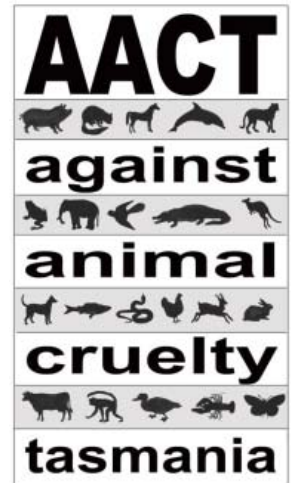


Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania (AACT)
Level 2/ 191 Liverpool Street
HOBART TAS 7000

E-mail: info@AACT.org.au Website: www.aact.org.au
Tel: 6234-6229



AACT NOW

quarterly news from Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

February 2009

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUR DIET

Karen Bevis

The climate change issue is constantly in our faces, on the tv, radio, newspaper, people chatting about it in the streets... The solutions, other than driving less, possibly buying a more economical vehicle, and changing light bulbs to more efficient ones, seem largely out of control of the individual. There is, however, something that everyone can do to make a difference in their lifetime. It is cheap, it is easy, but it has received relatively little media and government attention at this. That something is: change your diet!

In the words of Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Don't eat meat, ride a bike, and be a frugal shopper -- that's how you can help brake global warming."

There is plenty of evidence to support the fact that the modern western diet has a lot to answer for in relation to climate change.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation produced a report called Livestock's Long Shadow in 2006. That report states that animals raised for food are a major source of greenhouse gases, responsible for 18% of gas emissions globally measured in CO₂ equivalent. This is a higher share than for transport. [Livestock's Long Shadow, FAO 2006, Page xxi].

In Australia nearly 31% of all greenhouse gases created are from animal industries. [Balancing Act: a triple bottom line analysis of the Australian economy, CSIRO and University of Sydney, 2005].

Population and Meat Consumption

The human population of the planet is increasing at an alarming rate, along with it the desire for animal products of all descriptions has also been increasing on a per capita basis. This increase, although occurring in countries such as Australia and the US, is particularly notable in Asian countries as they develop a liking for western-style diets and fast foods.

Kilograms of Meat Per Person Per Year

Country	1961	2002
Australia	104	114
US	92	126
Europe	56	89
Brazil	28	81
Japan	8	44
China	4	53

[Source: <http://earthtrends.wri.org>]

If meat consumption continues to increase at the current rate, and everyone eats as much meat as the average American, by 2050 it would take 4 planets the size of earth to grow the crops to feed all the animals. [Eat Less Meat – It's costing the earth – CIWF 2004]

Animal Industry Emissions

Now let's look more closely at the emissions that animal agriculture produces. A tonne of beef produces more than double the greenhouse gas emissions of a tonne of aluminium, and over a hundred times the emissions of a tonne of wheat (51.7 tonnes CO₂ equivalent for beef, compared to 20 tonnes for aluminium and 0.4 tonnes for wheat). [Australian Greenhouse Office, Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory].

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania is a not-for-profit group based in Hobart, Tasmania. Our aim is to eliminate all exploitation, cruelty and suffering of animals within our state and beyond. We strive to facilitate change through education, liaising with Government and industry and non-violent action.



UPCOMING AACTivities

7 February, 11:45 – 13:45

Ross Rodeo Protest, Ross

We need as many people present as possible, so please come along. We will be organising car pooling for anyone in and around Hobart. For further information, please call the AACT office on 6234 6229 or Jenn on 0408 970 359.

14 & 15 February

AACT Garage Sale

This is the perfect opportunity to have a good clean out and get rid of any unwanted stuff. We are seeking donations of items such as books, clothes, furniture, etc, that we can sell in order to raise funds for AACT (no junk please). The garage sale will be held at 82 Hill St, West Hobart from 9.30am-3.30 pm on both days. We are also seeking volunteers to assist us with the garage sale. For more information, please contact the AACT office on 6234 6229 or call 0408 970 359.

Ongoing

Salamanca Markets Stall

The Greens Tasmania have very generously given AACT a fortnightly table at their Salamanca stall. This offers AACT the opportunity to regularly promote campaigns and to educate the public. This stall can only run if we have enough volunteers. If you are able to help us out, even for an hour or so, it would be greatly appreciated! To register to volunteer at this or any other event, please contact the AACT office on 6234 6229.

For information on other Up-and-Coming AACT events, please check the 'What's On' section of our website at www.AACT.org.au or contact the AACT office on: 6234 6229.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(continued from page 1)

Cows, goats and sheep are ruminant animals. Ruminants produce methane, the majority of which is through belching, the remainder via flatulence. Ruminants eat food, regurgitate it as cud and eat it again. Their stomachs are filled with bacteria that aid in digestion, but also produce methane. The average cow expels 100 to 200 litres of methane a day.

The 2.7 megatonnes of methane created by 28 million cows and 103 million sheep in Australia in 2005 accounted for over 55 per cent of total methane emissions in this country. Methane is 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. [Forster, V, et .al. (2007). Changes in Atmospheric Constituents and in Radiative Forcing. In S. Solomon et al. editors, Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis, Cambridge University Press.]

The good news about methane is that it cycles out of the atmosphere in only 10-15 years (compared to about 100 years for carbon dioxide). While it is present it has a massive effect on the environment, but by eliminating animal agriculture, or at the very least reducing it massively, methane levels will be quickly reduced, assisting the climate to stabilise. [B. Poon, Climate Change – Re-examining the data from a Vegan Perspective, 2007]

Methane isn't the only greenhouse gas caused by animal agriculture. The figure of 31% quoted above also includes the emissions due to the energy used to produce animal-based products including pigs, chickens, eggs and dairy. Factory farming systems in particular use a lot of energy, then there is energy use in the growing and transport of feed, transport of livestock, the list goes on.

