenton

Lance Ferris of the Australian Seabird Rescue Service unfortunately couldn't attend as he was in Perth launching another branch of his Rescue Service. Lance was recipient of the Serventy Conservation Award for 2003. From meagre beginnings in 1992, the Australian Seabird Rescue Team at Ballina has been very active in saving and rescuing thousands of Australian wildlife, particularly seabirds and other water creatures, from fishing hooks and lines. They are conducting awareness campaigns warning of the dangers to wildlife caused by discarded fishing tackle, plastic bags and other pollutants right across Australia and now forming new local branches of the Service.

Wayne Reynolds was winner of the 2004 Serventy Conservation Award. Wayne has an inspirational love for Australia's wildlife and has been responsible for the success of the Cape Solander Whale Migration Study carried out on the coastline of the Royal National Park, Sydney. The study takes place during June-July each year. He was the original volunteer for this project twelve years ago when he began his seven-day, 84-hour weeks, braving the winter weather to provide scientists and researchers with invaluable written and photographic records of the migrating whales along our coastline.



Ron and Valerie Taylor, Patrick Medway, Wayne Reynolds and Morris Iemma

Ken Metcalfe as recipient of the Serventy Conservation Medal for 2005 was delighted to meet the past Medal winners.



Margaret Thorsborne, Ken Metcalfe, Val Taylor, Wayne Reynolds and Ron Taylor. Front row: Dr Vin Serventy AM and John Fenton

Official launch of the Centenary Appeal

We were all delighted when the Premier, Morris Iemma MP, officially launched our special Centenary Appeal to raise funds for our new environmental education centre. He spoke very strongly of the value of environmental education centres and concluded by making a major donation to the Appeal.

ECOWORLD Gardens project

The Society has committed itself to focusing on educating the next generation of young Australians to learn and love more about our unique environment.

We are all extremely grateful for the wonderful support of our Councillors, members and friends who so ably supported the 97th Annual Luncheon and enthusiastically welcomed the Premier with his announcement of the extra national parks to protect the habitat for our native wildlife throughout the state.

We also appreciate the kind support of the staff at the Parliament House dining room – food and beverage department to help make the day such a wonderful success for our Society.



Premier unveils plan for first class wetlands conservation park in suburban Rockdale

Plans for the establishment of what is being described as a first class wetlands conservation park and educational centre in the Sydney suburb of Rockdale were unveiled by the Premier.

To be known as ECOWORLD Gardens, the five hectare park, which will incorporate an aquarium featuring the marine life of Botany Bay, will be established on the site of a former rubbish dump in the Rockdale Wetlands Corridor by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia.

Our Society intends to transform the site into a sanctuary for Australia's native plants and birdlife. ECOWORLD Gardens will be dedicated to the preservation of our unique and fragile environment through the education of young Australians.

The Society believes that ECOWORLD Gardens will also become a major attraction for domestic and foreign tourists.

The man known as the father of Australian Conservation, Dr Vincent Serventy AM, has endorsed ECOWORLD Gardens and urged corporations, environmentally concerned organisations and members of the public to help fund the project which will cost the Society an estimated 2-million dollars.

"I am backing ECOWORLD Gardens for the sake of future generations of young Australians," said Dr Serventy who has worked for more than 60 years to protect some of the outstanding wonders of the natural world including the Great Barrier Reef, Lake Eyre and the Tasmanian wilderness.

"I have spent a lifetime saving and preserving Australian wildlife in all its forms and I now appeal to all Australians to help me continue in this work through ECOWORLD Gardens," he said.

Dr Serventy, who has long argued that people are merely "trustees for the planet's future and must attempt to live in harmony with its natural environment", is now the Society's President of Honour.

Detailing the Society's plans for the Rockdale site, Patrick Medway said that it would showcase flora, insects and birdlife from all corners of Australia.

Our Wetlands Environmental Education Centre will provide conservation research and teaching facilities while our Botany Bay Aquarium will give many visitors their first glimpse of the abundant

natural life below the surface of Australia's most historic waterway.

In keeping with our mission statement, ECOWORLD Gardens will not only be first class but it must be commercially sustainable.

ECOWORLD Gardens, which already has the support of Rockdale City Council, is expected to be opened in 2009, the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia's centenary year.

Since 1909 when it was founded in Sydney by David Stead and assisted by the Sweden's Sydney based Consul General, Count Burger Morner, who organised the first meeting in the Consulate, the Society has campaigned on environmental issues throughout Australia.

The Society was the driving force behind the creation of several national parks in Australia and, soon after its formation, successfully lobbied the United States Government for a ban on the import of koala skins – a move which helped save the animal from extinction.

The drive for funds to establish ECOWORLD Gardens is to be known as the Society's Centenary Appeal.

We intend to return our unique natural heritage to the heart of metropolitan Sydney.



The waterways at ECOWORLD Gardens



Family groups along the waterways



The abundant plant life along the waterways



Program to save the Eastern quoll

We recently had the pleasure of visiting the Secret Creek Sanctuary at Lithgow New South Wales to attend the Annual General Meeting of Australian Ecosystems Foundation Incorporated. During our visit we also had the pleasure of inspecting the captive breeding display for the endangered Eastern quoll set up by Trevor Evans, President of the Foundation.

The Eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) breeding facility was officially opened in March 2003 by Professor Mike Archer (at that time Director of Australian Museum) along with local MP Mr Gerard Martin. Since that time the quolls have been enjoying their new home and from an original six quolls, the first season saw nine baby quolls born.

