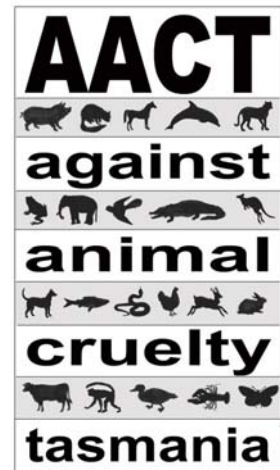


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AACT NOW

quarterly news from Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

July 2009

MULESING: Inside the Wool Industry

Jennifer Beer

AACT was recently interviewed in relation to the mulesing issue:

The 7.30 report:

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2009/s2589832.htm>

Landline:

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2008/s2591593.htm>

Before humans interfered to unnaturally select and breed sheep for maximum wool growth, sheep would grow just enough wool to protect themselves from temperature extremes. The fleece provides effective insulation against both the cold and heat. Wool was once obtained by plucking it from sheep during their moulting seasons. Breeding for continuous fleece growth began after the invention of shears. (1)

Shearing and Mulesing Equal Sheep Abuse

With approximately 93 million sheep, Australia produces 25 percent of the world's wool. (2) Flocks usually consist of thousands of sheep, making it impossible to give individual attention to their needs; it is considered normal in the Australian wool industry for as many as 6 million sheep to die each season. (3) Because there is so much death and disease in the wool industry, the rational solution is to reduce the number of sheep in each flock in order to ensure that each animal is able to be monitored and treated as soon as problems occur. Instead, sheep are bred to bear more lambs in order to offset the deaths.

In Australia, the most commonly raised sheep are merinos, which have been specifically bred to have a greater number of skin folds, which means more wool per animal. This unnatural overload of wool causes animals to die of heat exhaustion during hot months, and the wrinkles also collect urine and moisture. Attracted to the moisture, flies lay eggs in the folds of skin, and the hatched maggots can eat the sheep alive. In order to prevent this condition, called "flystrike," many Australian sheep producers perform a barbaric operation—*mulesing*—by carving huge strips of skin and flesh off the backs of anaesthetised lambs' legs and around their tails. This is done to cause smooth, scarred skin that won't harbour fly eggs, yet the bloody wounds often get flystrike before they heal. Under the threat of an international boycott of Australian wool products, wool industry officials have said that they will find an alternative to mulesing and will phase out the practice by 2010. (4) One farmer—who successfully protects his sheep from flystrike by using a combination of fly traps, chemical sprays, breed selection, and grazing management—attributed the industry's resistance to giving up mulesing to "a bit of old-boys'-club arrogance in a once-grand industry that is now struggling a bit." (5)

Sheep are sheared each spring, after lambing, just before some breeds would naturally shed their winter coats. Timing is considered critical: shearing too late means wool loss. In the rush, many sheep die from exposure after premature shearing.

Shearers are usually paid by volume, not by the hour, which encourages fast work without regard for the sheep's welfare. Experienced shearers clip more than 350 sheep in one day, and that pace is maintained for up to four weeks. (6,7)

Other Kinds of Wool

It may be called wool, mohair, pashmina, shahtoosh, or cashmere. But no matter what it's called, any kind of wool means suffering for animals.

Contrary to what many consumers think, "shearling" is not sheared wool. A shearling is a yearling sheep who has been shorn once. A shearling garment is made from the skin and coat of a sheep or a lamb who is shorn shortly before slaughter- the skin is tanned with the wool still on it.

Cashmere is made from the coats of cashmere goats, who are kept by the millions in China and Mongolia, which dominate the market for this "luxury" material. (8) Industry experts advise that farmers should expect to kill 50 to 80 percent of young goats because their coats do not meet standards.(9)

Angora rabbits may be strapped to a board for shearing, kicking powerfully in protest as clippers or scissors inevitably bite into their flesh. Angora rabbits have very delicate foot pads, which means that they often develop excruciatingly painful foot ulcers when they are forced to spend their lives standing on the floors of wire cages. Female rabbits produce more wool than males do, so on larger farms, male rabbits who are not destined to be breeders are killed at birth. (10)