Land Use and Feed

Using animals as a feed source is very inefficient. They have to be fed enormous amounts of feed that could otherwise be fed directly to humans. It takes 20kg of plant protein fed to a cow to produce 1kg of beef protein.

The number of land animals slaughtered in Australia for human consumption is massive (495, 400 000 cattle, calves, sheep, lambs, pigs, chickens and other fowl – Year Book Australia, 2006, Australian Bureau of Statistics). Many of these animals are fed on grains specifically grown for the purpose. Feedlots of grain-fed cattle have grown enormously in popularity, even in Tasmania. Pigs and chickens are also factory farmed and grain fed en-masse. Around 80 percent of grain grown in eastern Australia is fed to animals, and 30 percent of that goes to feedlot cattle.

A huge amount of land could be returned to bushland, both to soak up carbon, and to provide habitat for our ever decreasing range of native species, were Australians to cut down on their meat intake. If land used for grazing of beef cattle and dairy herds was freed, this would make available around 110 million hectares (an area about the size of NSW and Victoria). [Lenzen and Murray, Ecological Footprint - Issues and Trends, University of Sydney, 2003]. Animals raised to be eaten currently account for 70 percent of global agricultural land, and 30 percent of the total land area of the earth. [Livestock's Long Shadow, FAO 2006, Page xxi].

Water is another huge issue. The total annual consumption of around 5,200 gigalitres for dairy farming, drinking water for livestock, and irrigation of pastures, is roughly 43% of all the water consumed by agriculture. This does not take account of the water used by farmers in growing feed exclusively for farm animals. [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Water Account]. To produce a 100g potato, it takes 25 litres of water, for 1 apple, it takes 70 litres, for 1 hamburger (150g) it takes 2400 litres! [Hoekstra AK & Chapagain AK (2007), Water footprints of nations: water use by people as a function of their consumption pattern, Water Resource Management 21: 35-48].

Thinking you might switch to eating sea creatures instead? After all, they don't produce methane or take up land area do they? If everyone switched to eating seafood the oceans would soon be completely depleted. Seventy seven percent of world fisheries are either "fully exploited", "over-exploited" or "depleted" [State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2005, FAO]. The burgeoning human population already has many species on the brink of collapse. Nor is factory farming of

fish a sustainable source of protein for the world's human population. It takes up to 5kg of wild caught fish to produce 1kg of factory farmed fish.

Healthy You

Would you believe what is good for the planet is also good for you? It is now widely accepted that modern western diets are to blame for the huge rise in chronic health conditions and obesity. As many Asian countries increase their intake of meat and dairy products, so do they increase their incidence of 'western' diseases. Cutting down, or better still, cutting out meat and dairy products altogether greatly reduces the risk of heart disease, many types of cancer, diabetes type II, and obesity and generally being overweight. Vegetarian diets can even reverse Type II Diabetes and some types of heart disease. [T Colin Campbell, The China Study 2006; D Ornish, Program for Reversing Heart Disease 1991].

Take Action

So now you know what a positive force you can be for the environment, starting today. You will be amazed at how great it will be for your health too. Sure the whole world isn't going to go vegetarian tomorrow, but just like choosing an energy saving light bulb, it is a personal and positive choice that can be made.

If you choose to cut down or cut out animal products from your diet, be sure to do it properly. Try initially replacing meat with direct alternatives such as vegetarian sausages and minces. Include other protein foods in your diet such as nuts, beans, lentils, tofu and tempeh. All sound a bit daunting? Members of Vegetarian Tasmania, will be only too happy to offer support and advice on how to make the change. Go to www.tasveg.org or email info@tasveg.org.



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SPECIAL TOPICS

A MAN AND HIS CAT - How I made friends and gained satisfaction by sponsoring a cat

Phil Summers

I've always liked animals - great, small and especially cats. Growing up in the country instilled in me a respect and care for our little friends which has been reciprocated by all the cats I've encountered. Even now, my blood boils when I hear stories of animal cruelty and especially towards cats who make affectionate companions and are quick to make friends and let bygones be bygones (areas where human beings are distinctly achieving shortfalls quite consistently over time and expressed well by Jon Pertwee as Doctor Who in the '70's when he observed "Human beings are always squabbling about something"!).

So last year by chance saw a story in the press about the Hobart Cat Centre having moved to a new location in New Town and the many cats they have. Averting to look into it, I looked up their address on the internet and discovered they have simple ways for ordinary people to contribute. Apart from adopting a cat, people can also 'sponsor' a cat which is a clever scheme! A simple idea where ordinary people such as those with cats already but who can't have more, or for people who would like to help but for one reason or another can't home a cat at present.

I was in the latter category and so I went down one day to see the cats with an open mind and found a very caring place. I found it hard to leave, as I was smitten by the many cats they have! For only \$20 a month out of my pocket, I was able to assist in caring for a cat until a proper home could be found. Sponsors receive a special 'Cat Passport' with a photo and details of the cat. The kind staff are helpful too in providing any history of the cat as well.

Never be afraid to ask questions too. I readily signed up and I asked for a cat that was most 'vulnerable' as I instinctively favour the 'underdog' and don't like to see anyone left behind. My cat was called Chumper, who had been at the centre since December 2007 and still hadn't found a home. She was a big girl, tortoise-shell markings and fond of a rub around the ears. She needed a home though as she'd been there for a long time and understandably wanted a place of her own as she was an independent girl.

Thus began my friendship with Chumper and every Sunday afternoon, I'd pop down to the Cat Centre to visit Chumper and her little friends for some playing, attention and lots of pats. I discovered the quiet satisfaction of caring for cats and the lessons they could teach us in our relations with others. Especially the sense of fun they have playing chases around the room and hearing a cat 'smile' as its purrs. Thankfully, Chumper found a home after a few months of hoping, thanks to a kind lady and a special story on Chumper in the press (http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2008/11/11/37501_todays-news.html; http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2008/11/13/38055_tasmania-news.html).