Today they have some 40 captive bred Eastern quoll in a safe and secure sanctuary which affords these animals complete protection. Several are being used to exchange with other wildlife sanctuaries to provide genetic viability of the species and to provide increased protection for this precious colony of quoll.

Commonly called the native cat, the Eastern quoll is considered extinct in the wild on mainland Australia. It still survives in the wild in Tasmania. The last positive sighting on the mainland was a roadkill animal in Vaucluse in 1963.

This slightly built animal with its large, sensitive ears, moist nose and agile movements mainly hunts insects and small animals on the ground like mice and rats.



Patrick Medway, Carol Nolder, John Clarke and Trevor Evans



The specially built quoll breeding enclosure



Trevor Evans also breeds dingoes at the sanctuary



Feeding native birds

Our Society recently received a letter from an inmate from Long Bay Gaol regarding a flock of rainbow lorikeets that come into the complex and are being fed by the inmates. Of particular



concern is the fact that it appears that a number have died. I wrote back to the inmate and also to the Manager of Security saying that our Society discourages the artificial feeding of native wildlife except under conditions of severe environmental stress, such as bushfire or drought. Our rational is:

- Predation: feeding stations can be magnets for predators, especially cats and dogs. Native animals that lose their natural instincts of predator awareness become easy prey
- Dependency – animals may become dependent upon artificial sources of food and become less inclined to forage naturally
- Poor nutrition - many people do not provide appropriate food or sufficient variety to cover the bird and animals dietary needs. In the case of birds, parental birds may take poor foods back to the nest, which may affect the healthy development of young native birds. In the case of juvenile native mammals (joey's) cow's milk may be inappropriate for prolonged feeding, leading to diarrhoea and possibly death
- Nuisance – hand feeding of native animals can make them aggressive and they can become a nuisance by stealing food from unaware humans.

To balance this, I can only imagine the starkness of life in prison and what delight it must give inmates to have some contact with native wildlife. But obviously the best solution to these problems is to stop feeding the birds altogether. The only feeding method recommended is to arrange for the planting of a variety of flowering native shrubs, such as grevilleas, callistemon (bottlebrushes) and banksias, around the area. These plants not only look good; they also provide safe, healthy food for blossom-feeding birds such as lorikeets and honeyeaters.

The purpose of my letter to the Manager of Security was to enquire whether it would be possible to plant some flowering native shrubs in this area and encourage the inmates not to feed the lorikeets. Once native plants are in the area numerous other Australian native species of birds may come into the area and feed naturally.

One of the strongest arguments against feeding birds is the danger to the native animals from domestic predators such as cats and dogs. If the native animal loses its natural instinct to survive, then they become easy prey.

Feeding birds does neither the birds nor cats any favours, unless the birds are starving due to adverse climatic conditions. Bird feeders are irresistible magnets to some cats and even if

they only watch proceedings from a distance, this may be sufficient to send cat haters into a frenzy. But a far bigger problem is that feeding native birds encourages the larger grain eating parrots, which soon displace most other species like the smaller honey eaters and insect eaters from the vicinity. Even worse is encouraging the large meat-eating birds like currawongs and kookaburras with handouts of mince and meat. Currawongs with their melodious call have taken over completely in some urban areas. Not only do they viciously attack and drive away other smaller birds, but they raid nests and eat eggs and chicks. Other reasons wildlife experts discourage the feeding of native birds is that the birds become dependent on the easy handouts. The human handouts are often not correct or balanced for the particular species of bird or animal.

Lorikeets

Lorikeets are brightly coloured parrots of the family Psittacidae and sub-family Loriinae (lories and lorikeets). Six species are found in Australia, although further species occur in New Guinea, Indonesia and many South Pacific islands.

Lorikeets travel in small, swift flocks which attract attention with their piercing calls. The birds locate the blossom by sight and by the calls of other birds already feeding. When food is abundant, large numbers gather in the blossoms and foliage, clamouring noisily.

The tip of a lorikeet's tongue holds a brush-like appendage, enabling the bird to feed on pollen, nectar and fruits. Because lorikeets are mainly seen feeding on blossoms, it was long thought that nectar was their staple diet. However, studies have now shown that pollen is probably their major food. They also eat insects and insect larvae, together with other invertebrates found in foliage and blossom.

Lorikeets have a very simple digestive system. Proteins and fats are obtained from pollen and insects, and carbohydrates come from the sugars found in nectar. They spend a large amount of time foraging for food, which indicates that carbohydrates are extremely important to them. Their diet is high in energy, and low in protein.

It is very hard to resist the attraction of hand feeding such a delightful bird and I am sure most of our readers have visited bird feeding locations such as Currumbin Sanctuary on the Gold Coast.

The dangers of feeding lorikeets

Many people have taken to encouraging lorikeets into their gardens by giving them a variety of alluring foods. These foods are usually based on

sugar, honey or jam, which will ensure regular visits to the garden by these wonderfully happy, colourful birds. However, it is this very act of 'kindness' that can cause the death of lorikeets at an unnaturally early age.

Our Society is concerned at outbreaks of lorikeets dying in large numbers for no apparent reason. Autopsies have been carried out by NSW Agriculture on a number of these birds. Together with other investigations, these autopsies established that the lorikeets were dying from a disease called necrotizing enteritis. A bacteria called clostridia was isolated as the organism responsible.

