



# Newsletter *of the* Australasian Wildlife Management Society

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## Inside this issue:

2008 Elections of AWMS Office Bearers.....	2
AWMS Aerial Survey Symposium ..	2
Community-based Vertebrate Pest Management PHD project.....	2
Call for Nominees ... Diploma Course in Project Based Management .....	3
NZ Conservation jobs .....	3
The Nature of Human/Wildlife Interactions: A case study of Eastern Grey Kangaroos.....	4
AWMS 2008 Conference Update ..	5

## From the President...

The 2008 AWMS conference will be held at Fremantle, WA, from 24-27 November. This will be the first AWMS conference in Western Australia and the committee wishes to thank Andrew Woolnough, Duncan Sutherland and Al Glen for organising the conference. Most of us are probably aware that Western Australia's economy has undergone exceptional growth in the last five years, due largely to overseas demand for its mineral and gas resources. Stories of people from other states/territories and countries (particularly New Zealand) migrating to Western Australia are commonplace, but what of the effects of resource development on wildlife and wildlife management? Several of the conference symposia will help answer that question. Note the deadlines of 29 August for receipt of abstracts and 17 October for early registration.

Watch the AWMS website for registration details and other conference-related announcements.

You may be aware that the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change released its Fourth Assessment Report in November 2007. The report is available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/> and if you have not yet read it then I strongly encourage you to.

Climate change will be an increasingly important topic for society and there is deep concern about the ability of nations to collaborate to achieve useful reductions in emissions and increases in storage within the likely window of opportunity. Apart from the impacts of climate change and climate change responses on people and economies, there will be major impacts on wildlife and ecosystems. However, beyond simple relationships between climatic variables and the geographic range sizes of species there has been relatively little work done on the likely impacts of projected climate change on wildlife and the ecosystems they inhabit. AWMS is developing a position statement 'Climate Change and Wildlife' as a first step in attempting to inform members and others on this topic. It is intended that a draft of the Position Statement will be posted on the AWMS website by November 2008 and that members will have several months to provide comments.

Finally, AWMS now has cash savings that substantially exceed our target reserve. The committee is therefore seeking ideas for one-off expenditures that meet the objectives of AWMS. If you have such an idea please discuss it with a committee member.

I look forward to seeing you in Fremantle.

Dave Forsyth

*Make your booking to AWMS now!*

*24-27 November 2008*

*Consider a pre-post conference tour around Western Australia*



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.

## AWMS Aerial Survey Symposium - now published

The Special Issue of Wildlife Research on Aerial Surveys of Wildlife has been published; Wildlife Research 35 (4). This issue arose from the very successful symposium at the 2006 AWMS Conference in Auckland. After the conference, active debate resulted in a number of papers complementary to the symposium. The special issue includes 15 papers from an international authorship and deals with aerial surveys of wildlife in Africa, America, Australasia and Antarctica. This issue benchmarks current thinking on appropriate survey methods and analyses is a starting point for technical and methodological development and should provide a "textbook" for wildlife managers planning aerial surveys during the next few years. Co-editors Peter Fleming and John Tracey were particularly grateful to Camilla Myers (then editor of Wildlife Research) for her interest and enthusiasm in bringing the Special Issue to publication and for the continued support of AWMS objectives by CSIRO Publishing. The special Issue can be found at: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/144/issue/4170.htm>

### 2008 Election of AWMS office-bearers: Nominations are required

The 2008 election of office-bearers will occur at the AGM at the annual conference, which will be held at Fremantle during 24-27 November.

The following five positions will become vacant at the AGM and the Committee welcomes nominations:

- (i) President;
- (ii) Vice-President;
- (iii) Membership secretary;
- (iv) Treasurer;
- (v) Ordinary committee member.

Nominations must be made in writing and be signed by two members and have the written consent of the candidate. Nominations can be posted, faxed or e-mailed to the secretary, Desley Whisson (address below), at least seven days before the AGM. However, if no nominations are received by that date then nominations can also be made at the AGM.

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Please contact the President me if you have any queries about either of these positions or the nomination process.

## Community-based vertebrate pest management PhD project:

### Second call for assistance

As part of a PhD on community participation in vertebrate pest management, we would appreciate your assistance in compiling a list of current or recent community-based vertebrate pest management programs in Australia.

The research is being funded by the Invasive Animals CRC and the ESRC and carried out by PhD student Adriana Ford from the University of York (UK) who is currently based in Orange (NSW) at the Department of Primary Industries, and supervised there by Glen Saunders. Adriana is preparing an overview of vertebrate pest management projects in Australia, with particular emphasis on the role of community participation.

We require the name and contact details of community-based vertebrate pest management projects throughout Australia. We want to know about those that have worked as well as those that haven't. 'Community-based' projects may range from community attitude surveys and pest complaint schemes, to participation in decision-making, to on-ground pest management programs.