Shahtoosh is made from the coat of the endangered chiru, or Tibetan antelope. Because chirus cannot be domesticated, they must be killed before their wool can be obtained. Although it has been illegal to sell or possess shahtoosh products since 1975, thousands of chirus are killed every year for shawls that are sold on the black market for as much as \$15,000 apiece. It takes up to five dead antelopes to make one shawl. (11)

The alpaca-wool industry exploded in the 1980s, when South American alpacas and llamas were marketed worldwide to entrepreneurs. The demand for alpaca wool has increased, so much so that herds numbering in the tens of thousands are now raised in the United States and Australia. Most of the world's alpacas live in Peru, but government officials there believe that Australia could take over the industry within two decades.(12)

What You can Do.

Use alternatives to wool, including cotton, cotton flannel, polyester fleece, synthetic shearling, and other cruelty-free fibres, as people with wool allergies have been doing for years. Tencel—which is breathable, durable, and biodegradable—is one of the newest

cruelty-free wool substitutes. Polartec Wind Pro, which is made primarily from recycled plastic soda bottles, is a high-density fleece with four times the wind resistance of wool, and it also wicks away moisture. (13)

Buy clothing from retailers that have pledged not to sell Australian merino wool products until mulesing and live exports have ended, such as American Eagle Outfitters, Abercrombie & Fitch, Timberland, Aéropostale, and Limited Brands.



A Mulesed Sheep

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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.



Ongoing AACTivities

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.



AACT Stall @ Salamanca Markets

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.



CAMPAIGN UPDATE – ANTI DUCK SHOOTING

Chris Simcox

In the year 2009 the Tasmanian government still permits duck shooting. Killing native waterbirds, long ago outlawed in other states of Australia as cruel and unfitting for an enlightened society, has the full support of our

regressive governing power here in Tasmania. Little progress has yet been made in changing the outdated, kill-oriented, mindset of mainstream Tasmanian politics.

Late last year and early this year we achieved some good media coverage, complete with repeated attempts to show up the Minister for his lack of care and interest in native wildlife. Each year we have to play the same game, trying to persuade influential politicians, and attempting to increase public support prior to the season start.

In something of a turn around on the previous two years, Victoria and South Australia also went ahead with a season, although somewhat restricted. This created something of an outcry as the drought conditions that had cancelled seasons in previous years still persisted. The shooters got a season because they applied considerable pressure, and the government relented. There were no such restrictions in Tasmania, just business as usual, "she'll be right, mate!" It was apparent that we would again be faced with having to do our darnedest to defend the ducks, while the Minister delighted in providing his shooting mates with an opportunity to blast away at native birds.

The season loomed upon us like an evil ogre in early March. We were prepared with a crack rescue team of experienced and novice rescuers, ready to go into battle for the ducks. In usual style we forayed to Moulting Lagoon with brightly coloured rescue gear and a few kayaks. This year we also added some raft-making equipment to the collection. We thought we should try to have some fun while doing the serious work of looking out for the ducks.

The night before opening we assembled on the shores of Moulting Lagoon. Tents went up, a shelter was erected and the kitchen took shape, the fire was lit, and work began on the raft. With the raft built, and darkness descending, we tucked into a sumptuous evening meal of home-prepared curry. We then moved into tactical discussions for the following morning, and followed this with a meeting with police and wildlife rangers.

The opening morning arrived and sleepy people crawled out into the 4.30am darkness of a foreboding Saturday in early March. In the chaos of that dark pre-dawn we managed to deploy rescuers on foot and by water craft (kayaks and raft) across the lagoon. By the

time the light came up it was clearly apparent that ducks were very scarce. Very few shots were fired all morning and some shooters were coming back to shore by mid morning having fired no shots.

Such a quiet start to the season could be seen as a good thing for the ducks, but in reality it is a warning sign that things are not as they should be. Moulting Lagoon is one of the largest breeding wetlands in Tasmania for native waterbirds, and is usually home to large populations during this time of year. Seeing so few birds of any kind is a sign that things are dire. This was fairly apparent in pre-season counts conducted by the department (DPIW) and yet a full season was allowed. It is clear that the government works on a decision-making process that serves to benefit just a few minority interests, with little or no regard for the well-being of non-human animals.