The next Sunday I went down to the Cat Centre and as I read in the press found she had gone to a new home. It was a bittersweet moment, as although I'd miss her, I was pleased she'd found a new place of her own. I decided though to keep on sponsoring a cat and was asked to take care of new cat called 'Kitty'. As the months went by now, I've met many cats there and still do as they get to know me and respond to my voice and playing chases with toys, but Chumper was special and I still miss her.

I've started a scrapbook of the cats I meet and sponsor starting with Chumper. I'm hoping 'Kitty' finds a new home as she too needs her own place. Sponsoring a cat is easy and a

worthy scheme, you make a new loyal friend and help our little friends, as well as our society as a whole including the environment.

I've learned too that cats can teach us about caring for others and how quick they are to respond to love from others. Some cats have been lost, abandoned or hurt by people, yet they still respond to care from others. Its a lesson I've learned and I've been pleased how my cat sponsorship adventure has yielded hidden 'gems' - like my friend Chumper. I'm a better person for it.



'FINGER LICKIN' SKIPPY – Another Australian disgrace?"

Lin Ashton

Prior to European settlement in Australia, the kangaroo as we know it today spent 16 million years evolving. However since white settlement, the kangaroo instead of being cherished and loved because it is unique to this country; has been exploited to the extreme and falsely accused of being a 'pest' and existing in 'plague' proportions. We now know nothing could be further from the truth. During 2008, Professor Ross Garnaut, the Federal Government's climate change adviser, created serious debate concerning the changing of this nation's eating habits away from traditional red meat sources (lamb & beef) to the eating of kangaroos and wallabies. Professor Garnaut stated - "Australian marsupials emit negligible amounts of methane from enteric fermentation. This could be a source of international comparative advantage for Australian livestock production. For most of Australian history – around 60,000 years, kangaroos were the main source of meat. It could again become important"... But could it?

Farm animals are one of the countries major contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. Garnaut felt that should all farmers be required to buy permits for the gas their livestock produce then the price of meat would rise. This in turn could lead to a change in people's eating habits (enter the alternative - kangaroo consumption). As it became obvious that humans have contributed to climate change, we have been bombarded with information to reduce our carbon footprint. In a 2006 publication "True Green" by Kim McKay &

Jenny Bonnin, it was suggested more resource intensive meat such as chicken and kangaroo should be considered.

The very idea of eating kangaroo meat is much to the amazement and disbelief of wildlife groups and animal rights groups across the country. However, it seems 'conservationists' appeared willing to sacrifice kangaroos because they felt the 'farming' of kangaroos would prevent further land degradation. The advertising of kangaroo meat in restaurants and supermarkets has frequently used slogans such as "Save our Soils – eat Kangaroo". This type of advertising is hoped to increase the markets for kangaroo products because the soft imprint of kangaroo paws doesn't damage pasture as much as hard hooved animals such as cattle or sheep. Kangaroos are also capable of re-seeding land by carrying seeds within their paws, their tails also 'thump' them into the soil.

As the kangaroo remains the second most recognized icon in the world behind the Statue of Liberty, debate has raged on both sides of the argument. Garnaut suggests that reducing cattle and sheep and replacing them with 175 million farmed kangaroo would drastically reduce emissions.



The kangaroo industry was very interested in the professor's comments, but they realized that Australia's attitude to eating wildlife would have to change. The National Farmer's Federation (NFF) weren't concerned, stating 'The thought of complete replacement, we just don't see it happening'. Consumers have been told that by changing their eating habits to include kangaroo meat would be doing the correct environmental thing. The sector most targeted in the Australian community seems to be the

environmentally conscious – and those opposed to factory farming practices. The public has been bombarded with reasons to eat kangaroo meat- the main reason being: kangaroo meat is low in fat and cholesterol but has high levels of protein. However, it has twice the iron levels of beef which can cause significant health issues in some individuals.

The idea of replacing beef and lamb with kangaroo meat is unbelievable for a number of reasons. Firstly, kangaroos in comparison to cattle, are small animals. Red Kangaroos (the biggest) have an average weight of 65kg – while females weigh only about 25kg. Grey kangaroos are smaller, only accounting for 2/3 of this weight. In order for Australia to produce enough kangaroo meat for the entire nation it would be necessary to kill 200 times the whole kangaroo population each year. In comparison to annual beef production (1,700,000 tonnes) the kangaroo meat produced annually amounts to only 52,000 tonnes. This annual comparison shows the enormous difference with cattle over all producing 1,000 times the meat of kangaroos.

The breeding cycle of kangaroos starts at 2-3 years of age, with joeys remaining dependent upon their mothers for 14 months; many don't even reach this age. Compared to sheep which produce wool, meat and skin kangaroos only produce meat and skin. An adult male red kangaroo can only yield 6kg of meat if he is 60kg in weight. A two year old cow can produce 200kg of meat, while lambs can produce 20kg of meat at only 3-6 months of age.

As kangaroos are wild nomadic marsupials the concept of 'farming' kangaroos, raises some interesting issues. Garnaut has cited research which has looked into kangaroos replacing cattle in the arid rangelands (driest areas of Australia), where already kangaroos are killed for meat in these areas. He also stated that by 2020 rangeland sheep and cattle numbers could be reduced to 36 million and 7 million respectively, which would enable kangaroo numbers to increase from 34 million to 240 million.

The practical aspects of 'farming' kangaroos would be almost impossible. Kangaroos are prone to capture myopathy when they are stressed, and to 'herd' them like cattle would not be possible as their stress threshold is very

low. If these animals suffer from capture myopathy, a build up of lactic acid occurs in their muscles causing the meat to become inedible. How could live kangaroos be transported?

