

MERIGAL

A voice for the Dingo

The Australian Native Dog Conservation Society.



NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Reg. Charity CFN 10177

From the President

Many apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter, so many things to do and no time to do them. For the last many months we have been working together with National Trust to complete and sign the Lease to the area in which the Dingo Sanctuary is operating. Working through the confusing words and making sure that the Dingo Sanctuary is treated well and that there are no loopholes, we finally signed. There is a lease for the Dingo Sanctuary area, another lease for the common area which both organisations co-habit, such as the road into the area, public toilets, Caretakers cottage, parking areas etc. There were many obstacles along the way and with our record of patience and tenacity it finally shone through.

The other responsibility we needed to complete was the many forms to fill out for the Department of Primary Industries, so we can be approved to Exhibit Animals. The forms were varied and there were three in total, which meant three different costs, one at \$23.00, one at \$43.00 and the last one \$230.00. All forms and payment are now in the hands of DPI, and we are awaiting inspection and approval. Since me writing this piece, I received an email from DPI wanting three and half pages of extra information, which we have till 7th January, 2013 to complete, and then the waiting game continues. To expand on the 'words', 'waiting game'. The Dingo Sanctuary was originally inspected in the year of 2008, for the first 10 out of the 18 yards, and they were approved by DPI, we placed 10 of our Dingoes in those yards with rest of the colony still at the original address and 9 dingoes at our President's boarding kennels, due to dismantling of the yards and nowhere to have the dingoes, with another 8 yards not built and the problems we were having with the then contractor, with poor workmanship, lack of invoices, over pricing, not paying his workers, there is a long list - we had to find another fencer to complete the yards as well as find finance. Within that time we terminated the contractor, found another fencer, and had another two visits from DPI on the remaining 8 yards. There were some

changes that needed to be made which were immediately completed, and now that we have the forms



submitted to DPI, and thinking that, we are on the home stretch, we received this email to complete, hence we are still not open. There is a huge amount of research needed to be done to finalise the DPI requests, so hopefullyfingers crossed & positive thoughts...We will get there...



On a more positive outlook, during the months between Newsletters our Volunteers have been working tirelessly within the Sanctuary, one important issue was that we once again entered the Wollondilly council Garden competition - we attended the Presentation Dinner held by Wollondilly Council which was excellent, and we received THIRD prize for our efforts, well done to the Volunteers, especially Gloria and Glenn Third, who without them, there would not be a garden.



We have been invited to hold stalls and sell our Merchandise, along with two dingoes Tyipa & Cooinda, who are great ambassadors for the Sanctuary meeting and greeting visitors all around Sydney. The Stalls have been a great success, thanks to Pet Barn who continually invites us to their stores; they are a very generous business. Also Cara, she is a whizz. As you can see with the following photos our stall is quite inviting and Gloria and Rebecca show off the Dingoes at Pet barn'



This year has been a sad year in losing one of our dearest friends and supporters of the Dingo and Sanctuary.

Alan Saunders

*Until Alan's sudden death in June 2012 Alan Saunders was a popular ABC Radio National broadcaster and presenter of the internationally respected program **The Philosopher's Zone**. He was also our friend and our co-sponsor of "Wollemi", one of the genetically pure dingoes living at the Bargo Dingo Sanctuary.*

It was through Wollemi that Alan became fascinated not only with Dingoes, but the work of the late University of NSW animal geneticist Alan Wilton, also a friend and supporter of the Sanctuary. He showed that, along with PNG singing dogs, dingoes were the first dogs to

*evolve from ancestral wolves. We know Alan planned to continue sponsoring Wollemi indefinitely. Because he can't, we hope you will help us do so in his name. With the assistance of Lucille Ellem and the Australian Native Dog Conservation Society, which runs the Sanctuary, we have set-up the **Alan Saunders Dingo Sponsorship Fund**.*

Any donation you can make will go directly to continuing Alan's sponsorship of Wollemi. Contributions above those needed to maintain Wollemi will be used to support another dingo living at the Sanctuary. All donations will be acknowledged and you will receive a receipt for taxation purposes. The Sanctuary, like the ANDCS, is a registered not-for-profit organisation that runs on volunteer help and the smell of an oily rag.

We hope you will join us in remembering Alan. We miss him enormously. We also hope you will visit Wollemi and give him a pat for Alan.

Leigh Dayton & Margaret Fulton.

Donations can be made by Electronic deposit, Cheques or Money Orders:

Please make all Cheques and Money Orders payable to: ANDCS or Australian Native Dog Conservation Society Ltd. For our international sponsors: Please deposit directly into the ANDCS account. St. George Bank BSB 112 879 Account No: 455937852 Swift Code: SGBLAU2S Currency conversion may vary.

Please post all Cheques and Money Orders to Dingo Sanctuary, 195 Fifth Avenue, Austral 2179. Australia.