Necrotizing enteritis is associated with poor hygiene and an inadequate diet, and it was found that the disease is not normally associated with lorikeets living a natural way of life. The scientists were able to directly relate the lorikeets' deaths to inadequate artificial diets, and to the unsanitary conditions of trays and other containers from which they were being fed.

Another disease is also having a serious impact on lorikeets. Called psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD) or psittacine circovirus disease, it is considered the most important viral disease affecting cockatoos, parrots, lories, lorikeets and macaws around the world. Affecting the immune system of the birds, it often results in an AIDS-like condition. The keratin in the birds' bodies breaks down, causing deformed beaks and feathers, and feather loss. The disease is usually fatal, but infected birds may not display symptoms for many months or even years.

Infected birds can drop faeces, which contain the potentially infectious circovirus particles, into the environment to infect other birds. Unfortunately, there is a great potential for the virus to spread at places like feed stations. Clustering in large numbers, many birds may come into contact with contaminated perches and food dishes.

Preventing lorikeet deaths

Obviously the best solution to these problems is to stop feeding the birds altogether. The only feeding method recommended is to arrange for the planting of a variety of flowering native shrubs, such as grevilleas, callistemon (bottlebrushes) and banksias, around the area. These plants not only look good; they also provide safe, healthy food for blossom-feeding birds such as lorikeets and honeyeaters.

One of the strongest arguments against feeding birds is the danger to the native animals from domestic predators such as cats and dogs. If the

native animal loses its natural instinct to survive, then they become easy prey.

When asked about this subject, our President of Honour, Dr Vincent Serventy AM, wrote: 'Should humans upset the world of nature by feeding wildlife, in particular birds? A cause of hot disputes where even science has its worries.'

John Hunter of CALM in the West in his new book *Urban Antics* makes good sense – "Providing water dishes and planting your garden in such a way to encourage wildlife is good, though do not encourage ferals". "If you must feed wildlife, do it sparingly so the animals do not become dependent on your handouts."

Good advice, yet there remain problems. Humans love to feed birds, so much so that a study in England showed one third of the species that make English gardens a delight exist because of such feeding over hundreds of years.



The beautiful rainbow lorikeet



\$750,000 for accelerated research to save threatened Tassie devils

The Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, has boosted efforts to save the iconic Tasmanian devil with funding to accelerate research into the deadly facial tumour disease afflicting the animals.



The \$750,000 is the first installment of a \$2 million Australian Government rescue package to counteract the effects of the contagious cancer. It tops up \$46,200 that the Government has already provided for disease monitoring.

Knowledge of the disease is improving as a result of monitoring of the wild population and diagnostic research – both are vital if we are to find a cure to save the devil. While a recent breakthrough has discovered that the cancer is spread by devils biting each other, we still don't know its cause.

Research priorities include further mapping of the devil genome; investigation to determine possible causes; field research to determine the impact on wild populations; and field research to determine the effectiveness of field management techniques in suppressing and eradicating the disease in the wild population.

As well as looking for a cause and ultimately a cure, it is important that quarantined populations of healthy animals be established that can be held as 'insurance', with some animals kept for captive breeding and others returned to the wild when disease risk is minimal.

The research programme is a joint effort between the Australian and Tasmanian governments and CSIRO.

Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease was first detected in the mid 1990s. It has since spread throughout the State, though there is no evidence of it in the far north-west and west coast populations. To date the cancer is estimated to have resulted in the loss of between 30 and 50 percent of the wild population. The devil is unique to Tasmania and is the world's largest carnivorous marsupial.

Major advance in understanding of the devil disease

It has been established with a high degree of certainty that devil facial tumours (DFTD) are clones transmitted by allograft. Allograft is where tissue is transplanted from a donor of the same species, but different genetic make-up, without the recipient's immune system rejecting the graft. This is usually an exceptionally rare occurrence. It has been found that the cancer is infective. The infective agent is a rogue cell line that initially evolved in a tumour of unknown origin. The chromosome arrangement of all the tumours is identical. All show exactly the same complex rearrangement of their chromosomes, unlike virtually all other cancers.

The chromosomes of the cancerous cells do not exhibit similarity with the healthy cells elsewhere in the bodies of the infected devils. This means that the DFTD sarcoma can be described as a clone capable of parasitic existence in the body of Tasmanian devils.

The growing scientific acceptance that the infective agent is a rogue cell-line passed between devils by allograft has implications for control and suppression of DFTD.

The discovery reinforces the correctness of the approach to directly intervene in the field to keep sick devils away from healthy ones through insurance populations in quarantine areas and also in the trials to suppress DFTD in the field. It provides a high degree of confidence that keeping healthy animals away from sick ones is sufficient to prevent infection.

There are significant practical challenges in attempting to keep sick and healthy devils apart in the wild, and the field trial now underway on the Forestier Peninsula may help provide some of the answers.



Tasmanian devil



From our Regional Councillors

Northern Territory
by Ken Metcalfe of Alice Springs

Birds such as honey eaters, zebra finches, dusty wood swallows and a mix of others caught up in barb wire fences are a common sight throughout the central desert areas of the Alice Springs region.



This bird was still alive with a broken, shattered wing. I had to put it down

The long-term health of the Macquarie Marshes is under threat due to lack of water. Less than 10% of the original wetland is in a safe condition.

The construction of Burrendong Dam in 1967, river regulation and over allocation of water for extraction in the Macquarie Valley has caused prolonged drying times that have stressed the Macquarie Marshes over a 40 year period.