Where would they be slaughtered and processed? It seems they could only be killed on farms, so this in itself creates huge health issues due to regulations. Farmers would need to provide transportable chillers in order to get the meat to processors, all of which would cost substantial amounts of money. The slaughter of animals, at present, is done in isolated, dusty, hot conditions. Limited water has to be transported by shooters for carcasses to be washed.

In order to ensure meat is safe for human consumption it has to be inspected to check that no disease is present. However a former NSW chief food inspector has said: 'what meat inspectors can't pick up, because they don't see the animals before they are killed, is whether the kangaroo was suffering a disease.' Kangaroo meat has been known to contain e coli bacterium, salmonella, staphylococcus and streptococcus. Over the past year in Australia three processing plants have been closed and Russia also refused to allow imports of meat into the country because of e coli. Toxoplasmosis has also occurred within Australia, due to the under cooking of kangaroo meat.

Perhaps Australians are also hesitant about consuming kangaroo meat, because they have become aware of cruelty involved within the industry? A survey of consumer attitudes published by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) found people did in fact have concerns about welfare (kangaroo industry) and the ethics of eating an animal which is an Australian icon and features on the coat of arms. 'The Age' states that 'there isn't any demand because people do not want to eat the animal on the Nation's crest' (June 19th 1999).

Unfortunately because of ignorance, sheer stupidity and apathy, sectors of Australian society totally disregard kangaroos. We are constantly fed information which has been proven to be untrue. One of the most frequent remarks we hear is that kangaroos compete with stock for pasture, however Gordon Griggs who is co-author of "Commercial Harvesting of Kangaroos in Australia", has changed his

opinion on this very issue. This reversal occurred when he addressed the Wildlife Management Society in December 2008. He stated - 'In fact the studies show the demands of one kangaroo is equivalent to between just 0.15 – 0.2 of a sheep. In practical terms this means that the damage on grazing land attributed to kangaroos has been over-estimated by as much as 470 percent'. He concludes: 'This would mean that kangaroos are a much smaller component of the total grazing pressure that is generally accepted'.

Across Australia kangaroo numbers have dropped 50-70% between 2001 and 2006. Are we putting huge demands on this country's icon by the constant 'harvesting' of an unsustainable 'resource'? There are 10,000 kangaroos slaughtered every night for meat, pet food and skins.

Have we sealed the kangaroo's fate? *Viva!* Director Juliet Gellatley, when referring to the kangaroo meat industry, has stated: 'One thing is certain, such a method of killing farmed animals and their young carried out under similar conditions wouldn't be tolerated in the UK and would be seen as what it is – an animal welfare outrage.'

LUSH IT UP IN HOBART

Jenn Beer

Lush – Fresh Handmade Cosmetics - opened a Hobart Store in December 2008. When you walk through the doors of Lush (Shop 4, 65 Murray Street Hobart), you are transported into a world of sensory delights and visual lushness.

Lush cares passionately about stopping all animal testing. Not a cent of their money - your money too - goes to any company which carries out, funds or commissions any animal testing.

Lush does not buy any of the raw materials that make their products from any company that tests anything on animals. There are alternative tests which can be used.

Lush buys raw materials from any company that can sign a declaration saying they test none of their raw materials on animals now and have no plans to do so in the future. For example, if Lush wants to buy glycerine which is not tested on animals but the company tests other materials on animals they will not buy from them. If the raw materials company tests glycerine for a food product, even though Lush

wants to use it in a cosmetics product, they still will not buy it from them.

This policy means that Lush can be certain that the profits raw material suppliers make from them do not go back into animal testing. It means that Lush does not do business with companies whose ethical stance is at odds with their own and who are doing things that Lush finds unacceptable or that compromise their beliefs. Lush will accept raw materials from companies who test at the moment but decide to stop testing and see the light.

Lush has been at the forefront of campaigns to prevent cruel, unnecessary testing for years. Lush believes that there is no way to justify testing cosmetics or any of their ingredients on animals. The only way to check that they are safe for humans is to test them on humans. So this is what Lush does.

There are well known cosmetics companies which comply with anti-cruelty organisations standards and still buy ingredients from companies which carry out animal testing. Cosmetics companies can buy those ingredients which are not tested on animals from organisations which still animal test other ingredients. They can still satisfy anti-cruelty guidelines if they use ingredients which are not tested for cosmetics purposes but are still tested on animals for food use. This includes colour. Colours must be re-tested if a food company wants to increase the level which they are using. Why bother? Surely we ought to be campaigning to reduce artificial colour levels in food, not using it to justify animal testing. The money you spend on cosmetics which have the right to carry an official anti-cruelty mark may be going towards paying for animal tests. Lush does not think this is right and believes that everyone should adopt their strict policy of no animal testing for any reason.



NEW VOICELESS REPORT

Jenn Beer

In November of last year, Voiceless launched its third annual report *From Nest to Nugget: an*

exposé of Australia's chicken factories. The report gives Australians access to information about where their food is really coming from, and the power to make informed choices. A short, user-friendly 'Consumer Action Sheet' has also been produced which contains easy to read information and suggestions on how people can help chickens.

The report's findings include:

Selective breeding has produced birds who can now grow to slaughter weight in just 35 days – compared to 64 days 30 years ago and the fact that they can naturally live up to 6 or 7 years:

- Up to 60,000 chickens may be housed in one shed, with less floor space than an A4 page to call their own;
- Three companies supply 80% of Australia's meat chickens. One of the three biggest players, Baiada Poultry, slaughters more than 2.4 million chickens per week;
- Chickens labelled 'barn-fresh', 'grain-fed', 'hormone-free', and '100% natural' are likely to be sourced from factory farms.

470 million chickens were slaughtered in 2006/07 in Australia to feed demand that has grown a staggering 15,000% in the past fifty years. Most of these birds are factory farmed – forced to live in unnatural conditions and may lawfully be subjected to antibiotic laced feeds. They never feel the sun on their backs, the grass beneath their feet or enjoy the experience of raising their young.

