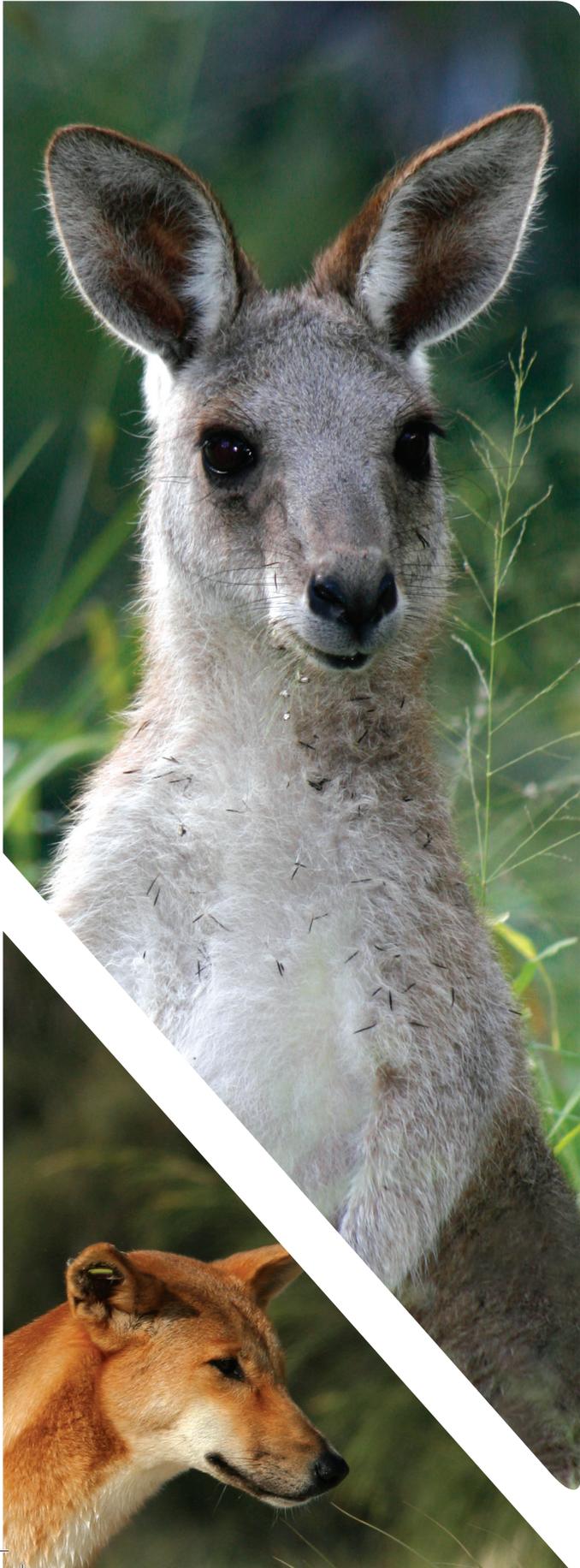




THE WORLD LEAGUE FOR PROTECTION OF ANIMALS, INC.

Remember animals... they feel hunger, thirst, heat, cold, pain, fear and loneliness



Annual Report 2009/2010

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The World League for Protection of Animals

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Ms H Thompson
Vice-Presidents	Mrs J I Papayanni, BA / Mrs K Rogers, BA
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs J S Ward
Hon. Secretary	Mrs M Bowman, BA
Committee Members	Mr M Berriman, MA / Dr T Buss-Carden Mrs S Kalina, ATCI / Ms P Kinsella / Mrs W Reis
Hon Legal Adviser	Mr J C Papayanni, Barrister-at-Law
Office Manager	Ms S Reis, BSc (Hons)
Auditors	Rhodes Docherty & Co.

WLPA Life Subscription Members

Miss C Ahern, NSW	Mr B Dale, NSW
Miss EM Ahlston, NSW	Dale Family, NSW
Mrs B Alston, NSW	Ms J Davidson, NSW
Ms B Anderson, NSW	Ms M de Deugd, VIC
Ms J Anne, NSW	Dr C Delin, SA
Ms M Austin, NSW	Ms S Dingle-Wall, NSW
Ms EM Back, SA	Mrs C Dinning, NSW
Dr R Barrett, NSW	Mr RG Dixon, ACT
Mrs B Baxter, NSW	Mr R Donovan, NSW
Mrs M Beatty, NSW	Miss CA Doolan, QLD
Mrs V Berka, NSW	Mrs C Duane, NSW
Mr M Berriman, NSW	Mrs P Ducrou, NSW
Mrs E Berry, QLD	Ms T Duratovic, NSW
Ms M Biernacki, NSW	Miss E Easton, NSW
Prof. C Birch, NSW	Miss M Edwards, SA
Mr M Bortolotto, Italy	Mr Edwards, NSW
Mr DN Bowman, NSW	Mrs Edwards, NSW
Mrs M Bowman, NSW	Mrs J Elmes, NSW
Ms M Brant, ACT	Mr R Elmes, NSW
Ms S Brine, SA	Ms J Evans, NSW
Miss S Brunialti, NSW	Mrs P Ferguson, NSW
Ms R Buck, NSW	Ms G Ferris, NSW
Buddhist Ed.Centre, NSW	Ms L Fohrman, NSW
Ms J Bulmer, NSW	Mrs D Ford, NSW
Miss C Burnett, QLD	Mr J Fohrman, NSW
Mr D Butler, NSW	Miss G Foxley, NSW
Mrs K Butler, NSW	Ms A Franklin, SA
Ms P Cameron, NSW	Mrs N French, NSW
Miss K Catelotti, NSW	Mr A Gilchrist, NSW
Mr E Chan, NSW	Ms J Goldstein, NSW
Mrs M Chan, NSW	Ms J Goodridge, NSW
Ms M Clinch, NT	Ms B Green, NSW
Mr A Cobb, NSW	Miss J Greening, NSW
Ms L Cobcroft, NSW	Mr T Gregory, NSW
Mr J Coles, QLD	Mrs Gregory, NSW
Mrs J Coles, QLD	Mrs D Gresse, NSW
Dr C Comley, SA	Mr W Gresse, NSW
Ms S Commerford, SA	Ms H Grier, NSW
Mrs H Connor, NSW	Mr J Grossman, ACT
Dr HL Cooper, NSW	Ms K Hallam, NSW
Ms JE Cooper, NSW	Mrs S Hayes, SA
Miss M Craig, VIC	Mrs R Helmer, NSW
Miss JZ Crookston, NSW	Mr J Hendricks, Canada

PATRONS

Professor Peter Singer (Princeton, New Jersey, USA)
Mr Bryce Courtenay (NSW)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at
201 Victoria Road, Gladesville at 2.00pm
on 10th August, 2009.

Ms S Hilscher, VIC	Mr C McLeod, NSW	Mrs M Ramsay, NSW	Mrs M Stubbs, NSW
Mrs JA Horsburgh, QLD	Ms Mencigar, NSW	Ms R Reay, NSW	Miss A Suprano, NSW
Mrs T Howell, NSW	Miss M Metcalfe, NSW	Mr G Rees, NSW	Ms M Taylor, NSW
Mrs I Huber, NSW	Mrs BA Morgadinho, NSW	Mrs J Rees, NSW	Theosophical Order of
Miss HD Hudson, NSW	Ms W Mrozowski, NSW	Mrs S Reichelt, NSW	Service, NSW
Miss N Hudson, NSW	Miss K Muldoon, NSW	Ms W Reis, NSW	Mrs A Thomas, NSW
Mr P Hunt, NSW	Ms A Murabite, QLD	Mr I Reilly, NSW	Ms H Thompson, NSW
Hunters Hill Council, NSW	Ms T Murray, NSW	Mr S Remy, NSW	Mrs J Tilby, NSW
Ms AS Jackson, VIC	Miss D Nahapiet, NSW	Mrs M Roach, NSW	Mrs JI Toghill, NSW
Mrs E Janiszewski, SA	Ms S Nakata, NSW	Mrs W Roberts, VIC	Miss JS Tomkin, NSW
Ms M Jeffreys, NSW	MS Nappa, NSW	Mr D Rodgers, NSW	Mrs C Townend, India
Ms E Jenkins, NSW	Mrs J Nelson, NSW	Mr G Rogers, NSW	Ms K Tsiros, NSW
Mrs Johanson, NSW	Mrs A Nicmanis, NSW	Mrs KM Rogers, NSW	Miss D Turner, NSW
Mr L Johnson, NSW	Ms V Nicmanis, NSW	Ms S Rogers, NSW	Ms I Urh, NSW
Hon R Jones, NSW	Miss P Nobes, NSW	Miss Sa'Adulla, NSW	Mrs A Usher, NSW
Mrs S Kalina, NSW	Ms B Noske, NSW	Mr E Sakellis, NSW	Ms E Usher, NSW
Ms E Karsian, NSW	Ms M Oag, NSW	Mr T Schroder, NSW	Ms C Vincent, NSW
Miss E Keady, NSW	Mr J Opostolas, NSW	Mrs B Sedivka, TAS	Mrs T Viney, TAS
Mr R Kemnitz, NSW	Mrs H & Dr M Orwin, NSW	Mrs D Segal, NSW	Ms J Walbank, NSW
Ms S Kennedy, USA	Mrs DO O'Sullivan, NSW	Mr & Mrs R Selwyn, NSW	Miss L Walker, NSW
Mr B Kerridge, NSW	Mr ML O'Sullivan, NSW	Mr V Serventy, NSW	Mrs JS Ward, NSW
Ms DL Kersten, NSW	Ms T Pallaton, NSW	Mr A Shagrin, NSW	Miss C Waters, NSW
Mrs T Kewell, SA	Miss BH Palmer, NSW	Mrs Shagrin, NSW	Mr IG Watkins, NSW
Mrs B Kier, NSW	Mr JC Papayanni, NSW	Mrs AR Sherman, NSW	Ms B Webster, NSW
Mr DC Kinloch, NSW	Mrs JI Papayanni, NSW	Mrs S Shields, NSW	Miss J Weller, WA
Mr C Knight, VIC	Mr AJ Parkes, NSW	Ms J Sielhorst, TAS	Ms D Wellfare, NSW
Mr M Konemann, NSW	Ms A Pauncz, NSW	Mrs J Silveri, NSW	Miss E & Mr L West, NSW
Mrs S Lamb, VIC	Ms M Pepper, NSW	Prof. P Singer, USA	Mr W West, NSW
Ms N Leadbeatter, NSW	Mrs L Phillips, NSW	Miss I Single, NSW	Miss F Whyte, NSW
Ms J Leaney, NSW	Ms M Pidgeon, NSW	Ms N Skinner, NSW	Ms L Willett, NSW
Ms L Lembke, NSW	Ms R Pimm, NZ	Ms A Smith, NSW	Miss D Williams, NSW
Mr C Lett, NSW	Pittwater Flora & Fauna	Ms C Smith, NSW	Miss M Wilson, NSW
Mrs P Loughman, NSW	Society, NSW	Ms K Smith, NSW	Ms G Womsley, NSW
Miss P Louie, NSW	Mr AJ Pollard, NSW	Ms K Smith, SA	Ms R Wood, NSW
Mrs C MacLaine, Singapore	Mrs Pollard, NSW	Miss SA Snel, SA	Ms P Woods, NSW
Miss C Mahoney, NSW	Mrs O Pollock, NSW	Dr B Spurr, NSW	Ms D Wordsworth, NSW
Mrs C Marston, NSW	Ms J Porter, NSW	Ms K Stanton-Cook, NSW	Mrs JM Wright, TAS
Ms D Martin, NT	Ms J Prasad, NSW	Mrs K Stephensen, NSW	Ms R Wright, NSW
Mrs P Martin, VIC	Ms R Prescott, NSW	BA Stewart, NSW	Miss J Yardley, NSW
Ms A Matheson, NSW	Ms Y Probets, NSW	DP Stewart, NSW	
Mr B McEgan, NSW	Pymble Ladies College, NSW	Ms L Stewart, NSW	
Mrs J McGarry, NSW	Mrs E Quinn, NSW	Mrs M Stewart-Stevens, VIC	
Miss B McKell, NSW	Mrs A Ramsay, NSW	Miss K Straub, VIC	

President's Report

by Halina Thompson



Over the past eighteen months World League volunteers have continued hands-on rescue work with cats – trapping, desexing and rehoming. We have also campaigned actively on the kangaroo issue. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and a couple of bequests received in the past year, we have managed to continue our work for the animals.

LIFE MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome several new life members whose names are included in the list and we continue to attract new subscription members.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There have been no changes to our committee.

OFFICE

Patricia Couch who managed our office from July 2008 left to return to work in the legal field. We were sad to see Patricia go as she managed the office so efficiently and pleasantly. We hope that she will eventually join our committee.

We were delighted to welcome back Shelley Reis who is so well qualified to work on behalf of animals with an Honours degree in Environmental Science. We especially appreciate her artistic skills in creating excellent posters and brochures. A warm welcome back was extended to

Shelley when she returned to the office management position she occupied previously with our organisation. We thank Shelley's partner Tim for his professional help with graphic design. Lindy Stacker continues to work on wildlife issues and in particular the kangaroo campaign - she attends the office one day a week and works one day from home. Besides this Lindy is a dedicated wildlife carer.

VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER CARERS

We continue to retain the help of almost all our valued foster carers and I am pleased to report that several new ones have joined WLPA. Our work with rescued, unsocialised cats and kittens is entirely dependent on the help of these volunteer rescuers and foster carers who socialise the cats and kittens to enable us to rehome them. We especially thank Sue England who has proved to be so able and compassionate a rescuer and foster carer. Sue has a rare talent for finding good homes for kittens and grown cats. Chris Lett is also a committed, compassionate volunteer who joined WLPA in the last year. He is ably assisted by Debra Noske in rescuing in the Marrickville area.

Julie Quinn, one of our foster carers in Baulkham Hills, is also now an active volunteer at Blacktown Pound. She has been instrumental in bringing about many improvements in the cat holding compound from where she has rescued and rehomed, with our assistance, many kittens who would otherwise have been euthanised.

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

September 08: We assisted Maryland Wilson, President of the Australian Wildlife Protection Council Victoria in organising the launch of 'The Kangaroo Trail Map' in Parliament House Sydney which was attended by a number of tourist organisations. This map was compiled by Dr. David Croft and Maryland Wilson with the help of a grant from Voiceless.

September 08:

Lindy Stacker attended the RSPCA Wildlife conference (ACT) and visited the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

September 08, Merrylands Council:

Joan and I met with the Manager of Department of Environment regarding the renting out of cat traps by council. Our Honorary Legal Advisor had informed us that it is not legal for council to rent out traps and a written advice was sent to him detailing the reasons.

May 09:

Joan Papayanni, Patricia Couch and myself attended Voiceless Legal Seminar on animal law at Sydney University.

May 09:

I attended a Q & A session at the State Theatre in Sydney with Director Ted Kotcheff after the showing of the film "Wake in Fright" which clarified publicly that the kangaroo shooting segment was not staged or influenced by the director in any way. The brutality shown on the screen was authentic. However, the Director said that as the night's shooting progressed the shooters consumed more and more alcohol and kangaroos were killed so cruelly that the film makers could not possibly use any of the material. The Producer said he fainted and had to be driven back to the hotel.

July 09:

Teresa Buss-Carden, helped by Mark Berriman, manned a WLPA information stall at the week long conference "Minding Animals" in Newcastle. Teresa presented a paper entitled "Respecting Animals", Lindy Stacker presented a paper on the Future of Australia's Total Ecosystems (FATE) program, refuting the concept of wildlife as pets. I presented a paper on Free Living Cat Colonies. The conference was highly successful.

NSW ANIMAL SOCIETIES FEDERATION

The World League continues to attend meetings. Joan Papayanni stood down as President in 2009 and was replaced by Mark Pearson of Animal Liberation.

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Joan Papayanni continues to represent the NSW Animal Societies Federation on this council which advises the Minister for Agriculture.

ANIMAL RESEARCH REVIEW PANEL

The Animal Societies Federation NSW is represented by World League member and lawyer, Stephanie Abbott. Jason Grossman, who resigned from the panel later during the year, was replaced by lecturer in law (Sydney University) Celeste Black.

ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

Halina Thompson, Joan Papayanni and Teresa Buss-Carden were invited to become members of the Steering Committee for this new political party.

INFORMATION/FUNDRAISING STALLS

The World League held information stalls at the Cruelty Free Festival, the Sydney Vegan Expo, Moocooboolla Festival in Boronia Park and Boronia Park School Fete.

For World Animal Day June 09 an information stall was held outside Gladesville Post

Office and Leone Manwaring organised a Blessing of the Animals at the Catholic Church at Carlingford. World League pamphlets were distributed. It would be encouraging if more protestant churches were to become involved.

A huge thank you to Leone Manwaring, Judith Greening, Annemarie Barton and Elsie Quinn for their continued efforts with fundraising/information stalls at Manly, Hornsby and Gladesville. We especially appreciate Elsie's delicious baskets of jams which are quickly sold out.

CAT COLONIES

We continue to support several free living cat colonies with the help of volunteers and acknowledge the important ongoing work of Margaret Woodleigh, Sandra Abraham, Nancy Severino, Marie Taylor, Cathy Lawrence, Esther Lyons and Alex Sams. We agreed to provide Chris Lett with assistance in funding the desexing of cat colonies in the inner western suburbs. By trapping, desexing and some rehoming Chris has successfully stabilised the populations. He also assists Esther Lyons and



Pictured: Leone at Gladesville Post Office stall

FUNDRAISING - LUNCHEON

We thank Joan Pearson for holding the successful fundraising luncheon at her home which raised \$13,000. We thank talented artists Wendi Reis and Debra Noske for the donation of their beautiful paintings auctioned on the day.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We thank Kathy and Dan O'Sullivan for again making their home available to WLPA. Siobhan worked extremely hard to provide excellent vegetarian food and we thank all those who contributed to make that day so enjoyable.

Nancy Severino in their rescue work driving cats to and from vets, delivering traps and cages when required. I acknowledge his invaluable rescue work which is extremely time and energy consuming. Trapping is also very stressful and must be done at night and the cats driven to and from Vets. After desexing they must be driven to foster carers or returned where appropriate to their colony. I spend many hours assisting all our rescuers and foster carers trapping, collecting and delivering cats and kittens whenever needed.