This has destroyed some of the resilience of the wetlands to withstand harsh natural drought conditions. The Marshes were unseasonably dry before the record drought in 2005. A large percentage of the aquatic ecosystems within the Marshes have been degraded. The loss of perennial vegetation, especially mature river redgums, is an indicator of an ecosystem in decline.

Large areas of river redgums are dead or dying. The loss of aquatic vegetation such as lignum, reed beds and water couch affects the food supply and habitat of a large number of wetland dependent species. Only a core of 20,000ha remains in a healthy condition. The soil in the Marshes is currently so dry that environmental water is not spreading very far.

The obligations of Federal and State governments under international agreements to protect wetland health and habitat of migratory birds are not being met in this iconic Ramsar listed wetland.

The Macquarie Marshes project is calling for an additional 140,000ML (million litres) to secure a core area of Marsh into the future. The current environmental allocation is 160,000ML. This is only available when the Dam has good inflows. A larger environmental allocation would ensure vital flows to the Marshes when the Dam is low.



Macquarie Marshes Project

By Bev Smiles

A new project aiming to increase water available to the Macquarie Marshes was launched on World Wetlands Day, Thursday 2 February, at the Australian Museum. National Parks Association of NSW is managing the project with support from Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia and Inland Rivers Network.

Keynote speaker, Professor Richard Kingsford, School of Earth Sciences University of NSW, outlined the key issues relating to wetland management. Richard has a number of PhD and Honours students conducting research in the Marshes to further our knowledge of the functions and constraints on this iconic wetland system.

The environmental flow released at the end of 2005 combined with some rain events caused about 100,000ML to flow into a core area of the Marshes. This triggered a small colonial bird breeding event involving straw-necked ibis, white ibis, glossy ibis, spoonbills, intermediate egrets and magpie geese. The breeding was not successful because the duration of the flooding was not sufficient. The environmental allocation ran out before the young birds could hatch or grow. The nests were abandoned. There has been no successful bird breeding in the Marshes since 2000. Before Burrendong Dam was built over 20 million birds bred in the wetland on a regular basis.

The Project is calling for an investment of \$280m into the Macquarie Valley to purchase water licenses. This money would enable irrigators to switch from wasteful flood irrigation to improved water use efficiencies such as drip irrigation systems.

This would allow the economic productivity in the Valley to be achieved with less water and give water back to the environment.

There is more detailed information about the Macquarie Marshes Project on the National Parks Association website: www.npansw.org.au/marshes. Contact Bev Smiles, Western Networker, western@npansw.org.au, Tel: 6373 4330



This area of Marshland has not received water since 2000



Bird breeding when the Marshes were wet and healthy



Wildside *by Lance Ferris*

Things not so glad at Gladstone

Oil spills near the Barrier Reef are considered to be the environmental agencies worst nightmare. At Gladstone, in late January, a large cargo ship was being positioned into port, when its tugboat lost power in one of its motors. Skewing sideways, the tugboat slammed into the large ship, tearing a hole one metre long in the ship's hull. In less than an hour, 25 tonnes of oil gushed into the Harbour until pumps became operational to stem the

flow. A host of Government agencies swung into action in a valiant effort to mop up the diesel oil, which threatened both wildlife and the mangrove habitats of the estuary.

Upon invitation, I was flown to Gladstone to assess the possibility of rescue attempts of several pelicans and other seabirds adversely affected by the incident. However, the Northern Queensland pelicans are vastly different to their southern counterparts in NSW. At Gladstone, no fish-scrap is thrown into rivers by fishermen, due to the likely presence of crocodiles. With no fisherfolk interaction, this makes the northern pelicans truly wild.

It was like being on Mars and discovering a new species. Nothing we could do enticed the big birds to approach us and, in fact, our very presence at a distance of 50 metres caused the birds to vacate the area. A specialised cannon-net was set up at a favoured roosting site to try and catch several pelicans that were black with oil from head to toe. Their chances of survival without capture and treatment are very slim indeed.



Vet Surgeon Richard Norman and Ranger Michael Short attend to a cormorant, one of the birds affected by the Gladstone oil spill

Murray myths

We repeatedly see documentaries on the demise of the Murray River due to salination and over-use of water, but the River has another story. During our Australia Day duties at the delightful town of Mathoura, near Echuca, we were treated to a magical mystery tour of the mighty River. Councillor John Murphy was kind enough to ferry us deep into the pristine wetlands, where literally thousands of birds of many species were nesting amongst the reeds and foliage. According to Mayor John Sharp, the Murray is doing well. Habitats are artificially created during the breeding seasons by

controlling the flow of the water to critical areas. Not only is the Murray Shire Council keeping the River alive, but Mayor Sharp is one of many involved in re-creating wetlands. Approaches are made to landholders to restore drained swamps, and to date, the response has been overwhelming. In the past 12 months alone, Cr Sharp and the crew have re-established 44 wetland swamps in the district.

Mini moonscapes

Most people would welcome a bug that eats ants and aphids, and there is one which does just that.

