

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania is a not-for-profit group based in Hobart, Tasmania which aims to eliminate all exploitation, cruelty and suffering of animals within our state and beyond.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT.

Yvette Watt

Firstly, I must apologise for the fact that this is my first coordinator's report, even though this is our second newsletter! I was overseas for several months at the time that the first newsletter came out and was battling to keep up with correspondence thanks to having to deal with internet café's for my email access. But what a delight it was to read just how much the hard working AACT bunch had done while I was away (and I there I was thinking I was indispensable!).

AACT must be one of the newest animal advocacy groups in Australia – if not the newest. AACT was formed only about 18 months ago but in that time we have gone from strength to strength. The group started very informally and had its genesis with a small group of concerned individuals getting together in early 2002 (or around then) to try and distribute some postcards that had been produced as part of the national campaign to ban sow stalls. Shortly after that initial meeting the duck shooting issue became prominent in the media as a number of protestors from Victoria and South Australia headed to Tasmania after their own seasons were called off due to the drought (Tasmania was, in the end, the only state to continue with it in 2002). While only three Tasmanians took part in the protest that year, the media coverage of this action flushed some locals out of the woodwork who were keen to be involved in further actions on the duck shooting issue and other campaigns. These concerned locals didn't know who else to contact, and so several contacted interstate groups such as Animal Liberation Victoria and Animals Australia. Thanks to my having been involved in animal rights in WA for many years, I have national contacts who heard that I was starting to get active down here (I moved to Hobart in mid 1999 and was lying low for the first few years) and started forwarding the contact details of locals who were interested in getting involved in animal advocacy in Tasmania but couldn't find any group to be a part of. It soon became clear that there was a

real need for a group in Tasmania. The formation of AACT was an inevitable response to this need. Since those humble beginnings AACT has quickly become a loud and persistent voice for the animals and is filling an important gap in the Tasmanian community, which hadn't had a strong animal advocacy/animal rights presence in many years.

Up until now, much of what AACT has achieved has been made possible by the commitment of a small number of people, and the bulk of the expenses in running our campaigns has been met by the generosity of the committee who would rather spend time agitating for change than fundraising. But this is not a sustainable way to run an organization. WE NEED YOUR HELP! You will see in this newsletter that AACT is running a fundraising benefit gig, with the very danceable gypsy/latin/tango/klesma influenced Shemozzle donating their services as our main band, and Sirens Restaurant giving us the use of their upstairs ballroom as the venue at no charge. We would love to see you and your friends and family there (spread the word!), but even if you can't make it perhaps you would consider making a donation to our campaign funds.

While fundraising is an essential part of running a voluntary organization such as AACT, in the end we are only as strong as the support we get from our members. I would urge you to become actively involved in whatever way you can, whether it's coming along to demos or protests, staffing stalls, running fundraising activities or just writing letters. The animals need as many humans speaking out for them as possible.

Finally, you will also see in this issue of the newsletter that on Sunday November we are holding our first members meeting, with Michael Lynch of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust as a guest speaker talking to us about the issue of the imminent annual 'Muttonbird' season, which involves thousands and thousands of baby short-tailed shearwaters being dragged from their burrows and killed. I will also be able to report on the Animals Australia conference and AGM. We welcome along anyone who is interested – member or not – and we look forward to putting some faces to names!

Hope to see you all at our benefit gig and/or our members' meeting!

CAMPAIGN REPORTS

LIVE EXPORT / MULESING

Suzanne Cass
AACT has maintained its pressure on the live export trade in recent months. Following our high-profile rally outside the Roberts group's Hobart headquarters in May, we targeted Roberts' offices in St John Street, Launceston on September 25. Members of AACT travelled from Hobart and were joined by members of Animal Rescue and Noah's Ark. The action was supported by both the Greens and the Australian Democrats, and received excellent media coverage.



The following weekend, AACT held a presentation at "Dogs at the Domain", with the support of Wesley, Lily and Inky who spent the day being admired by everyone who attended on the day. (Wesley, Lily and Inky are 3 sheep who were brought along by Emma Haswell of Greyhound Action Australia, who has a farm full of "rescued" animals of all types, and we thank them and Emma for coming along.) About 100 people signed our petitions and approximately 40 letters of protest were sent to the Managing Director of the Roberts group.



For some time now, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has been campaigning the Australian government to ban live exports as well as the brutal practice of mulesing, a mutilating procedure carried out on young lambs to combat flystrike. Lambs are trussed upside down on a mulesing "cradle", and areas of skin the size of dinner plates are cut off from the per-anal and genital areas - in addition to their tails being cut off, and males being castrated. All of this with no analgesia or anaesthesia.