An interactive, cutting edge MySpace 'Adopt a Chook' campaign- (<http://www.myspace.com/adoptachook>) also complements the dissemination of the report's findings.

In launching the MySpace campaign, Rebekah Horne, Vice President MySpace.com Australia said, "We're sure that the 2.5 million Australian MySpace users will be an effective community adding their voices to the Voiceless campaign, an important initiative for all Australians concerned about the welfare of animals.

We encourage anyone with a MySpace profile to not only add www.myspace.com/adoptachook as a 'friend' but importantly to spread the message virally to their network."



The report can be downloaded at: http://www.voiceless.org.au/images/stories/reports/from_nest_to_nugget_report_online_final.pdf

The Consumer Action Sheet can be downloaded at: http://www.voiceless.org.au/images/stories/reports/from_nest_to_nugget_cas_online_final.pdf

We currently have copies of the report and the Consumer Action Sheets available in the AACT office. If you would like a copy, please call 6234 6229 or e-mail info@aact.org.au

INTERVIEW WITH PETER POWER: Wildlife Rescuer, Owner of Rainbow Retreat, Convener of Wildlife Tasmania and Marriage Celebrant.

Jenn Beer

Peter, thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule today to talk to us. Peter, how did you first get involved with wildlife rehabilitation?

My partner and I first got involved about 4 years ago after meeting a local wildlife carer. I instantly took on two pademelons which were so cute and I have been hooked ever since then.

Where do the animals you rehabilitate come from?

Most of the animals are orphaned due to roadkill, but all animals are from the Break O' Day region.

How many of the animals you care for are eventually returned to full health?

We have a very high success rate. Unfortunately we do lose a few, mainly from post traumatic stress, but you still blame and question yourself. We do not know what injuries the orphans receive when in the pouch

and some have internal injuries which cannot be diagnosed when we find them.

What happens to the animals once you have rehabilitated them?

All of our animals are released on our property. We have had our property declared a Private Nature Reserve, which is a wildlife sanctuary. Most stay around and the others go back into the wild.

Some will leave and come back with their joey in their pouch. Its like they are saying "hey guys check out my baby". It is so nice to see them return and then go back into the wild.

What are the main types of wildlife that you find you are having to take care of?

At the moment we are caring for wombats. We have 4 in our care- Angie who is about 18 months old, Germaine Greer who is about 10 months old, Sophia about 6 months and Phillip about 5 months.

Angie is a real cute softy, she loves a cuddle. Germaine lives up to her name, a very head strong beautiful girl. Sophia and Phillip have been paired up, as we got them a week apart and they are just so gorgeous, inseparable!!!!

What are the most difficult animals to rehabilitate and why?

I find the Bennett's wallaby the most difficult as they are very sensitive to the environment and temperatures.

I have cared for a Tasmanian Bettong, Bertie- he was beautiful but we had lots of trouble when we first got him. He had bad diarrhea and was so small, only 220grms. After about a week in our care my partner went into the room to check him and came back and said: "Bertie is Dead." I raced into the room and picked him up and he was cold and limp, so I placed him under my jumper, directly on my chest and rubbed him to create circulation. Suddenly he moved slightly and I thought "you are not going to die"! So I kept him close to my heart and started giving rehydrate fluids, on the hour every hour for 24 hours. When he had his first wee, I knew his kidneys were working. Then his eyes opened slightly. I then started feeding him special milk and then solids and he picked up at a rapid rate but still had the runs. So, I phoned a specialist Bettong carer and she told me to go outside and get some possum wee and mix it with dirt and feed it to him, which I did. Two days later his runs cleared up- that was

amazing. Bertie is now free and living in the wild.

What are the biggest threats to wildlife in Tasmania?

Mankind, Gunns Ltd, Forestry Tasmania and our State Government. They are rapidly destroying the habitat of many of our wildlife and there is too much roadkill.

Clear felling for plantations is a very real problem as we are pushing our wildlife out of the bush and into built up areas, hence roadkill. Gunns still use 1080, which is a slow cruel way of killing our wildlife.

Local people everywhere in Tassie shooting them for so called sport. I had someone phone me the other day, her husband shot a female Bennetts (for dog food) and her joey was left orphaned. Through his guilt, they wanted me to rehabilitate the joey. I had a stern talk to them and hopefully they have realised the damage they are doing by killing an animal to feed another.

Do you find people's opinions on wildlife are negative or positive (especially in relation to wallabies and kangaroos)?

Unfortunately people's attitude towards these beautiful creatures is very disappointing. They look on them as vermin and treat them as such. I see ads in papers reading "Shooter available for control of vermin".

People drive too fast with no regards to our wildlife.

Slowly people's attitudes are changing with more mainlanders moving here and speaking out about environmental issues.

What should people do if they find injured wildlife?

People should phone the Wildlife Management Branch of Tasmania, 62336556 and they will put you in contact with a local carer- or if you are able, take the animal to your local vet.

For more detailed info, feel free to check out our website www.wildlifetasmania.com

What can people do if they would like to support the work you do?

People can make a donation by contacting us directly or if they are able, they can become a wildlife carer. We are running a raffle to raise funds as we have been granted a permit to care for the Tasmanian Devils. Tickets can be purchased by phoning me directly on 0417017015. If people are able to sell tickets

we would appreciate their assistance. Raffle details are on our website www.wildlifetasmania.com

Can you tell us a bit about Rainbow Retreats?

Rainbow Retreat Wilderness Eco Cabins is owned and managed by Peter Power and Ian Lawrence, life partners of 30 years. The retreat is one of the few true carbon neutral properties in Tassie. It has sensational ocean views of the north east coast of Tassie. We are situated in a Private Nature Reserve 600m above sea level on 75 acres.