Have you ever noticed small conical pits in the soft soil around your home? It's likely that these are the traps of the ant-lion, a small insect with a broad body surmounted by a pair of fearsome jaws. These little creatures are the larvae of lacewing insects. The adult lacewing digs the pit and lays its egg at the bottom, often in sheltered situations. Once hatched the larvae uses its body to form the crater. When the pit is large enough, the ant-lion buries itself at the bottom with only its jaws exposed. When a hapless victim such as an ant falls into the pit, the lion flicks sand up along the walls to direct the prey to its jaws. A mini-moonscape is formed when a colony of the insects inhabit an area. The adult lacewings are delicate insects with large wings, and are reputed to feed on aphids and other sap-sucking insects.

Kids, try this. Tickle the sides of the crater with a piece of grass, and watch what happens!



Looking rather like a lunar landscape, these are the crater traps of a colony of tiny ant-lions

Nature taking its course – or environmental disaster?

If I was going to make a Harry Potter movie, and needed a 'black lagoon', I now know where to find one. Salty Lagoon at Evans Head could be a depiction of hell. Years of sewage, almost a metre deep, now covers the bottom of a lake which was once a crystal-clear, pristine habitat for many

species of birds. It is now a putrid, disease-ridden, sludge-filled apology for a sewer. How, one might ask, can anyone consider dumping sewage into a lagoon in a National Park?

The death of some 25,000 fish was blamed on the usual pot-pourri of reasons – low tide, de-oxygenated water, and even 'natural causes'. Within a few days, swans, ducks, pelicans, gulls and terns began to die in numbers. National Parks rangers, volunteers from Australian Seabird Rescue and concerned members of the public, made a valiant effort to save what they could. In 24 hours, 40 gulls were found gasping for life on the beach. Of three pelicans located, two died, while a third is in intensive care suffering from symptoms of the deadly disease, Botulism. To make matter worse, an endangered species oystercatcher has also been affected, indicating that the toxins have now infiltrated the shellfish.

Our rescue vehicle collected gulls from the beach, while ASR volunteers waded through the rotting swamp, retrieving the dead and dying. Back at base camp, birds which stood half a chance at survival were treated with medication.

Sources indicate that previous tests on the lagoon showed very high levels of faecal coliforms. "We should leave nature to take its course," was one comment made during the mayhem. What rational-minded person on the planet could accept these horrific levels of pollution as 'nature taking its course'?

Over 13 years, I have lectured 11,000 students and 16,000 adults on the hazards of pollution. Meanwhile, hidden in the coastal bushland, a vital part of our natural heritage is being destroyed.



Disease eventually got the better of this pelican

Two heads are better than one for sea turtle

Abnormalities abound in the world of animals and are thought to be caused by extreme environmental factors or pollution. Six-legged cows, twin-tailed

snakes and bent-beaked birds are but a few, but the processes are certainly not restricted to land creatures.

According to overseas studies, sea turtle hatchlings found with deformities such as no legs or twisted shells are not that uncommon. In Costa Rica a two headed Olive Ridley turtle has emerged. It appears that each head is fully functional with the left head controlling the left front flipper, and the right-side head, the right flipper. One would wonder which head wins the decision to go up or down, or to breathe or not breathe. Whatever the case, scientists believe the turtle will survive.



This two headed sea turtle was found in Costa Rica. Environmental factors or pollution issues are thought to cause these defects. Photo courtesy of Carlos Drews, WWF

Rare Ridley

Six of the world's seven species of sea turtles, occur in Australian waters. All are in danger of extinction. Thanks to the increasingly aware beachgoers and recreational fishers, ASR's marine patients have included green, hawksbill, loggerhead, and flatback turtles. Recently, a relay of wildlife rescuers transported a stranded turtle from Wooyung Beach to the ASR WildlifeLink turtle hospital in Ballina. For the first time, we met an Olive Ridley turtle. So-named after its discoverer and the olive-green of its shell, the species is the smallest of all sea turtles, with an average adult shell length of only 60-70 centimetres.

A call to SeaWorld for advice on food and care was in vain. None had ever been seen by SeaWorld staff, nor had there been any recorded sightings of this species on the North Coast. These turtles reside in waters to the far north of the country and it is likely that our Ridley will be taken to Harvey Bay for release, once he overcomes his illness.



Rare visitor: An Olive Ridley turtle found in waters off Wooyung, a thousand kilometres from its home territory

Island paradise

A thousand metres off Rockingham, near Perth, lies Penguin Island. On the mainland, there is the occasional seabird but, on the island itself, a million birds of many species forage and nest all year round. During our lecture tour in WA we experienced what could only be called 'seabird paradise'. Over our two-day stay, we had lizards in the kitchen, penguins grunting under the cabin, bridled terns at every turn, with the air saturated by a 24-hour circus of bird-calls.

In 1985, the Island was gazetted as a protected area by the WA Conservation and Land Management (CALM), and is now one of the premier attractions on the west coast.

New rescue teams

Since our previous visit to Western Australia, two years ago, the WA Seabird Rescue (WASR) team has been flourishing. Across the West Coast, rescuers have retrieved an impressive total of injured pelicans and seabirds. Following our current lecture tour, other rescue teams will emerge, which will cover from Perth to Albany. At every venue, we have been treated like royalty by WASR teams and CALM rangers, who have ensured marvellous attendance by rangers and new volunteers at every workshop.

Bridled terns

Although famous for its penguins, Penguin Island is equally popular as a nesting site for bridled terns. These birds are a little smaller than a seagull, with black wings and markings around the face resembling a bridle. They winter in the Indo-Pacific regions in places like Borneo, and travel each summer to Australia, inhabiting our coastline.

from Cape Leeuwin to northern Queensland. On Penguin Island, there appears to be a pair of bridled terns every square metre, with every post, fence, rope, verandah, boat, jetty and bush providing a suitable roosting site. Dr Nick Dunlop has banded 3,000 terns in 20 years as part of his research. One banded bird recovered was estimated to have travelled over 250,000 kilometres in its 20-year history.



