



# Coordinator's Corner

Chris Simcox

The busy times have continued for AACT during the past few months. As a voice for non-human animals in Tasmania we are entrusted with the responsibility to act in the face of injustices involving animals. Injustice is nearly all around us, every day. It is up to us to speak up as the ones who are able to do so and put an end to wrong-doing.

With the generous financial support of Biodistributors we are able to keep our factory farming billboard in places where it gets seen. It is vital that we can keep this displayed as often and for as long as possible so the message keeps getting out to those that need to see it. We are fortunate to get some additional "air time" gratis if there is no demand for the chosen location once our paid time has elapsed, thanks to the kind assistance of Prime Moving who display the billboard "skin".

Battery hens have been in the news recently as the Tasmanian Greens have put a Bill to Parliament that battery cages be banned. This is the third time such a motion has been put to Parliament and support is now needed from other sitting members. One way this will happen is if you take the time to meet with your local MP and implore them to support this Bill.

Brushtail Possums are back in the news since the commercial management plan gained approval by the federal Minister Tony Burke. We claimed a victory in that plans to live trap, transport, and abattoir slaughter were excluded from the final plan. Read more in our special report.

Clare gives us a summary from our latest campaign against fish killing. Her article summarises the three recent events that highlight the enormity of suffering that goes on beneath the deep blue. Suzanne provides an update on the live animal transport industry that continues to cause shock and disgust. Patti reports on our Forester kangaroo action for Threatened Species Day to emphasise the dire situation for these beautiful macropods.

Seagulls were in the news because TasPorts went on a killing spree - read the article to find out more. Barry Hebbard has provides a summary of what is happening to short-tailed shearwater so take a look at his article to get the latest news. Little has happened in the campaigns against duck shooting and quail shooting, so there are no campaign reports this time round.

We have been commenting on the Review of Wildlife Regulations in Tasmania recently, in an attempt to get some tougher laws to better protect Tasmanian wildlife.

In July we collected for our annual Tin Shake and managed to add a healthy amount to our working funds for the year. A big thank you to all the collectors for taking the time to keep AACT's operating budget in the black. Our Quiz Night in August was a great success and thank you to the wonderful Valentina for making it happen, and thank you to all those who contributed with prizes, including a great gift pack from Lush. See also our report on our latest and greatest Rally for the Animals last month.

Recently we took part in the Sustainable Living Expo, and had a great response from visitors to our stall. This was another good outing for AACT and a chance to reach many more people with our cruelty-free message. Thankou to all involved.

We encourage you to think about making a bequest to AACT. Talk to us if you are thinking about doing so but are not sure where to start. A bequest is a way to see that your support for non-human animals continues well into the future.

We have included plenty of interesting articles so please take the time to have a detailed read of this latest edition of our informative newsletter. Give some time also to thinking about how you can make a difference for non-human animals every day.

## Upcoming Events

**Cruelty-free Christmas, December.** We will be doing activities to promote a cruelty-free lifestyle for Christmas and beyond. Look for details on our website, and by email and mail.

**AACT AGM, December.** More details soon via email and mail.

**Cygnets Folk Festival, 14th-16th January 2011.** We will be there with our information stall promoting compassion for non-human animals and cruelty-free living.



## **Salamanca Market Stall-**

AACT continues its presence at the Greens Salamanca Market stall on a monthly basis, owing to a lack of stall volunteers. The stall offers awareness raising leaflets and merchandise for sale.

## **2010 Tin Shake Fundraiser**

Tin Shake day was Friday 30 July this year and it was a wonderful success.

The AACT Committee warmly thanks the very hardworking organisers Lin Ashton and Kathleen McLaren in the south and Mary Clemons in the north, along with *all* AACT members, supporters and friends who mobilised their time and energies to ensure this major annual fundraiser was such a success.

The generosity of individual AACT members, supporters and members of the public was heart warming. These individual acts of kindness consisted of large personal donations on the day or posted after the event.

Thank you so much to everyone who has given so generously of their time and/ or money which has ensured that this year's Tin Shake was such a success. Total Tin Shake donations reached \$3,782.55!

## **AACT's Annual Quiz Night**

This lively evening held on 19 August 2010 at the Shamrock Hotel in Hobart, was ably organised by Valentina Marshall, aided by a small band of helpers.