We have three solar powered Eco cabins nestled in the bush and they all share the amazing ocean views. Wildlife roam freely around the property. We are situated on St Patricks Head just out of St Marys, half way between the Bay of Fires and Wine Glass Bay. Please check out our website. www.rainbowretreat.com.au

Peter, once again thank you- and thank you for the amazing work you do in rehabilitating and protecting wildlife in Tasmania.



BOOK REVIEW

Kathleen McLaren

Kitty McSporran Saves the Animals (with the help of her magic cape)

.... is a children's picture book that raises the ethical issues of using animals as experimental tools in both medical and product testing. The text and illustrations are simple, non-gory and encourage questions and exploration of these topics.

The story is of a young scientist, Kitty McSporran, who faces the dilemma of wanting to contribute to the wellbeing of humanity but questions the ethical and scientific basis of the use of animals in medical and product testing at her workplace. She raises the questions with her work mates and is told that's just the way it is. Kitty finds this unacceptable and has a series of dreams that help her to come to a

solution that is a win-win situation for both scientific and ethical progress.

Dreams, a magic cape, colourful illustrations, delightful characters and a happy ending make this book an enjoyable way to stimulate thinking and questioning in young (and older) minds. The book is suitable for anyone from age 8 to 100 years.

Teachers in both high and primary school classes who employ 'Philosophy for Children' teaching methodologies have found the book an excellent vehicle for presenting these ethical issues.

Kitty McSporran Saves the Animals (with the help of her magic cape) was written and illustrated by Kathleen McLaren.

Books are available for cost price of \$30 and can be ordered from the AACT office by telephone: 6234 6229 or email: info@AACT.org.au

AGM REPORT

As always our AACT's Annual General Meeting held in December was an opportunity to reflect on our work over the past 12 months and to thank all our members and supporters who have contributed so much over the year.

There are so many to thank, so we wish to extend a huge thank you to all of our members and supporters, volunteers and people who contribute their time and effort to our AACTions and AACTivities. AACT would not be able to function without all of your support and dedication.

Your AACT Committee was also determined at the AGM and with recent changes is currently:

Coordinator – Julie Williamson
Deputy Coordinator - Alice Giblin
Treasurer – Georgia Chapman
Secretary – Elizabeth Chapman
Membership Secretary – Lin Ashton
Member – Chris Simcox
Member – Shane Dalgleish

It was with great sadness that we bid farewell to long-standing member, Ben Bartl, late last year as he departed overseas. We wish Ben all the

best for his studies in Germany and look forward to his return in two years' time.

We have included a review of many of our AACTivities for the past 12 months in this newsletter. We always welcome input and participation from members in our AACTivities and this is especially important as we plan future events.

We look forward to the coming year and your support in working to end cruel animal practices.

2008 AACTIVITIES REVIEW

On the weekend of **January 12th and 13th** AACT had its annual information stall at the Cygnet Folk Festival. Our main focus was the campaign against Duck Shooting. Information on the topic was available and petitions and letters to the Minister were signed by hundreds of Festival attendees.

A Northern AACT Members Meeting was held on **January 27th** in Launceston. Thank you to everyone who participated in the meeting and a very big, big thank you to AACT member Mary Clemons for allowing us to hold the meeting at her house (and raid her fruit trees!!).

On **February 7th**, AACT members hand delivered over 600 signed letters to David Llewellyn, asking him to ban duck shooting in Tasmania. Although a number of attempts were made to meet with the minister, he failed to respond. We were forced to make do with dumping the letters over a David Llewellyn lookalike (thanks Shane).

On Wednesday **February 20th**, a number of Southern AACT members travelled to Launceston to join their fellow Northern AACTivists and members of Animal Liberation NSW (ALNSW) in a protest outside of the Grand Chancellor Hotel where the National Dairy Conference was being held.



The protest was against the dairy industry as a whole, in particular, the cruel and inhumane way in which bobby calves are treated. ALNSW drove their education van down and we were able to show footage (caught on a hidden camera) that exposed the extreme cruelty that bobby calves are subject to from the time they are unloaded at the slaughterhouse until they are finally slaughtered.

A number of activists also entered the conference, during morning tea break, and handed out flyers prepared by ALNSW. The protest was very successful and we managed to cause quite an upset amongst Conference attendees as well as handing out a large number of flyers and Bobby Calf DVDs. A big thank you to everyone who was involved in this event! Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the Bobby Calf DVD can contact the AACT office: 6234 6229

On Thursday **February 21st**, AACT protesters joined Hobart City Alderman Bill Harvey on the steps of Hobart Town Hall to support Bill in his call for all future Taste of Tasmania Festival stallholders to use free range eggs.

AACT held its first ever raffle this year, which was drawn on Friday, **February 22nd**. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and also for the generous prizes donated to AACT by: Bruny Island Charter Eco Cruise, Adventure Bay Holiday Village, City Organics, Yvette Watt and Artists Jo Sculthorp and April Bromfield.

On Thursday **February 28th** Emma Haswell and Chris Simcox entered Pitt's Poultry and filmed dead and dying hens as well as pits full of thousands of dead hens during the total depopulation of layer hens. After reassurances by DPIW that the farm was being regularly inspected and 'was good as, if not better than'

other egg producers in Australia, this footage revealed a different story. The footage was aired the following day in a further story on ABC's *Stateline*.

March 7th saw AACT members presenting footage and statutory declarations regarding what they had witnessed at Pitts Poultry to the General Manager Biosecurity & Product Integrity (DPIW), Alex Schaap, and Minister Llewellyn following questions regarding the veracity of the footage taken on February 28th.

March 8th signified the opening weekend for the Tasmanian Duck shooting season.

Approximately 60 duck rescuers, from Victoria and Tasmania, assembled together on the very dark and cold shores of Moulting Lagoon. These very brave and enthusiastic souls then dispersed across the lagoon to do their best to scare off any ducks. A very warm thank you to all involved.