At this time of preparing this Newsletter, we thank the first three donations - L Dayton, M Wakely and S Alward. Your donations are gratefully received.

It has been a year in October of the loss of Alan Wilton, we remember him, and remember all his dedication in his work, especially in Dingoes.

From the Humane Society International Magazine.

TIME TO PROTECT DINGOES.

In March 2010, HIS nominated the dingo as a threatened species under federal environmental laws. We did this due to widespread concerns that the dingo is under threat on a number of fronts, including from hybridisation with wild dogs, compounded by the confusing array of state laws which variously classify the dingo as anything from a pest to a native species. HIS believes this maze of conflicting laws is detrimental to the dingo, which may lead to their disappearance from Australia's environment. Many might wonder why the disappearance of the dingo matters – after all, they were introduced to Australia. Recent research on this is clear. Dingoes have now been a part of Australia's environment so long that they can be considered to be native. Scientists have discovered that many populations of our native mammals, such as the dusky hopping mouse, are positively associated with dingoes. They are therefore an essential part of a healthy functioning ecosystem. HIS believes that unless we protect dingoes now by listing them under federal environment laws, our wider ecosystem and the species that rely on them will suffer. Please write to the Federal environment Minister and let him know that the dingo deserves to be included on the assessment priority list currently before the Minister.



This photo shows the tenacity of a young girl who travelled past our

sanctuary by train, and continued to see our sign on the fence, so she decided to raise the money to become a sponsor of one of our Dingoes, Ella Strongman is her name, Ella handmade greeting cards to sell and raise the money which took her one year to complete, Ella in the white alongside her is Gunyah who she chose to sponsor, from left to right, Glenn Third, Lucille Ellem, George

Parker, Rachel and Gloria Third. A wonderful gesture from such a young girl and we thank her.

We are proud of the work being done by the "Humane Society International" the following writings are from their Issue 21, 2012. As the oldest Dingo Sanctuary in Australia of 38 years, we have worked tirelessly for the recognition of the Dingo and our main objects back when we first was formed was that the Dingo become recognised as THE Australian Dog, the Dingo.



Conserving the Dingo

*HSI [Humane Society International] plans to resubmit its nomination to the Commonwealth seeking the listing of the dingo [Canis vulpinus] under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 as an endangered species. The Threatened Species Scientific Committee under the EPBC Act has now rejected HSI nomination three times, failing to list the species on the **Finalised Assessment Priority List [FPAL]** published by Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke.*

In late 2011, the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities [SEWPAC] wrote to HSI

explaining why the predator had not been prioritised:

“Canis lupus dingo: The Committee notes that the dingo is a keystone species and since European settlement, its range and population size has declined due to ongoing hunting, baiting, hybridisation and establishment of the dog fences. However limited data are available to determine the decline in the species’ total population size and geographic distribution throughout its national extent. Additional population studies and surveys would be required to enable detailed assessment to be undertaken. If the species was eligible for listing, protection of the species across different government jurisdiction would be difficult, given the complex policy and legislative management issues across the species’ national range. Current management plans do not encompass the entire range of the species. The Committee considers that the development and implementation of a National Conservation Plan, encompassing the entire geographic distribution of the dingo, could be an effective management response [SEWPAC correspondence 14/9/11]

While HSI is very supportive of the development of a National Conservation Plan under the EPBC Act for the dingo – an idea we have been promoting for many years – we think that this ought to be a concurrent management activity alongside legislative assessment as an endangered species. We will be encouraging the Minister to do so during the 2013 process for determining the 2013-2014 FPAL, while discussions with the Department suggest that the resources are not available to develop a National Conservation Plan. Similarly, we will be during the Minister to allocate the resources to the Department so that such work can commence.

Meanwhile, HSI has recently agreed to financially support a biological research project entitled “A time and place for the top dog in conserving Australia’s mammals”. To be undertaken by Aaron Greenville, a PhD student at the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Sydney and refereed by Professor Chris Dickman and Professor Glenda

*Wardle. The allocation has been made under the **Paddy Pallin Science Grants** programme, in cooperation with the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales; Extracts from the proposal are reproduced below:*

The specific aims of the project are to:

- *Test top-down regulation mechanisms by determining whether dingoes limit fox and cat abundance across space, as predicted from the mesopredator hypothesis, and if the population phase [boom or bust] of prey species influences this relationship.*
- *Investigate bottom-up mechanisms by determining if the phase [boom or bust] species influences predator [dingo, fox and cat] daily activity time.*
- *Document prey activity time and if it is correlated with predator activity.*
- *Quantify how sympatric mammalian predators [dingo, fox and cat] partition their activity time in relation to the abundance and population phase of prey species.*

Significance of research: *This project will test the mesopredator release hypothesis; if dingoes limit fox or cat populations and how members of a trophic group interact across space and time. It will also test if these interactions are influenced by bottom-up processes, such as changes in prey populations. In doing so, it will identify key times when predators are active so control programs can be targeted and will advance ecological theory. In doing so, we will use new remote camera technology and apply novel statistical techniques that will be of interest to other conservation managers.*

Management Implications: *Currently throughout most of Australia dingoes are considered pests and their numbers suppressed; they are locally extinct in many areas. Investigating if dingoes are important in the control of introduced predators is important to assess the environmental costs of such programs. In addition, this study will identify the peak activity times of introduced predators and the environmental conditions [e.g. during a boom or bust phase of prey*

populations] during which it is most effective to control red foxes and feral cats.