Adriana is conducting telephone interviews with the project leader or liaison officer of all of the relevant projects that have been nominated to participate in this research. If you are involved in or know of a project that you think would be suitable for this research, please contact Adriana by e-mail: [adriana.ford@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:adriana.ford@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or by phone: (02) 6391 3953.

Thank you to all people from across Australia that have contacted Adriana to date.

Glen Saunders

## Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia will be celebrating its centenary in 2009 with a range of events and functions throughout the year.

This wildlife conservation Society was formed in May 1909 and is an all volunteer national body dedicated to the preservation of our native wildlife in all its forms.

The current focus of the conservation work of the Society is to educate the next generation of young Australians about the need to preserve our precious native wildlife through sound environmental education programs.

For more information please contact the volunteers in our National Office on Tel (02) 9556 1537 or look up our Website - [www.wpsa.org.au](http://www.wpsa.org.au)

## Call for nominees for the following Diploma course:

### PEST ANIMALS: NEW SOLUTIONS TO OLD PROBLEMS – A DIPLOMA COURSE IN STRATEGIC PEST MANAGEMENT

The Education Program of the Invasive Animals CRC has developed and trialled a Diploma level (6 units at level V) training course in best practice pest management under the Australian Qualifications Framework. The aim of the course is to increase the capacity of those involved in planning and implementing strategic and cooperative invasive animal management. It is based on the core competencies for pest management that were developed under the auspices of VPC in the mid 1990s. These resulted in the Conservation and Land Management Training Package (pest animals). The course complements the pest animal training course being developed by NSW DPI for levels 1 – IV. It is consistent with and will help meet the adoption aims of VPC's National Pest Animal Strategy.

The course is delivered by the Institute for Applied Ecology and the Invasive Animals CRC, through the University of Canberra College, a Registered Training Organisation. Upon full completion of the course students will be awarded 6 of the 10 units that form the Diploma of Conservation and Land Management, Specialising in Vertebrate Pest Management. The remaining 4 units can be obtained via Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) through TOCAL College. The skill-set of units that are taught are:

- RTD5401A Define the pest problem in a regional or broader context
- RTD5402A Develop a strategy for the management of target pests
- RTD5403A Develop a system for monitoring the pest management strategy
- RTD5404A Coordinate the pest management strategy in a regional or broader context
- RTD5405A Evaluate the pest management strategy
- CHCCD4A Develop and implement community programs

While the above unit codes have been drawn from the current Conservation and Land Management Training Package, the content is quite different and was based on PESTPLAN and it's Toolkit – A guide to setting priorities and developing a management plan for pest animals, developed by Mike Braysher and Glen Saunders. State and territory pest agencies as well as managers of pest programs were consulted to determine the key skills and requirements necessary to develop and implement effective landscape-scale plans to manage pest animals.

Four successful pest management programs were assessed and packaged as case studies to illustrate desired approach and to support the problem based approach to learning that is the basis of the course. Leaders of successful pest management programs also present and discuss their experiences during the mid-year residential workshop.

Ten practising pest management officers are undertaking the course in 2008 to trial it. The feedback from them has been very positive and they have indicated their willingness to talk to those who might contemplate undertaking the course in 2009. Contact Stephen Dalla Costa or Mike Braysher for contact details for the current cohort.

The course fee for 2009 will be \$7000 (plus travel and accommodation costs) and will include all text resources and reference materials. It runs for 2 semesters (15 weeks each) beginning around the last week of February and is delivered primarily online supported by 3 short compulsory residential components in Canberra (February, July, and November). Students are required to develop and present a practical pest management plan as part of the course assessment.

For more detail contact Stephen Dalla Costa: Stephen.Dalla.Costa@canberra.edu.au, telephone: (02) 6201 5728, or Mike Braysher mike.braysher@canberra.edu.au, telephone: (02) 6260 8112.



**NZ CONSERVATION JOBS**  
Careers in Conservation - [www.conjobs.co.nz](http://www.conjobs.co.nz)

### **Looking for a job as a park ranger, in pest control, wildlife management or recreation?**

New Zealand Conservation Jobs brings together all the job opportunities in the New Zealand conservation, park management, environment and ecotourism sectors including Department of Conservation, Regional and City Councils, pest animal and weed control companies as well as conservation oriented companies and trusts.

Whether you're seeking a job as a park ranger, wildlife manager, in pest control or outdoor recreation you'll find the job listings worth browsing. Keep up with the latest listings by subscribing to our free weekly email or subscribe to our RSS feed.