Tuesday **March 11th** was a busy day with two actions being held on Hobart's Parliament House lawns. Members of AACT showed the footage taken at Pitts Poultry and highlighted our concerns for the lack of action taken by the Department. Liberal Shadow Minister for Primary Industries, Sue Napier, and Tasmanian Greens' Nick McKim took the opportunity of a break in Parliament to view the footage. AACT also invited Minister Llewellyn to dine on a freshly prepared dish provided courtesy of volunteer rescuers who attended the opening of the duck season at Moulting Lagoon. The meal served was a casualty of the open weekend for duck shooting. The dead duck was retrieved by duck rescuers who then tried to return it to the shooter. The shooter was not willing to take the duck from rescuers, so it was decided that it would not be wasted, but would be presented to the Minister. Unfortunately, the Minister was

not available, and Mr Kons was not prepared to accept the duck on the Minister's behalf.

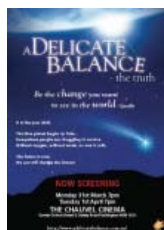
On **March 28th**, two members of AACT gained licences to kill. The members presented themselves at Service Tasmania and asked for the necessary licence required to permit them to kill muttonbirds. Both Activists handed over their \$25, but only one of them received any instructions on how to kill the birds. The other AACTivist was only given a copy of the Game Tracks magazine and told that everything she needed to know was in the magazine (which it was not!). The next day AACT members attended a short-tailed shearwater colony at Ocean Beach, Strahan, and for the first time filmed the killing of muttonbirds. The person filmed was observed to be using a hook to remove chicks from their burrows - a breach of Wildlife Regulations - and the footage was provided to DPIW for investigation. The person was interviewed, admitted to the breach, yet was only issued with a letter of warning, rather than being prosecuted by the Department.

Two AACT members attended a mulesing forum held in Campbell Town on **April 4th**. The forum: 'Mulesing 2010 – What is the future', was organised by the TFGA and was presented by wool industry reps and wool brokers. Little mention was actually made about the mulesing alternatives available to Tasmanian wool producers, however many farmers present did express strong concerns about whether the mulesing alternatives they decided on would be accepted by animal welfare groups. Clips (4 biodegradable plastic clips placed around the sheep's breech area) were briefly discussed as one alternative to mulesing, but some farmers stated that they were ineffective as they tended to fall off. A number of farmers were concerned that clips were still considered to be a form of non-surgical mulesing by animal activists and that they were not prepared to use them.

April 9th marked the one-year anniversary of the exposure of Pitt's Poultry in 2007 by members Emma Haswell and Ben Bartl. The day was marked with an event on Parliament House lawns dubbed 'One year on and still no answers for hens'. AACT members sat in 'battery person' cages to commemorate the continued suffering of battery hens. A passing primary school group joined in the event, all taking the opportunity to sit in a cage and learn about the plight of layer hens.

AACT joined the International celebration of Earth Day on Tuesday **April 22nd** by holding a cruelty free BBQ in Franklin Square. The aim of the event was to encourage people to think about the impact that consuming animal products has on the environment and to encourage them to change to a plant based diet.

AACT also took the opportunity to help promote the newly released controversial Australian documentary 'A Delicate Balance – The Truth', which focused on providing practical solutions to empower Australians concerned about their health to make life-saving changes through intelligent dietary choices. The film was screened on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th of April at the State Cinema.



On **May 10th** AACT helped celebrate Mother's Day by running a 'She is a Mother Too' campaign, which was aimed at reminding people that, just like human mothers, animal mothers have a strong bond with their young too.

We held an information stall on Parliament Lawns and handed out free Mother's Day Cards, raising people's awareness of the maternal links that Pigs and Cows have with their young.



On **June 4th** AACT staged an event to celebrate the occasion of World Environment Day 2008. Food Not Bombs, Huon Valley Environment

Centre, and Still Wild Still Threatened joined AACT to put the focus back on what the individual can do to help end climate change by promoting the idea that what you eat is more critical than what people drive in terms of how individuals impact on the planet. AACT also distributed flyers and information sheets highlighting how a diet that is high in animal products is responsible for high levels of greenhouse gas production and land degradation.

June 26th saw AACT joining with mainland group The Australian Society for Kangaroos to protest over the annual Maria Island kangaroo and wallaby cull.

The Tasmanian government planned to kill 300 wallabies in Maria Island National Park as part of their annual 'cull'. After the 2006 'cull' on Maria Island, veterinarian autopsy reports found hundreds of wallabies had died in the most painful and horrific way. Government shooters failed to kill the wallabies according to regulatory Codes, instead leaving them to die in agony from wounds to their chest and body. Whilst everything was done to stop the 'cull' it proceeded, regardless of the need for further research and possible humane alternatives.

On Saturday **July 19th** AACTivists staged a protest outside Launceston Town Hall in support of the Launceston City Council adopting a position at their upcoming meeting to preference free-range eggs at all council functions.

On **August 23rd** AACT staged an Anti – Fur protest outside the Silver Fox Boutique in Launceston. The protest was aimed at highlighting the suffering of animals used in the fur industry and to encourage the owners of the Silver Fox Boutique to stop selling fur.

October 4th saw AACT taking part in the national *The Love Earth Gathering* held on Parliament House Lawns. Our aim for the day was to encourage people to adopt a vegetarian/vegan lifestyle so we can drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save our planet.

Liila Haas, presenter with Al Gore's The Climate Project and practicing naturopath, yoga teacher and nutritionist was the guest speaker for the day and we attracted a crowd of around 50 people.



Also on **October 4th**, AACT celebrated World Animal Day. Peggy the Pig made her debut and delighted crowds by digging up Parliament Lawn and then taking a nap in the middle of the footpath.

On Monday **October 20th**, Ben Bartl handed over the Battery Hen petition to Greens Leader Nick McKim MHA. Thanks to all Ben's hard work and relentless door knocking, over 23,000 signatures were on the petition.