We are soon to present our ban duck shooting petitions to the government and ask that if you have any to make sure you get them back to us fairly promptly. Keep writing letters to the papers, and to the Ministers, both State and Federal. It seems futile at times, but only by continuing to push for change will we finally achieve success. We have majority public support on side with this issue, but need to build this into a stronger voice for an end to the cruel and barbaric practice of killing native ducks.

If you want to know more about our campaign against duck shooting, take a look at our website www.aact.org.au/ducks.htm, email nativeducks@yahoo.com.au or phone the AACT office on 6234 6229.

Do it for the ducks!



BIG EARS ANIMAL SANCTUARY INC

Big Ears Animal Sanctuary is a 100% not for profit charity. It was co-founded by Brett and Jacqui Steele and is administered by a board of five very animal friendly people. The sanctuary is on a 20 acre farm located in northern Tasmania.

The farm provides sanctuary for many different species of animals. Some have been rescued, such as the battery hens and others needed new homes for various reasons, including neglect, mistreatment or abandonment. All animals live in harmony with each other and

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with us, their human guardians, and fellow animals.

All the animals at the sanctuary are provided with shelter, food, veterinary care and the freedom to engage in all their natural behaviours. The rabbits burrow and make warrens, the cows and donkeys graze and the pigs root around in the mud.

We believe there is no 'difference' between companion animals and animals slaughtered for food, clothes or experimentation. All animals are capable of experiencing the same emotions as humans, such as sadness or joy (one only has to observe a rabbit doing a 'binky' to know this).

We abhor the cruelty caused by modern factory farming techniques such as battery hen systems and confinement pig farming, believing it not only similar to concentration camps but also damaging to the health of the human consumers of these products.

We respect life of all forms and aim to show compassion and kindness to the creatures that have no voice in this world. We believe that being human gives us the responsibility to care, educate and work towards changing attitudes about the "us" and "them" mentality. After all, it wasn't so long ago that women were considered property and there was a system in South Africa called apartheid. As these things have changed, so too, one day will be the way the world treats its animals. This is what we strive for.

Treating with compassion – those without a voice

<http://www.bigearsanimalsanctuary.com/>

HOW TO HELP

Running a sanctuary takes more than pats, cuddles and kisses. It also takes a lot of money. As a not for profit registered charity we rely on the goodwill of those who care about animals. Every day expenses include feed, shelters, medication, cleaning, veterinary assistance, and fencing. These costs add up and any donation, no matter how big or small, will help the animals.

Big Ears would really love some corporate sponsorship to help with ongoing costs.

100% of all donations is spent on the animals – there are no administrative or staff costs. Donations and gifts are tax deductible.

Banking Details for Big Ears:

Please send us an e-mail if donating directly into the account with your name and address and we will send you a receipt so you can claim a charitable tax deduction.

Big Ears Animal Sanctuary Inc.

BSB: 017545
ACCOUNT NO: 253028028

The easiest way to help the animals is to stop eating them. A vegetarian or vegan diet not only saves lives, it is healthier for you and is friendly to the planet.



Teddy Rabbit at Big Ears Animal Sanctuary

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SPECIAL TOPICS

Maria Island Update

Patti Cosgrove

History of the Maria Island kangaroo and wallaby culls:

Maria Island is 10 km off the east coast of Tasmania, near Triabunna. It is a wonderful island and held dear by people who visit- short term campers and tourists are drawn to the island's seascapes, historic settlements and wildlife. However, we would submit that along with the spectacular seascapes, the main attraction of Maria Island for international tourists is the close contact with the wildlife. I have seen footage posted on UTube by an international tourist of a wombat waddling around on Maria Island. The length of this footage indicated the fascination with this creature experienced by this person. As we know wombats, along with Forester kangaroos and so many other species of Tasmanian native animals are routinely killed by 1080 baits and shooting in Tasmania, under crop protection permits.

Maria Island was purchased by the State government in the late 1960's. In 1969- 1970 Forester kangaroos and Bennetts wallabies were introduced to Maria Island along with a number of other species of mammals and birds. The raison d'etre for releasing mainland species of native animals on Maria Island was for tourism and as a safeguard to protect threatened mainland Tasmanian species, such as Forester kangaroos which had lost 90% of their original range since European colonisation, Flinders Island wombats (a unique pale coloured sub species) and Cape Barren Geese. In 1971 Maria Island became a National Park.