Committee member Trish Kinsella continues to feed the Camperdown colony four days a week as well as the Meadowbank colony four days a week. Her commitment to these colonies is exemplary. Trish has stabilised the population of both colonies by desexing all the females.

Joan Papayanni and Margaret Bowman feed colonies at Abbotsford and the Rocks several days per week and took over from Trish Kinsella in feeding the office cats each weekend. Teresa Buss-Carden recently rescued a Jack Russell X whom she has adopted. Well done Teresa - we know what a job it was to trap Babe.

KANGAROOS

We continue to agitate on behalf of our exploited native icon and armorial arms bearer. We did this by the creation of the Avant card which was distributed in cafes and theatres in Sydney and the ACT. Signed cards are returned to us and sent on to the Prime Minister. We also send letters to the press, participate in talkback radio programs and lobby politicians of all persuasions.

We participated in the Kangaroo Awareness Day in October, 2009 and the 'Afternoon with Australian Icons' fundraiser at Revesby Workers Club in Sydney.

Lindy Stacker, our wildlife spokesperson, is responsible for letters and submissions on this crucial issue.

The World League continues to administer the Kangaroo

Protection orphanage at Dural in NSW and the bookwork is handled by our Office Manager, Shelley Reis.

DINGO

The World League continues to sponsor a dingo with the Australian Native Dog Conservation Society sanctuary at Bargo. (The majority of the dingoes have now moved to the National Trust property, Wirrimbirra at Bargo.)

We also support Barry and Marj Oakman's work for the dingo at the Australian Dingo Conservation Association.

WILDLIFE AS PETS

The World League continues to campaign against the keeping of wildlife as pets and the commercialisation of our native wildlife.

VALE

The 21st June marked the passing on of our dear colleague and long time kangaroo activist Marjorie Wilson. Sandy Coe, President of the Kangaroo Protection Co-operative gave the Eulogy. Marjorie's obituary was published in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Marjorie had inspired my interest in the kangaroo campaign back in 1995. Her tenacity in campaigning for the kangaroo over so many decades is an example to us and the kangaroo sanctuary in Dural is her memorial.

I am sad to report the passing on of Norma Faulkner, founder and President of DABS – Domestic Animal Birth Control

Society. Joan and I attended her funeral mass on 22nd August at St. Mary's Church in Concord.

Norma, a dedicated school teacher, was a woman of many talents and from the large number of people who attended her farewell mass, she was clearly much admired. Her contribution to animal welfare will be missed but I feel sure DABS will continue to provide low-cost desexing services. Gabrielle Bricliffe is the new President.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A sincere thank you to all committee members who have worked to make our organisation successful and thus reduce animal suffering. I especially thank Joan Papayanni who continues to provide experience and knowledge and comes to the office and Margaret Bowman who so ably carries out the duties of Minutes Secretary and in the past has organised our Annual Report.

I would like to acknowledge the several Veterinary practices who have a rehoming programme for cats and kittens which has played a vital part in our rescue work. Amongst others I would like to mention the vets at Cremorne, Drummoyn, Balmain, Mosman, Lane Cove and Woollahra who have accepted many rescued kittens for adoption.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to all our members and supporters without whom our efforts for the animals would not be possible.

Treasurer's Report

The Australian branch of the World League was formed in 1935 and registered as a charity in 1937. We are therefore the second oldest continuing animal charity after the RSPCA. However unlike the RSPCA the League receives no government subsidy and apart from one full time Office Manager, Shelley Reis, and one part-time Wildlife Spokesperson, Lindy Stacker, the work of the League is done on a voluntary basis.

We rely for funding solely on membership fees, donations and bequests and are thus most grateful to our members for their financial support.

SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Annual subscription	\$25.00
Student/pensioner:	\$10.00
Family membership:	\$40.00
Life Membership:	\$300.00

REMINDER

If there is a red dot on the front page of your Annual Report your subscription is due or overdue. Please renew your membership and enable us to continue our life saving work for animals. If you can encourage a friend to join, this would help our work also. Credit card facilities are available.

AUDITORS

We are appreciative that Shelley Reis, our Office Manager, also copes with the bookwork and is pleased to have the regular assistance of a dedicated volunteer, Adrian Gilchrist. Rhodes Docherty & Co. of St Ives (NSW) continue to conduct our yearly audit.

COLONIAL FIRST STATE INVESTMENT

For many years we have had the majority of the League's funds invested with the Colonial First State Mortgage Fund, under the advice of our local Commonwealth Branch. Since 2009, the majority of our funds have been frozen in this account.

They announced the closure of the Fund in March 2010. While a small portion of our funds were released the remainder remains frozen. We have recently been advised that at quarterly intervals over the next four years we will receive partial refunds of our money with no interest paid. As a small charity depending almost entirely on volunteer labour we find not having access to our own money an extraordinary state of affairs.

BEQUESTS

We were very grateful to receive bequests from the estates of McNeil and Buddell as well as from our esteemed Life Member and poet, the late Nan Ingleton.

For those who may wish to leave a bequest so that our work for the animals can continue, the following Form of Bequest is suggested. Being a corporate body, the League can receive bequests of real estate as well as money.

FORM OF BEQUEST
I give and bequeath to The World League for Protection of Animals, Inc. for the use and purpose of said League, the sum of \$_____, free of all death and estate duties, and the Receipt of the Treasurer of the said League shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.

The Faces Behind WLPA

Committee



HALINA THOMPSON
President

Halina became President of the World League in 2007, having been a member since 1998. Halina was born in Germany and educated in Germany and Scotland and then attended the West London College of Commerce for two years. She worked in real estate and hotel management/property and marketing in central London. Many Australian tourists visited and Halina felt at ease with them and their 'down to earth' qualities. She also became interested in the unique wildlife and in particular the kangaroo. In 1983 she moved to Sydney and worked selling real estate and then air freight before forming her own company installing telephone systems, from which she retired in 2008.

In 1998, with Teresa Buss-Carden, she formed Australians for Wildlife, which became a sub-committee of WLPA. She lobbied actively against the kangaroo industry and Michael Archer's push for wildlife as pets. She supported the late Marjorie Wilson OAM at the Kangaroo Protection Cooperative orphanage in Dural and since Marjorie's death has become a Director of the KPC.

When Joan Papayanni stepped down as President in 2007, Halina took on the role and continued to be active on wildlife issues but also became even more so with hands on work for stray and abandoned cats. She manages the World League's foster care and volunteer networks, initiates fundraising strategies and works to increase community involvement, pushing to shift peoples' attitudes toward abandoned animals, who are trying to survive on the streets. Halina says they're "not strays, not ferals, but 'community cats'". These cats came from the community, and survive thanks to compassionate community involvement and assistance from the World League.



JOAN PAPAYANNI
Vice-President

Educated in Sydney and at the University of New England, Joan and Katherine Rogers became best friends in first year at University. Katherine was a vegetarian in the fifties when vegetarianism was comparatively rare and this prompted Joan to think seriously about animal issues.

After obtaining her Arts degree Joan taught for a short time in Armidale and then worked as a social worker with the Child Welfare Department and Queen Victoria Hospital and Presbyterian adoptions. She married Cliff, a barrister specializing in criminal law, now retired, who has acted as the Honorary Legal Officer to the World League and KPC for thirty years. Her daughter Nicole, also a vegetarian, works in the public relations field and has a ten year

old son Jack (a cricket-tragic like Joan's husband Cliff who played several games for the Services side in England during the war and was a wicket-keeper for Manly and St George First Grade).

Joan's mother Irene Edwards was always interested in animal issues and the underprivileged and it was she who joined Joan as a life member of the World League which led to her closer involvement and her becoming President in 1984 when the World League had been set to close. Joan and Katherine, with the help of Committee stalwart Dode Ford, got the World League back on its feet and from a tiny organisation with no funds and no office and with the help of a couple of bequests were able to reestablish the organization as effective campaigners for animals.

She remained President until 2007 and was President of the Animal Societies Federation for 15 years as well as being a long-time representative on AWAC (Animal Welfare Advisory Council) to the Minister responsible for animal welfare. As Vice-President Joan continues to come to the WLPA office to assist with administration, correspondence and other queries.

Joan and Cliff are the proud owners of four World League cats and a rescued dog.

Staff

LINDY STACKER
Wildlife Spokesperson

Lindy, our wildlife spokesperson, has worked for WLPA on a part-time basis for some 4 years. Her tasks consist of composing letters, submissions and press releases for the media on kangaroo and native wildlife issues. Lindy created the 'Kiss your baby goodbye' wildlife postcard which was placed in numerous public venues in Sydney. Lindy first got involved with environmental activism in the late seventies when she became intensely involved with Project Jonah, a 'Save the Whale' organization. Project Jonah operated out of the Pitt Street Environment Centre and that was where she came into contact with Greenpeace as they were first setting up office. In those days Greenpeace staff consisted of only 3 or 4 people or volunteers with a tiny office and literally no equipment. Greenpeace was then heavily involved with anti-whaling campaigns but Lindy's work with the organisation focussed on wildlife issues for the next 13 years.

Sadly when Greenpeace abandoned the kangaroo and other wildlife campaigns Lindy began working from home for the International Wildlife Coalition until a serious economic crisis caused IWC to close

their Sydney office. Lindy then worked as a consultant for Humane Society International and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. For fifteen years she represented the Nature Conservation Council on the NSW Government's Kangaroo Advisory Committee. She was also one of 5 people who established the first wildlife forum/committee for NCC. During those heady days Lindy and 3 others started the Duck Coalition with the dual purpose of going to the duck shoot and rescuing ducks, and an equally important agenda to put in place the campaign to ban duck shooting. Happily this was one campaign that was won in NSW.

Five years ago, during a 'moment of madness', she became a wildlife carer/rescuer for Sydney Wildlife and now a large part of every day is spent caring for and rehabilitating injured, baby possums. She said "as stressful as it can be she does love it", but could not do what she does without the invaluable assistance and guidance from Dr Howard Ralph (vet surgeon, MD and anaesthetist) whom she first met at Duck Rescue many moons ago.



SHELLEY REIS **Office Manager**

Shelley Reis is the Office Manager for the World League and has been working in this role since 2006 (with the exception of a 10 month hiatus in 2008 when she worked for the Green Building Council). She currently works on a full-time basis out of our Gladesville office.

Shelley has always had a passion for animal rights which was fostered from a young age by her mother, Wendi, who is a committee member and long-time foster carer for the League. Growing up she was always surrounded by animals and at 19 decided to become strictly vegetarian. Shelley also has a passion for conservation and in 2005 graduated from the University of Wollongong, first in her class, with a Bachelor of Environmental Science degree (with Class 1 Honours).

In her spare time, Shelley also taught dancing and choreographed and performed in productions, including the Wollongong City production of 'Cats' – the musical.



A 'typical' day in the WLPA office for Shelley might involve caring for any animals being temporarily kept in the office, providing advice about animal issues to members of the public via email and phone, various administrative and bookkeeping tasks, coordinating and overseeing the work of volunteers, advertising and rehoming of animals, organising meetings and communicating with members and supporters.

Shelley also has a creative flair and a strong writing ability so is also heavily involved in the researching, writing and creation of our promotional and campaign materials such as pamphlets, posters and our 'Animals' Guardian' newsletters.

Her partner, Tim, last year rode in the Sydney Spring Cycle to raise money for the World League. You may remember his cat Tiger in his bike basket. Shelley and Tim are the proud owners of three World League cats – Tiger, Eva and Josie – who make life in the inner city interesting.

Australian Wildlife



Kangaroos

RUSSIAN KANGAROO MARKETS SEEM SET TO RE-OPEN THIS YEAR, AND CHINA IS SET TO IMPORT SKIPPY TOO...

This year appears destined to be one of the very worst for our beleaguered and persecuted national symbol. When Russia banned kangaroo exports from 1 August 2009 the commercial kangaroo industry quickly set about seeking out other markets particularly in Asia. Not surprisingly they sent delegations to China as did our own government. Sadly our governments have long been representatives, almost solely, of commerce and not community concern. After Anna Bligh (Qld Premier) returned from Moscow as a part of a trade delegation sent to convince Russia to re-open its markets, Queensland AgForce also met with the Russian Ambassador in Canberra (2009) to further clinch the deal.

As you might imagine no one was representing our magnificent, unique yet helpless macropods. The Queensland State Government was doing the kangaroo industry's work for them. In fact the kangaroo industry has recently received a further \$400 million from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). This is tax payers' money which could have been more profitably spent on expanding our growing tourism industry. Our kangaroo is the

second most recognised icon in the world and a focal point for most tourists.

AgForce representative Brent Finlay stated that even though the Kangaroo Industry needs to 'lift its standards' in relation to hygiene and high levels of bacteria found in Kangaroo meat exports to Russia, that this should not be an impediment to further trade. Again, in these discussions with AgForce, of course no one represents the interests of our maligned and persecuted macropods who are worth far more to us alive than dead. The Kangaroo Industry alleges it earns \$270 million a year but with a properly managed eco-tourism industry all Australians could benefit from the billions of dollars to be made by promoting truly sustainable tourist adventures such as those experienced in Africa.

Our kangaroo's survival will be further jeopardised if China joins the commercial kangaroo market. Formalities with Chinese authorities have already begun and all that seems required is that the details be ironed out. China now awaits a formal application from an Australian exporter. The Minister for Agriculture made the following disturbing

comments only in February of this year - the Kangaroo Industry wants to export a massive 200 tonnes of kangaroo meat to China each week. Strangely however, we have heard the Chinese do still have a problem with eating kangaroo. The name bothers them as many Chinese delegates have gone out of their way to have an experience with "Skippy" whilst in Australia. The Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia (KIAA) is desperately trying to come up with another name



Photograph: © Ray Drew

that does not conjure up images of beauty, magnificence and 'cuteness'.

Meanwhile the KIAA representative John Kelly states that thanks to a federal grant (again using tax payer's money) they will be spending over \$216,000 on developing new markets in China for lower grade meat while developing a protocol for a new name for kangaroo meat.

The Kangaroo industry lost 70% of its export market when Russia banned imports and it is not about to give up. Convincing the Russians not to re-open markets will not be easy and persuading China not to begin importing our increasingly threatened and commercialised species will be no mean feat either. It will take a lot of pressure

and influence from not only Australian citizens who value our kangaroos as more than a mere commodity to be traded but from overseas countries and animal welfare organizations who may be able to shame China into not consuming Skippy. In case the health risks of eating kangaroo meat are not taken seriously enough we need to focus on the unique attraction of our amazing, iconic animal to prevent the establishment of the trade. I fear an export trade in kangaroo meat to China could potentially destroy the positive relationships that have been established between the two cultures. China needs to hear from Australians citizens who are outraged and completely opposed to exporting our native fauna.

We can not give up. So please write and call our Prime Minister and the Chinese and Russian authorities below. Without your input our maligned macropods will continue to be fugitives in their own land. Don't buy kangaroo products of any description and tell your supermarkets/pet stores why. Our wildlife is a priceless part of our heritage and not for sale.

RUSSIAN EMBASSY

Ambassador Nicholas Maksymow
78 Canberra Ave
Griffith A.C.T 2603
T: (02) 6295 9033
E: rusembassy.australia@rambler.ru

CHINESE EMBASSY

Ambassador Zhang Junsai
15 Coronation Drive
Yarralumla. A.C.T 2600
T. (02) 6273 4783
E: chinaemb_au@mfa.gov.cn

Your letter might include the following points:

- As an Australian citizen you do not want your wildlife traded as a mere commodity for profit. Our wildlife is a priceless part of our heritage and should belong to all Australians.
- That you object to the inherent cruelty especially to the defenceless pouch young (joeys) who are bashed to death and/or decapitated by an unregulated brutal industry.
- Confirmation of E.coli and other contaminants in kangaroo meat makes it too great a health risk
- If the Russian and Chinese markets are opened, state that you will consider not buying any products from either country.

MULTI-AWARD WINNING SONGWRITER MARIA DAINES SINGS TO SAVE KANGAROOS

MARIA DAINES (pictured), the multi-award winning international vocalist and songwriter, is the latest person to join the European Union (EU) campaign to have kangaroo products banned from Europe.

In support of the plight of kangaroos and with the support of World League committee member Dr Teresa Buss-Carden, Maria has written and recorded a new song highlighting the horrendous way these incredible animals are treated in their native country.

Maria recently said "Ending the trade in kangaroo products would end an immense amount of suffering for these amazing and beautiful creatures. When I found out what was happening to the kangaroo I shed a tear and knew I must voice my distress and concern by writing a song. My guitarist and producer Paul Killington is equally appalled by the slaughter of the kangaroo and together we hope we can raise the profile of the campaign by sharing a musical message that shows we care and we want this killing stopped."

Maria is no stranger to speaking out against the cruelty towards animals. She supported US artist Pink at Cardiff International Arena for the Party For Animals World Wide in August 2007, and helped raise £90,000 for animal welfare charities.

Ms Daines said "Some months ago we were asked to write a song for the plight of the kangaroo. Teresa, an animal advocate in Australia, tracked us down in desperation after hearing our interview with Sue Marchant at BBC Radio Cambridge. Teresa wrote to tell us of the horrific slaughter of millions of kangaroos each and every year. We could not ignore Teresa's letter. Her plea to end the killing of the kangaroo was heartfelt and compelled us to do something to help these beautiful creatures."

Dr Teresa Buss-Carden said "I am thrilled that Maria Daines has lent her powerful voice in support of the (baby kangaroos) 440,000 joeys EU campaign. Her song, 'Killing your own', reflects the unspeakable tragedy which occurs every night in Australia. By accepting the slaughter of defenseless, innocent joeys we also are killing our own feelings of tenderness, compassion and care for vulnerable beings of all species, including our own."

Working with the World League Dr. Buss-Carden has been actively trying to put an end to the largest slaughter of land-based wildlife on the planet. The commercial industry kills millions of adult kangaroos each year but they also kill approximately 440,000 dependent at-foot joeys who are orphaned when their mothers are shot and who die



from starvation or predation. A similar number of in-pouch joeys are killed by decapitation or by bashing against hard object.

After signing the petition to ban kangaroo products from the EU, Maria said: "We hope many more people will also sign the petition and be a voice for the defenseless who are depending on us to help them survive. We must ask ourselves will the amazing kangaroo, the icon and emblem of Australia, become another victim of mankind's wish to kill everything that lives wild and free?"