We also offer a free listing of conservation-oriented conferences, workshops and training - let us know about your event. Employers and advertisers – there are over 1240 people subscribed to our free weekly email (see the site for further information on advertising with NZ Conservation Jobs – [www.conjobs.co.nz](http://www.conjobs.co.nz))

## The Nature of Human/Wildlife Interactions:

### A CASE STUDY OF EASTERN GREY KANGAROOS (*MACROPUS GIGANTEUS*) IN THE HAWKESBURY, NSW

Pip Chalk B.Sci (Hons); B.App.Sci.; M Tourism Planning

The following article describes a research project completed for a Bachelor of Science (Hons) at the University of Western Sydney in 2007. As a local resident of the area the kangaroo population was well known, albeit a controversial one, an attribute that seems all too familiar when discussing kangaroos and people, as seen in recent times in the ACT. However, what was not anticipated were the overwhelming feelings the residents held for the kangaroos and the very special place they held in the community.

Most of us are all too aware that the encroachment of development into natural areas is often the beginning of conflict between humans and wild animals; however, in East Kurrajong in the Hawkesbury district of New South Wales, it was the animals that were reintroduced into the rural area. In the 1960's Sir Elton Griffin, CEO of Boral Australia acquired a small group of Eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) for the enjoyment of his family and friends on his property. In January 2006 a public meeting was convened by NPWS to discuss issues of conflict between the residents and the kangaroos. However, there was also a high level of support for the kangaroo population within the community. A survey was used to investigate the nature of the interaction between human and kangaroo, specifically identifying the impacts on the residents and community and what values the residents attributed to the animals based on Kellert's Typology of Biophilia Values. Results demonstrated that the most common impacts caused by the kangaroos were fence damage, competition with livestock for grazing, damage to crops, vehicle accidents and personal safety. Despite these issues the residents attributed a high rate of naturalistic value to the kangaroos demonstrating their strong desire to connect with nature. Ultimately the nature of the interaction between the residents and kangaroos was one of conflict, but the positive values attributed to the animals produced an overwhelming response from the residents that they would hate to see them gone.



*A mob of 40-60 roos live permanently on this 5 acre property in East Kurrajong - often mating on the deck within 2 meters of the residents' back door. (Photo acknowledgement: Pip Chalk)*

The identification of this information was vital to begin the process of human/wildlife conflict management in order for the whole community to peacefully co-exist with the kangaroos.

Once the nature of the interaction between kangaroo and resident was clearly identified, recommendations were then made to conduct further research to investigate ways of minimizing the conflict and further enhance the ongoing relationship between human and wild animal.

On the completion of this research, due to the lack of scientific data on the relationship between the Australian people and their icon, it was decided that this research would be built upon on a national scale. Pip Chalk is currently working on her PhD in the emerging field of human dimensions research. The title of her work is aptly called 'The Human Dimensions of the Kangaroo in Australia.'

For further information on either the above Honours research or PhD work, please email Pip Chalk on [p.chalk@uws.edu.au](mailto:p.chalk@uws.edu.au).

**International Invasive Bird Conference, Maritime Museum Fremantle WA**  
**30 Nov-3 Dec 2008** Website: <http://www.abcon.biz/iibc.htm>



## AWMS 2008 Conference Update

24-27 November, Esplanade Hotel Fremantle Western Australia

The 2008 AWMS Conference will be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia from 24-27 November. In keeping with the conference theme of Human Impacts on Wildlife, there will be a number of special symposia on topics such as marine wildlife management, ecology and management of deer, ecology and management of feral camels, and wildlife management in the resources sector. Anyone interested in organising and chairing additional symposia is encouraged to contact Andrew Woolnough (awoolnough@agric.wa.gov.au).

There will also be an attractive social programme, including an icebreaker and a themed conference dinner. Perth Zoo are hosting a Behind the Scenes tour of the Zoo on the Thursday afternoon. *Register your interest now.* It will be an event to remember. More information will be available on the website soon.

A number of high-profile researchers and wildlife managers (listed below) have agreed to deliver keynote addresses, with additional invited speakers to be confirmed.

### Keynote speakers

Dr Glen Saunders (Caughley Medallist), NSW Department of Primary Industries  
 Prof Charley Krebs, University of British Columbia (Emeritus)  
 Prof Chris Dickman, University of Sydney  
 Dr Peter Banks, University of New South Wales  
 Dr Michael Kearney, University of Melbourne  
 Dr Dorian Moro, Chevron Australia  
 Dr Wendy Ruscoe, Landcare Research

Additional information about the conference, including a poster and brochure, are available on the AWMS web site at <http://www.awms.org.nz/conferences.shtml>

Register now for the 21st annual  
 scientific meeting of AWMS ONLINE  
*click here*  
 or through the website: [www.awms.org.nz](http://www.awms.org.nz)



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# AWMS

## AUSTRALASIAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY



**24 - 27 November 2008**

Esplanade Hotel  
Fremantle, Western Australia

Theme: Human Impacts on Wildlife

Encompassing:

invasive & threatened species / climate change / habitat disturbance / sustainable use