Enthusiatic and competitive quiz goers were in attendance, eager for accolades and AACT's fantastic array of prizes organised by Valentina, including sweet treats, soft toys, AACT t shirts, multiple copies of Kathleen McLaren's children's book *Kitty Mc Sporrán Saves the Animals, with the help of her magic cape* and other delightful items.

AACT would like to extend a special thank you to Lush Cosmetics for their donation of a luxurious hamper of body care products for the Quiz Night door prize.

The captivating MC, Margaret Steadman kept the evening moving along with humour and efficiency and everyone had a really good time.

Donations collected at the Quiz Night amounted to \$469.45. Many thanks to Valentina for organising the Quiz Night and to everyone who assisted her and who supported this fundraiser.

**Rally for the Animals-** *please see separate report.*

## **Updates on AACT's current campaigns:**

### *1. Exposing factory farming:*

The AACT awareness raising billboard- *This is Tasmanian factory farming. Think before you buy'* is currently located on the north west coast of the state, on the Murchison Highway at Spreyton and will be relocated to the Bass Highway near Burnie/ Somerset on 7 November for the months of November & December.

### *2. Raising awareness of Tasmanian war on wildlife:*

A submission from AACT was compiled and forwarded in April to the federal Department for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, outlining AACT's many objections on severe animal cruelty and environmental grounds, to the Draft Management Plan for the commercial 'harvesting' of Brushtail Possums from 2010 to 2015, including the proposed reopening of the infamous Lenah Game Meats possum abattoir at Rocherlea.

AACT has recently received a reply from the Commonwealth government, advising that an amended version of this Management Plan has been approved, subject to certain conditions, *however* live trapping and transport, and killing of possums at abattoirs has not been approved.

AACT believes that the decision against reopening the Lenah Game Meats abattoir is a victory for the people and the possums. Thank you everyone who spoke up on behalf of Brushtail Possums and against the resurrection of this abattoir (for anyone unfamiliar with the history of the latter, you can find the link on our Brushtail Possum page, but be warned that it contains graphic material: [www.aact.org.au/possum.htm](http://www.aact.org.au/possum.htm)

## **Coming Events**

See previous page for details of what is coming up. We will also send out email alerts for upcoming events. We ask members to refer to the calendar of events on the website, as other actions may arise without much notice, in response to media reports or new animal rights / welfare issues coming to light.

With the support of members, AACT looks forward to advocating on behalf of and furthering the humane and respectful treatment of all animals.

We always welcome input and participation from our members in AACTivities and this is especially important as we plan future events. If you would like to volunteer on our stall for any event, please contact AACT on 0408 970 359.

# Battery Hen Farms Are Foul!

Neon Lang

Friday 8th of October was a great day for AACT as we held a surprise demo in the Elizabeth Street Mall in Hobart that attracted a lot of attention for all the right reasons!

A week earlier I saw an ad on TV inviting folks to the Mall to celebrate World Egg Day. Promises of boiled egg eating competitions, prizes and giveaways all "brought to you by Pure Foods Tasmania, the states biggest producer of free range eggs". Excuse me for cross species metaphor while on the subject of chickens, but I smelled a rat!

Pure Foods claim that 80% of all Australian eggs are produced by caged chickens. This is a claim they have to make as 80% of all Pure Food eggs COME from caged chickens! The rest are a mix of 'barn laid', and 'free range'.

Labelling laws, or lack of them, mean that the term free range may be very loosely applied. The chickens being called "free range" may not be able to free range at all. Instead they may be stuffed into barns with artificial light at a density of around 10 to 12 chickens per square metre, with limited access to a tiny outdoor area. The



debeaking process, the wholesale murder of male chicks, the behavioural problems and the life of misery in these barns is on par with the non-life of the caged chickens. It is not good enough to stick some of the chickens on the ground in a permanently lit, stifling and overcrowded environment and con the consumer with a false promise of better-choice buying. All factory farming is cruel.

In order to present the other side of the story on behalf of our animal friends the AACT team had to work hard and fast with time against us. In the five or six days leading up to the event we had to put out the call to our members, alert the media of our planned response, make up some 'unmissable' placards and do our homework regarding the facts and figures. It was a real team effort as always and it came together beautifully on the day.

With fantastic support from the team at Hobart Police Station and even more fantastic support from

AACT members we marched into the Mall at 11.45 and took up a position right in front of the dodgy egg party. It was to be, as always, a peaceful protest but our huge signs said it all. Written in bold, blood-red the messages ranged from the pointed- '(caged chickens) 30 hours of suffering = 1 egg' to the general 'factory farming is legalised cruelty'. My favourite read 'battery hen farms are foul'. A little humour never goes astray!