The campaign to have all kangaroo products banned from EU member states, has gained momentum since being launched. Well known celebrities are signing up to add their voices to stop this cruel trade. Australia is shamed by the cynical killing of joeys who are the cruel "by-product" of the exploitation of their country's icon.

All members are encouraged to sign the petition at www.440000joeys.eu

*Maria Daines' powerful song 'Killing your own' is available for purchase from www.wlpa.org. Please see insert for details on how to order Maria's cd. All profits from the sale of the cd go to WLPAs kangaroo campaign.

KANGAROO ORPHANAGE

Many members may be unaware that the World League administers a kangaroo orphanage and sanctuary at Dural in the Hills District of Sydney. The Kangaroo Protection Co-operative (KPC) was set up as a sub-committee of The World League and later became a co-operative society.

President of World League, Halina Thompson, and Vice-President, Joan Papayanni, are both Directors of the KPC.

The KPC orphanage is situated on a 40 acre peaceful, bushland property which was leased to us by the State Government during the Premiership of Neville

Wran. Here our volunteer live-in caretakers rehabilitate and raise orphaned and injured native mammals – mostly wallabies and kangaroos but sometimes other species such as possums, sugar gliders and native birds. Once rehabilitated the animals are released into safe areas of New South Wales. A school



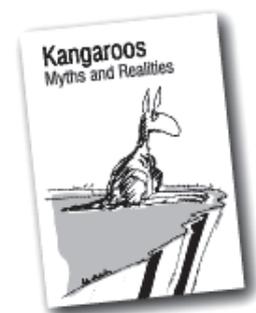
Pictured: Kacia, 5 year old daughter of the previous caretakers Richard and Amy, cuddles up to a young wallaby joey.



Pictured: Ella, an Eastern grey joey munches on grass, snug in her artificial pouch sling.

Does your local library have 'Kangaroos – Myths and Realities'?

With a letter of introduction from WLPA one of our supporters who lives in the Hornsby Shire approached Hornsby Library requesting they accept donated copies of the book 'Kangaroos – Myths and Realities' for Hornsby's five libraries. The offer was accepted!



classroom has also been built on the site to help educate visitors and promote respect and compassion for Australia's increasingly threatened wildlife.

While many animals come and go we wanted to share a few of our favourite photos from the orphanage.

Working bees are held at the orphanage on the third Saturday of every month. If you would like to get involved in helping out at the orphanage please phone the President, Sandy Coe on 9427 6131. Visits to the orphanage can also be arranged by appointment by phoning Halina Thompson on 0407 456 683.



Pictured: Digadee, a male eastern grey kangaroo is bottle fed by a caretaker.

This most valuable work aims to dispel the many common myths that have led to the exploitation and persecution of our national symbol. The book features chapters written by well-known scientists and experts in wildlife ecology, including the World League's own Halina Thompson, Cliff Papayanni and Lindy Stacker. This book needs as much exposure as possible and we strongly encourage our members and supporters to contact their local municipal/shire libraries requesting copies of the book be added to their collection. WLPA will of course post the books to you free of charge to present to your library if they agree.

For more information and a letter of introduction contact our office on (02) 9817 4892 or email admin@wlpa.org.

WLPA SUPPORTS DR HOWARD RALPH - A TRUE NATIONAL TREASURE

Over the past few years an incredible veterinarian by the name of Dr Howard Ralph has come to our attention for his dedication to wildlife rescue.



Pictured: Dr Ralph operating on WLPA rescued cat, Boots

Dr Ralph has been known to the World League for a large number of years as the vet who attended yearly at the New South Wales duck shoot (which is now banned in NSW) in a voluntary capacity. For at least twelve years he made the annual journey to the site of the duck shoot to treat the large number of birds who were injured and could be rehabilitated and would go to untold lengths and spent an incredible number of hours helping birds that everyone else would have given up on. Those birds who were so badly injured and unlikely to recover he would humanely euthanise.

More recently Howard visited the scene of the 2009 Victorian bushfires on two occasions both times staying there a number of days and treating the injured native wildlife. Whilst he was in Victoria he also treated domestic animals who had received burns including horses and dogs – all of this work was of a totally voluntary nature.

With the setting up of the Southern Cross Wildlife Care Centre near Braidwood, NSW, Howard Ralph is now the key volunteer vet and spends countless hours treating sick, injured and orphaned animals of all shapes and sizes. The World League's wildlife spokesperson, Lindy Stacker, is in constant contact with Dr Ralph as he assists with the many brushtail and ringtail possums that she rescues and rehabilitates. For the last few years the World League has been pleased to be able to support Howard's incredible work contributing to the supply of oxygen for the care centre. During surgical procedures, such as mending a broken limb, the oxygen is administered to the animal to keep them alive while they are anaesthetised. The World League also assisted in the setting up of the organization as a charity with Lindy helping in the administrative work required.

Dr Ralph was recently voted the winner of the Pittwater Council Environment Award for his work for his volunteer work for wildlife. We are pleased to have been able to support Dr Ralph and believe his work is exceptional and unmatched by any other veterinarian with whom we have had dealings.

P.S. Last month Howard Ralph operated on one of our rescued cats with a broken tendon. It was an unusual and tricky operation, but thanks to Howard's skill Boots is now recuperating and will soon be ready for rehoming.



Pictured: Dr Ralph was presented with the Pittwater Council Environment Award

Possoms

BRUSHTAIL POSSUM EXPORTS FROM TASMANIA

Only last month we discovered that once again Brushtail Possums were going to be exported from Tasmania to Asia.

During 2008-2009 no exports occurred because there were no markets demanding skins or meat. For the three previous years, a small number of possums were exported and prior to that it was a lucrative market. The capture and holding of these sensitive nocturnal creatures is inherently cruel. Photos taken inside Lenah Game Meats (by Animal Liberation in 1999) who are export/fauna dealers graphically showed possums suffering horribly when animals escaped from a captive bolt gun and thus their executioner. Many animals were running around the floor area panicked with bleeding lacerations and stressed beyond words.

All of this suffering and misery is permitted to allow companies like Lenah Game Meats to make a profit. There is no excuse for this carnage. Landholders can claim that possums caused damage to their trees BUT no other state throughout Australia permits these shameful exports. The truth is that Tasmanian logging companies have decimated old growth forests and continue to do so. No possum could ever create the same amount of destruction. Our organisation has submitted a detailed submission in response to the Department of Primary Industry, Water, Parks and Environment's (DPIWPE) 56 page Management Program. Interestingly throughout the DPIWPE's management plan they openly state that they wish to promote and expand this industry before the due date for submissions had been reached. This seems like a self fulfilling prophecy to us. Please take action outlined in our 'hot off the press' possum brochure enclosed.

Please tell the Federal Government that you want them to listen to YOU and not vested commercial interests. The Tasmanian Government is about to authorise the commercial killing, yet again of Brushtail Possums for export to Asian markets. Tell our government authorities that there is NO excuse for this brutal and unsustainable trade and that you value our fauna as more than a mere commodity to be traded.



Since putting this together we have written to every Tasmanian MP asking them whether they approve or disapprove of commercial possum exports. We plan to publish these results at the end of June which is the timeline we have given Tasmanian MP's. WLPA also submitted a detailed submission to Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry opposing the export of our native animals. The Federal Government will make their decision to allow/disallow possum exports this year so it is imperative that we all speak up NOW.

Insist that the export of our magnificent Brushtail Possums be immediately stopped for these reasons:

- The abattoir where possums are killed (Lenah Game Meats) was secretly filmed in 1999 and revealed immense cruelty, pain & suffering. You can watch this on YouTube at;
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnGMN1sOtK0>
- The Dept of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment Tasmania have placed the interests of big business above the welfare and conservation of native fauna.
- Possum populations can not be sustained at this level of commercial and non-commercial killing (up from 100,000 BTP to 300,000 annually)
- The claims of crop damage caused by brushtail possums must be addressed by reviewing land management practices and implementing humane alternatives to trapping/shooting and 1080 poisoning.
- The Tasmanian Dept of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment plans to promote and expand the export of Brushtail Possums and make no apologies for that. Check out their website www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/invitecomment/brushtail-possum.html

TELL OUR POLITICIANS THAT YOU PLAN TO BOYCOTT TRAVEL TO TASMANIA AND YOU INTEND TO BOYCOTT ALL TASMANIAN PRODUCTS UNTIL THIS CARNAGE STOPS. OUR WILDLIFE IS PRICELESS. THEY DON'T HAVE A VOICE BUT YOU DO. PLEASE ACT NOW.

HON. PETER GARRETT
Minister for Environment
PO Box 6022
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: 02 6277 7640
Fax: 02 62773 6101
peter.garrett.MP@aph.gov.au

HON. DAVID BARTLETT
Premier Tasmania
GPO Box 123
Hobart, Tasmania 7001
Tel: 03 6233 8807
Fax: 03 6233 8013
david.bartlett@parliament.tas.gov.au

DIRECTOR GENERAL
Tourism Tasmania
GPO Box 399
Hobart, Tasmania 7001
Tel: 03 6230 8235
Fax: 03 6230 8353
reception@tourism.tas.gov.au

Are you looking for a unique eco-property investment?

Do you enjoy sustainable living? Or are you seeking a unique investment or eco-tourism venture? Then 'Clarendon' may be the answer.

This eco-property comprises 125 acres of picturesque native New Zealand bushland located at the north-eastern end of the South Island in Koromiko.

Among its other sustainable features, the house boasts 100% 'off-the-grid' living via solar panels and hydro-electric turbines generated by your very own stream.

This is truly a unique opportunity, with a purchase price of AU\$456,000.

For more information and pictures visit www.OffGridEcoStay.com, email info@offgridcostay.com or phone Brendan Norris or Clare Mann on (02) 9705 0567.

Any private sale eventuating from this advertisement will result in the full sale commission being donated to WLPA



Pictured: View from the outside deck



Pictured: Picton township located just 10 minutes away

UPDATE ON HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS

This issue is anything but dead.



Pictured: WLP members and volunteers participated in a protest rally against the Shooter's Party Bill outside Parliament House, Sydney in late 2009



The overwhelming majority of people in NSW are strongly opposed to The Shooters Party legislation (introduced into parliament in 2009 but not yet passed) which would permit the shooting of 25 species of native fauna.

The NSW government has been doing deals with The Shooters Party on a number of issues that the government wants passed as The Shooters Party hold the balance of power.

Last year the NSW Labor Party agreed to permit recreational shooting in some 13 National Parks. They previously had vowed this would not happen. Thus, we all need to act promptly and tell the NSW government that we don't want our National Parks sacrificed to blood sports.

Despite their pretence to be assisting conservation, sporting shooters are not conservationists and killing wildlife (and other introduced species) is their form of recreational pleasure. Only immense public pressure will remove The Shooters Party legislation from the negotiating table. When we spoke to the Greens recently they advised us that The Shooters bill was still 'sitting' on the table as during the last parliamentary sitting The Shooters Party knew that they would not get their legislation through but are planning to re-introduce it soon. They will not give up so it is imperative that we don't either. Many animals are counting on us to speak up for them.

Our wildlife is facing increasing threats and is under escalating pressure and cannot withstand such an onslaught within their last safe sanctuary. Please take the time to phone or write and email our elected politicians who must take a stand against The Shooters Party's cruel self interest. Without your help our wildlife is doomed to become mere trophies.

NEWS FLASH

NSW Premier Kristina Keneally has now publicly announced that the Labor Government will no longer be supporting the proposed Bill, which has been locked in negotiations since October 2009. Ms Keneally said "The future of the bill is now a matter for Mr Robert Brown and the Shooter's Party". In response, Shooters Party MLC Roy Smith said the party would now seek to negotiate with the State Opposition leader Barry O'Farrell.

TO VOICE
YOUR
CONCERNS,
PLEASE
WRITE TO:

HON. FRANK SARTOR
NSW Minister for Environment
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000
office@sartor.minister.nsw.gov.au
Ph. (02) 9228 5811

HON. BARRY O'FARRELL
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000
LOP@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Ph: (02) 9487 8588

Dingoes

FRASER ISLAND DINGOES - A species on the brink whilst tourism flourishes

Recently much media attention has been focused on the conflict between Dingoes and tourist activities on the beautiful and isolated Fraser Island off the Queensland coast. One would have expected that an island environment would be a relatively safe haven for our threatened and elusive native dog. Sadly not so, as tourism escalates to an all time high and Dingo welfare plummets to an all time low.

Dingoes on the island have become increasingly malnourished and their movements and natural behaviours restricted to areas behind 'exclusion' fencing thus reducing their habitat range. Government agencies seem to have placed the requirements of tourists above Dingo conservation and ecological integrity. We feel it would be fair to say that the tragic but rare attack on a child some years ago, created a hostile over reaction and a hysterical and misguided approach to further Dingo 'management' strategies. Previously Dingo attacks were unheard of in fact many locals and forestry workers had close contact with the Dingoes to the point where individual animals were recognised and pups were found under landholders houses without any reported conflicts.

Obviously the escalating growth in tourism resulted in Dingoes becoming too familiar with tourists who know nothing or little about Dingo behaviour or the "do's and don'ts" in relation to interactions with wild animals. It is unfortunate indeed that the Queensland authorities have thus far sought to restrict and control Dingo behaviour rather than concentrating on modifying the behaviour of tourists.

As the health of the Fraser Island Dingoes degenerated, public concern has escalated. A public rally was organised by the Save the Fraser Island Dingo group and held on the 15th May outside Parliament House in Brisbane. We

are very pleased to report that Mark Pearson (Executive Director of Animal Liberation) flew up to represent The World League and was one of the key speakers who addressed a large crowd at the rally.

The attendance of so many people clearly demonstrated the growing concern and anger over the lack of action by Queensland agencies that are responsible for Dingo conservation on the island.

Opinion by the locals on Fraser Island is still divided nevertheless, with some people stating they want the Dingoes shot whilst others are defiantly crusading for the protection of these pure bred Dingoes recognising their endangered status. The autopsy results from a number of shot dingoes' stomachs revealed that some 30% of the Dingoes' diet relied on seafood such as fish and crabs. This vital source of food for Dingoes is now virtually



You can help by writing to:
The Premier Anna Bligh
Parliament House
Brisbane 4000
E: ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

unavailable because of the tourist preferences for beach side areas.

Sadly, it seems that the RSPCA has also backed government measures not to intervene to save the Dingoes from starvation. The Queensland 'conservation' authorities are still shooting Dingoes and 'hazing' Dingoes (using shanghais) for the simple crime of acting like Dingoes. The continued mass execution of Dingoes must not be tolerated and should certainly

not have become government policy. Once, more Australians are informed of this shameful scandal, more will oppose this short sighted and unenlightened approach to an ongoing self-induced 21st century problem. We have forced wildlife to either be contained behind fences or end up poisoned, trapped or shot by our ever burgeoning and demanding species.

We know how significant Dingoes are to our natural environment suppressing many introduced predators like foxes. Studies undertaken in the Northern Territory (one recent study by Dr M Letnic from the University of Sydney again demonstrated this) clearly show that the presence of Dingoes benefits the environment and allows many native animals to flourish. We cannot allow any further destruction of our much maligned, greatly misunderstood but much loved native wild dog. Australians still undoubtedly have a special connection to our long suffering, yet noble and still revered native dog.

PLEASE NOTE: A wildlife photographer by the name of Jennifer Parkhurst faces 40 criminal charges for defying government regulations on Fraser Island. Two major offences with which she was charged were filming/photographing the Dingoes and/or parks rangers and feeding the dingoes. Jennifer now faces a maximum 2 year jail sentence or \$300,000 fine. Jennifer is most certainly a friend of the Dingo; so please write and defend her right to photograph these remarkable animals.



Pictured: Protesters rally outside Parliament House Brisbane in May 2010



Pictured: Mark Pearson represented WLPA at the Brisbane rally



Pictured: An emaciated dingo searching for food on a Fraser Island beach

MEET OUR SPONSORED DINGO, AMAROO

WLPA continues to support the Australian Native Dog Conservation Society at Bargo, NSW. Our sponsored dingo - the handsome six year old male named Amaroo - lives in the open woodland-style native garden at the Sanctuary in Wirrimbirra, a National Trust Property near Bargo.

If you are interested in seeing the dingoes at Wirrimbirra, visitors are able to meet and learn about dingoes in a natural setting. A volunteer accompanies visitors, giving them a guided tour and answering questions.

The sanctuary is open to visitors every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 3:30pm.

For Bookings, please phone (02) 4684 1156 or contact visit www.dingosanctuary.com.au



DINGO

One of the oldest pure dog breeds in the world

An international study, published in the science journal Nature, has found that the dingo, along with the New Guinea singing dog, is the oldest breed of dog in the world.

The study tested the DNA of dogs at 48,000 sites and compared their genetic similarity to wolves. Because dingoes evolved in physical isolation they have been "held in a time capsule" for 5000 years since they were brought to Australia.

This new evidence shows the genetic and cultural significance of Australia's native dog and further highlights the importance of conserving the pure Fraser Island dingo population.

WLPA are now on Facebook

Keep up to date with our latest rescue stories and animal news by becoming a fan of us on Facebook.

Visit: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/World-League-for-Protection-of-Animals-WLPA/368238577840?ref=ts>

Quotes



“If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.”

- Saint Francis of Assisi

“As long as people will shed the blood of innocent creatures there can be no peace, no liberty, no harmony between people. Slaughter and justice cannot dwell together.”

- Isaac Bashevis Singer

“Life is as dear to the mute creature as it is to a man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not to die, so do other creatures.”

- His Holiness The Dalai Lama, *The Vegetarian Way*, 1967

Wildlife as Pets

PROFIT FOR THE PET INDUSTRY - PROFOUND MISERY FOR WILDLIFE.

There are a myriad of reasons as to why we need to ensure that our dwindling and threatened wildlife does not have to face yet one more obstacle to their long term survival. For many decades those wishing to see wildlife become suburban pets have mostly been intimately connected with the pet trade and view wildlife as just another commodity to be marketed.

Environmentalists and animal welfare groups have long argued in the defence of wildlife. We have witnessed the ongoing tragedy of the many individuals who can not look after their domestic dogs and cats which sadly leads to the death of thousands of these innocent animals. Imagine the same people being responsible for the special behavioural and dietary needs of wildlife. Our organisation, with many others, have deep concerns for the survival and welfare of our precious yet complex by nature native fauna.