Two bridled terns canoodling on a fence on Penguin Island

Success in Western Australia

Our workshops in Western Australia were well-attended with over 100 potential rescuers learning the art of seabird rescue. We travelled more than 600 kilometres of the West Coast conducting lectures at Perth, Rockingham, Augusta and Albany. 12 injured pelicans were captured during the field days with sightings of several others hooked and tangled. As difficult as it was to leave injured birds behind, we put our faith in the new teams. Even as we flew back to NSW, the WA crews were already on the job, grabbing sick and injured birds along the western waterways.



Wildlife walkabout

*by Dr Vincent Serventy AM
President of Honour*

International

The urgent need for our Bill of Environmental Rights

New Scientist reports at the bottom of the sea lies some of the richest mineral treasures of the world. Our Bill would protect this with proper controls.

New maps show that the Earth is running out of fertile land and that food production will not keep up with burgeoning populations state new world media reports. Our Society knows ecology demands no species can take too much of its resources; whether koalas or Polynesians on Easter Island. Never before has our Society had a greater role to play. Not only saving Australia but saving the Earth.



Koalas on Quail Island in western Victoria in the twenties ate all the gum leaves on the island and died

The president of the ACF

Professor Ian Lowe gave a great address to the ABC press luncheon. In answer to his last question he made the heart warming answer of how his society cared for all life; including the future of our children. He also told his audience China now led the world in terms of sustainable energy like solar and wind farms. Also a sustainable population policy.

For nearly a hundred years the members of our Society have done the same!

Populate or perish

That was a recipe for disaster given to the Robert Menzies Lecture by Michael Thawley the previous US Ambassador. He also said 'we have the capacity to grow bigger, richer and more powerful. We should also double our population by 2050, allow young Pacific Islanders into the country to work.'

Ecological stupidity. Obviously he has not read of the riots in France; where the sad Africans brought in to work are rioting.

Remember the Polynesians on Easter Island. That sad story told by Jared Diamond our Earth 2000 lecturer in his new book on the collapse of civilisations.



A koala eating a gum leaf, their only food so when they ate all the leaves on Quail Island they died



A galvanised collar on a tree in Hallstrom Reserve in the thirties which saved the tree from being eaten; a lesson not learned later on Kangaroo Island

Global Warming

All conservationists know this is one of the three great threats to the whole earth, not only Australia. The Nature Conservation Council held an International Day of Action on Climate Change in Sydney Town Hall on 3 December 2005.

The Kyoto Protocol

Ian Campbell is a great national environment minister. He sent us two pages of a letter showing how Australia is doing a great deal to counter the effects of global warming. He is to be congratulated. It is not his fault Cabinet will not sign the protocol showing the world - we are also worried about this problem. Australia is already doing more than the agreement demands.

The global conference on climate change

Final result nothing good, New Scientist warns we only have ten years to make a change before climatic convulsions.

Editor's Note: The Kyoto Protocol entered into force on 16 February 2005 with more than 30 industrialised countries bound by specific and legally binding emission reduction targets. As a first step, these cover the period 2008-2012. The Montreal climate change meeting was held in December 2005 to discuss the future, such as how to implement Kyoto and what happens after 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol stops. The adoption of the Montreal Climate Action Plan was a win for the environment. The agreement of 189 countries at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal heralded a new chapter in action on global climate change. There was unanimous agreement among all nations on a positive new pathway forward to create an effective international response in the post-Kyoto period.

The Montreal Climate Action Plan will deliver:

- A new dialogue on the post-Kyoto framework
- A commitment to explore pathways for developing countries to enter into voluntary commitments post-Kyoto
- Improvements to the way Kyoto Protocol is implemented
- Agreement to commence negotiations on post-2012 Protocol commitments
- Agreement on the Convention's first five-year work program to help countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Australia has always said that an environmentally effective response to climate change requires action from all major greenhouse gas emitting countries. The Montreal Climate Action Plan is an historic step in achieving this goal. The importance of advancing research, development and deployment of breakthrough technologies that will enable continuing economic growth with substantially lower greenhouse gas emissions was repeatedly emphasised during the Montreal meeting.

Ice samples

'A study of air bubbles trapped in a 3.2 kilometre long ice core from Antarctica, the oldest layer ever drilled, shows that greenhouse gases in the atmosphere today are at their highest levels in 650,000 years.' This should silence those nations, which prefer not to sign the Kyoto Protocol,

arguing climatic changes have occurred down the ages. John Howard and President Bush please note!

Feral Pests

I put this in the international section since Australia is not the only country plagued by feral intruders of animals and plants. Australian wildlife has also caused problems in other countries, not only a tree in the United States with our sheoak but a serious pest in New Zealand with our brush tail possum.

Shirley Stackhouse had a great article on this pest animal for households and gardeners in Australia who dislike the possum's habit eating of rosebushes; also new shoots on grape vines. The worst problem is their finding house roofs ideal hollows for resting during the day. Probably two to every house, though New Zealand where it was introduced in the 1800's now have seventy million or 18 per person. A builder can possum proof your house; though make sure he doesn't trap a resident possum inside.



