



Newsletter *of the* Australasian Wildlife Management Society

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Welcome to the first AWMS Newsletter for 2010

Well, here it is. The first of what we hope will be many more newsletters for members to catch up on the science behind wildlife management.

As the newly appointed newsletter editor I would like to say hello to members and a big thank you to Doreen Culliver for her efforts in getting this together. I look forward to the opportunity to correspond with many of you in the future. I have worked in the conservation, media and art arenas for many years and look forward to the challenges of collecting stories, information and photographic images from people who share an interest in wildlife, science and conservation. It is exciting that there is still so much out there that we have yet to discover and understand, but, equally as saddening that have we have lost, and are losing species that we never knew of, and some we only knew briefly.

To help all of us understand what the Australasian Wildlife Management Society is all about and what is happening in the world of science-related wildlife matters, it would be great if members and associates could send in their ideas, contacts, articles and photographs for publication in the newsletters.

We are looking for news or information that covers the smallest to the largest in terms of significance. I am available to conduct interviews if necessary to record the stories that matter.

If you only have a few points about your item of interest, just let me know and I will fill in the blanks after discussing it with you either by telephone, in person or via email. A great photograph can convey a thousand words, so include one or two on your list of items of interest to send in. If you know of any conferences, publications, reports, management plans, studies, research projects, workshops, seminars, field events, and other issues of relevance to wildlife management and scientific research in that area, then please contact AWMS to discuss the opportunity of including it in the newsletters.

The 23rd AWMS Annual Conference for 2010 is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1 until Friday, December 3, in the Crowne Plaza, Torquay, Victoria, and the Call for Submissions is out. This is a great opportunity to highlight your work or that of others and also the issues involved in the future of wildlife management. Meet and hear from people who are involved behind the scenes and in the forefront of wildlife management.

[Click here](#) to access the website for all the details and information on how to be part of this highly anticipated event.

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Glen Saunders receives an Australia Day Award!



Dr Glen Saunders, a past president and founding member of AWMS, has been recognised for his outstanding work in wildlife management by being awarded the prestigious Order of Australia (AM) medal in the Australia Day Honours awards last January.

Glen heads up the Vertebrate Pest Research Unit in the Department of Industry and Investment in NSW, and is one of the program leaders in the Invasive Animal CRC. In a career spanning more than 30 years he has established an international reputation as an exemplar researcher and mentor in wildlife management and environmental protection.

Such dedication, knowledge, contribution and skill was recognised by the AWMS in 2007 when Glen was awarded the Caughley Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of wildlife management. The society congratulates Glen on his well deserved Order of Australia (AM).

This newsletter reflects the opinions of the author(s) but not necessarily those of the AWMS Committee or membership. AWMS makes no claim as to the accuracy of stated claims and any party using this information does so at their own risk.

President's Report

It is with great pleasure I launch our newsletter after an 18 month absence.

I apologise to members about the lack of a newsletter since Ben Reddix resigned at the end of 2008. Most members are so busy at work they are unable to find time to devote to the production of a newsletter. To attract applicants the committee decided the editor should be paid a small honorarium and as a result we now have experienced editor Kathleen Davies taking on the role. We welcome Kathleen to the Australasian Wildlife Management Society.

The newsletter will be produced three times per year in electronic form. As always, newsletter editors are constantly seeking material to include in newsletters and members are encouraged to contribute short items of interest and where possible, accompanied by photographs.

The AWMS committee has been active over the last 12 months. We organised a planning meeting in May 2009 in Canberra, which provided a future direction for the society. We followed this meeting with a more focused strategic planning meeting in Sydney on Friday, 14 May, 2010. This meeting built on the work done at the 2009 Canberra meeting and added a new strength to our purpose.

Specific actions arising from the 2009 planning meeting were the:

- amendment of the aims of our constitution,
- re-design our website,
- improvement of our membership spread, composition and management,
- organization of a workshop on how researchers can influence decision makers,
- reorganization of our business so that all fixed costs for AWMS are ultimately covered by subscription fees,
- Revise and update Position Statements,
- Ensure the society has a higher media profile.