While flystrike is a problem, animal husbandry alternatives such as "crutching" (shearing "problem" areas of the animals in between normal shearing times) eliminate the need for a procedure that is considered so brutal that it is banned in the UK. PETA has succeeded in launching an international boycott of Australian Merino wool until such time as the Australian government bans both live exports and mulesing. The boycott has started with major US retailer Abercrombie and Fitch, and is set to grow to other major retailers.

There is much to be done in improving the lives of sheep, from mulesing as lambs, through feedlots and saleyards, to live export and beyond.

AACT needs your support in its campaigns. Please write to:

Minister Warren Truss
Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT
2601

W.Truss.MP@aph.gov.au



NICE WEATHER FOR DUCKS

Catherine Silcock

Spring has sprung, summer's on the way and the duck season has closed. So that's three pieces of good news. But we're after the jackpot, not just interested in *closed* we want recreational duck shooting banned in Tasmania by next season. Forced to recognise that these goals are usually met in stages we're beetling away at the little steps.

Earlier in the year two AACT members had a promising meeting with Minister Judy Jackson on exactly this issue. We stressed our stand on the matter, but specifically took her to task over the issues of the lead shot phase out and compliance with licensing. Firstly, if people are to engage in this vile "sport", the very least they can do is comply with government licensing regulations, which is currently not the case. Secondly, lead is a significant environmental pollutant, poisoning fragile water systems and birdlife, (particularly swans who take down the pellets along with the gravel they dig up and ingest). A ban on lead shot comes into effect next year, **but it is not banned at point of sale, instead is intended to be monitored at point of use.** Yes, I'm afraid you did read that correctly... and if you have any concerns about the practicalities of this, then please contact Judy Jackson's office on 6233 4180 asking for a centralised licensing system to cut down on licensing offences and for shooters to be required to present their licences specifying intended use when purchasing their shot. We're pressing this issue with the Minister's office again, but progress is slow.

On a more energetic note, by invitation from the Department of Parks some AACT members were delighted to be involved in the removal of some unregistered hides on Moulting lagoon this year. What a GLORIOUS day it was. Thank you to those involved, we know you could have just kept working!

We have more action planned in this campaign and we'll be AACTing until we get that goal.



Watch this space and don't forget to contact us if you'd particularly like to be involved in the ban duck shooting campaign. Numbers make all the difference.



HELP US TO HELP THE DUCKS – a letter from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is a voluntary community based group that has been set up to raise money to acquire and manage important areas for the conservation of our threatened flora and fauna. Last year we launched an appeal for donations to purchase and manage a 1000 acre wetland on the shores of Moulting Lagoon; an internationally significant wetland. Moulting lagoon is home to some 85% of Tasmania's black swans, numerous duck species and migratory birds like the endangered Eastern curlew that summer here after extraordinary journeys from their breeding grounds in Siberia.

Moulting Lagoon is currently classified as a game reserve and the area is subject to intense hunting during the season. This, along with 4WD vehicles driving through the soft mud of the lagoon's shores and overgrazing by sheep is putting the sensitive wetland habitats under extreme pressure.

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TLC's ownership of Long Point will stop hunting, grazing and 4WD access to at least part of Moulting Lagoon's fragile environment. The area purchased will then be managed as a nature reserve with the involvement of local people and volunteers from throughout the state.

The pro duck hunting Glamorgan - Spring Bay council has been blocking TLC's acquisition of Long Point by refusing to allow the area to be separated from the farm it is currently part of. The matter is currently with the appeals tribunal and we are close to reaching both a resolution and the target funds for purchase and management of the area.

We still need your help! If you are able to assist the TLC with this important conservation project, please make a contribution by phoning 6225-1399 to make a credit card donation. Your donation is critical to saving one of Tasmania's most important places for threatened plants and animals.

Nathan Males
President - Tasmanian Land Conservancy



CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE HUMANE SHOOTING OF KANGAROOS

Yvette Watt

AACT recently made a submission on a discussion paper for a review of the "Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos". This code, despite its title, covers the shooting of kangaroos, wallabies and other macropods for both commercial and recreational purposes. The submission, which was prepared in collaboration with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, made a number of suggestions and recommendations, all of which were qualified by our stance on this issue, which is that we do not support in any way commercial or recreational killing of kangaroos and other macropods and indeed our preference is for an end to commercial and recreational killing of these animals.

One of the most serious animal welfare issues relating to the shooting of macropods is what to do with pouch young and young at foot when the mother has been shot. The shooter is

supposed to be responsible for the destruction of the young, however there is no way of knowing whether shooters are even checking pouches for young, let alone destroying them humanely, as there is virtually no policing of shooters taking place. Wildlife carers often complain of having joeys brought to them by shooters who are happy enough to shoot the adults but find the task of killing the babies unpleasant and would rather pass the responsibility of dealing with this on to someone else.