The brush tail possum. A useful small export trade is the sale of possum skins to Japan where they find such skins are cheaper than installing nylon brushes in their woollen mills



The ringtail possum which usually builds its own nest using tree leaves

National

World Wide Fund for Nature

Their magazine was as usual full of interest. This story on weeds should alarm all conservationists. We know of the problems of feral animals like foxes, dogs, pigs and camels but weeds cost Australia far more in economic terms. 28,000 alien species have been introduced to Australia, often thought of at the time for good reasons. The CSIRO report commissioned by WWF termed 'jumping the garden fence' is found on the internet at www.org.au

Tim Low in his famous book on ferals pointed out gardeners had done more damage to the environment than mining,



Prickly pear introduced in the early days of settlement so they could breed the cochineal insect; useful for dying soldier's pink coats. The plant spread to cover much of eastern Australian farmland. This is a view of an infested farm in Queensland in 1926 before science brought in its conqueror

Poisonous lizards

We always thought the American gila monster was the only poisonous lizard. Now New Scientist reports that some of our commonest pets are really poisonous. Bryan Fry of the Melbourne University has found many of our dragons have a venom which causes prolonged bleeding and painful swelling. In the past this was put down to the food the lizard had been eating leaving bacteria in the mouth. Our common bearded dragon is today the most popular reptile pet in the United States. We must admit these lizards have never bitten us hard enough to break the skin.



A female bearded dragon with her clutch of eggs she lays in the soil. Keepers of pets know this means the lizards can easily be bred for more sales

New Scientist

An article described how the way of curbing greenhouse gas emissions was to use more bio-fuels instead of using fossil fuels like coal and oil which pour out greenhouse gases. Palm oil, soybeans are two ways so the Developed World is busy destroying rainforests around the world to supply this new lucrative market!

Birds Australia

Their magazine The Emu now produced by CSIRO publishing a scientific group we encouraged the national government to create, had a recent article on the breeding seabirds on the Capricorn Cays of the southern Great Barrier Reef.

Wedge tailed shearwaters and black noddy terns are the two dominant species breeding there. These cays are important for the tern and the shearwater; the northern equivalent of the more famous short-tailed; better known by the rather unpleasant name of 'mutton bird'.

Noddies did not earn their name from their courtship displays of bowing or 'nodding' to each other. This came from the English word for 'foolish' since these birds once safe on far off islands had no fear of humans. They soon learned better though today with more environmental wisdom they are safe on the Abrolhos, the Great Barrier Reef and other island groups.



Black noddies bowing to each other on the nest, also in friendly fashion to sailors in early days before they learned to fear humans. On the Abrolhos I have lifted them from the nest in my hand, to allow their return once I had studied their eggs

Muse

The magazine of Friends of the National Museum had a fascinating article on a visit to Lake Mungo the World Heritage Site. It also told of the Scotia Sanctuary run by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to conserve endangered mammals. It has a fence to keep out predators and is breeding bilbies, mala, nail tail wallabies, woylies, and boodies. May their work prosper.



The beautiful bilby



The woylie now also safe in Dryandra the sanctuary in Western Australia our Society saved from mining; which is also conserving rare mammal species

Mangroves

Those green patches of forest on the edges of estuarine flats and seashores are the richest of earth's lands. Here are the nurseries of much of our marine life and also the forest protection of agricultural land from damage by the sea. Indeed in India some years ago the spread of prawn farms led to the destruction of the mangroves; with the result the next cyclones wiped out the rice paddies. The government too late moved laws to protect them in the future.

Australia has showed more sense. When there was a move to develop such prawn farms in Queensland, the CSIRO was asked to see where they should be built. They planned where they could be built without danger.

In New South Wales mangroves are the home of the valuable oyster industry so it is an offence to destroy a mangrove tree. Many years ago Dr G Harrison warned against their destruction for a new use as housing estates. He pointed out in our pre-metric days these provided a return of \$300 per acre providing the basic food needs for molluscs, prawns and fish of the estuaries.



Mangroves

A lesson for conservationists

Once the whale was regarded as ugly, ideal for killing. Today, owing to the work of one of our members who formed Project Jonah, and thousands of conservationists, it is protected almost by all nations except the few which do not mind the cruelty of the hunt, most others will not accept. Whale watching is now a huge tourist industry of 5.4 million folk spending millions of dollars. We must keep working hard to make global warming, global pollution and global overpopulation as unpopular as whales once were!

Western Australia

Environmental education

'The future of the environment rests in the hands of our children'; a message from Landscope. They had an article describing the work of the Wellington Discovery Centre in educating children. This was encouraged by the success of the Hills Forest Discovery Centre begun by CALM some years ago. This wildlife resource organisation has an Eco-Education staff to organise this educational work. The work is something all States could copy either by their Forests departments or their national park services. Our Society also ran wild life shows in Western Australia and New South Wales.



Our Council member Don Burnett some years ago showing children koala food trees in Queensland

Rock wallabies

These fascinating marsupials were once common in all rocky areas of Australia. Maxine Piggott had a fascinating article on the group in a recent issue of 'Nature Australia'. She pointed out they were endangered in NSW, 'critically endangered' in Victoria. Other States appear to be working better on conservation measures.

The Australian told the heartwarming story of Percy Conway of Wongan Hills who accidentally destroyed a wildflower reserve on his property. When informed he doubled its size by adding land from his property to create what is now known as the Reynoldson Reserve.