However, these policy decisions were deeply flawed and a number of serious animal welfare and environmental issues have arisen as a result of these introductions. Since 1994 the Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) and Dept of Primary Industry & Water (DPIW) have carried out large scale annual culls of Forester kangaroos, Bennetts wallabies and Tasmanian Pademelons, shooting thousands of them over the last 15 years. Up to the present time shooting has been the *only* method of population 'management' that the PWS and DPIW have been willing to consider.

It is this ingrained, outdated and callous approach to what *should* be the benign management of these captive populations of macropods that this working group is striving to turn around. Animal welfare friendly management policies and sound ecological strategies *can* go together to proactively reverse the many longstanding problems on Maria Island.

Furthermore and critically important from an animal welfare perspective, was the revelation by veterinary pathologists Dr David Obendorf and Dr Ian Langstaff who were undertaking autopsies during the 2006 cull, that horrific gunshot injuries had been inflicted on Tasmanian Pademelons and Bennetts wallabies, as the result of shots fired at the bodies of these unfortunate animals by PWS and DPIW shooters- instead of at the prescribed target- the brain.

In two letters forwarded within the DPIW by these veterinary scientists, the savage injuries were described, along with details of the prolonged and painful trauma which would have been suffered by these animals whilst still conscious, until death finally occurred through factors such as blood loss and shock.

Live pouch young were found in dead animals- the day *after* their mothers had been shot. They had to be euthanased. Not only did these practices violate the *National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos (1990)* and the *Animal Welfare Standard for the Hunting of Wallabies in Tasmania (2003)* but amounted to serious breaches of the *Tasmanian Animal Welfare Act (1993)*.

Over the last few months:

1. Establishment of a Native Animal Welfare and Advocacy Working Group within AACT to cover any native animal welfare issues which are not already encompassed by established native animal sub committees.
2. Research into *animal welfare* friendly forms of hormonal fertility control and other non lethal population management options in order to provide workable alternatives to the present cruel regime of continuous culling of Forester kangaroos, Bennetts wallabies and Tasmanian Pademelons on Maria Island.
3. Production of a professionally designed colour brochure by Lin Ashton. The eye catching design and layout was generously

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provided by Angus Ashton and the awesome photographs are courtesy of Ray Drew, an professional wildlife photographer.

In *The Mercury* 19.06.09, PWS stated that Maria Island would not be closed to the public from June 23 to July 13, although the ferries would not be running. However, tourists would have to get to the island via private charters.

We were informed by PWS that the cull, usually carried out during the closure period of Maria Island would not proceed. Mother Nature had saved the kangaroos and wallabies by deluging Maria Island with exceptionally high, urgently needed rainfalls in June- *literally in the nick of time*.

We will be seeking assurances from PWS that they will not be 'culling' these animals later this year.

If anyone would like further information or is interested in supporting this campaign, eg. writing to Minister Llewellyn and Letters to the Editor of the three Tasmanian newspapers- we would love to hear from you. And any donations forwarded will be most gratefully accepted- please indicate your donation is for the Maria Island campaign. THANK YOU.



Bennetts Wallaby, Maria Island 2008
Photo: C Simcox

FERATOX – THE NEW 1080

Lin Ashton

During 2005 on King Island over 200,000 Bennett wallabies died a slow agonising death after eating carrots laced with 1080 on the Island. 1080 is still used across Tasmania on private land and forests; but its continued use angers a large section of the community who are opposed to its use for poisoning our unique wildlife. However, due largely to public pressure; 1080 will be phased out in Tasmania by 2015.

In May of this year, the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) conducted a “Alternatives to 1080” workshop in Launceston. The “Alternatives to 1080” program has been given funding, but it appears that most monies have gone into lethal methods such as (high vision technology) for shooting, new methods for trapping and work on the alternative poison, Feratox.

Feratox is a cyanide based poison which has been in use for ten years in New Zealand; to control possum numbers, it is also one of the most deadly poisons to have been developed.