It didn't take long for the attention to be diverted from the silly egg eating competition to us! The crowd and the organisers were certainly not expecting us and we peacefully disrupted the event with our silent vigil. Silent apart from our signs which screamed our messages out loud. During our stance I spoke to reporters from Southern Cross news and The Mercury. It was the first time I've done this kind of

thing but I wasn't nervous: it was about the animals. FOR the animals. Meanwhile the organisers of the 'celebration' seemed to be in a hurry to get it all over with (after all their promotion and advertising!) and by 12.20 they were hurriedly packing up the flags and tables and the tiny crowd, none of whom came especially

for the event but just happened to be in the Mall I believe, drifted away. I'm pretty sure we put a dampener on the whole thing and hastened its end. It was certainly funny to see the two hosts from Sea FM radio, obviously there as a contractual agreement, take the first opportunity available to flee the scene. They literally ran from the place. Says it all really.

That evening we had excellent coverage on Southern Cross news. Footage of the egg eaters juxtaposed with footage of us with our stand out signs. They had a sound bite from me where I spoke about the hypocrisy of Pure Foods and that our purpose was to remind people of the suffering the hens endure to produce the eggs. The spokesman for Pure was given air time too. He spoke about eggs being 'an important part of the community' and attempted to counteract our claims with a couple of incredible statements. Firstly he tried to promote the battery farming process by reminding us that the chickens are 'specially bred' for caged egg

production. I'm not sure how on earth he thought this was a validating or vote winning fact to espouse! He then went on to say that he had visited many battery farm operations (lucky man!) and from what he saw 'the chickens seemed to enjoy the environment'. I know. It could only leave one completely dumbfounded. Emphasis on the dumb. Clearly the operators at Pure Foods were there with only one single purpose: to market their cruelty laden unhealthy product. Its all about the money folks.

The following morning the Mercury ran a great photo story about the event on page 9 of the Saturday edition. It featured a large close up shot of an egg eating competitor about to stuff another hard boiled into his mouth and clearly depicted him in a gross fashion. Below that was a shot of us holding our placards with the headline 'Protesters shell out message'. The Mercury does love a good pun. The article was definitely written in a way that was sympathetic to us and the response was fantastic. People were commenting on it for the next week. This kind of exposure is invaluable. We may have reached 100 people in the Mall but probably reached 100,000 through the TV and newspaper. Not one of the dozens of people who spoke to me about the event was in support of Pure Foods or factory farming. The tide is turning against this evil practice and we are part of the change. Pure Foods are a supplier to Aussie Pride, and for more information and propaganda visit [www.aussiepridefoods.com.au](http://www.aussiepridefoods.com.au).

Chickens can be adopted out of a factory farmed life at most farms for a small price. These charming, intelligent and social creatures can be wonderful additions to any family with enough space and a safe place for them to roost.

## Threatened Species Day Action – Protect Forester Kangaroos!

Patti Cosgrove

National Threatened Species Day took place this year on Tuesday 7 September 2010:

A picture tells a thousand words!

It was a warm and sunny day for Forester kangaroos as they gathered, young and old, on the rich green lawn of Franklin Square in Hobart, near the office of the Bryan Green, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, in the adjacent building.

A number of Foresters ventured out of hiding for this occasion, having been assured that no one would be allowed to shoot them in the city, even if they did take a sniff at the juicy lawn betwixt their toes!

A few tardy Foresters missed the media cameras, either held up on buses or otherwise delayed and one young 'joey' could not be cajoled into donning his mask for the media (they *were very hot to wear!*)

It was a very colourful and successful action. Thank you to everyone who attended. We spread the message with posters and words that complete protection must be afforded Foresters by listing them on the State and Commonwealth Threatened Species registers.

Many thanks to the hard working folk who organised this action and to all the brave Foresters who put their tails on the line by showing up in broad daylight on human territory to tell us how it is!



A special thanks to Valentina for her endearing drawings of the Foresters on the placards. A visual winner! Please check them out on the link below to an ABC online Threatened Species Day report which includes an edited version of the ABC radio & television interviews with AACT:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/09/07/3004949.htm>

AACT also appeared on Southern Cross television news that evening.

Please check our website for updates on this campaign and for information about how you can help to get the Forester kangaroos the protection they so dearly need.

Act now, before it is too late.