A point of particular concern for Tasmania is that we are the only state that has a high usage of shotguns rather than rifles for shooting, primarily because wallabies rather than kangaroos are the main target species here, and that the animals are shot in bushy areas rather than open plains or paddocks. A shotgun fires small pellets which disperse the further away from the gun they are. A shotgun is much more likely to result in wounding of an animal rather than a well aimed single shot to the head by a rifle. The discussion paper makes it clear that the use of shotguns is an area of concern.

If you would like a copy of the submission we would be happy to email or post one to you.



QUARTERLY HOT TOPIC

GREYHOUND RACING

Craig Quarmby

A mutilated greyhound was recently found buried alive just outside of Hobart. Prior to burying it in a shallow grave, one of its ears was hacked off as a means of blurring its identification. Close to death when discovered, euthanasia was the only humane thing to do. This act of euthanasia by someone who cared was quite possibly the only humane treatment this gentle creature ever received. To date, no-one has been prosecuted.

AACT has called for an immediate ban on greyhound racing in this state. Over 25 000 greyhounds are born in Australia each year of which about 400 are born in Tasmania. Emma Haswell, of the Greyhound Adoption Programme (GAP) and Coordinator of Greyhound Action Australia (GAA), says that

since its inception, only 50 dogs have found homes through its Tasmanian programme. Greyhounds have an average life expectancy of 12 years, yet their racing career finishes between the ages of 2 and 4. Emma states that those dogs that are not adopted through GAP, have extremely limited options – the majority are “destroyed”, many are used in scientific experiments in Australian University laboratories, and a select few will be used for breeding. Very few are retained as house pets.



Furthermore, says Emma, over 1000 greyhounds each year are exported live to Asian countries including Korea, Vietnam, China and Macau. These countries are notorious for their cruel trade in dog meat for human consumption. Once the wallets of owners and trainers are no longer being filled, this becomes the likely fate of those “used-up” Australian greyhounds that leave our shores. Unfortunately, even greyhounds in their prime suffer unnecessary injuries and death in the Greyhound racing industry which, like all racing industries, cares not for the animals themselves but for the dollars they produce. Due to this inherent cruelty, South Africa and six American states have banned the industry outright. Greyhound Action Australia and AACT would like Tasmania to become the first state or territory in Australia to ban this despicable “sport”. For information on how to help, please contact Emma Haswell on 0408-552-862 / greyhoundactionaustralia@yahoo.com.au, or enter the Australian page on www.greyhoundaction.co.uk.



NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA, ACT

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Warren Truss recently stated that he “would

prefer” to value add in Australia by expanding the frozen meat trade, and decreasing the number of animals exported live.

MELBOURNE, VIC

A major Greyhound Racing Promotional Event to be held in Federation Square, on Friday 5 November was cancelled at short notice after the industry received news that Greyhound Action Australia was to stage a protest. Emma Haswell, of GAA, had sent the promoters pictures of butchered greyhounds in Asia, suggesting to them that the Sports Stars involved in the promotion should be made aware of the facts. In a show of commitment to their cause, the demonstration by GAA went ahead, despite the cancellation of the promotion.

... AND AROUND THE GLOBE

CALIFORNIA, USA

Under its new leadership of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California has become the first state to outlaw both the production and sale of foie gras within its borders. The “delicacy” of foie gras involves the forced tube feeding of ducks and geese prior to their “harvest”. The lives of Californian ducks and geese are soon to be a whole lot better following Arnie’s signing of SB1520.



QUARTERLY QUOTE

The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men.

Alice Walker



RESTAURANT REVIEW

Yvette Watt

Sirens - 6 Victoria Street, Hobart; 6234-2634

A number of the AACT committee & spouses found themselves dining at Sirens one night recently so we could bring our readers a review of their new menu, just in case you haven’t

been lately - or heaven forbid, ever! (Your committee does work hard for its members...).

Catherine, Russell, Michael and I (and little Flo) shared some pide bread (made on the premises) and a selection of dips— cashew and capsicum, a smoky babaganoush and beetroot and walnut – while waiting for the others to arrive. All were delicious but my favourite was the babaganoush. Entrée's included *warm salad of asparagus, shitake mushrooms and jerusalem artichoke chips in a truffle oil and raspberry vinaigrette* (Catherine & Russell) and *nori wrapped celeriac and silken tofu in vermouth butter cream, with quinoa and wasabi greens* (Craig, Sue, Michael and I.) They were both wonderful combinations of unusual flavours and textures.