Wednesday **October 22nd** saw AACT members packing Parliament House for the debate of the Animal Welfare (Ban Battery Hens) Amendment Bill, tabled by Tasmanian Greens' leader, Nick McKim MHA.

Much to our disappointment, the Bill was not passed with both Labor and Liberal voting unanimously to keep layer hens confined in cages.

AACT held a stall at this year's *Sustainable Living Expo* held on **November 1st and 2nd**. The stall was a brilliant success raising over \$500 by selling stickers, badges and ceramic mugs generously donated by an AACT member. We received a lot of positive feedback and encouragement and managed to sign up a few new supporters.

AACT held a cruelty free BBQ on **December 13** in Franklin Square. The event was called *The 12 Days of Christmas: Factory Farming – Where Angels Fear to Tread*. AACT members and volunteers distributed flyers and information about factory farming.

AACT would like to thank everyone who has attended events and helped us with our stalls. We are looking forward to another busy year.

Discovered an injured or orphaned native animal?

Call 6233-6556 (9am – 5pm) or 0418-125-609 to contact a qualified carer.

BATTERY HENS

Julie Williamson

Following further evidence that re-exposed the cruelty of battery hen farming in Tasmania (brought to light by Emma Haswell and Chris Simcox in February last year), AACT has been working behind the scenes to ensure that the battery hen farming debate continues.

Through the hard work and dedication of Ben Bartl over 23,000 signatures were collected and presented to Parliament prior to the tabling of the Tasmanian Greens' *Ban Battery Hen Bill*. AACT members protested on Parliament House lawns to mark the occasion and highlight the fact that the Labor Government had not honoured it's commitment to end the cruel practice of battery hen farming, made nearly two decades prior to the tabling of the latest Bill.

AACT members and anti-battery hen supporters attended Parliament in late October to witness the final debate and voting on the Bill. Despite an excellent speech by the Greens Leader, Nick McKim, highlighting the extreme cruelty of cage systems, both Liberal and Labor spokespeople, David Llewellyn and Rene Hidding, spoke of their opposition to the Bill. It was therefore no surprise when it came to the vote that all Liberal and Labor politicians voted against the Bill, with only the four Tasmanian Greens supporting an end to this cruel farming practice. AACT committee members have been waiting for a meeting with the minister since the tabling of the Bill and have only just been given the opportunity to discuss his opposition to the legislation.

To report incidents of animal cruelty, please call the **RSPCA** hotline on:
1300 139 947



Ex-Battery Hen Margerita and 3 day old chick

In addition to the Ban Battery Hen Bill, AACT has also been pursuing the ban of the purchase of battery hen eggs by Government departments and agencies as well as local councils. So far, Hobart City Council, Clarence City Council and Launceston City Council have adopted bans, representing the first ever Australian municipal councils to make a stand against battery hen cruelty. On the Government front, Minister Llewellyn expressed support for a Government policy to the purchase of non-battery eggs but AACT is still awaiting an outcome of the Minister's approach to Government agencies asking them to change their purchasing policies.

Our survey of local supermarkets and grocery stores has indicated that 90% of businesses contacted have observed a substantial increase in the demand for free range eggs and also greater consumer awareness about battery farming and animal welfare. While the public is making a move to utilise their consumer power at supermarkets and local stores and change to free range alternatives, the hidden cruelty still lies within the mass sourcing of eggs by businesses, bakeries and large companies who manufacture pre-packaged goods containing cage eggs.

AACT wish to again thank Emma Haswell, Ben Bartl and Chris Simcox for their hard work for layer hens in Tasmania.

ADVERTISERS

Promote your business to over 100 readers on this page! Our reasonable advertising rates are as follows:

¼ page - \$25 ½ page - \$50 full page - \$100

AACT RAFFLE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and helped us to sell them. The winners of the 2008 raffle were:

- 1st prize: T Withers
- 2nd prize: L Holmes
- 3rd prize: E Chapman
- 4th prize: S Dalgleish

A very big thank you to all of our prize donors for their generosity:

Rainbow Retreat, Zyta Cwalinski, Jacqui Cleijne, Kathleen McLaren, Mary Clemons, Magnolia Cafe and Eumarrah.

EUMARRAH

Eumarrah

Organic & natural wholefood

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QUARTERLY QUOTE

I have no doubt that it is a part of the destiny of the human race, in its gradual improvement, to leave off eating animals, as surely as the savage tribes have left off eating each other....

Henry David Thoreau, Walden, 1854

VEGAN RECIPE

BREAKFAST-ON-THE-GO BREAKFAST BARS

submitted by Georgia Chapman

2 cups rolled oats
1/3 cup dried apricots - chopped
1/2 cup dried dates - chopped
1/4 cup almonds (chopped) or sunflower seeds
3 tbsp agave or maple syrup
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp coconut or vanilla extract
1 cup soymilk
egg replacer for one egg (I used organ no-egg)

1. Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees Celcius
2. Place all ingredients in large bowl
3. Spray bottom of pyrex dish (20cm square) with cooking spray or line with baking paper
4. Press mix into pan and bake until golden (approx 25-30mins)
5. Let cool completely and then cut into bars.

AACT says Thank You

- *Bio-Distributors* – Ric and Jo for their invaluable sponsorship
- The following Salamanca Markets Stalls for having a permanent AACT collection tin:
 - *100% Fresh Squeezed Juice*
 - *City Organics*
 - *Country Larder*
 - *More than Skin Deep*



- For sponsoring AACT's Ban Sow Stalls advertisements
- *Jamie McArthur* – prints AACT banners at a discounted price
- *Rainbow Retreat* - www.rainbowretreat.com.au
- *Zyta Cwalinski* – Massage Therapist 6224 1994
- *Jacqui Cleijne* – Artist www.jacquicleijne.com.au
- *Magnolia Cafe* – 6223 3531
- *Eumarrah* – 6234 3229