In 2007 research began in Tasmania using Feratox to target native browsing animals, the Tasmanian Pademelon, Bennetts wallaby and bush tailed possum. Concerns have been raised about non targeted animals accessing the baits. Bait stations operate by lulling the animals in to the area by feeding normal feed for several days, then mixing the poisoned pellets into the normal feed several days later. During one trial a non targeted potoroo was found dead after accessing Feratox. It seems over time, non targeted animals could become accustomed to bait stations and be attracted to the bait which is usually covered in peanut butter.

It isn't known that other Tasmanian animals such as the bettong, Forester kangaroo, ringtail possum and various types of birds won't be killed by eating this deadly poison. Feratox may kill more quickly than 1080, but “pouch young” and “at foot” joeys suffer a cruel death from either starvation, attack from other animals or excessive cold, after their mothers have died.

Feratox has been claimed to be a more “humane” poison than 1080, although wallabies in trials have taken up to 22 minutes for their heart to stop. Onset to unconsciousness has been from 2 minutes to over 20 minutes. The

death of wallabies occurs after muscle tremor, voiding faeces and urine, gasping for breath and in over 70% of cases convulsions follow due to absence of oxygen. Is this a “humane” poison?

Feratox is undergoing the registration process in Tasmania at present, and it is still in the testing phase, however it will not be used in Tasmania for some time, and certainly not if the general public oppose it's use on our native animals..

Non lethal methods of controlling browsing animals include; wallaby proof fencing, repellents and tree stockings, all of which protect pasture or seedlings without killing Tasmanian native animals.

If you are angry and concerned about exposing our unique wildlife and landscape, to this lethal poison; please bring this issue to all Tasmanians attention by:

- Writing to Tasmania's three newspapers: The Mercury, The Advocate and The Examiner.
- Write to the minister responsible, David Llewellyn.
- Lobby local politicians.
- Talk to friends and family about this poison.
- Purchase car stickers from AACT at 191 Liverpool St, Hobart.
- Spread the word. Tasmanian wildlife needs our help!!



WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROJECT.

Karen Bevis
Wildlife Education Project Coordinator

The Wildlife Education Project, funded by Voiceless, has been progressing, albeit slowly. The project involves writing 16 fact sheets – 8 on species of wildlife that are abused in Tasmania (Brush-tailed Possums, Bennetts Wallabies, Tasmanian Pademelons, Cormorants, Forest Ravens, Short-Tailed Shearwaters, Brown Quails and the ‘game’ species of native ducks), and 8 on a variety of issues, such as hunting, primary industry, road kill etc., that affect them. The 16 fact sheets will be presented in a folder with a DVD, and there will be an associated website. It is intended

that the kits will be provided to every school in Tasmania.

At this stage the fact sheets are all but written, with the last couple just awaiting some final detail that is currently being sought. The project has been delayed by a number of changes on the reference group, and delays in obtaining information from the Department of Primary Industries and Water. At this stage it is being decided whether it may be better to launch the kit at the start of the 2010 school year, rather than having it ready more than half way through the school year.

There has been a lot of research involved in writing the information for the project, but the result will be well worth it. The research has shown even more clearly how badly treated wildlife are in Tasmania, and how much work we have to do to change people's attitudes to native animals. It has highlighted some areas for future campaigns on wildlife issues, so stay tuned for more....

BOOK REVIEW

Cookbook Review – Veganomicon

Georgia Chapman

I love to cook – I also love nothing more than being able to leaf through a cookbook and know that every recipe is cruelty free. Although I own a few vegan recipe books there are a couple that I refer to constantly as a source of inspiration and help when I am stuck with what to cook. Veganomicon by Isa Chandra Moskowitz and Terry Hope Romero is one of these books. This book contains all the information that you would ever need to know about cooking awesome cruelty free meals. It contains all the basics (like the many different ways to cook different types of vegetables or grains), recipes for quick but satisfying weeknight meals as well as recipes that you could serve to guests that will please vegans and omnivores alike (I have served many of these recipes to my meat eating friends and they have been very pleasantly surprised). One of the best things about this recipe book is that it does not require store bought soy cheese or veggie burger products. Some notable recipes (and favourites in my household and circle of friends) include Chickpea Cutlets, Tamarind Lentils, Spaghetti and Beanballs, Curried Carrot Dip, Lemony Roast Potatoes, Mac Daddy (a vegan Mac and Cheese), and Chickpea noodle soup (recipe below) to name a few.