As a registered wildlife carer of five years (with Sydney Wildlife) I can vouch that every wild creature is unique and requires expert care and skilled attention. Even when native animals come into care and have no obvious injuries but simply require some TLC due to concussion for example, each animal consumes a great deal of time, requires appropriate housing, possible veterinary attention and for most mammals and birds the collection of fresh foliage each night. This is a very different scenario to simply opening a can of cat or dog food and keeping your pet inside for the night or two when it is ill.

A major aspect of this vexed issue is focused not only around profit generated by keeping native animals as play things, but is a sad reflection of a culture of 'control' that exists within our society. In case you need convincing, we will now outline just some of the reasons why we are opposed to the use of wildlife as pets.

- Our wildlife consists of extremely diverse and complex species thereby requiring specialised skills and experience to care for them appropriately.
- Keeping wildlife as pets means keeping animals incarcerated forever. They will not be able to stroll around the house or be taken for a walk around the block, but they will have to be caged and/or restrained permanently.
- Other domestic pets will then have to be restrained from preying on wildlife. Aside from the obvious risks our fauna is especially prone to shock and stress. In other words just having the scent of other animals around would be enough to create a constant state of anxiety.
- When wildlife 'pets' become ill or injured, veterinary care will be needed. Unfortunately few vets have any specialised skill with treating wildlife be they mammals, birds or reptiles. Specialist vets with these sorts of skills are rare indeed.
- When people are awake wildlife are asleep and visa versa. People, children especially, will want to touch and play with their 'pets'. It is normal that these animals want to sleep and hide.

- When these native animals grow the problems associated with confinement will grow also. Many animals will end up being dumped, unhappily just as domestic pets are every day. The situation will be far worse as unlike domestic pets native animals have not been domesticated for thousands of years. So, domination over them is impossible unless of course cruelty or confinement is used to control them.

- Our fauna have specific dietary needs, along with behavioural and psychological requirements which only nature can provide.

- Foliage for many of our native animals will have to be picked each night no matter what the weather. That means hail, rain or shine. Most people are not prepared to do this. Again much training and expertise is required to understand the varying dietary needs of different species.

- For many carnivorous animals special types of insects and other kinds of animals products will need to be sourced and then killed in order to feed e.g. tawny frog mouths, blue tongue lizards, raptors etc. Even if these animals are bred by the pet

industry the nutrients required for optimal health will not be able to be replicated. Freezing, storage, and preservatives will be necessary in order to supply demand.

- It is so much more satisfying to interact naturally with wildlife and so have a genuine wildlife experience. This can be done in many ways. One major way would be to become a wildlife carer. This means learning basic (and advanced) skills which would be of benefit to the wildlife. If individuals are truly wanting to experience wildlife close up and in a natural way and are not just driven by self interest, then this is a choice they may like to make. There is immense joy and satisfaction in releasing native wildlife back to where it naturally belongs.

- Proponents for keeping wildlife as pets in captivity are nearly always driven by money and self interest. We do not support the argument of protecting endangered species by domesticating them. The best way to protect endangered species is to protect their habitat. Respect and awareness comes from appreciating wildlife in their

own environment on their own terms.

Native animals have needs and desires of their own. They have their own families and certainly don't need us interfering further in their lives. They don't need us to organise and to manipulate and to control their lives. We have after all no right to do this.

Make sure you also talk to friends and family about the issues raised above. Learn about our magnificent wildlife and if you are truly motivated and can make the time become a wildlife carer. Our wildlife really does need all the friends they can get.

Lindy Stacker
WLPA

**Please ACT today and write/
email your local MP and the
Premier Kristina Keneally:**

**Parliament House
Macquarie St. Sydney 2000
Email: thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au**

SUGAR GLIDERS AT THE MERCY OF AMERICANS

news.com.au

1 April, 2010

AUSTRALIA'S iconic sugar gliders are being bred and traded as domestic pets in the US where they sell for about \$US220 (\$A240) each.



Vets are treating malnourished gliders for broken bones and chronic lethargy as clueless owners feed the creatures classic American fare - soft drink and hotdogs - instead of insects.

Companies are charging a small fortune for glider accessories and spruiking the tiny marsupials as Easter pets.

"Sugar gliders are exploding right now but wild animals generally are not recommended as pets," Humane Society captive wildlife specialist Beth Preiss said.

"It's difficult caring for wild animals in captivity."

Florida is the commercial breeding hub, fuelling a sophisticated trade that is booming online.

News Limited found dozens of examples of caged gliders being fed unusual foods such as ham, hotdogs and soft drinks.

The tree-dwellers are made to entertain their owners by riding toy motobikes or leaping off ironing boards and curtain rods.

The biggest glider retailer in the US is Cape Coral company Pocket Pets, which is running Easter promotions and selling glider accessories such as tote pouches and running wheels.

Unlike some breeders, they supply detailed nutritional advice to buyers and refuse to ship the creatures as air freight to online buyers.

Pocket Pets regional manager Adam Wayne last night defended the trade, saying the group had sold "thousands" of the animals across the country over the past seven years and has 90 percent of the market.

"It's not like we pull them out of the wild - they are all bred here for domestic use," Mr Wayne said.

"In the wild, their average life expectancy is six to eight years. In captivity it's 10 to 15 years," he said.

Vets say too many owners are ignorant of proper care requirements.

Syracuse wildlife vet Cheri Capparelli described their typical captive diet as "terrible", saying too many owners failed to feed the animals a specialty formula that mimicked their native menu of eucalyptus nectar and insects.

"I don't condone a lot of exotic ownership because it is difficult to have these guys in captivity," she said.

Despite federal licensing requirements, the trade goes largely unchecked across the US.

A backyard dealer selling gliders out of shoeboxes at a Syracuse mall over Christmas only shutdown his stall after fielding complaints from Dr Capparelli's surgery.

"It was appalling," she said.

Keeping gliders as pets is outlawed in California and at least one other state. Elsewhere in the US, it's regulated by permits or goes completely unchecked.

Owners in Australia must have permits.

WLPA's Rehomed Animals

Over the last 15 months WLPA has successfully rescued, desexed and rehomed over 300 cats and kittens and 25 dogs. This would not have been possible without our members and supporters who have donated so generously and the volunteer rescuers, drivers and foster carers who have taken so many animals from desperate situations.

WE WISH TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS ASSISTED IN SOME WAY!



Mum



Suzie



Casper



Tiger



Holly



Gutsie



8 week old kitten



Sascha



Velvet



Tigger



Henry



Ruby



Eva



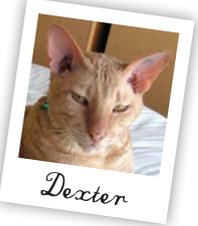
Blaze



Blossom



Tinky & Torti



Dexter



J.C.



Jen



Isabella



Scout & Spike



Babe



Mama



Dixie



Tiger & Eva



Misty



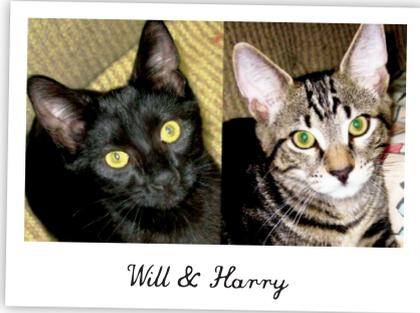
Genevieve



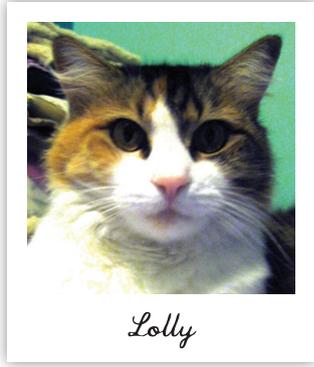
Basil



Pushkin



Will & Harry



Lolly



Shaun



Mary



Daisy & Duke



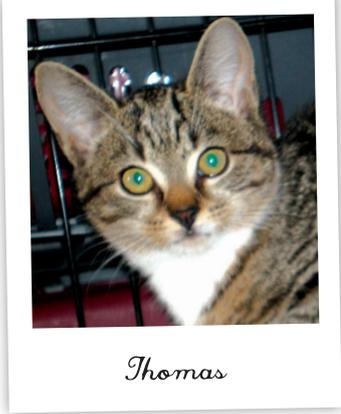
Mia



Georgie



Hunters Hill Kittens



Thomas



Roxy



Mickey & Mum



Bulls Eye



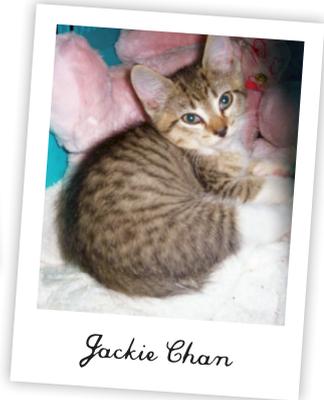
Harry



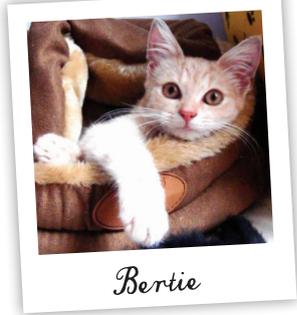
Danny



Dora



Jackie Chan



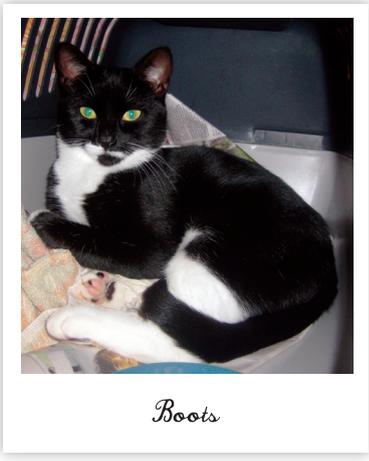
Bertie



Aiko



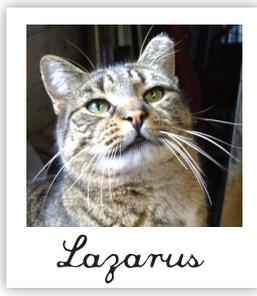
Garfield



Boots



Lily



Lazarus



Ma



Silk



Abby



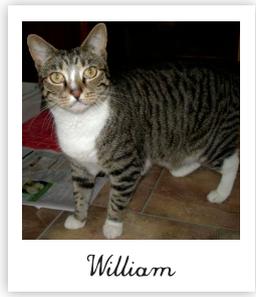
Jeanie & baby



Munchie



8 week old kittens



William



Wendi's Kittens

BEWARE

1080 poison baits

Over the years, WLPAs have received many calls and emails from distressed owners who have lost their beloved companions to the indiscriminant poison, 1080. Unfortunately the poison is still widely-used in Australia, despite being banned in most other countries. The following article written by Allambie veterinarian Brian Hills featured in the Manly Daily (15/05/10) and serves as a timely reminder that many non-target animals, including our pets, are at risk when 1080 poison baits are laid.

Fox baiting, using 1080 poison, is underway in the Warringah and Sydney North region. Baits are placed in the following reserves:

- Manly Dam Reserve
- Jamieson Park
- Middle Creek
- Garigal National Park

The 1080 poison contains the compound sodium monofluoroacetate, which is toxic to a wide range of different species, including birds, mammals and reptiles, although some species are more sensitive to its effects than others.

Pet dogs, as well as foxes, are extremely sensitive to the poison but cats can also be affected.

It is very important that dogs are not allowed in the reserves while fox baiting is taking place and also for four weeks after it finishes. 1080 is lethal to pet dogs and cats and if any pet is poisoned, the chances for recovery are slim. Affected pets may show various central nervous system signs such as becoming hyperexcitable and run around manically. Some animals may retch and get convulsions. Death normally occurs about two hours after signs of poisoning are first seen, from either heart or respiratory failure.

If you discover that your dog has eaten some bait and is not showing any signs of poisoning, it is very important to induce vomiting immediately. If you are near a vet, take your dog in straight away. If you need to induce vomiting yourself, you can do this by placing a few washing soda crystals on the back of the tongue or by giving a tablespoon of salt by mouth. Then it is very important to seek veterinary attention immediately. If your dog has already started to show signs of poisoning – retching/vomiting, frenzied running, howling, convulsions, difficulty breathing etc – then do not try to induce vomiting but go to your local vet immediately.

There is no effective antidote available and veterinary treatment may not be successful, so it is far better to prevent exposure to this poison and make sure your pets are well away from these baited areas.

Good News

FRESH HOPE FOR 1080 BAN

The Hobart Mercury - 20 June 2010

THERE were no longer any excuses to use 1080 poison on native animals for any purpose, the Greens said yesterday.

Greens primary industries spokesman Kim Booth said the Government should support legislation to ban the poison in Tasmania.

His comments came after timber giant Gunns said it would stop using the controversial poison.

"This is a historic day for the entire Tasmanian community who have been fighting for years to end this barbaric poisoning of native animals by forestry companies," Mr Booth said.

"Gunns has recognised the reality that the market just won't accept products that are produced on the carcasses of poisoned Tasmanian wildlife. It's a great step forward.

"The Government no longer has an excuse to block our ban-1080 poison legislation which we will re-present to the Parliament and

hopefully we will legislate to ban this cruel and unusual poison.

"Poisoning native animals is no longer an acceptable way to produce either timber or food."

Describing 1080 as "one of the most toxic poisons known to man", Mr Booth said the proposed legislation would still allow its use on introduced pests such as foxes.

Farmers and forestry operators could replace 1080 with fencing, trapping and scaring native animals away, Mr Booth said.

"There's a whole lot of other methods that can be used and should have been used in the first place."

The Wilderness Society also welcomed Gunns' announcement.

"This move by Gunns to ban 1080 poison is a welcome step forward and hopefully signals a new era where the company listens to

community concerns and takes real action to address those concerns," spokesman Vica Bayley said.

Primary Industries and Water Minister Bryan Green poured cold water on Mr Booth's call for a ban.

"Gunns' decision to end its usage of 1080 is further evidence of a significant move away from 1080 in Tasmania," Mr Green said.

"There has been a 94 per cent reduction in the amount of 1080 used in the state since 1999-2000, with less than one kilogram used last year compared with more than 15kg in 1999-2000.

"I believe that a 94 per cent drop in usage in just 10 years demonstrates that Tasmania is making sufficient progress in relation to 1080," he said.

"We need to ensure primary producers have flexibility in managing their operations, which are an extremely important part of our economy."

Have you joined Australia's first political party dedicated to helping animals?

In our last newsletter we introduced you to the newly established Australian political party, the Animal Justice Party. The Party aims to pursue issues of animal protection through the Australian Parliamentary System by encouraging the adoption of animal friendly policies by other political parties.

The Party's constitution, charter and joining information are now all available online. Please visit the website www.animaljusticeparty.org.

LEGAL EAGLES WORK TO PROTECT ANIMALS

PRO BONO ANIMAL LAW SERVICE

Animal Rights Lawyer, Angela Radich, describes the formation and working of the pro-bono animal law service, PALS@PILCH.

In late 2009, the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) NSW launched its new Pro Bono Animal Law Service, a national legal referral service being jointly operated with PILCH Victoria. The service, also known as PALS@PILCH, was developed in response to a growing need by animal protection organisations to access high quality, expert legal advice and representation to advance animal protection through the legal system.

The speakers at the NSW launch were Dr Melissa Perry QC, Lee Rhiannon MLC of the NSW Greens Party and Elizabeth Ellis of the University of Wollongong. Each keynote speaker welcomed the new service, recognising it as a valuable and significant step towards greater protection of animals in Australia.

Being a legal referral service, PALS@PILCH does not provide legal advice itself; it refers animal protection advocates to its members who include well known Australian law firms, law academics and barristers. The members can provide free legal advice and assistance in matters that are in the broad public interest.

PALS@PILCH focuses on referring 'test' cases, aimed at improving animal protection either by direct legal outcome or by raising public awareness of the issues affecting animals. Its

priority areas are factory farming, kangaroo killing, the use of animals in entertainment (such as in circuses and rodeos), live animal export and 'feral' animal control.

The service also supports animal protection organisations in carrying out their important work by referring matters concerning the day to day legal issues they face. The assistance provided can include:

- review of contracts
- review of websites and promotional material for intellectual property and defamation issues
- advice on organisational management issues, such as employment and volunteer issues
- assistance with freedom of information applications
- responding to defamation claims
- setting up a not-for-profit organisation

PALS@PILCH does not refer matters involving companion animal issues, such as pets in strata schemes, pets and wills, dangerous dogs or claims of negligence by vets. Persons seeking assistance with these types of matters can contact the NSW Law Society's Pro Bono Scheme on (02) 9926 0364.

For further information on PALS@PILCH please visit www.pilchnsw.org.au or contact Angela Radich at angela@pilchnsw.org.au or on (02) 9114 1793.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL LAW FIRM

A Queensland law firm, TLG Lawyers, has become the first practicing animal law firm in Australia. Tracy-Lynne Geysen, who set up the practice, was first inspired to practice animal law after hearing about the many case of cruelty inflicted on animals by humans.

Ms Geysen first founded the pro-bono legal organization BLEATS (Brisbane Lawyers Educating and Advocating for Tougher Sentences) and has now moved on to open her own private practice.

TLG also specialise in family law but Ms Geysen has already had several animal law clients.

Increased public awareness of animal issues has resulted in animal law being one of the fastest growing legal areas across the globe. In an interview with Lawyers Weekly, Ms Geysen, said "People just love their animals and they will do what they have to do for their pets".

International Issues

BEARS IN ASIA

The WLPA continues to support Animals Asia Foundation in its efforts to continue rescuing 'Moon' bears from the systematic torture of keeping them in cages and extracting bile for 'medicinal' purposes and for beauty products.

In the 1980's the Chinese Government legalised bile farming in an attempt to stop poaching – however the wild population has shrunk, estimated at 15,000 – 25,000. Now 19 Chinese provinces are farm-free with 12 provinces to go. However there are still thousands of bears treated

cruelly. One rescued bear, Oliver, was clearly suffering from the catheter (to extract the bile) having been ripped out, with wire protruding from a stinking abdominal hole and his teeth infected after being crudely cut back to the gum. Some bears sadly die - just recently one of the 10 bears rescued mid-April this year from the last bear farm in Shandong province, collapsed and died a month after his rescue, leaving the team in Chengdu sanctuary devastated.