I am pleased to say we have advanced most of these actions.

- The constitution was amended at the 2009 Annual General Meeting,
- The website has been re-designed and is now managed independently of Landcare Research New Zealand. Landcare Research generously hosted the site for many years but the committee decided AWMS should not rely on agencies or universities for routine management functions. We thank Landcare Research for their excellent support over the years.
- In October 2010 we will be conducting a two day symposium titled "How Researchers can Influence Decision Makers". Details of this event are provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

AWMS Symposium: How Can Researchers Influence Decision Makers?

A one and half day symposium has been organised for 20 and 21 October, 2010 at Watson's Bay in Sydney by Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) President Terry Korn, Sue Briggs and John Parkes.

Researchers are often challenged by the apparent lack of effect their science has on decisions when, to them, it is self-evident that they should (have an effect). There are of course a variety of possible reasons for this phenomenon, but some at least are systematic and can be resolved by a better understanding among researchers on what works and why it works. AWMS is a society that contains the range of audiences involved in wildlife management, and has decided it would be fulfilling its aims as a professional society if it explored how the dialogue between these audiences can be best structured to (a) show researchers how to be more effective and (b) increase the confidence of decision makers in the value of scientific advice when it is made in the best way.

Speakers include ministerial advisers, senior policy advisers, a range of managers, representatives from non-government organisations and influential scientists. Case studies will also be presented.

The venue has a maximum capacity of 60 delegates so register early.

[Click here](#) to register now!

The symposium is relevant to all researchers, but is particularly relevant to those working in the wildlife or natural resource management fields. Priority will be given to AWMS members!

[Download](#) the flyer by clicking here.

- At the 2010 AGM an increase in membership fees will be proposed
- The society has been more active in the media by commenting on contentious issues.

The committee seeks your support in raising the profile of the society and increasing its membership. Talk to your colleagues and ask them to join and present a paper at the 2010 conference in Torquay, Victoria.

Terry Korn
President

Health of Antarctic Wildlife

THE Australian Antarctic Division is launching a fascinating new book on health and disease of Antarctic wildlife.

The book, titled *Health of Antarctic Wildlife: A challenge for Science and Policy*, is published by Springer and edited by Australian Antarctic Division scientists Dr Knowles Kerry and Dr Martin Riddle. The publication provides a broad assessment of the health of Antarctica's birds and seals, set against the background of available scientific and environmental information and the political and administrative processes in place.

The book was conceived during an international workshop on diseases of Antarctic wildlife held in Hobart. The workshop acknowledged that there had not been a disease outbreak in Antarctica that was positively attributed to human activity, but found that "there was a significant risk of the introduction of (exotic) diseases to Antarctic wildlife species and should it occur the consequences are likely to be serious and a response will be required".

The book is based on the papers presented at the workshop and also chronicles subsequent developments within the Antarctic Treaty and responses by Government and non-Government operators in Antarctica to protect wildlife against disease introduction.

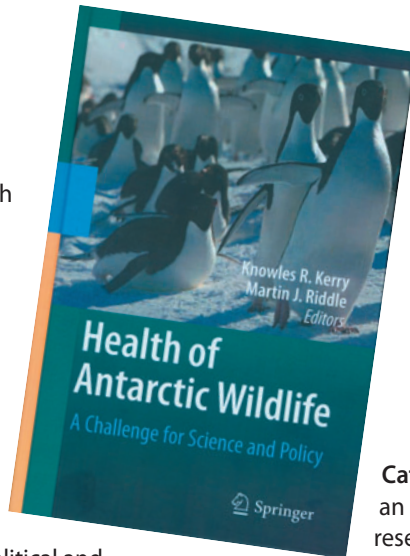
The 17 chapters are divided into two parts: Wildlife disease, which consists of reviews, case studies and health assessments; and External factors, which covers the environmental, administrative and legal aspects. The Appendices include methods for sample collection and analysis, response plans, reviews and other documents that are referred to in the book but are not readily available.