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You can find out more about Veganomicon and look at more sample recipes at this website: <http://www.theppk.com/nomicon.html>

HOUSE KEEPING

Lin Ashton

It is now almost a year since changes were made to membership issues within AACT. As you would be aware, membership payments for both members and supporters, now occur on the month each individual has originally joined AACT. When you have become a member/supporter, you were issued with a membership card and number, which also states the month you first joined AACT. Please display this card in a prominent position (fridge door is ideal); and you will always know when your membership is due.

Should your home address change, it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know of your new address so this information can be recorded. It costs AACT time and money to send newsletters, reminders etc to a member's address which has become invalid. AACT has steadily grown its member/supporter base, and your prompt payment of yearly membership is very important to ensure we are able to concentrate on various animal campaigns, and keep our office functioning.

Unfortunately at times members leave us, usually for re-location inter-state. However, should this occur, please let us know by sending an email to our membership secretary lin.ashton@hotmail.com, or by ringing our Liverpool St. office on 62346229. Your continued support is very important to us, and your presence at protests, rallies, meetings and social functions ensures we remain a united group, which is drawn together for a common goal, to make the world a much kinder place for all animals.



FACTORY FARMED RABBITS

Jennifer Beer

(Opinion Piece Published in the Examiner on Friday the 24th of April). Rabbits have long been associated with Easter; a symbol of new life and fertility. During our celebrations, we should acknowledge that farming of rabbits has recently become the fastest growing industry in Australia, with hundreds of thousands of rabbits living their short lives out in tiny cramped cages each year.

Factory farming systems are the scourge of modern farming practices, confining rabbits to the smallest space possible for their size, as already occurs with chickens, pigs, and fish in massive numbers. Rabbits farmed intensively are confined to 0.58 m² cage per rabbit, surrounded by other stressed animals.

Typical of all intensive farming methods, rabbits are denied the most basic of needs – a natural surface to stand on, soft bedding, space to run and jump, interaction with their surroundings and others, access to natural light, air and fresh food, rather than an pellet fed diet. These severe deprivations and unhealthy conditions lead to serious physical and psychological disorders, including abscessed feet, broken toes, ulcerated hocks, spinal injuries, malformed toenails, eye and respiratory irritations, fur pulling and ear biting.

In Europe, factory farming is slowly being phased out as people recognise the inherent cruelty involved. Australia is lagging behind and happily accepts factory farmers who put personal gain ahead of moral decency and animal suffering.

Factory farming systems are just that: factories. They treat living feeling beings as machines and afford them even less respect. If we won't face this issue at Easter, when we celebrate life and renewal, when will we.



COORDINATORS REPORT

Alice Giblin

From my vantage point as acting Coordinator, it is fantastic to see that nothing has slowed down in 2009.

AACTivists have continued the powerful and heroic stand against the forces of darkness in our island state. We continue to stand strong in

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the face of adversity. We have had adventures in many fields, which sadly illustrates the diversity of areas that animal cruelty penetrates our State. From frocked up ladies outside the Hamilton Rodeo – highlighting the lack of glamour in rodeos – to the seriously unfrocked up volunteers, paddling to protect our native ducks.

Some of our activities have been:

A rodeo protest at Ross; an AACT Garage Sale where we managed to raise almost \$200; the duck rescue weekend; a second rodeo protest at Hamilton Rodeo; a road trip to Ocean Beach to keep an eye on the recreational muttonbirders; an information stall at the Million Paws Walk; an against factory farming protest outside of Woolworths in Sandy Bay and another on the following weekend at Salamanca and a stall at the TreadLightly EcoFest.

Varied protests and actions have come and gone, but what stays the same and seems to keep everyone stoic in resolve and fortitude is the commitment and caring of our volunteers. For AACTivists, I know that it is difficult to refuse anything when you think about who you are doing it for.