The Dingo Sanctuary Bargo fully supports the Humane Society International HSI, for their diligence in continuing the battle to have our Dingoes recognised as an Australian Dog.

Retirement of our Caretaker George Parker

With George now 82 years old, and the Sanctuary area of work being enlarged and twice as far to walk and work, the requirement on George to complete the task of Caretaker was a little daunting. Tripping over and the dingoes jumping up was a safety issue and the ANDCS board felt that their duty of care for George needed to be addressed. George has been a wonderful ambassador for our Sanctuary for 15 years, and all of us are grateful for his dedication to our Dingoes. It is time for George to relax, take it easy, with no time limits expected of him during the day and night. We can see him now sitting in a lay back chair on the veranda having a cup of tea. We wish him well.

***Life is too short
Grudges are a waste of perfect
happiness
Laugh when you can
Apologise when you should
And let go of what you cannot
change***

The Sanctuary has been blessed with many volunteers our numbers are rising, most of them are students who continue to fulfil their rostered duty days. They are a broad range of interesting young people who brighten our days even though there is lots of work to be done. The dingoes love the attention and most have finished their grooming, shedding their winter coats to cope with the hot summer days. Luckily we have many tall lovely trees within the dingo yards which help shade and cool the animals down. Also their Cool Pools give them a quick dip. As you can see above, Cooinda cooling herself.



One of Bronwyn's great shots of the dingoes, this is Makka, father of Tyipa, Gunyah and Cooinda. Having a peaceful rest.



Pangari, a stately male who has a bad habit of digging, when you see his enclosure you will see how he loves to dig. A beautiful white dingo.

Australia debating using dingoes, Tasmanian Devils to control invasive species.

Published 9th July, 2012 PRI's The World - Researchers in Australia want to re-introduce native predators such as the Tasmanian devil to the country's landscape. As Australia tries to confront continued growth among non-native species that are decimating its eco-system, naturalists are considering a back-to-basics approach to getting things in order. The dingoes and Tasmanian Devils are native predators that may be reintroduced in a bid to keep invasive species at bay.

It is a sound that hasn't been heard in the wild on Australia's mainland for centuries - the screech of a Tasmanian devil.

But researchers at Deakin University in Melbourne believe the devil, one of the country's most cantankerous creatures, could be part of the answer to Australia's ongoing battle to control invasive species. Since European colonization, introduced species such as cats and foxes have drastically altered the Australian environment, resulting in the world's highest mammal extinction rate.

"Species like foxes, cats, rabbits, cane toads [and] camels have just changed fundamentally the face of Australia" said Rebecca Spindler, a conservation specialist at Sydney's Taronga Zoo. "Our native species are not able to compete with a lot of those species and they are also not as predator-aware as they need to be to be able to run away from those really very, very effective pest predators that have come in".

Controlling these newcomers has been an ongoing struggle. It relies heavily on methods like poisoning, fencing and shooting. But these efforts have largely failed to limit the damage. The country's millions of foxes, for instance, have become an unmitigated environmental disaster.

Red Dingo

TIME TO REJOIN THE SOCIETY

RENEWAL FORMS CAN BE SENT ON REQUEST.

**The Annual General Meeting
Of the Dingo Sanctuary Bargo.**

**17th March, 2013 @ 11am
Neilhurst Centre within the
Sanctuary.**

**Bring a plate so we can sit and catch
up after the meeting.**

**"Can't Come!!!!" then email and a
proxy form can sent to you, so your
vote will count.**

camarna@aanet.com.au



The above photos are of our wonderful benefactor Ann Knight who financed the Neilhurst Centre - I finally captured her and took her to the Sanctuary to visit and see how the place has progressed with her help.

Ann had a great visit with Chipala who showed his gratefulness with a big hug, sniffs all round, and a game. Ann said she was most impressed with our Sanctuary and congratulated all the volunteers who keep the place up and running. Ann has been breeding dogs for over 40 years, and breeders are required to have a breeding prefix which is the first name in all pure bred show dogs. So in honour of Ann's financial assistance we decided to name 'The Shed' The Neilhurst Centre, as Ann's breeding prefix is Neilhurst. We also thank her for the wild bird seed she continues to donate, we have had some beautiful wild birds come to visit.

King Parrots, Red Tail Wrens, I think you call them, the birds feel safe and enjoy the free food.