The book aims to cover the essential issues necessary for understanding health and disease relating to Antarctic wildlife and to provide 'wise council' in the management of human activities in Antarctica. It is targeted at veterinary and biological scientists, policy makers and administrators involved in protecting the health of Antarctic wildlife.

The book is available through a range of online outlets including Springer, or by contacting martin.riddle@aad.gov.au

Information provided by Wendy Piper, Editor, Australian Antarctic Magazine, Australian Antarctic Division.

An Adélie penguin walks across an automated monitoring system, which identifies the penguin (from a microchip), its weight, and its direction of travel. The system is part of a long term ecosystem monitoring program on Béchervaise Island near Mawson, Antarctica. (Wayne Papps, Australian Antarctic Division).



Catching penguin – Scientist, Dr Gary Miller, captures an emperor penguin at Auster Rookery, as part of his research investigating the origin, spread and nature of a common poultry virus amongst penguins in the colony. (Robyn Mundy, Australian Antarctic Division).



An emperor penguin colony at Auster Rookery. (Frederique Olivier, Australian Antarctic Division).



Baby fur seal. (Robyn Mundy, Australian Antarctic Division).



Australia and Taiwan collaborate on marine science

April 29, 2010: Reproduced with kind permission of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).

Australia and Taiwan are poised to increase their collaboration on marine research following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Townsville in late April, 2010.

Delegates from the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the National Science Council (NSC) of Taiwan signed the memorandum at AIMS' headquarters, surrounded by national park at Cape Ferguson, close to the Great Barrier Reef.

The CEO of AIMS, Dr Ian Poiner, said he welcomed the signing of the MOU.

"International scientific collaboration is the key to unlocking many of the secrets of our oceans. The oceans cover 71 per cent of the Earth's surface but are less studied, less known and less understood than the land. Sixty four percent of the oceans are outside national jurisdictions in the open oceans and deep sea areas, which highlights the need for international scientific cooperation in studying the oceans," he said.

"Through this memorandum, we will encourage our respective researchers to embark on collaborative research projects, mutual visits and joint workshops, all focussed on marine science."

Dr Poiner said researchers from both organisations were already exploring potential projects that would benefit marine science in both nations.

He said AIMS' core research strengths include marine biodiversity; tropical crustacean aquaculture; water quality and ecosystem health; climate change and the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems; and understanding marine microbes and symbiosis.

"We look forward to welcoming Taiwanese researchers to AIMS in the near future, to work with us on collaborative projects that utilise our world-class facilities."

The Memorandum of Understanding between the National Science Council and the Australian Institute of Marine Science will be signed by Deputy Minister of NSC Dr. Wen-Chang Chang and CEO of AIMS Dr Ian Poiner.

"This bond between Taiwan and Australia will benefit both nations. As we are island countries, the abundant biodiversity of ecosystem will fuel our cooperation effort on marine science," Deputy Minister of NSC, Dr. Wen-Chang Chang said.

"We want to build the relationship with AIMS through this MOU to enhance bilateral research visits, workshop, and research projects in the hope to achieve scientific breakthroughs on marine science."

Delegates from NSC also included Director General of Department of International Cooperation Dr Ching-Ray Chang, Vice President of National Taiwan Ocean University Dr Ching-Fong Chang, and Executive Director of Science & Technology Division of Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) in Australia, Dr Mei-Ling Hshieh. All highly expect the further collaboration between both countries.

The Representative of Taiwan in Australia, Dr. Gary S. H. Lin, and Mrs. Lin, as well as Ms. Pauline Lin, Director of TECO's S&T Division, were also present to witness the signing of the MOU of marine science cooperation between Australia and Taiwan.

For further information contact:

AIMS CEO

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Department of International Cooperation, National Science Council, Director General

Dr Ching-Ray Chang 886 2 2737 7558, crchang@nsc.gov.tw

S&T Division of TECO in Australia, Executive Director, Dr. Mei-Ling Hshieh 0423-567-888, mlhshieh@teco.ogr.au

Wendy Ellery

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*Are you a member of
AWMS yet?*

If not, why don't you join NOW!

You can join through the website

www.awms.org.au

Join a group of people with similar interests.

