



WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

PO BOX 42 BRIGHTON LE SANDS NSW 2216

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Inc has broad and diverse projects and responsibilities in our mission of preserving Australia's unique and precious wildlife and this is evident in the range of our achievements over the last year. We deal with a broad spectrum of issues, deliver many different projects and operate in a number of different and sometimes difficult locations. Some of our projects focus on conserving a single species, while others deal with problems on a continental or global scale - such as climate change. Our volunteers work in locations all around Australia, from remote areas to the capital cities – and all show a commitment to conserving Australia's flora and fauna.

Premier as our guest of honour

We were all delighted that the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon Morris Iemma MP, accepted our invitation to be our guest of honour and guest speaker at the 97th Annual Luncheon. We were all very impressed with his address and his commitment to protecting the environmental and wildlife habitat and for that we are very grateful. He delighted the audience when he announced eight new national parks and nature reserves to preserve wildlife habitat across New South Wales.



Patrick Medway welcomes the Hon Morris Iemma MP

Premier launches our Centenary Appeal

We are indebted to the Premier for officially launching our special Centenary Appeal to raise funds for our new ECOWORLD GARDENS project at Rockdale. The Premier gave a moving speech on the urgent need to be involved and educate people about caring for our fragile environment. This innovative program to establish a new wetland environmental education centre in the Rockdale Wetlands will assist in educating pre-schoolers through to the senior citizens of our community about preserving and protecting our environment.

Serventy Conservation Medal

The 2005 Award was presented to Ken Metcalfe of Alice Springs by the President of Honour, Dr Vincent Serventy AM, at the Annual Luncheon in the Parliament House Dining Rooms Sydney. Ken joined our Society as a 19 year-old and has been active in volunteering his services to wildlife conservation ever since.

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



Dr Vincent Serventy AM presents Ken Metcalfe with his medal, watched by Alison Megarrity MP, Member for Menai, Parliamentary Secretary

President of Honour

Dr Vincent Serventy AM is still very active in our wildlife preservation programs. He is in almost daily contact with the media, mainly through Letters to the Editor and has many of his letters published on wildlife and conservation. He is working on three new conservation issues – global warming, particle pollution and global over-population. He is also keen to have his Bill of Environmental Rights adopted by the United Nations Organisation to better protect our world environment. We congratulate Vin on his continuing commitment to the work of the Society.



Vin Serventy at his 90th Birthday Party at Pearl Beach

Community Wildlife Conservation Award

We were pleased to present the 2005 Community Wildlife Conservation Award to Mareeba Wetland Foundation in Queensland. The Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve is located at the foot of the Hann Tableland, 6.5kms north of the township of Mareeba on the Cairns Highlands in North Queensland.



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

Strategic Planning Day on our Foundation Day

A special Strategic Planning Day was held on 11 May 2006 in Sydney to organise and plan the future work of the Society. A lot was achieved and directions set for the future work of the Society including the development of new environmental education programs and the new ECOWORLD GARDENS project at Rockdale. This day was chosen to mark the Foundation Day of the Society on 11 May 1909 and will be commemorated each year with a special meeting to ensure the long term success of the Society.

Wildlife rescue calls

We continue to receive a large number of calls from concerned citizens across the country about sick or injured native wildlife. As our office operates on a 24/7 basis, we receive distress calls all hours of the day and night about injured animals. While we can offer limited advice over the telephone, we refer most calls to our partners in wildlife rescue – Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services or WIRES – who do a wonderful job with sick and injured animals. We continue to support both organisations and commend them for their dedication and on-going commitment in caring for injured wildlife and rehabilitation of injured wildlife.



An injured baby wallaby

Wildlife research grants

A number of special wildlife research grants were instituted and awarded in 2006. The University Wildlife Research Grants Committee awarded ten grants of \$1,000 each. The Grants Committee was chaired by Dr Al Glenn, who is a Regional Councillor for the Society and is currently working for the Department of Environment and Conservation in Western Australia.

NSW Pest Animal Control Council

Patrick Medway, our Society's National President, continues to act as the Society's representative on the NSW Pest Animal Control Council. The Council meets quarterly to look at ways and means to minimise the disastrous effects of feral animals on livestock and wildlife across New South Wales. This is an important, ongoing focus for the Committee, which is funded by the NSW Department of Agriculture. This is an area of conservation where valuable contacts are made for wildlife preservation issues that often seriously affect the agricultural industry.