By the time the mains arrived we had managed to down a bottle of Fleur de Lys bubbly and there was much animated chatting. Many of the mains were tested: Michael had *sauteed smoked tofu with spicy cashew coriander and lemon myrtle pesto and broccolini*, I had the *whole baked globe artichoke filled with mushrooms and hazelnuts on cashew saffron sauce* and Sue had *beetroot ravioli of four cheeses with a champagne, dill & pink peppercorn sauce with ruby grapefruit*. Russell and Craig won a combined prize for the richest meal with the *porcini and shitake mushrooms with truffle oil on a bed of puy lentils with a rich red wine reduction* while Catherine won the prize for the biggest meal with the enormous *Moroccan plate of barbecued pencil eggplant on fruited couscous with apricot baharat sauce*. It came with *Bissara*, a paste of broad beans garlic and spices and a *Harissa citrus salad*. Suzanne opted for the simple beauty of a bowl of roast pink eye potatoes in garlic oil. Not a critical word was heard from anyone although Craig, clearly an artichoke novice, did suggest that you "Don't try to consume every skerrick of the globe artichoke- the stalk tastes like %\$%^ and sticks in your throat!!"

After all of that food little room was left for dessert, but as we were as reviewers we had to at least try one or two! I found the *vegan coconut & lime tapioca with strawberry champagne jelly* most unusual but absolutely delicious and lighter than the equally tasty (and

also vegan) but much richer *lime and coconut cake* that Craig and Sue shared.

Despite collectively polishing off a total of two bottles of bubbly and 2 bottles of Ninth Island Dry White the bill came to a very reasonable \$40 per head with the drinks included in this price. The general consensus was that the food was spectacular, the 'Arabian Nights' décor and general ambience wonderful and the staff and service great. And as an added bonus, the amazing bunch that run this fine establishment don't stop at running a wonderful restaurant – they are extremely active campaigners for peace and environmental issues and great supporters of a number of groups, including AACT. Sue's final comments sum up our thoughts:

S ENSATIONAL AMBIENCE
I NNOVATIVE VEGETARIAN CUISINE
R EFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT
E NVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS
N OT OVERPRICED
S UPPORTIVE OF CHARITIES



VEGETARIAN RECIPES

Masoor Dahl

Easy Vegan Cooking
 Leah Leneman

Dahl is the generic name for pulse dishes in Indian cooking. Red lentils are the easiest kind to find and cook. Dahl is usually served as a side dish, and this could certainly be served as just part of an Indian meal, but if served over rice it is substantial enough as a meal in itself. A quick recipe:

- 255g / 1½ cups red lentils
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- As required sea salt
- ½ tsp turmeric
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 225g tomatoes
- 340g potatoes
- 1 litre water



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- 2 onions
- 4 cloves garlic
- 55g / ¼ cup (vegan) margarine

Rinse the lentils and place them in a saucepan. Grind the cumin seeds and add them to the saucepan, as well as the salt, turmeric and cayenne.

Chop the tomatoes and potatoes into fairly small pieces. Add them to the pan. Pour the water over everything, cover, bring to the boil, then lower the heat and simmer for about half an hour.

Slice the onions thinly. Chop the garlic finely. Heat the margarine in a frying pan, and add the onions and garlic. Fry until golden brown. Stir the contents of the frying pan into the lentil mixture and serve.



DID YOU KNOW?

It takes 13 500 litres of water to produce just 1kg of steak, yet only 1000 litres to produce a kilogram of wheat.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PUBLIC MEETING

When? Sunday 7 November 2004 @ 16h00
Where? 1st Floor, 6 Victoria Street, Hobart (above Sirens Restaurant)
Guest Speaker? Michael Lynch of Tasmanian Conservation Trust will present an information session on Short Tailed Shearwater birds (Mutton birds)

BENEFIT GIG

When? Saturday 20 November 2004 @ 20h00
Where? Lava Lounge (above Sirens)
What? Come jive to the sounds of Shemozzle

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When? Monday 6 December 2004
Where? To be advised.
ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND

ANIMAL FRIENDLY WEBSITES

CIWF (Compassion in World Farming)
www.ciwf.org.uk
Humane Link humanelink.vview.org
Cruelty Free Shop www.crueltyfreeshop.com



COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATION

Coordinator: Yvette Watt
Deputy Coordinator: Sue Quarmby
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary: Kiren Couser
Secretary: Karen Bohmer
General Committee: Catherine Silcock, Suzanne Cass, Ben Bartl, Maria Merry, Clair Orlikowski
Newsletter Editor: Craig Quarmby

CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS

Live export: Suzanne Cass
Sow stalls: Clair Orlikowski
Battery hen farms: Sue Quarmby
Duck shooting: Catherine Silcock

Campaign coordinators are looking for community volunteers who would like to become involved in actions. If you are interested in joining any of the above campaigns please contact AACT via email or telephone.

AACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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Mobile ☎

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