The photo showed Percy standing behind a huge *verticordia* one of the plants which earned Western Australia the name The wildflower State. When Thistle Stead came for a week's holiday she confessed she now believed the west was special.

New South Wales

Total Environmental Centre

They do a great conservation task for the State. The most recent report on their activities had a lesson for all those who use private car transport rather than public.

'The recent Commonwealth report on Sustainable Cities found that the average person thinks that the cost for car use is six cents for every passenger kilometre. The real cost of car use is 60 cents per passenger kilometre. This takes into account road maintenance, noise and air pollution and road crashes. When the full budget is tallied expenditure outstrips income from fuel excise and registration by \$8 billion. In comparison trains and buses cost 20-30 cents per passenger kilometre.'

We wrote to TEC to tell them about particulate pollution from vehicle exhausts, which kills more people than road accidents.

Queensland

Dolphin feeding

The furore over dolphin feeding at Tin Can Bay resulted in my sending a letter to the Premier. I have always taken a great interest in why humans love feeding wildlife; the best examples come from feeding birds.

I also included an article on the topic pointing out I had studied dolphin feeding in Australia. These loveable marine sisters and brothers of humans are becoming more economically important than whale watching.

It is vital we should let the experts handle this wildlife matter, CALM in the west, the wildlife leader in so many fields has the best example of the way to go. I suggested to the Premier his wildlife department should send officers to Monkey Mia in Sharks Bay where dolphin feeding is a star attraction

About three hundred thousand visitors a year come to this regional park we played a large part in creating. It has many natural history charms with dolphins heading the list.



Book review

The Still-Burning Bush by Stephen Pyne

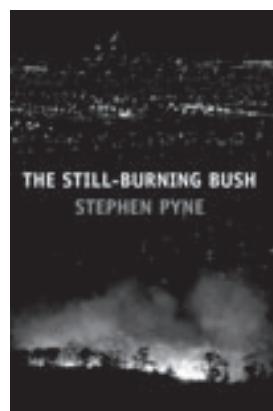
There wouldn't be many Australians who are not in awe of bushfires and hold our volunteer bushfire fighters as heroes. When I was offered the chance to review a book about bushfires and their effect on the Australian landscape, I eagerly accepted.

I found this book fascinating, of particular interest to me was how fire has shaped the landscape of the Australian bush.

Australia is one of the world's fire powers. We have bushfires, fire institutions, fire scholarship, and a vigorous fire politics — in no other country has fire made such an impact on the national culture. Over the past decade, bushfires have reasserted themselves as an environmental, social, and political presence in Australia — especially in the wake of the 2003 bushfires that ravaged the Australian Alps and burned into Canberra.

The Still-Burning Bush traces the environmental and social significance of the use of fire to shape the environment through Australian history, beginning with Aboriginal usage, and the subsequent passing of the firestick to rural colonists and then to foresters. Each transfer kindled a public debate over suitable fire practices but also about how Australians should live on the land.

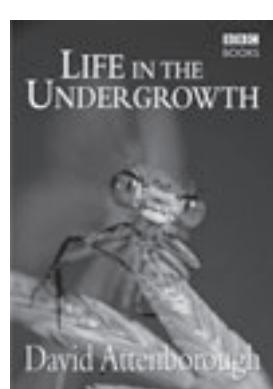
It has been a continuing argument between city and country; between greenies and ecologists and farmers and loggers; between those who live off the land and those who visit it; and between those who believe bushfire is ultimately an expression of a nature beyond human contrivance and those who believe humanity can, for good or ill, profoundly alter fire's regimes.



Stillburningbush

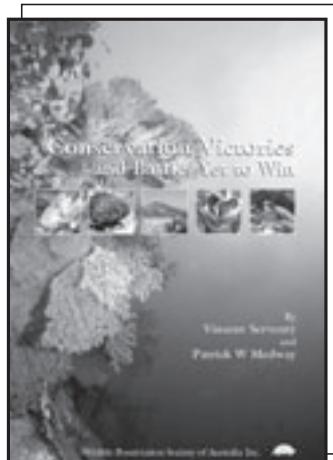
Life in the Undergrowth by David Attenborough

This delightful and informative book accompanies and expands Attenborough's BBC television series. It gives a fascinating look at the small lives of insects the world over: their arrival on land and mastery of every habitat, their fantastic variety of hunting, mating and highly organised social behaviour. For anyone interested in entomology, this book is a must.



Life in the Undergrowth

Books from WPSA - Order Now!



This new book chronicles many successful conservation battles to protect and save the Australian environment across a wide range of controversial issues.

Written by prominent conservation and environmental activist, Dr Vincent Serventy AM, and the current National President of the Wildlife Preservation Society, Patrick W Medway AM, this book covers conservation battles ranging from the campaign to extend the protection zone of the Great Barrier Reef to the restoration of the Towra Beach RAMSAR site. Examples of conservation victories achieved by some of the actual people who were on the ground at the time of these conservation battles are faithfully recorded in great personal detail.

Price: \$20.00
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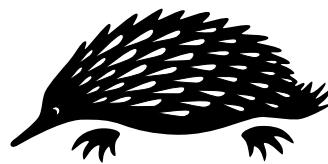
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“The challenge to the present adult generation is to reduce the increasing pressures on the Earth and its resources - and to provide youth with an education that will prepare them emotionally and intellectually for the task ahead.”

VINCENT SERVENTY AM
President of Honour

PATRICK W MEDWAY AM
National President