Animal welfare awareness has been rising in China and a new animal protection law was

drafted in September 2009. The draft contains different animal categories – wild, domestic, economic and laboratory animals, including protection of animals used for entertainment, method of slaughtering, domestic abuse etc. Still to be decided are the precise details of the legislation and the practical aspects of enforcing the law.

Please sign the petition concerning the legislation at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/ChinaAnimalProtectionLaw?z00m=19850673>



OUR SPONSORED BEARS

The WLPA congratulates Free The Bears Fund Inc. (FBF) for its magnificent effort in rescuing 600 Dancing Bears in India, the last of whom 'walked off the streets' in December 2009 into a sanctuary at Bannerghatta, on the outskirts of the southern city of Bangalore. A cruel tradition, stretching back hundreds of years, involved poaching bears from forests, pushing red hot pokers through their noses, cutting off the claws and smashing out their teeth; they were then placed on hot coals with music accompaniment, to learn to associate music with pain and 'dance' in the streets.

FBF joined a partnership with Wildlife SOS (an Indian based conservation group) and International Animal Rescue in the UK to create the Agra Bear Rescue Facility. The Fund also financed the Kalandar (gypsy) Rehabilitation Program, allowing the dancing bear masters to develop new livelihoods to replace the practice. Now there are four sanctuaries in India, managed by Wildlife SOS and supported by this organisation.

The FBF has also established sanctuaries in SE Asia – Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos – for rescued bears from snares, the restaurant trade and the bile-farm cages.

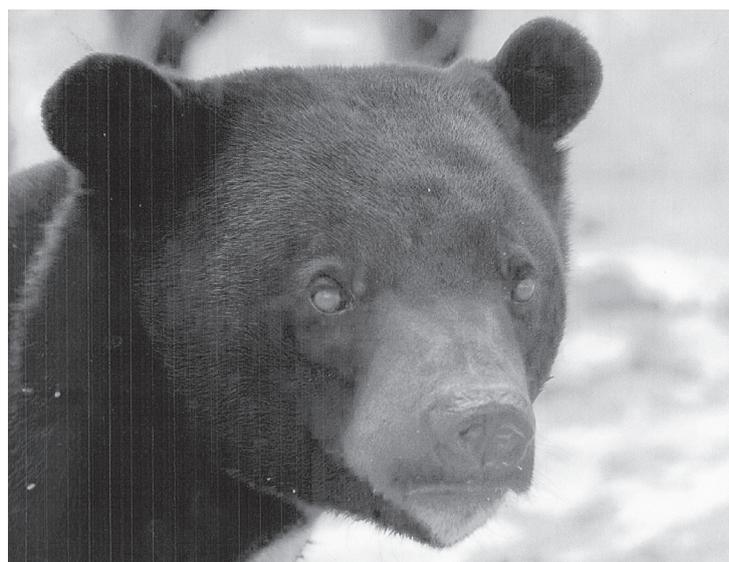
MB

For more information please visit:
www.animalsasia.org
www.freethebears.org.au

In the late 80s and early 90s the WLPA campaigned strongly against bear farming in China holding demonstrations outside the Chinese Consulate, selling T-shirts, fund-raising and gathering many petitions. However with the formation of the above two single-issue organisations we decided to support them rather than dissipate our efforts.



MAUSI, the moon bear we have 'befriended', was found hidden in a secret compartment under a bus en route to a bile farm with two other very small cubs. He was rescued and is now being cared for in a Vietnamese bear sanctuary where he enjoys all the creature comforts. He is easily excitable and gets a great thrill out of climbing into cardboard boxes and swinging from the sacks and toys that the cubs have in their den.



THOM THOM, our sponsored bear, was rescued in a forest near Cheb in Cambodia at just a couple of months old. He was initially cared for in the Free The Bears Inc office as he was very small and weak before being transferred to the Phnm Tamao Centre where he now resides.

Cetaceans

DOLPHINS STILL BEING SLAUGHTERED IN TAIJI JAPAN

Sadly some 22,000 magnificent dolphins are earmarked for slaughter in the bay of Taiji, a bay that turns bright red with the blood spilt from thousands of helpless dolphins out of sight of the Japanese people and the world media.

This brutal crime against nature has been going on for decades but we are closer to stopping it than ever before. Earth Island Institute under the direction of long time campaigner and hero of dolphins, Ric O'Barry has managed to collect over a million signatures worldwide opposing this unspeakable carnage. Ric has been going to Taiji for many years now at great risk to himself in a tireless crusade to bring this sad atrocity to the world's attention.

Ric produced and initiated the exciting and profoundly moving documentary called "The

Cove". It is a must see for anyone wanting to learn more about the cruelty of Taiji and also the cruelty of the Dolphinarium Industry that demands more and more dolphins for 'entertainment' in captivity. The dolphins sought for the Dolphinarium Industry reap immense profits for the local Japanese 'fishermen', in fact anything from \$100,000 to over \$250,000 each. The tortured bodies of the rest go to the Japanese fish markets or are sold for fertiliser.

Due to the warm reception Ric's classic film has received and with the assistance of many facebook profiles the million petitions will be presented to governments in Washington and Tokyo within the next few weeks. As many of you will already know, dolphins and whales are contaminated with high levels of mercury and other heavy metals, which the Japanese are consuming, sometimes unknowingly as dolphin meat is not usually labelled as 'dolphin meat'.

*Crimson Blows the Wave
(Whale-kill, 1975)*

*Brother of man... wild monarch of the tides,
Conjured in kingdoms of their ebb and flow;
By oceans, spawned, in silken mystery...
Doomed kindred of the deep... chill dawns ago,
Turned sea-ward, through the mists – a mariner,
Land-linked, alone, on air... whose climb for breath,
That rhythmic lunge for life, betrays him here...
The ruptured wave... his corridor to death.*

*Riding the winds of hell, the hunters close
In swarming savagery about their prey;
A harpoon slakes its fury in the flesh,
A shattered whale writhes, crimson, on the spray...
The frothing vortex of his agony,
Swirls, at the darkening centre of its flood;
Creation's secrets scatter on the foam,
Greed's grappling-hooks claw blindly, through his blood*

- Nan Ingleton

This is yet another reason to appeal to the Japanese authorities to ban this brutal massacre of such intelligent and unique mammals. Taiji is rapidly becoming a PR nightmare and scandal for the Japanese Government. If to shame governments into action is the only way, then this is precisely what must happen.

Please write/email the Japanese authorities today, so we can all get some sleep. For until the brutality of greed is overthrown by our collective compassion, no one can sleep soundly.

**Japanese Prime Minister
Mr Yukio Hatoyama
c/- Embassy of Japan
112 Empire Circuit
Yarralumla. A.C.T 2600
Ph (02) 6273 3244 fax 02) 6273 1848**

**GOOD NEWS -
Australian Government takes Legal
Action over Whaling**

As you are probably all aware, the Australian Government has finally initiated legal action in the International Court of Justice against Japanese 'scientific' whaling in the Southern Ocean. We were so pleased that we wanted to share this beautiful poem about the whale kill written by our revered Life Member and poet, the late Nan Ingleton.

Volunteer Profile

Rebecca Webb (Website Content Manager)

Rebecca is a 26 year old full-time website administration officer for Cycling Australia, part-time student and proud cat-parent to 2 year old Bella. Driven by her love for all creatures great and small, she still manages to find the time to volunteer for WLPA.

Where do you volunteer?

I volunteer during my spare time and I do this all from my home.

What kind of volunteer work have you done since you became involved with WLPA and what have you enjoyed most?

Late last year I started volunteering for WLPA by updating their website and maintaining the content of the site. I have experience in managing websites through my employment at Cycling Australia and I find this sort of work to be a lot of fun. I enjoy using my creativity to promote animal welfare and the importance of responsible pet ownership.

What inspired you to volunteer for an animal organisation and do you have a particular area of interest when it comes to the animal movement?

I love animals and have had pets ever since I can remember but probably my first notable experience with animals was when I was living in my late grandmother's home and I bonded with my next door neighbour's cat, Casey. The next door neighbours knew that Casey was helping me with my grief over Nan's passing and didn't mind the fact that their cat was spending more time over at my place. When I had to move to Parramatta I was heartbroken and didn't want to leave. Looking back now I realise that I just

didn't want to let go of being in Nan's house or spending time with Casey. Casey taught me that I was ready to open up to a new member of the family and I decided that once I was settled in I would search for my new forever friend.

My parents always taught me the importance of being kind to animals and I liked the idea of giving a cat a second chance at life. I saw Bella's picture on a website and there was something about her little face that I was drawn too. I went to the shelter, signed all the paperwork and bought her home. This is the first time in my life I have been solely responsible for ensuring the welfare of an animal and I always had my parents to help me raise my pets. I have tried to make my home 'kitty heaven' for her in the same way that she makes my house a home.

My interest is promoting the importance of responsible ownership. As I live in Parramatta I knew my new forever friend would be an indoor cat as I live very close to a major highway. I want to promote a healthy, enriching indoor environment for cats. There are so many benefits to raising an indoor cat, particularly living in a busy city suburb. The best benefit is that we can enjoy more time with them as it is a well known fact that indoor pets live longer.

How did you find out and get involved with WLPA?

I had heard of this online forum where cat lovers can discuss the latest cat care techniques. I logged on and read about Ruby, an injured street cat that was rescued by WLPA, and it just broke my heart. Whilst I wasn't in the position to do much financially I decided that I would



Pictured: Rebecca with her adopted cat, Bella.

buy a few little toys and a nice throw blanket because every animal deserves a warm place to sleep. I emailed Ruby's foster carer and we started talking and became friends. The rest as they say is history.

Do you feel that volunteering has been a worthwhile experience?

Yes definitely. While I couldn't be a foster carer like Sue or Halina I like to think that my work on the website helps promote WLPA and raise awareness of the major issues that affect animal welfare. I've also got three new lifelong friends in Shelley, Sue and Halina.

Any other thoughts you'd like to share?

What I love most of all about animals is that they love you unconditionally. It doesn't matter how smart, pretty or wealthy you are, an animal will always be there for you. I have found being a pet owner or rather a parent to be very fulfilling as there is always a friendly face waiting for you to come from home or comfort you after you've received bad news.

Member Profile

Interview with Junior Life Member, Emily West

Emily West has been a member of the World League since 2001. She is now sixteen years old and lives in Belrose (Sydney) with her parents and her brother who is two years older. Besides animal issues, her interests are learning to play the piano, reading novels, painting and drawing. At the age of nine Emily made the decision to become vegetarian as did her mother Karen and brother Lawrence at this time. Also, a couple of Emily and Lawrence's friends joined them in becoming vegetarian. In 2005, Emily started her own group and has regularly donated the proceeds from stalls to the World League and NSW Animal Welfare League.

When did you first become interested in animals and was there someone in your family that stirred up this interest?

From a young age I always had a strong feeling for animals. My grandmother, Anne-Marie Barton and my mother Karen have always been strong supporters of animal rights and would often discuss various animal issues with me.

Did you and your brother always have a cat or a dog when you were younger and if so did you enjoy looking after them?

Yes we did have a cat when I was younger called Percy. I remember that I was a bit frightened of him because he was sometimes slightly aggressive at times but I am still glad that I had him as a pet.

Your grandmother Annemarie Barton told me that you and she used to walk dogs at the Animal

Welfare shelter at Ingleside, did you do this for very long and was it a happy experience? Did you feel sad when the dog was rehomed?

Yes, my grandmother and I walked dogs at Ingleside on a regular basis for two years. I enjoyed it very much. I did not feel really sad when the dogs were re-homed because I knew that they were going to good homes. When we moved house I found that my next door neighbours had adopted a dog that I had walked at the A.W.L. I was really surprised to find this dog living next door to me and was very happy when I was able to look after him when his owners went away on holidays.

We know you were the instigator of L.A.C.F.A. and that you have been running this for a few years now. When did you start the group and what gave you the idea of starting this group?

I started Love and Care for Animals (L.A.C.F.A) in 2005 when I was eleven years old. The idea first came from my cousin but he did not pursue the idea himself so I did.

Was it hard to get other people at your school interested in animals and what did you do to stimulate their interest?

It was rather difficult to get people at my school interested in animals but many of my friends already knew about animal rights issues and decided they would like to join L.A.C.F.A. and most of them have remained as members.

How do you raise money for your organisation because we



Pictured: Emily, 16, with her neighbours dog, Ace

have very much appreciated the generous donations you have given us in the past? We also know you distribute your newsletter, what do you include in the newsletters and how do you finance this?

I raise money through membership fees and donations. In the newsletter I write about animal issues and also include articles, stories or poems that members send in. My father pays for the printing and members donate stamps.

I know you go to a Rudolf Steiner school and wondered if they encourage an interest in animals and students becoming activists more so than in an ordinary public or private school?

Yes, the Steiner philosophy embraces the idea of showing kindness to all living things and I think that they probably promote this more than other schools do.

When you leave school are you planning to work with animals?

When I leave school I would like to do social work but I know that I will always have an interest in animal issues.

Companion Animals

BLACKTOWN POUND

Observations of an onlooker at the urban companion animals management advisory sub-committee

by Margaret Bowman

The WLPA is continuing to be involved in the campaign to improve conditions of animals held at the Blacktown Pound, introduce compulsory desexing before rehoming the animals and make the facility more attractive to the public with the aim of reducing the number of animals killed.

According to The Daily Telegraph report January 14 last year, overall Blacktown City Council number of cat and dog deaths was well ahead of the rest of the NSW State's council pounds. It stated that 33,116 animals died (in the period 2007-8) after they were not collected by owners or rescue workers failed to find them homes.

But is this the sole reason? It seems that the problem of management and apathy and a lack of visionary leadership still exists - also large numbers of animals brought to the Pound from Auburn, Lane Cove, Canada Bay, Holroyd, Ryde, Parramatta and Hunters Hill Councils who all use this facility.

On March 1, I attended the meeting of the Urban Companion Animals Management Advisory Sub-Committee as an observer and learnt of the horrible mess animals were in. Cats were lumped in together – the pregnant, the 'feral', the orphaned kittens, the lactating mothers; bedding was in short supply and many animals slept on bare metal flooring, cold in winter and hot in summer. Now and then there would be dry food, but sometimes no water or litter tray.

I heard a volunteer tell how she begged an animal welfare officer on the Council to examine a puppy she was holding, who had convulsions and who eventually died – he had parvo virus.

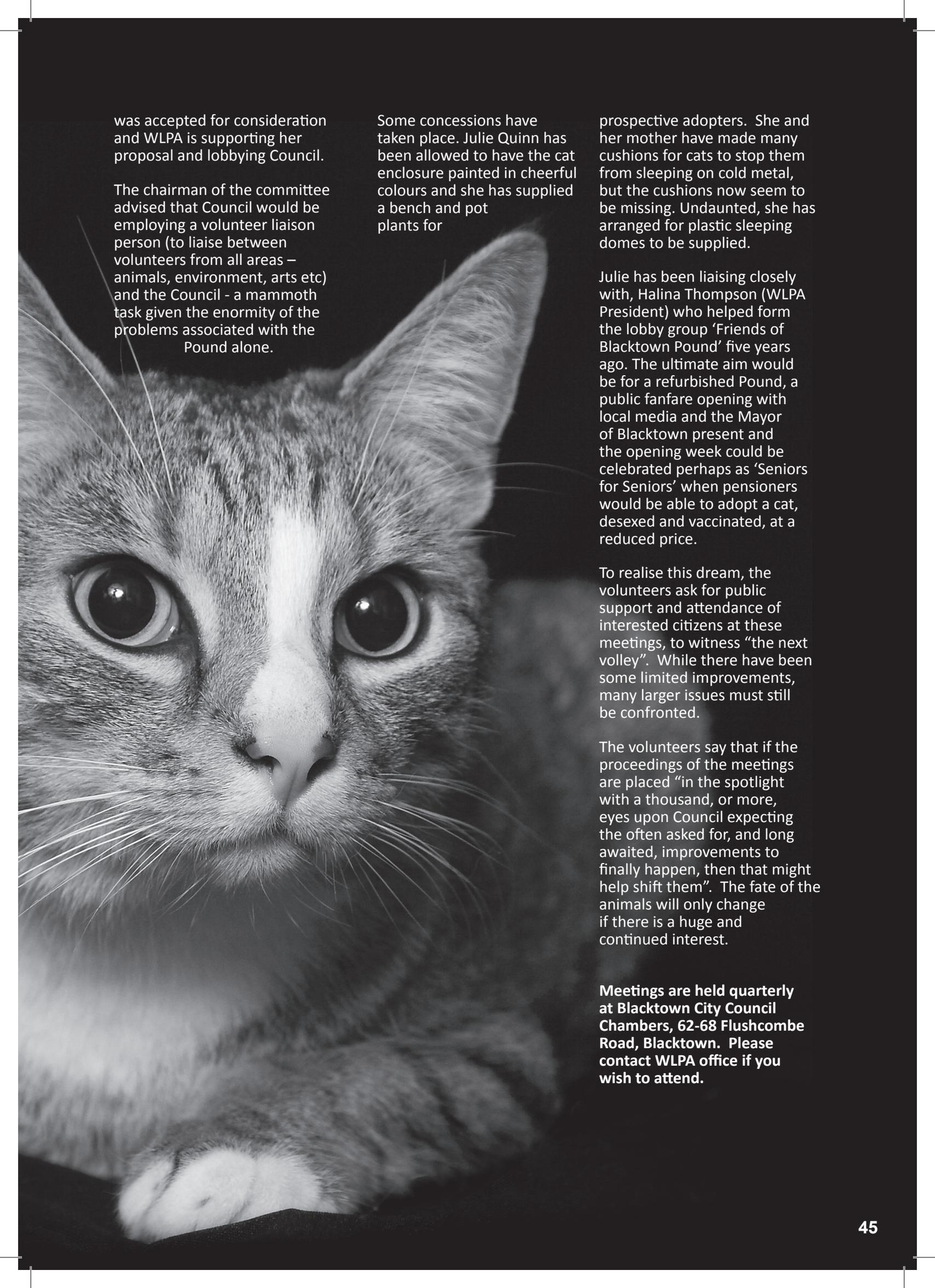
To be present at that meeting was a soul-destroying experience. I felt sympathy for the volunteers' spokesperson (a trained vet nurse) and other animal welfarists on the committee. They took great pains in their communication with the

Blacktown Pound sub-committee in an effort to better the conditions for the 'imprisoned' animals.