The new registration process through the website allows members to access the site with their personal access code, renew memberships and modify demographic details (including email addresses).

If you are having any problems with your membership, please contact the AWMS Secretariat on (02) 6288 3998 or by emailing awms@onqconferences.com.au

We want to hear from you!

Send us your stories (photos) for

**The AWMS
Newsletter**

Please either email, fax or post your stories, along with your name and organisation to: Kathleen Davies

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Abundance of sponges shows WA waters teeming with biodiversity

February 4, 2010: Reproduced with kind permission of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).

SPECIALIST scientists at a workshop in Perth (Western Australia) in February identified a treasure trove of marine sponges and have confirmed unexpectedly high biodiversity in deep Western Australian waters off Ningaloo Reef.

The workshop, for expert taxonomists (scientists who specialise in the classification of biological organisms), convened by Dr Christine Schönberg of AIMS, brought together participants from around Australia and internationally.

More than 1,000 sponge samples were obtained from a joint AIMS/Geoscience Australia research cruise to the Ningaloo Reef region off the Western Australian coast in 2008. The project was funded by the Marine Biodiversity Hub of the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) initiative that supports public-good environmental research throughout Australia.

The samples complement more than 600 invertebrate species that have been collected from deep waters of Ningaloo Reef through previous expeditions by AIMS and the Western Australian Museum.

Senior Curator at the Western Australian Museum, Dr Jane Fromont, said that some of the species found on the survey were rare and strange, such as the stony sponges that are quite different to the more familiar soft bath sponges. A renowned international expert on these Lithistid sponges, Dr Andrzej Pisera from the Institute of Paleobiology in Warsaw, Poland, was at the workshop identifying animals from this group.

The workshop also included sponge taxonomists from museums and marine institutes in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

"Many of samples being examined by the team of taxonomists at the workshop were either new discoveries for Western Australia or new to science," Dr Fromont said.

The new collections of sponges were gathered from the sea floor in waters between 20 and 120 metres deep and were accompanied by a rich profusion of other floor-dwelling marine life including corals, sea whips, sea fans and basket stars.

"Samples were taken from extensive sponge gardens that display an unusual richness and density of filter feeders. Sponge gardens are also known from southern Australian coasts between Exmouth and Sydney with new reefs being discovered on recent AIMS/GA voyages in northern Australia, indicating the importance of these ecosystems," said Dr Chris Battershill, leader of AIMS' biodiversity research

"These animals are all filter feeders and the richness of their communities points to highly productive plankton food sources around Ningaloo that we believe are fuelled by the regular upwelling of deep nutrient-rich waters," Dr Battershill said.

"Sponges have existed in the sea for hundreds of millions of years. This long history has allowed them to evolve into diverse forms so that they can live in an extensive range of marine environments from the tidal zone to the floors of the deep ocean," he said.

AIMS scientist Dr Andrew Heyward, who has led multiple expeditions to Ningaloo Reef over the past decade, was also at the workshop. "The project has shown that the deepwater habitats are even richer than previously thought and suggests that there are still many discoveries to be made with more fieldwork," Dr Heyward said.

Ningaloo Reef is one of the largest and least studied coral reef ecosystems in the world. Filling the gaps in understanding patterns and processes of tropical marine biodiversity in this system is a priority for AIMS.

For further information, please contact:

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2010 is the UN International Year of Biodiversity.
See: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>

Book the dates for AWMS 2010 Conference
1-3 December, Torquay Victoria

Submit your abstract - [click here](#)

Registration available soon.

Visit the website for more information - [click here](#)

Science Writing Workshops

Writing Clear Science is offering writing workshops in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Adelaide throughout 2010. Writing Clear Science operates from the fundamental premise that writing produced by scientific professionals should be accurate, clear and succinct.

Our writing workshops:

- Teach the skills that are essential to effectively design and write high quality research reports, technical and industry reports, peer-reviewed papers and theses.
- Are relevant to individuals from all science backgrounds and with different levels of academic achievement.
- Involve a flexible rotation of lectures, writing exercises and discussion sessions.