Volunteering your time, energy and talents for creatures that can never do it themselves; a voice for the voiceless. A less obvious part that continues to give me strength is seeing our volunteers' commitment. I look at our volunteers and I know that I can always do more. So I would like to finish by saying thank you to the volunteers. Thank you for your time, your patience and your seamless commitment and support. Without you, AACT would be a shadow of itself. Thank you from AACT, thank you from the animals and thank you, as small as I am, from me.



WE HAVE BEEN AACTive

AACT has been very busy, as usual, this year. Here are some of our most recent AACTivities:

On Saturday February 4th, AACT held a protest outside of the Ross Rodeo. We received some excellent media on Win and Sothern Cross TV.



Ross Rodeo Protest

AACT held a massive Garage Sale on February 14th and 15th. We managed to raise almost \$200. Thank you to everyone who very generously donated items for the sale and also donated their time.

Our annual Duck Training Workshop took place on Saturday February the 21st at the Republic Bar in North Hobart. Thank you to the Republic for allowing us to use their venue.

On February 24th, AACT held a stall at the UTAS 'O-Day'. We received a lot of positive feedback and support from visitors to the stall.

March 7 & 8 was AACT's annual Duck Rescue Weekend. A number of activists attended the rescue (a very cold, wet and duckless weekend!).



Duck Rescue weekend at Moulting Lagoon

AACT took a flock of ducks to the airport on Friday the 20th of March and sent them safely back to Queensland. This stunt was aimed at highlighting the 2009 duck season in Tasmania and trying to get the ducks out of here and too a safer haven.



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Ducks awaiting departure.

On Sunday March 29, a group of lovely ladies donned their cocktail frocks and tiaras and braved the cold in order to send the message that 'There is nothing glamorous about rodeos' and protested at the Hamilton Rodeo.



Tiara Protest at the Hamilton Rodeo

With promises of more rigorous monitoring by Parks and Wildlife during the recreational Shearwater Season this year, AACT members took a road trip to Ocean Beach to keep an eye on what muttonbirders were up to on the opening weekend.

Once again AACTivists took to the Streets of Salamanca and handed out free Mother's Day cards as part of our "She's a Mother Too" campaign aimed at highlighting the strong maternal link that pigs and cows have with their young. Once again we received great media coverage with ABC, Win and the Mercury covering the action.

AACT was finally permitted to hold a stall at this year's RSPCA Million Paws Walk. Thanks to the push from AACT member Cameron Parsons, vegetarian burgers were available at this year's BBQ, but unfortunately free range meat products were also served. The stall was a great success and we received a lot of

attention. A big thank you to Chris Simcox, who braved the crowds and handed out information on vegetarianism and encouraged people to choose the veggie burgers over the meat options at the BBQ



AACT stall at the Million Paws Walk

As a result of the footage brought to light by activist Emma Haswell, AACT held a protest outside of Woolworths in Sandy Bay on Saturday the 23rd of May. Thank you to everyone who turned up to help make this event a complete success. It was heartening to realise that public awareness on the issue of Factory Farmed Pigs was so high (as a result of Emma's footage) and even more encouraging to have so many people say that they would never eat pork again!



Woolworths Protest

The following weekend, AACT protesters handed out information about Factory Farmed Pigs. Once again, feedback from the general public was positive.

On Sunday June 7th, volunteers braved the cold and the wet and held a stall at the TreadLightly EnvioFest. All thought it was a bit of a quiet day, we did manage to hand out a lot of information and make a bit of money.

AACT held its first 'Rally for the Animals' on Saturday June 20. The event was an amazing success with a crowd of over 400 in attendance. We would like to extend a big thank you to all of the speakers at the event, especially Emma Haswell from Brightside Farm Sanctuary. The feedback from members of the public was very

encouraging and supporting cruelty free living

positive and hart warming with a number of people commenting that they had decided to go vegetarian after hearing the speakers. AACT also received a number of very generous donations as a result of the rally and a number of new members signed up.



AACT Rally for the Animals

On Thursday July 2, AACT held our very first Quiz Night fundraising event at the Shamrock Hotel in Hobart. It was very successful, attended by an enthusiastic and competitive crowd. Huge thanks to Rod and the staff of the Shamrock Hotel. Also big thanks to our fabulous MC Cameron Parsons, Alice Giblin for all the work organising, Peter Jones for the questions and all the other people who helped to make the night a success.