A submission was made by Julie Quinn, a volunteer and former WLPA foster carer, that she be employed as advisor for two months to improve the conditions to facilitate more adoptions and reduce the number of animals killed. Her proposal was to reallocate the cats into categories, e.g. to separate orphaned kittens from adults and thus ensure they do not miss out on food for which they now have to compete and to encourage older people to adopt a middle-aged or older cat, who would be housed in another area.

She would also implement strategies to improve hygiene conditions, ensuring that sick cats are not placed with the healthy ones thus avoiding spreading infection. Knowing that funds for such a role are not available yet needing to be classified as a contractor or employee, Julie was prepared to take on this onerous but vital role for the tiny fee of \$380 (translating to 10c per hour). The submission





was accepted for consideration and WLPA is supporting her proposal and lobbying Council.

The chairman of the committee advised that Council would be employing a volunteer liaison person (to liaise between volunteers from all areas – animals, environment, arts etc) and the Council - a mammoth task given the enormity of the problems associated with the Pound alone.

Some concessions have taken place. Julie Quinn has been allowed to have the cat enclosure painted in cheerful colours and she has supplied a bench and pot plants for

prospective adopters. She and her mother have made many cushions for cats to stop them from sleeping on cold metal, but the cushions now seem to be missing. Undaunted, she has arranged for plastic sleeping domes to be supplied.

Julie has been liaising closely with, Halina Thompson (WLPA President) who helped form the lobby group 'Friends of Blacktown Pound' five years ago. The ultimate aim would be for a refurbished Pound, a public fanfare opening with local media and the Mayor of Blacktown present and the opening week could be celebrated perhaps as 'Seniors for Seniors' when pensioners would be able to adopt a cat, desexed and vaccinated, at a reduced price.

To realise this dream, the volunteers ask for public support and attendance of interested citizens at these meetings, to witness "the next volley". While there have been some limited improvements, many larger issues must still be confronted.

The volunteers say that if the proceedings of the meetings are placed "in the spotlight with a thousand, or more, eyes upon Council expecting the often asked for, and long awaited, improvements to finally happen, then that might help shift them". The fate of the animals will only change if there is a huge and continued interest.

Meetings are held quarterly at Blacktown City Council Chambers, 62-68 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown. Please contact WLPA office if you wish to attend.



Calicivirus - The Cane Toad of the 21st Century?

by *Tim Rogers*

Ever since the disease now known as rabbit calicivirus escaped from a supposedly secure test facility in New Zealand in 1997, an extraordinarily effective PR campaign has been waged to convince us that this was actually a good thing. Rabbits are ecological villains. Calicivirus to the rescue.

The reality is that even the name “calicivirus” was chosen as a deliberate act of spin-doctoring. The real name – rabbit haemorrhagic disease – was apparently judged unsuitable for the general public. According to an article published in the journal *Science* at the time, Australian Animal Health Laboratories “plead guilty to a bit of spin control: they acknowledged that attempting to use the term Rabbit Calicivirus Disease instead of RHD [Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease], to make the virus seem more innocuous, was an ill-conceived public relations ploy”.

But rabbit haemorrhagic disease is far from innocuous. Haemorrhaging aside, in biological warfare as in any form of warfare, there is always the risk of collateral damage. Viruses can and do jump to new host species – and we as humans may well be at risk.

Caliciviridae appears to have started out as a family of viruses infecting a variety of marine creatures, and to have made the leap to land animals when contaminated material was fed to pigs in 1932. We do know for certain that pigs can be infected by the sea-lion form of the virus. But in fact, calicivirus seems to have jumped the species barrier several times. In addition to pigs, rabbits, and sea-lions, it is now known to infect an extraordinarily wide spectrum of animals ranging from whales to fish to cats and at least one variety of snake, as well as many others. There are also already well established strains known to infect humans, causing acute gastroenteritis.

Even more alarmingly, there is evidence that the form of the virus that infects rabbits is quite capable of infecting humans. There are now multiple reports of workers who handled infected animals developing symptoms of the disease, including deep ulcers. Research specifically on Australians exposed to infected rabbits has shown increased levels of diarrhoea, vomiting, influenza-like illnesses, and neurological symptoms; with more tentative suggestions of increased rates of hepatitis, skin disease, and bleeding disorders. Among humans exposed to infected

rabbits, positive tests for antibodies to the rabbit virus have also been independently confirmed in both Australia and Mexico.

The data behind the specifically Australian findings was not released freely by Australian authorities. Instead, it had to be obtained via the freedom of information act.

Given the possibility of a human outbreak, it may be time to at last face up to the real horror of this disease. The rabbits, of course, cannot tell us precisely how much they suffer as their livers develop gross lesions and die within their still-living bodies, or while their respiratory tracts fills with blood and mucus. But we do know that very often, they scream.

Then there’s the broader environmental impact. Quite apart from any risk that the virus may move on to the very native animals we are supposedly protecting, the sudden crash in the rabbit population is in itself a cause of concern for many scientists. When the population of a prey species collapses overnight, predators such as feral cats and foxes who had previously subsisted on that species are likely to move on to other, native species. It may well

be that instead of tilting quixotically at the windmill of total rabbit eradication, we would far better serve our environment by aiming at some sort of stable status quo.

It's because of concerns like these that so many international authorities have opposed the deliberate spreading of rabbit haemorrhagic disease. Back when rabbit haemorrhagic disease was still only under consideration as a biocontrol method, a number of eminent overseas scientists wrote to the Australian government opposing its use, specifically raising the concern that the virus might jump species. Most prominent among these was Professor Alvin Smith, head of the Laboratory for Calicivirus Studies at Oregon State University.

In its official decision against releasing the virus in New Zealand, the New Zealand government likewise specifically cited the risk that the virus could jump into other species, including humans, as a concern. Even then, the risk was judged to be small but real.

Nut none of this stopped the true believers. Calicivirus was illegally introduced into the Mackenzie basin region of

New Zealand by a group of disgruntled farmers.

Yet given the dangers for human health, while farmers and rural communities may have the most to gain economically from the spread of this virus, they may also be most at risk.

To further complicate matters, there are also now increasingly serious doubts as to whether all this is truly serving any greater long term ecological or even economic good. Research by the CSIRO published in the scientific journal *Wildlife Research* in 2008 shows that in the Mackenzie basin region of New Zealand, where the disease was first illegally introduced in 1997, the abundance of rabbits has actually increased since that time. The researchers concluded that while rabbit haemorrhagic fever was still an effective biocontrol agent, its effectiveness was already waning. Te Ara, the New Zealand Government's official "encyclopedia of New Zealand" also comments that "in 2007, rabbits were showing signs of becoming immune". And according to a recent episode of the ABC's science magazine program *Catalyst*, that same pattern is repeating itself here in Australia.

Not that any of this should come as much of a surprise to anyone. Because the survivors of any epidemic tend to pass on their resistance to their offspring, and because rabbits, well, breed like rabbits, the ultimate outcome was always fairly predictable.

Perhaps the most important point here is that a national discussion that we really needed to have but simply didn't will take place. If BHP or Rio Tinto were planning a project with the same environmental and human health risks, and the same very doubtful long term outcome, there would certainly have been public debate. Hard questions would have been raised. Not so here. Perhaps it's because the rabbits have so effectively been vilified that the tough questions were simply not asked.

And over all this looms the long and disquieting shadow cast by the cane toad. Deliberately introduced into Australia in the 1930s as a pest control measure for the benefit of the sugar industry, the toads remain to this day; serving as a perpetual reminder that attempts at biological control in this country have a decidedly chequered history.



TOMMY'S ROAM TO HOME STORY

THE RESCUE

For two years, Tommy the tabby has been known around the neighbourhood in Yagoona (Western Sydney) as a loveable street cat. Despite his often hard life on the streets, Tommy developed a gentle and friendly nature and as a young cat attracted the attention of Poppy, a compassionate resident, who then began feeding him each day. With WLPAs assistance he was then desexed, microchipped and vaccinated.

For two years Tommy had a good run receiving daily feeds and veterinary care whenever needed. However last year his situation changed when traffic from a busy nearby road was diverted through his 'home'. There were many new dangers to Tommy as he now had to weave through the busy traffic, dodging cars, at dusk just to get his meals. Being a street cat he was fairly adept at this, however one evening in January he was not so lucky. This evening as Tommy crossed the road to reach his feeding spot, to Poppy's horror, he was struck by a car. He darted back across the road and out of sight. He spent the next seven days hiding under a house in too much pain to return to be fed, leaving Poppy to suspect the worst. Eventually, hunger got the better of him and despite his terrible injuries he returned to his feeding spot looking skinnier and with his front left paw hanging down limply. Despite his shocking state, Poppy was thrilled to see him alive and acted quickly, picking him up immediately and rushing him to a local vet.

THE REHABILITATION

Tommy was then examined by the vet to determine the nature of his injuries. Despite the incredible pain he must have been in, Tommy was so grateful for the help that he was purring the entire time he was there. He was given pain relief medication and x-rayed. The x-rays revealed that his leg was shattered – badly broken in three places. The vet gave two options – to have expensive surgery to insert a plate and several pins into the leg or to euthanise Tommy. Poppy looked into Tommy's deep green eyes and, despite being unable to afford the surgery, knew that he deserved another chance to experience the good life. A few days later the vet operated and successfully pinned the leg and inserted a plate. He was stitched up and left to recover at the vet for a week before Poppy was able to take him back. Unable to keep him at home, she has kept a vigilant eye on him in her work office for the past three months. Initially he was unable to place any weight on his leg and when he wanted to go somewhere in a hurry he would just pick up his leg and hop on three legs. But over time his leg has improved dramatically and he can now put some weight on it, although he still walks with a limp. On May 17, Tommy returned to the vet and had made enough progress to have the plate removed. He still has an amazingly loving and gentle nature, and purrs and rubs up to his human companions to show his gratitude.

THE REHOMING

WLPAs want Tommy to be able to leave his street life behind as it is no longer safe for him to live there. He has now recovered to a point where he is able to be rehomed and although he still walks with a limp, we are assured that over time this will improve. Tommy is only 3 years old but Poppy describes him as an 'old soul' with a great depth of character. This gentle and affectionate boy is seeking a loving 'forever' home where he will be considered as part of the family. He will need to be kept inside for quite some time (or possibly indefinitely) and would be best suited to a quiet home where this gorgeous boy can get all the love and attention he deserves. He is desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, wormed and flea-treated as well as fully equipped with his own snug cat bed and toys!



If you or someone you know are able to adopt Tommy, please phone Poppy on 0410 336 111 or the WLPAs office on (02) 9817 4892. Do you have a place in your heart for Tommy?

HOW A NEGLECTED DOG TAUGHT A PSYCHOLOGIST LESSONS IN LOVE

by Clare Mann

Every year the WLPA seeks to house hundreds of rescued cats and dogs. It is particularly challenging to house animals with special needs. Those needs might be physical in terms of poor health, emotional in terms of fear or anxiety of humans or other dogs, or behavioural where an animal has been poorly socialised and unable to integrate into a family. Too often, special needs dogs and older animals are returned to the homing organisation. Sadly, in the case of open shelters (not the World League) many end up being euthanised as re-housing proves problematic.

Many would-be owners are discouraged from taking a special needs dog or an older one, believing that the animal will be impossible to train and integrate into a family. What if a subtle shift in our human perception, together with expert advice on the care of these animals, holds the key to us bonding with a loving and grateful pet? Additionally, what if rehabilitating a special needs dog came with a special gift – a lesson in love that only a vulnerable pet can teach us?

“For those who despair that their lives are without meaning and without purpose, for those who dwell in a loneliness so terrible that it has withered their hearts, for those who hate because they have no recognition of the destiny they share with all humanity, for those who would squander their lives in self-pity and in self-destruction because they have lost the saving wisdom with which they are born, for all these and many more, hope waits in the dreams of a dog, where the scarred nature of life may be clearly experienced without all but binding filter of human need, desire, greed, envy and endless fear.”

- Dean Koontz

THE RESCUE OF TEN YEAR OLD TOPAZ

Topaz (known as Gypsy to her previous owner) entered my life through a round-robin email received one morning from a friend. The request from the WLPA was for foster care for a traumatised shepherd/kelpie cross with a seriously inflamed skin condition. She had been found by the WLPA living isolated in a large house, apparently separated for her own safety from other dogs in the house.



As the current owner of a bright and faithful five year old shepherd/kelpie, my heartstrings were pulled and I thought about her the following day and well into the evening. Having always had a natural affinity with dogs and being a passionate supporter of the work of the umbrella group Animals Australia, I am constantly faced with temptations to adopt more animals. Owning two rescue dogs already, I know that my skills as a psychologist are best served re-educating people on how to live respectfully alongside all animals and to advise on changing attitudes to the second-class status we mere humans afford certain animals on this planet. However, Topaz had got under my skin. A discussion with my partner threw us into conflict, knowing that another animal would interfere with the comfortable routine we had created with our existing animals.

A late night call to Halina Thompson, the President of WLPA did little to assuage my canine yearnings and a bond was immediately made with this visionary woman whose life is now selflessly devoted to animal welfare. The next morning we made the trip to meet Topaz and her existing minder, another woman whose desire to rescue any stray animal that crossed her path sadly meant that their basic needs for exercise and social interaction were sometimes neglected. Her large heart was bursting with sadness as she faced losing the animals she had such a desire to protect. However upon meeting us and our two existing happy dogs, any doubt in her mind as to our ability to care for Topaz dissolved immediately. Our first encounter with Topaz indicated a distracted anxious animal, thin with some reddened sore eczema and mange patches, long nails causing her to sometimes limp and with an unbearable frustration at being cooped up alone for so long. With the 'thumbs up' from our existing dogs, we planned to collect her the following day.

THE CHALLENGE OF A SPECIAL NEEDS RESCUE DOG

The next month resembled the disruption similar to that of a newborn in the family. As the two shepherd/kelpies fought for superiority in the pack, we considered if our decision was a good one, something I now recall with some shame. However, this is exactly the point at which new owners give up, believing that their new rescue dog will not fit in. With a little more patience and perseverance to love one's new animal unconditionally, a new owner will eventually reap a reward so great that no price can be

put on it. With newly found freedom from freshly clipped long nails, a soothed skin from bi-weekly special washing and regular nutritious food, a pattern started to emerge that reinforced our choice. In her sixth week, Topaz faced general anesthetic to remove seven decayed teeth, the vet shaking his head incredulously as he imagined the excruciating pain she would have been in. With freedom from pain and a sense of knowing that her new family weren't about to abandon her, Topaz calmed down and surprised us with how quickly she learnt the rules, eager to be loved and lapping up every bit of attention and play.

LESSONS IN LOVE FOR A PSYCHOLOGIST

Prior to Topaz joining us, I had adopted two rescue dogs, one a pure white golden retriever Minka brought back from severe neglect to become a much loved five year old with energy of a six month old puppy. The attention she attracts is always accompanied with 'She's gorgeous'. Her response is always to bound up to the admirer, body swaying with excitement resembling a mini congo



dance routine. Her excitement and adoration of the admirer meets with more 'aaahs - she really is gorgeous!' Only ardent dog lovers afford this adoration to our other dog Dasein, a feisty and loyal five year old shepherd/kelpie whose responses are more guarded as she assumes responsibility for the pack. So Topaz, with her inconsistent reactions, her age, scarred body and outrageous stereotypes that German Shepherds are cruelly baptized with, attracts even less attention outside of our home. Upon first encountering this unfair treatment of Topaz, I learnt one of my biggest lessons in love.

WE LEARN TO LOVE BY BEING LOVED

The feeling of love that our golden retriever Minka engenders is a function of feeling the adoration of her towards us – one feels powerful, responded



to, effective and reinforced – in short, loved. One then feels the emotion of love towards her. A dog like Topaz, on the other hand, initially offers little or inconsistent reinforcement to an observer. Thus, being loved is not experienced by the observer - instead a sense of disconnect and being ignored or ineffectual despite attempts to get her attention. No immediate experience of love is reflected from her and onto (and subsequently adopted as initiated by) the observer. Interest is lost and later projected onto objects that might deliver greater reinforcement.

“Every world has dogs or their equivalent, creatures that thrive on companionship, creatures that are of a high order of intelligence although not the highest and that therefore is simple enough in their wants and needs to remain innocent. The combination of their innocence and their intelligence allows them to serve as a bridge between what is transient and what is eternal, between the finite and the infinite”.

- Dean Koontz

So, what are these lessons in love? The special needs dog may raise uncomfortable feelings within the new owner where their care is not immediately reinforced or gratefully received. Maybe this powerlessness is wrongly interpreted as the animal not fitting in and the new owner therefore gives up too easily, believing that the dog will never settle in. Little do they know that the creature might offer them their greatest lessons in love – the co-creation of loving between the loved and the lover.

We come to love ourselves and others by receiving the love of another – the rescue pup invites us to leap ahead and love the sometimes visually unlovable, for it will be but a short time before the animal loves its owner with

all its might – as it reflects back that love bestowed upon it.

Jeffrey Masson (1997:54) in *Dogs Never Lie About Love* reminds us that dogs love unconditionally, unselfishly and without reserve. He writes 'Among humans love often does not survive a growing acquaintance, but in a dog love seems to grow with acquaintance, to get stronger, deeper. Even when fully acquainted with all our weaknesses, our treachery, our unkindness, the dog seems to love strongly – and this love is returned by most dog-owning humans. We too seem to love our dogs more and more we get to know them. The bond grows between us and our dogs'. Thus, we have much to learn from all dogs but the special needs dog offers us important lessons in how to transform this planet – by choosing to love and accept love unconditionally rather than only loving what might be skin deep.

As a psychologist, I believe that forgiveness and learning to truly love ourselves, is the key to easing psychological and societal dis-ease.. Teaching people that the solution to their problems is not 'out there' is the first step to freedom. Dogs offer us one of the biggest Lessons in Love - how we might commence this journey – loving and accepting love unconditionally.