Science professionals benefit from our writing workshops by:

- Refreshing their writing skills (punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure).
- Dramatically improving their ability to write clearly and succinctly.
- Improving their editing and critical evaluation skills.
- Developing a clear understanding on how to rapidly structure their reports and papers.

Open Workshops

We offer Open Workshops where staff can enrol individually.

- Day 1: The Nuts & Bolts of Writing
- Day 2: Writing Reports & Papers (optional)
- Day 3: Writing Your Thesis (optional)

Open Workshop Calendar

- Sydney: 8th-10th June; 10th - 12th November 2010
- Melbourne: 15th - 17th June; 8th - 10th December 2010
- Canberra: 6th-8th July 2010
- Brisbane: 13th - 15th July; 17th - 19th November 2010
- Adelaide: 3rd - 5th August 2010.

Cost: \$300 per day (G.S.T Incl.) minus 10% for early bird and group discounts.

In-House Writing Workshops

Writing Clear Science also offers In-House Writing Workshops that can be held in your department, institution or facility. These workshops are designed for staff and students from science-based industries, consultancies, State and Federal Government science-based departments and research institutions. We can offer a 1-3 day workshop that is tailored to your needs.

For further information, including course details, please refer to our website www.writingclearscience.com.au or contact Dr Marina Hurley: 0416-097-979; fax +61-3-9421-3472; info@writingclearscience.com.au

Dolphin Ecology & Acoustics Project

Through research and education the Dolphin Ecology and Acoustics Project (Southern Cross University) actively aids in the protection and conservation of Australia's dolphin populations. The research of the Project focuses on the population dynamics, social structure, habitat use, behaviour and communication of coastal dolphins.

During 2010, the Project team lead by Dr. Liz Hawkins has undertaken data collection in Byron Bay. This research began as part of Dr. Hawkins' PhD work in 2003. There are two aspects of the work at Byron Bay; to examine and monitor ecological factors and to assess the impacts of marine tourism. This year has seen many new calves born during summer and groups of up to 120 dolphins in autumn.



The Dolphin Ecology and Acoustics Project has also just launched two new programs; Adopt-A-Dolphin and the Dolphin Sighting Network. The Adopt-A-Dolphin program is a major fundraising campaign that can help raise money for some much needed equipment and running costs. It also provides guardians an opportunity to learn about the life history of a dolphin. The Dolphin Sighting Network is a community engagement program that encourages all people from the public to report sightings of dolphins and upload their photographs on our website. This program will aid in obtaining much needed baseline information about dolphins along Australia's coastline and educate those who become part of the Network through our ongoing workshops.

The first of the Dolphin Sighting Network workshops was held in Byron Bay 21st May 2010 and was very successful. Attendees are now the first of the official members of the Dolphin Sighting Network. There will be more workshops in the future at various locations in New South Wales and Queensland. The next workshop is scheduled for 6th August at the Gold Coast.

Keep up with all the latest dolphin news and find our more information about our work and programs at www.dolphinresearchaustralia.com.

AWMS Annual Conference 2010

Torquay, Victoria

Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 December 2010

Mark these dates in your diary now!

Don't miss the 23rd Australasian Wildlife Management Society Annual Conference to be held in the Crowne Plaza, Torquay, Victoria. The event is the leading edge forum on wildlife management in Australasia.

Keynote speakers, invited papers and posters will encompass all facets of wildlife conservation, control and harvesting; along with a full social programme designed to help participants enjoy Victoria's Great Ocean Road region. Assistance for post-graduate students will be available.



Just over an hour out of Melbourne the seaside village of Torquay is the jewel of the spectacular Surf Coast and the gateway to Victoria's Great Ocean Road and Australia's surfing Capital. Torquay is where Rip Curl and Quiksilver originated and home to the world famous Bells Beach. There is Torquay accommodation for all tastes and budgets.

The many beaches provide for everyone, from gentle family coves to the famous surfing reefs. Walking along the Torquay waterfront provides beautiful sea views, includes a historical trail and passes many fantastic waterfront cafes and restaurants along the way. Torquay Victoria has something to offer everyone!

For more information contact:

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