AACT sends a big thank you to everyone who donates their time to all the protests, stalls and events that AACT is involved in. A very special thank you goes to Patti Cosgrove, Lin Ashton, Heather Blyth, Valentina Marshall and Ro Dallow for all the hours they devote to AACT. Patti, Lin, Valentina and Ro volunteer in the AACT office on a weekly basis and Patti and Lin run the AACT Salamanca stalls and attend every event we hold. Thank you!



QUARTERLY QUOTE

If a group of beings from another planet were to land on Earth - beings who considered themselves as superior to you as you feel yourself to be to other animals - would you concede them the rights over you that you assume over other animals?

~Attributed to George Bernard Shaw



VEGAN RECIPE

Chickpea Noodle Soup Recipe from Veganomicon

Soup is one of my favourite types of food, especially over winter. There is nothing better than a bowl of comforting soup when someone in the family has a sniffle or it is cold outside. Some of my omnivore friends swear by chicken noodle soup when they are feeling a little sick - but I say why cook with cruelty - you don't need to eat an animal to make yourself feel warm over winter. Here is a Cruelty-free Chickpea Noodle Soup for the Soul.

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 large yellow onion, sliced thinly
1 cup peeled, thinly sliced carrots (or chopped baby carrots)
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups sliced mushrooms
1/2 teaspoon celery seeds
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed in your fingers
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 tablespoons mirin (optional)
1/3 cup brown rice miso
6 cups water or vegetable stock
2 cups cooked dried chickpeas, or 1 (15-ounce) can, drained and rinsed
200 grams soba noodles
a bunch of your favourite greens - Spinach, silverbeet, kale etc (optional) - chopped

Directions

Preheat a soup pot over medium-high heat. Sauté the onions and carrots in the oil for about 10 minutes. Add the garlic, mushrooms, and herbs, and sauté for another 5 minutes. Deglaze the pot with the mirin (or just a splash of water). Add the 6 cups of water and the chickpeas. Cover and bring to a boil.

Once the broth is boiling, break the soba noodles into thirds and throw them in. Lower the heat to medium so that the soup is at a low boil. Cover and cook for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the chopped greens and cook until just wilted.

Add the miso and stir until it's incorporated. Taste and adjust the salt, and add a little extra miso if you would like a stronger, saltier flavor.

VEGETARIAN TASMANIA

Vegetarian Tasmania started in April 2008 out of discussion on how to promote the film 'A Delicate Balance'. Since then Veg Tas has gone from strength to strength, with nearly 150 people on the supporters list.

Vegetarian Tasmania aims to promote the health and environmental benefits of vegetarian and vegan diets to the general community (not forgetting our animal friends of course). We do this by holding stalls at relevant events, movie nights, and dinners with guest speakers, all of which we promote as widely as possible. We hold regular social events and activities for vegetarians and vegans to meet like-minded people, aiming to have something on every month, and support people interested in making the transition to vegetarian or vegan lifestyles.

At our May dinner, a talk by Naturopath and Nutritionist Liila Hass titled "What's Wrong With Eating Meat" attracted 70 people! We are planning a lunch at Nourish Cafe on Saturday 4 July, and a movie night on Thursday 30 July (details to be finalised). All welcome!

To find out more about Vegetarian Tasmania (whether you are already vegetarian or interested in taking up a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle) or to join our supporters list to be notified of upcoming events, go to: tasveg.org or email info@tasveg.org. Or you can visit our stall at the Rally for the Animals on 20 June.

Brightside Farm Sanctuary

Rescuing farm animals and running a farm sanctuary takes time, co-ordination and finances. Brightside is self-funded and relies on the generosity of people with both donations and time to allow us to continue our work for animals. This year has been particularly difficult with the huge increase in grain and hay prices due to the drought. With your support we can continue to help needy animals, and educate and campaign to improve the lives of farm animals. Please consider supporting us through a donation of time or money, or through our sponsoring programme. Visit us at www.brightside.org.au or phone us on 0408-658-356.