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***Clare Mann is a psychologist (visit her website at www.thesydneypsychologist.com), author and professional speaker who believes animals have much to teach us about life. She is a passionate supporter of the vision and work of www.wlpa.org and www.animalsaustralia.org.**

Foster Carer Profile

Meg Cressey

Last year Meg, an 18 year old student and Gladesville local, decided to become a foster carer for WLPA. While she is also interested in music, interior design and creative arts, she has an enormous passion for animals, studying Animal Studies and Care at TAFE. We asked her a few questions about her experience as a foster carer.

How many animals have you provided foster care for and tell us about them?

Over the past year I have provided foster care for eight kittens. The first kitten I cared for was a little tabby boy named Thomas. He was around four months old and was extremely shy when I first got him, but within around a week or two he came out of his shell and was incredibly playful! He used to pick up pens in his mouth, jump onto the bed and drop the pens on my face to wake me up when he was hungry. He would also bring them back to you if you threw them across the room. After Thomas, I cared for a little black kitten named Joshi, who was Thomas' sister. I then fostered a group of four young kittens who were really outgoing and playful! They used to sleep on my pillow all huddled up and on top of each other. Right now I'm looking after two little girls named Ashley and Lucy. They were a few months old when I first received them in January of this year, they both had cat flu and weepy eyes, but Ashley was much smaller and sicker than Lucy, despite being the same age. When they first arrived they didn't trust anybody and would run away when anyone entered the room and hide together under my bed. I'm really happy to say

they've come a long way since then. They're really adorable, healthy and happy now that they've settled in and have become more used to human interaction. They have the cutest little meows and they both sleep on the bed next to me now. I love them so much that my mum has agreed to let me adopt one. We've decided to adopt Ashley as she was really little and sick and now she's healthy and completely settled in. Her sister, Lucy, is still waiting for a loving and understanding forever home to come along.



Pictured: Meg with our latest office cat, Genevieve

What have you enjoyed most about providing foster care?

What I've most enjoyed has been getting to know each of the kittens and seeing their personalities come through and gaining their trust. It's a really good feeling to see them progress from the bad conditions they may have come from to become healthy and happy kittens.

What have been some of the challenges associated with foster care?

One of the challenges I have faced was learning to look after sick kittens and provide them with the correct medical treatment. Another challenge has been letting go of the kittens once they have found new permanent homes. It's really hard to have to say goodbye but it's a good feeling to know you've really helped them.

What inspired you to want to volunteer for an animal organisation?

Since I was little I've always loved animals and lately I've had a lot of free time, so I decided to call the World League to see if there was anything I could do to help. I first became aware that you could foster care kittens when my brother and his girlfriend started caring for kittens with the Cat Protection Society. Since then I had always wanted to do it myself, and living five minutes away from World League it was really convenient.

Do you feel that volunteering has been a worthwhile experience?

Volunteering has definitely been a worthwhile experience, I've learnt a lot and met a lot of great people and animals and am very pleased to have been able to look after the kittens I have fostered. Volunteering has personally been very rewarding and has given me new responsibilities and skills that I otherwise would not have developed.

COULD YOU BE A WLPA FOSTER CARER?

Providing temporary foster care for animals can be a gratifying and worthwhile experience. Foster carers like Meg give the gift of life by providing shelter and care for a cat, kitten or dog who would otherwise have nowhere to go. For those who may be curious about what it takes to become a carer, here are a few of our most frequently asked questions.

Why do WLPA need foster carers?

The World League for Protection of Animals, being a no-kill organisation, does not view the euthanasia of healthy, old, or curably sick animals as an ethical solution to the problem of the growing numbers of unwanted animals. We view all individual animals as unique and important and deserving of a home where they are treated with compassion, love and respect.

Unfortunately without the resources to run a shelter to house abandoned animals, we instead rely on the good will and dedication of foster carers who take animals into their own homes. As we are committed to finding loving homes for every animal brought to our organisation, foster carers are an essential part of this process and provide us with the time necessary to find suitable homes.

Where do WLPA's rescued animals come from?

The World League rescues animals from many different situations. Some are surrendered to us by members of the public, some are found living as strays – neglected and starving, others have been left at pounds or vet clinics to be killed. They all come to us needing empathy and compassion, and our foster carers need to be especially patient and understanding with each animal in their care.

Who can be a foster carer?

If you have a genuine love for animals and a basic knowledge of animal care we would love to hear from you. However, before you sign up it is important to consider whether you have enough time to commit to caring for a foster cat or kitten, whether you have a suitable space in your home where the animal can be kept (such as a spare room) where the animal can feel secure, and how your own pets will react to the new arrivals.

What does foster caring involve?

The foster care experience can be tremendously rewarding but at the same time requires dedication and hard work. Many of our animals have had a

bad start to life and may need a little extra TLC to overcome any illness or insecurities that they may have developed as a result. On a day to day basis, carers must be able to provide adequate food, water, shelter and attention to their animal as well as transport the animal to a vet in the event of any medical problems. Carers wishing to foster kittens are required to be at home for at least some of the day as small kittens will require more regular feeding (4-5 times a day) and handling in order to become socialised. Foster parents often find that they develop a close bond with their animals so we encourage the foster carer to be active in all aspects of the rehoming process (as often they will understand the needs of the animal best). Foster carers often will experience a great sense of achievement knowing that their efforts have saved a life and ensured that it will live out a happy life with a new, loving family.

How long do the rescue animals need to be fostered for?

The length of time spent in foster care can vary greatly in each individual case. Foster cats and kittens are advertised by the World League; however, the response to these advertisements may vary depending on the age, breed and temperament of the cat or kitten. Most kittens can be placed within 4 weeks; however, adult cats may take a little longer.

How are new homes found?

New homes may be found for rescued animals through advertisements placed on the internet (e.g. on our own website www.wlpa.org and on sites such as www.petrescue.com.au and www.cat-match.com.au), through specially made posters designed and distributed by both foster carers and other volunteers and often through enquiries from the general public received at our head office. Once socialised, kittens may also be placed in adoption cages at one of the vets in our local area where they can be rehomed by the vet staff.

How do I become a foster carer?

If you, or someone you know, would like to become a foster carer for WLPA please phone Halina on 0407 456 683 or our office on 9817 4892 or email admin@wlpa.org.

Cruelty-Free Living

Interview with Mark Berriman



Mark Berriman has been a member of WLPA's Management Committee for over 15 years. He has also been the President of the Australian Vegetarian Society for the last 21 years. For those members who may have considered making the switch to a vegetarian diet, we have asked Mark a few questions about his experiences and what led him to become a vegetarian all those years ago.

Mark, we know you have been a long time President of the Vegetarian Society. We wondered how long you have been a vegetarian and what prompted you to become one?

I turned 'officially' vegetarian in 1981. I'd been travelling through India on my way back from two and a half years in the UK. I found the meat dishes to be very tough and decided to eat at the clearly marked vegetarian restaurants which are scattered throughout India. The restaurants were aimed at the Hindu population, as Hindus generally avoid meat for religious reasons. To my surprise I found a wealth of delicious traditional veg dishes which I had never tasted before. Back in Australia I started to eat meat again until one lunchtime I ordered a chicken dish and - for no apparent reason - a thought entered my head. I was looking at my lunch and asked myself, "if we humans have the intelligence and technological capacity to land people on the moon twelve years ago, why am I still eating a dead animal as if I were a cave man?" After that I simply gave up eating all meat, including fish.

We understand there are two main categories of vegetarians – those who have become so for their health and those who have become so for ethical reasons, i.e. they believe it is wrong to take animals' lives. Is this so?

There are actually about five categories - certainly the two you mention, but also those who avoid meat for environmental reasons and for religious or spiritual reasons. The other is people who simply do not like the taste of meat. The largest category, according to studies, is those who are vegetarian for health reasons. My own reasons for being veg are for three of the above - ethical, health and environmental.

Can you tell us about some of the health benefits of a vegetarian diet?

This, of course, depends entirely on your vegetarian diet! You can have a good or bad vegetarian diet as

you can have with an omnivorous diet. If your veg diet includes the four main food groups (as defined by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine) - fruit vegetables, legumes and whole grains - then your health will no doubt be excellent. The main nutrient concern is vitamin B12 which tends to be in animal products, but this can be obtained from fortified foods or from a supplement as a precaution against any deficiency. Although there are claims and counter claims about the relative health of different diets, just remember that the longest living peoples - the inhabitants of the Hunza Valley in Asia Minor, and the traditional Okinawans (from the Japanese island) - all ate very little meat and plenty of fruits and vegetables. As far as studies are concerned, the 'China Study' - a major epidemiological study of 6500 people from 170 villages in China by epidemiologist T. Colin Campbell and his team - showed that, the fewer animal products eaten, the less people suffered from various degenerative diseases or died.

A commonly asked question from non-vegetarians is whether they would get sufficient protein and iron if they do not eat meat?

If I had a dollar for every time I have been asked this I would be a millionaire! Simple. Protein is in every living thing. While meat is a source of complete protein (i.e. containing all the essential amino acids) it is not the only nor the best source. While plant foods may not have a full complement of these amino acids, eating from a variety of foods will easily provide them. You do not have to eat them together in one meal. Legumes like soy beans are now considered by many nutritionists to be a complete protein, while nuts, seeds and sprouts are also an excellent source. Even vegetables such as broccoli are rich in protein. New research has found that vegetable sources of protein are less acid-forming and therefore contribute less to diseases like arthritis and osteoporosis. The Vegetarian Society has a free nutrition guide which explains protein, as well as other nutrients, available as a download on the home page of its website. It is called 'Go Vegetarian!' and is based on the PCRM nutrition guidelines. Just visit www.veg-soc.org

Do you think an increasing number of people are following a vegetarian diet and if so what do you feel are the reasons?

This is certainly true, but many more people are simply eating less meat and are sourcing free-range and organic meat. While health remains the top issue, both awareness of the inevitable cruelty involved in meat production and the effect that animal agriculture has on the environment are becoming stronger motivations for going veg or meat reduction.

If more people took up a vegetarian diet do you think this would have a significant effect on helping to slow down climate change?

Absolutely. More than 60 billion animals are raised and slaughtered for food each year to provide meat for the human population. In essence this means that for every human there are ten animals that use resources and produce greenhouse emissions and effluent - two population explosions are happening. By reducing the number of animals and eating lower on the food chain, we automatically ease the burden placed on the earth.

We have read that the meat industry is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all forms of transport combined, do you think this is correct?

Yes. The issue of animal agriculture's contribution of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere was given a huge boost at the end of 2006 when an in-depth report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, called 'Livestock's Long Shadow', calculated that animal agriculture was responsible for 18% of all greenhouse gases. Compare this to all forms of transport (cars, trucks, planes and ships - often targeted as the main source) which total 13.5%. Water is another concern. Based on the most conservative estimates, the amount of water used to produce a kilo of beef is the same amount used in taking a shower

with a standard showerhead for 42 hours. Forget the four-minute shower, just eat less meat!

Have you noticed any differences in the levels of interest in vegetarianism since climate change has become such a hot issue for discussion?

Considerably. The head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Dr Rajendra Pachauri, has said that reducing meat intake is a major means of reducing the impact of global warming. He recommended that we initially not eat meat for at least one day per week and aim at a steady reduction from there. We have since seen others, like Sir Nicholas Stern (author of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change), Dr James Hansen (NASA scientist and climatologist) and Sir Paul McCartney advocate similar actions. There is now an international Vegetarian Week (including a national one in Australia), 'Meatless Monday' campaigns and we are beginning to see small towns commit to meatless days (the first was the Belgian town of Ghent).

We have read that some environmentally conscious people have become so-called 'kangatarians' (i.e. eating only kangaroo meat and otherwise following a vegetarian diet), because they believe they are being green and good for the environment. What is your opinion on this?

Hopelessly misguided. First, there are not enough kangaroos to go around to supply this form of meat in anywhere near the quantities currently consumed as other forms of meat animals (beef, chicken, etc.). Second, the unique breeding cycle of this non-domesticated native animal means that the production is unquantifiable. Third, there is no guarantee of an ethical treatment of these animals given that they are shot (often wounded and

mutilated) and then often stored in outside containers in severe heat before being transported long distances. Fourth, there is still a lot of doubt as to the cleanliness of the flesh as it may contain hydatid disease. Fifth, there is no accounting for the treatment of joeys or the young at foot who can be left to die of hunger or predation.

Many people believe it is hard to change to a vegetarian diet and for this reason do not seriously consider it. Do you have any suggestions how to make it easier to make the transition to a vegetarian diet?

Changing to a vegetarian diet is actually quite simple. The best place to start going vegetarian is in the kitchen! Buy a cookbook or two and start experimenting! You will soon get used to the types of food that are used and how they are prepared (a number of excellent recipe books are available from book stores and vegetarian society websites). Try joining a cooking class. Information about these is often available in health food shops and some courses are run at TAFE colleges. (The Vegetarian Society has a list of recommended classes on its website at www.veg-soc.org) Giving up meat might seem strange at first, but if you try cutting it down bit by bit while increasing foods like beans, grains, nuts, seeds, tofu, tempeh, gluten and some of the low cholesterol convenience foods like veggie burgers, sausages, roasts and schnitzels which are now readily available at health food stores and supermarkets.

Are there any other comments or information you would like to pass on?

Only that, if you are serious about helping animals, the environment and your own health, the moving towards a vegetarian diet is your 'one stop shop'. It is an extremely important action which has so many beneficial consequences.

Book Review

Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer

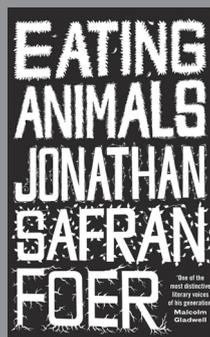
Jonathan Safran Foer, the renowned American novelist has extended his talent to the non-fiction genre with his latest book 'Eating Animals'. Since its release in November, 2009 both the book, listed as a New York Times best seller, and Foer himself have received considerable media attention with both high praise and criticism.

The book provides an honest look at the American world of factory farming today, which alarmingly now supplies more than 99% of all meat consumed in the US. Following the birth of his first child, Foer, an on-and-off vegetarian for several years, decided to learn as much as he could about where meat came from and how it was produced. He felt the act of eating had gained a newfound importance and, as unpleasant as he imagined it, he simply had to understand the consequences of the food choices he would potentially make on behalf of his son.

Foer confesses that he never really set out to write a book and just wanted to satisfy a nagging curiosity about the origins of his food, but once confronted with all he had learned felt compelled to pass this knowledge on. Through Foer's own eyewitness accounts, the book juxtaposes the horrific life and subsequent death of factory farmed pigs, turkeys, chickens and cattle with the relative freedom of those very few that are still raised on traditional organic, free-range farms. Foer, of course is quick to point out that their final moments are often still mostly spent in the same terrified and tortured state. The detailed accounts of abuse (as told by ex-employees) inflicted on animals awaiting death at abattoirs (or 'processing plants') exposes a widespread, disturbing culture of

brutality and is enough to put any meat-eater off their pork chops.

But some of the more alarming points made by Foer, concern the fishing industries – a subject which is often overlooked. The modern industrial fishing techniques used, some of which catch entire schools of fish and in the case of trawlers which indiscriminately scour everything in their path, are contributing to the depletion of fish stocks and ocean degradation. To illustrate the enormous amount of by-catch from modern fishing processes, he effectively uses the example of sitting down to a plate of prawns. If the actual amount

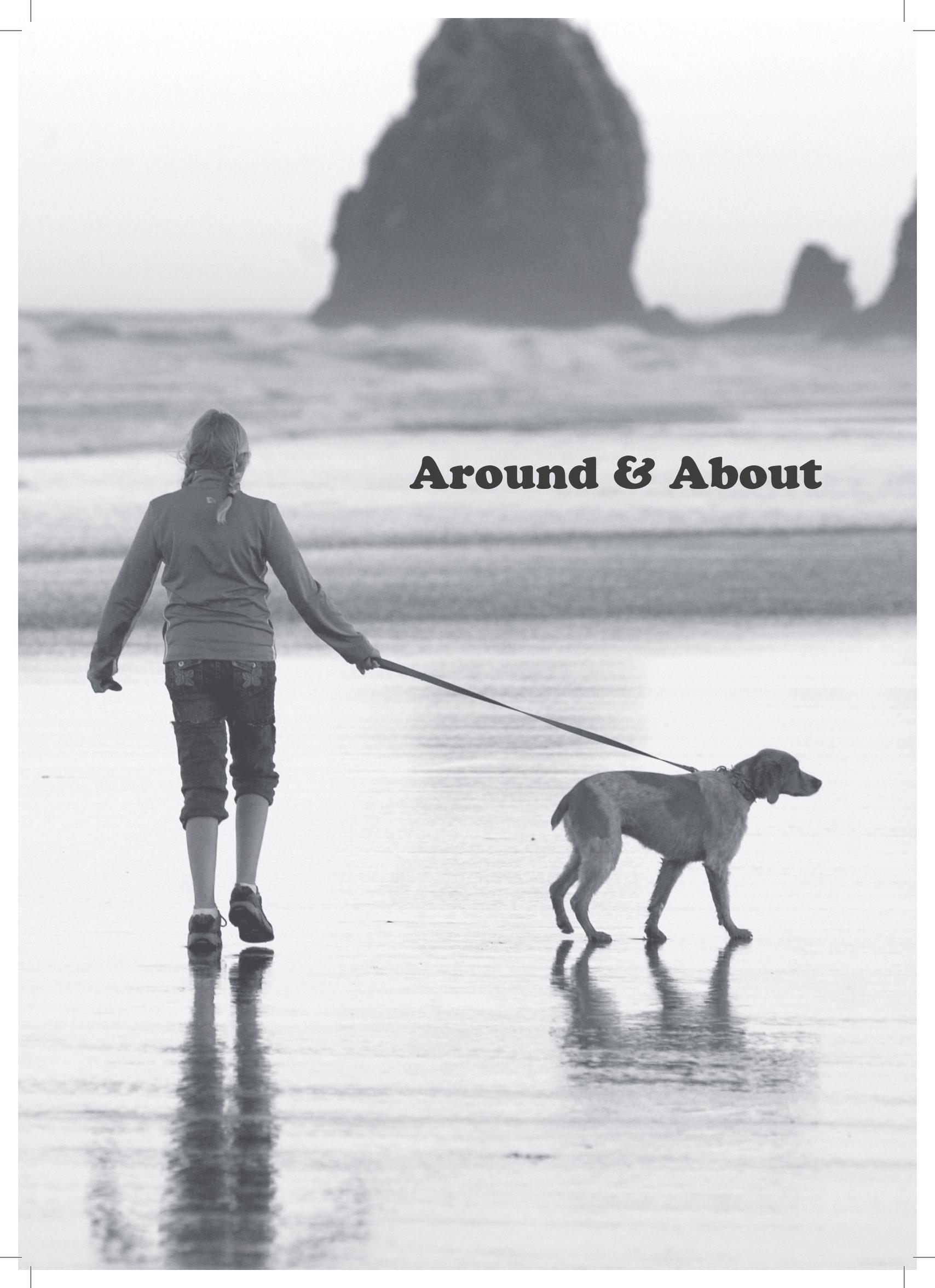


of sea-life caught appeared on your plate alongside the prawns, the plate would need to be five feet wide. Drawing on extensive bodies of research he points out that based on predicted rates of consumption by 2048 wild fish stocks will be entirely depleted.