Australian Wildlife magazine

We successfully launched our revamped coloured cover magazine *Australian Wildlife* in 2003 and it continues to be widely acclaimed by our members and the wider community. Our Editor, Suzanne, works tirelessly to gather articles and photographs for each edition and has raised the standards to a new height in reporting on our conservation work across Australia. More articles are always welcome to assist in making the magazine interesting and worthwhile. Plans are underway to explore the possibility of moving to full colour production in 2007.



Conferences and wildlife seminars

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

- Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc Annual General Meeting in Lithgow, 20 March 2006
- RSPCA Scientific conference, Canberra, 25 March 2006
- ARAZPA Conference in Perth, Western Australia, April 2006
- Visit to Mt Rothwell Research Centre, 26 May 2006
- World Conservation NCC Dinner, 6 June 2006
- Hunter Wetland Conference, 29 June 2006
- Australasian Mammal Society Conference, 6-9 July 2006
- National Tree Day planting, 30 July 2006
- Gosford Conservation Group tree planting with Vin Serventy, 6 August 2006
- Meeting with Queensland Preservation Society executive, 20 August 2006
- Wildlife Council conference at Randwick, 6 October 2006
- National Parks seminar in Armidale, 16 October 2006
- Nature Conservation Council Annual General Meeting, 20-22 October 2006
- Tour of Kosciuszko National Park, 26-30 October 2006
- Taronga Zoo conference, 19 November 2006
- Wildlife Management Conference in Auckland, New Zealand, December 2006



Members of the Society enjoying their visit to Kosciuszko National Park, 26-30 October 2006

Wildlife Management Conference

Several members attended the Australasian Wildlife Management Society conference in Auckland New Zealand in December 2006. One of our outstanding students was acknowledged with a highly commended award.

New Zealand is richly endowed with native wildlife, such as the kiwi, which form a strong base for local tourism. Delegates from all over Australia assembled to discuss and present papers on an extremely wide range of wildlife management issues. Many were from government departments, universities, and private and commercial institutions involved in finding solutions to the many contentious issues of wildlife management. This was a particularly rewarding conference and we made our mark by presenting and handing out hundreds of leaflets on the work of the Society.

Environment education

Our National Office continues to receive and answer hundreds of routine wildlife calls each week. The office distributes project material to school children and the general public every day throughout the year. Our reputation as a reliable source of wildlife information means that we are often called upon to supply additional information on current wildlife management.

Financial Report summary

The Society's Councillors continue to exercise effective control over our finances and reviewed and adjusted the investment portfolio during the year to take advantage of the interest rates. Using expert financial advice from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (our Bankers) we were able to realign our investments to take advantage of rising interest rates and now look forward to strong growth in our investment portfolio.

Donations, bequests and gifts

During the year we continued with our bequest program to encourage donors to support our work through advertising with the Solicitors' Pro-Bono publication and general publicity.

The future

We are now embarked on a very positive course of action to promote and market the Society and its vital work for Australian wildlife. Our quest for a permanent national office is under way and hopefully will reach an agreed solution in 2007.

Membership is vital for our long term success and it's important that all existing members continue to encourage family and friends to join us. Our membership brochure is freely available from the National Office.

Centenary celebrations in 2009

The Centenary Committee is drafting a full year's program of activities to commemorate our centenary and to assist in creating a greater awareness of the constant need to preserve and protect our precious native wildlife in all its forms. Please get involved in our centenary celebrations and encourage others to join the Society to assist us in the important environmental work. Contact the National Office for further details.



Centenary Committee members Peter Lazar, Patrick Medway and Noel Cislowski consulting with Vin Serventy at Pearl Beach

ECOWORLD GARDENS

We are in the final stages of the planning to establish the National Office in the new ECOWORLD GARDENS Environmental Education Centre at Rockdale, Sydney and are confident that membership will continue to climb when we have a successful operating base for members to visit and contribute to our vital wildlife preservation work.

It is proposed to name the new Education Centre after the Society's President of Honour, Dr Vincent Serventy AM.

Ranging over five hectares of the Rockdale Wetland Corridor, ECOWORLD GARDENS will provide an opportunity for all Australians to learn more about our unique natural heritage of fauna and flora and the urgent need to save and protect our native wildlife and its habitat for the next generation of young Australians.



The water ways at Brighton Ponds



Members of the Society planting native trees in ECOWORLD GARDENS on National Tree Day 2006. L to R: Tony Cornell, Clive Williams and Ron Dennis

I am extremely grateful for the wonderful support received from all our elected Councillors. They work and contribute tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Society function.

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

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

Patrick W Medway AM
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
31 December 2006.