Some of the most startling and persuasive arguments (if the cruelty and environmental harm were not enough) made in the book, come from the sections on the human health implications of factory farming. One consequence of keeping, for example, tens of thousands of chickens confined in sheds, each with just 67 square inches of space, is that illness spreads quickly. The solution has been the routine addition of antibiotics to animal feed to prevent illness. This in itself has

major implications for humans as the increased resistance of new strains of bacteria to such antibiotics could have devastating consequences should one of several strains of influenza (much like the H1N1 'swine flu' virus) take the leap from animals to humans. Furthermore, the threat to the individual consumer is highlighted as government records show that 39 to 75 per cent of chickens on the supermarket shelf contain E. coli while 70 to 90 per cent of chickens become infected with the deadly pathogen, campylobacter.

There are many books available on factory farming which promote the vegetarian diet, but very few have been able to penetrate the mainstream market like 'Eating Animals'. The book is distinguishable from the others in its writing style, which is powerful, earnest and most importantly, 'palatable' to the ordinary reader. Much of the appeal of the book stems from it being a combination of personal story-telling, moral philosophising and well-researched journalism. It is a story of Foer's own life experiences involving his childhood and his personal relationships with his grandmother, wife, son and his dog, George. Foer analyses the traditional role that food has played in his own family and provokes the reader to challenge and confront his/her own beliefs and values which determine why we do what we do. At the same time, peppered with facts and figures, the book serves as a comprehensive investigation into the impact of our food choices on the environment, animals and our own health. 'Eating Animals' is an eye-opening, thought-provoking, absolute must-read book for anyone, vegetarian or otherwise, who is concerned with the plight of animals in the modern world.



Around & About

WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD

The story of Annabelle and Sabrina!

by Wendi Reis

Wendi Reis, a WLPAs Management Committee Member, has been rescuing and rehoming cats for 30 years.

Sabrina, a small black cat with a white spot the size of a ten-cent piece on her chest, came to us after she and her 4 kittens had been heartlessly dumped by a busy road outside the Spastic Centre at Merrylands (Western Sydney). The employees rang around many different animal organisations but none would help except WLPAs.

When Shelley, the WLPAs office manager, arrived on the scene the employees had caught three of the kittens and had decided to each adopt one. This left only the mother and one kitten who had been so frightened that it was tangled up in a bush. Shelley was able to climb in and free the kitten, the smallest and most traumatised of the litter. She gave the employees feeding and desexing information before leaving to bring the mother and baby to me as there was no one to care for them.

I had quickly organised a holding cage with warm bedding for their arrival. They were soon settled in and feeding well. After being with us for two weeks I had Sabrina desexed. She was still feeding her kitten and even after desexing she would be able to continue to do so.

Three days later four, three-week old kittens were found motherless and almost starved to death. As they were not eating of their own accord I had to syringe feed them. The first 24 hours was exhausting for me as I had several other cats in my care. I showed the kittens to another mother cat who had not been desexed

but she would not accept them. I carefully showed the little ones to Sabrina who immediately took each one and washed it. Within minutes she was feeding them. My vet warned me that she would not have enough milk to feed all four, only enough for her one kitten. Hers was now eating well and so I removed that little one, which we had named Munchkin, for periods of time to allow the babies to feed.

Sabrina and I worked out a system. She fed the kittens during the night and I fed them during the day. Each morning I felt



Pictured: Annabelle

their little tummies to make sure they had managed to get enough sustenance through the night. The amazing thing was that their tummies were always bulging with milk despite the fact that Sabrina had been desexed. To say I was relieved was an understatement. I was so grateful for what this wonderful cat had done.

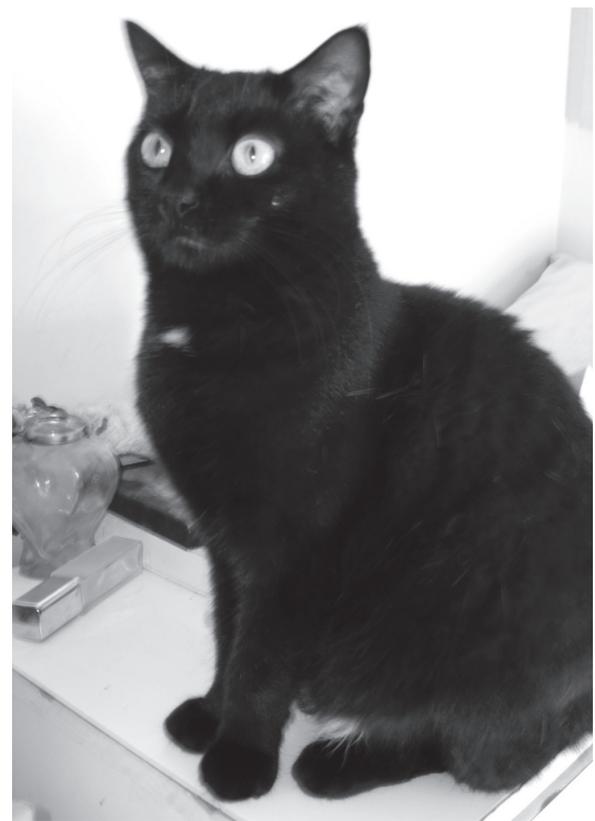
Not long after this, a white cat with one blue eye and one green eye came into my care. We called her Annabelle. She was very ill and almost died during her first weeks with us. The pupil of the blue eye is now permanently bigger than the other but despite this she now appears happy and healthy.

Six months ago there was a knock at my door and there stood a man holding a taped



up cardboard box with... you guessed it... a kitten in it. He was a care-taker from a nursing home and had been informed that I would take the kitten and not have it euthanised. The kitten, a tabby, looked about seven weeks old and was wild. We took him inside, christened him Ollie and set about socialising him. The thought occurred to me as I patted Annabelle that maybe her gentle nature might have a calming effect on the new arrival. So we carefully introduced Annabelle to Ollie. I can honestly say he was overjoyed and immediately snuggled into her warm body. She gave him the mandatory bath and all was well.

Within a week we received a call from a desperate homeowner whose cats were being terrorized by a kitten raiding their cat food. They had trapped it under a basket. They could not keep it as they had four cats of their own and six children. The kitten, a tabby and white female, looked only about 5-6 weeks old but was a ball of fury - hissing and spitting. It was a major undertaking to get it into a carry basket without losing it. As I drove home I was mentally assessing the free holding cages in my house. At this stage we should have had a NO VACANCY sign outside the front door. I set up the last cage I had, and released a terrified and hostile kitten, which we named Rags, into it. It was hard to believe that such a small creature could be like this but I realized later that it was this aggressive



Pictured: Sabrina

behaviour that had saved it from starvation. After a few days of observing that Rags was in good health I decided to try Annabelle's calming presence on Rags. It worked like magic! Before long both kittens were in together with Annabelle whose abdomen later was denuded of hair due to their sucking on it. Even though she had no milk to give, they were comforted and their fear diminished. If they had to visit the vet she accompanied them. The vets were clearly in admiration of Annabelle's loving and calming spirit. Annabelle had more than earned her keep.

I can truly say of both of these amazing cats, Annabelle and Sabrina, that they are worth their weight in gold!

A SMALL COMMOTION

It was a rather odd scene of people running about in their pyjamas early in the morning trying to catch six ducklings plus mother in a suburban street in Sydney. No one knew how they got there. Six ducklings and five people in pyjamas...

From the ridiculous to the sublime: three were caught by a gentleman who happened to be named Mr. Duckworth!

A duckling and mother were brought to WLPA member, Kanelli's home, well known for

being a refuge for cats. Mum duck, not inclined to co-exist with the cats, made a wise decision and flew off. She may miss her brood, but will lay more eggs and repeat the cycle.

There was a happy ending for the ducklings. Kept together, all six were taken to the vets for R & R and later release in the Lane Cove River, when old enough to cope on their own.

All was well again.

MB

(Kanelli Tsiros is a member of the WLPA, and foster carer for cats)

A BRIEF STOPOVER

In September eight years ago, our neighbour called to tell us that there were two ducks in our swimming pool.

We rushed outside and saw a pair of Black Pacific ducks swimming about without a care; they were doing their laps and then taking rests, sunning themselves beside the pool.

We offered them a little bread and they paddled over to take the snack, quacking their approval.

The next day they were back and very vocal for more food, and after being served breakfast, they settled in for a day in the sun. The pair stayed for a few days and then flew off on their secret mission.

This happens every September and each time it is five days

that they stay for respite care.

Our cats are somewhat rattled to see these brazen birds taking over their favourite part of the garden. But it is most amusing to watch their happy antics – splashing noisily about and having a great time in their own private pool!

When they arrive they act like travellers booked into their yearly resort, and yet it feels as if it has been only a few weeks since their last visit...

Peter and I love these visits, a lovely prelude to the coming of spring and the promise of warmer days. The ducks lift our spirits and to see such a sight in a city suburb is something that makes us slow down, reflect on nature and delight in their simple joy of living.

Bon voyage and safe journey home!

Sally Kalina



WALKING MSIEU PIERRE

When we adopted our dog Msieu Pierre (so named because of his French poodle heritage), a whole new world of experiences came into our lives. One of us would come home from a walk, almost always with a new story to tell about the microcosm of Msieu's life, and of his street alliances.

There was Charlie a rakish-looking little character who lived a few doors down, who'd told Msieu Pierre of very important parties happening in his home; then there was Lexie, who although coming from a worthy home of a clergyman and his wife, had to break out at times to call upon Msieu; Jonti, a handsome Schnauzer whose parents were globetrotters and Jackie O, an



Venice, Msieu & I would visit Charlie to serve him dinner and go for walks.

Lexie would come to stay with Msieu for an odd weekend whenever her parents had to travel to visit their far-flung multicultural family. The snowy-haired Maltese would entertain us by dancing on her hind legs. And Jackie O?

Oh, Jackie O! She would wander, call in here or there in our street, and have a biscuit at Msieu's, or the neighbour's. But she proved to be a handful for her family, often escaping from her home, and taken to the vets, to be returned again and again.

Jackie O acquired fleas. At Msieu's house on the spur of the moment Jackie O was bathed – oh, the joy, the liberation! But Jackie O ended up being chained in her yard, and was given a kennel – her cries were heart-rending, so she was unchained and allowed to wander again. We wondered if WLPA could assist with finding Jackie O a new home.

Finally it so happened that her mother was able to find one herself for Jackie O – one where there were other Jack Russells, for company. Msieu Pierre and I do miss her though.

MB

elegant Jack Russell who had charmed her way into our hearts.

Each had a story and almost all involved us in their lives. Charlie came from the same provenance as Msieu, the well-known Doggie Rescue - perhaps it was that which was their bonding - and when his parents journeyed to



Letters to the editor

Animal Road Kill
Kenthurst Community News
June, 2010

Please don't be a part of the problem of road kill, be a part of the solution. In recent weeks I have removed and buried several cats killed on kenthurst roads. It seems that many in this community still don't take on board the need to keep cats inside from dusk till dawn with the result that sooner or later their companion is killed. This causes much grief to both children and adults and may have meant suffering if the animal was not killed outright. If the cat is injured it will cost to have veterinary treatment and there is also potential for the driver of the car to have an accident and be injured or killed if they swerve to avoid your cat. You could also be sued.. Cats are mainly killed by cars at dusk and at night and we at The World League for Protection of Animals, educate pet owners on the imperative need to desex their animals (both Male and Female) as soon as possible, as that stops them from roaming in order to seek a mate.

As to the removal and burial of killed animals, whether cats, dogs, rabbits etc. we recommend that this is done in order to avoid danger to carrion eating birds like magpies, crows, ravens, hawks and owls that would otherwise be killed by cars while feeding on the road kill. naturally do take care when removing the carcass off the road. I carry some sturdy plastic bags in the boot and some gloves and bury the animal on my property, thus providing some blood and bone for plants nearby.

Please feed your cats before dusk and keep them in overnight and naturally, this also applies to dogs. We owe this to our companion animals who depend on us for their life and who in turn, give us much love and companionship.

Halina Thompson – President
World League for Protection of Animals

Inner West Weekly
15 May, 2010

Of course the cats should be saved. Why should innocent animals pay for human irresponsibility with their lives? It is true that cat colonies have proved a success in the US and also in the UK because of community involvement.

It would be a challenge for the council to come us with ideas on how to obtain volunteers to care for the cat colony – misnamed a 'problem'.

Usually it's overworked and over-stressed unpaid cares from animal welfare charities who carry the brunt of feeding.

Margaret Bowman - Henley

Don't Stir Possum
Sun Herald
6 June, 2010

I find John Mayger's suggestion to turn 'pest' possums into a food source appalling (letters, May 30). Instead, what is needed is for people to demonstrate compassion and learn to live alongside native wildlife. After all, they are only trying to eke out an existence in this concrete jungle that we have built over their homes. Such intolerant suggestions only highlight who the real pests are.

Shelley Reis - Alexandria

Sniffy attitude does us no credit
Manly Daily
24 September, 2009

Now we have Mosman Council banning little dogs at outdoor cafes, how parochial! Oh, and heated discussions about their presence in dress shops too, and sniffing people. Has the council considered that dogs provide comfort and companionship to the elderly and the lonely? What are these people to do, cut out a pleasant outing for a cup of coffee and a chance to be among humankind for half an hour? Was there a public consultation or just a handful of some complaints from the antiseptic members of the public? A little compromise would be more civilized – more tolerance, friendliness and consideration on both sides. Why not create bylaws that little dogs should not enter dress shops or institute fines if dogs leave any 'visiting cards' outside cafes (as they do in France). As for sniffing other people, it's a friendly act, however my little dog is very choosy whom he sniffs, just in case thought, I carry salts for those who faint.

Margaret Bowman - Henley

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010

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BOWIE'S SAD (AND HAPPY) TALE

Bowie, a purebred devon rex cat, was abandoned when his owners moved away and left him behind. He was lucky enough that some neighbours took pity on him and fed him their dinner scraps and milk when he occasionally wandered over. It was in mid-April that they decided to contact us as they had noticed a lump on his side and thought he needed medical attention.

Sue, a volunteer for WLP, had had some experience with devon rex cats before and decided that she would step in to help us rescue this lovely boy. When she found him he was in poor condition – filthy, skinny and scared. Nevertheless she managed to trap him quickly. When he arrived home she was shocked by what she saw – a huge, red, inflamed mass on the left side of his body larger than a golf ball as well as several smaller masses.

As it was clear that he needed surgery, WLP negotiated with a local vet to have him operated on the following day. The surgery was lengthy and difficult but fortunately Bowie tolerated the anaesthetic well and came out looking like a new cat, although with 37 stitches to show for it.

Beautiful Bowie is now recovering well with his foster mum and is no longer scared and skinny. As you can see he is enjoying his new life off the streets and is snug and warm in his custom-made coat which protects these susceptible breeds from the elements. He is now lapping up all the love and attention that he had longed for for so long and is giving Sue plenty of love in return.



Pictured: Bowie before surgery



Pictured: Bowie after surgery



Pictured: Bowie recovering

YES! YOU CAN HELP!

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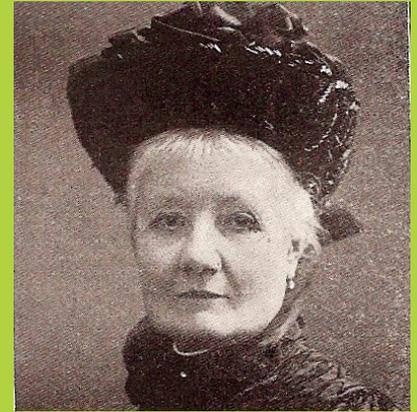
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Miss Kate Deighton

Co-founder of the League in 1898

"...What the knowledge of the practice of vivisection has meant in the lives of so many of us. Before we came to know of these abominations, life seemed well worth living; in spite of disappointments and trials there was still so much to live for and rejoice in – the bright sunshine, the fair landscape, the delights of nature and art. Then came a day when all was clouded – we had a glimpse of hell. Henceforth there was no more unalloyed joy for us..."

From her speech at the congress of 1909.



Origin of the League

The League was founded by Miss Kate Deighton and Rudolf Bergner in Germany in 1898 and formally organised in Paris in 1900.

The English branch of the League was established in 1900 by Miss A. L. Woodward; she continued to direct its activities until her death in 1921.

There was a second congress in Frankfurt and a third in Helsinki. The Fourth Triennial International Congress of the World League against vivisection and for the protection of animals, as it was then known, was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, from 19 to 24 July, 1909.

The 1909 Congress was attended by many distinguished members and delegates from Europe, America, Canada and over 20 other countries.

As well as the president, there were 12 vice-presidents of the League and almost 90 vice-presidents of the Congress.

At the time the League had great support in the British parliament,

with no less than 44 members of parliament, including four future Prime Ministers, attending the congress.

If World War I had not intervened we would have a much more humane Cruelty to Animals Act, as plans were well in hand to alter and improve most of it.

On 4 October 1928 the League inaugurated World Day for Animals, which is still universally held on the first Sunday in October.

The Australian branch of the League was formed in 1935 by Miss E B Moore and was originally titled 'The World Day for Animals League'. It was allied to the English branch of the World League for Protection of Animals.

Later the name of the of the Australian branch was changed to conform with that of the English parent society. The League was registered under the Charitable Collections Act, NSW 1934 on 14 May 1937.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

– Ghandi 1869-1948

THE WORLD LEAGUE FOR PROTECTION OF ANIMALS INC.

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