# Bringing to the Surface the Cruelty of Fishing

Clare Knight, AACT Aquatic Animal Campaigner



**June 17 2010** – As a solo activist, I chose to bare most of my skin and be painted like a fish, to raise some much needed awareness on the devastation that the fishing industry is having upon our oceans worldwide and the mass cruelty to animals that goes hand in hand. Factory trawlers use nets the size of football fields and are vacuuming the oceans clean of sea life at an alarming pace. My message to everyone was clear - "leave fish off your plate, for oceans sake". Standing on the lawns of parliament house on that chilly wintry day, was no comparison to the suffering that these animals go through and I let the media know this. Filling up page three of the Mercury ([www.themercury.com.au/article/2010/06/18/153011\\_tasmania-news.html](http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2010/06/18/153011_tasmania-news.html)) and page eight of the Examiner and airing on three news channels, this stand alone demonstration was not only effective, but was a peaceful way to draw attention to a massive problem that is out of sight and out of mind to the majority of people.

**September 17 2010** - Thirteen activists (all members and volunteers of AACT) dressed up as penguins or painted themselves as fish, and lay piled in a heap underneath a "fishing" net to send the message that fishing hurts ALL sea animals. Every year between seven and twenty million tonnes of animals other wise known as "by-catch", are dumped back into the ocean dead or dying. These animals include - seals, dolphins, whales, sharks, turtles, non target fish, penguins and other seabirds, this figure does not include the billions of targeted fish that also suffer from the stress and excruciating pain of being captured and brutally slaughtered. Many of these species are being pushed to the brink of extinction. This visually outstanding and fun demonstration, attracted a lot of attention and reached thousands.



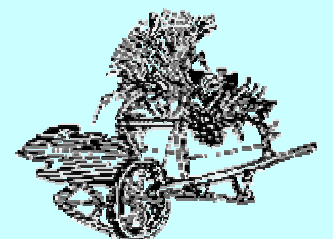
**October 2 2010** - The BIGGEST land based "fishing" net demonstration! As one of the features of the "Rally for the Animals" this 20x12 metre net was laid out on the lawns of parliament house, signs reading "Fishing Hurts" were placed at each corner. At 12pm around 50 people crawled underneath for a minutes silence to remember the billions of sea animals that have lost and continue to tragically lose their lives because of the fishing industry. Next time, we can make it even bigger - there's even talk of it becoming a Guinness Book of World Records event!

**AACT extends its sincere thanks to Bio-Distributors  
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# Rally for the Animals Wrap Up

Chris Simcox

On a beautiful spring day in October we gathered together to celebrate World Animal Day in style with our Rally for the Animals. It was October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the sun was shining, the birds were chirping (or some such) and smiles were aplenty. It was guaranteed to be a good day!

We put considerable time into making this event a success after the great day we had when we did it for the first time last year. There was a point to be proved about doing it better this time, and we were determined to do just that. We chose Parliament Lawns again as the obvious location, being close to Salamanca markets and likely to draw a good crowd on market day. Unfortunately a small administrative error resulted in us being double-booked for using the lawns. We were still able to go ahead but we had to scale things down a bit to fit in with the other event running nearby (a Chinese moon festival).

The day started with the Hobart Old Time (HOT) String Band playing a lively set while stalls were being set up and the crowd warmed up. The sounds brought people from afar and resulted in some spirited dancing and many happy faces.

Next up we had a couple of talks introduced by our ultra capable MC Neon Lang, who kept the show running smoothly. I spoke about choice, and about choosing to be part of the solution (being vegetarian, and advocating for non-human animals) instead of being part of the problem (eating animals and insisting that individual action will make no difference). Karen Bohmer from Vegetarian Tasmania spoke on vegetarianism as a tool to effect positive change for animals.

Just before midday Clare Knight talked about the commercial fishing industry in relation to large scale netting operations, particularly trawling. This served as a lead in to the Big Net Demo at midday. A huge net was laid out on the grass and we encouraged as many people as possible to get under the net as a visual statement about the enormity of trawl fishing. This is described in more detail in Clare's article.

John Hughes was up next and played a solo set comprising a mix of original songs and covers on acoustic guitar. His thoughtful and at times quirky tunes created a serene and relaxed mood for the early part of the afternoon. Penelle Cameron then performed an impromptu acapella number that was both uplifting and thought-provoking.

The official program finished with Suzanne Cass talking about the wretched and sorrowful lives of battery hens, factory farmed pigs and animals subject to live transport. She described the misery in enough detail to convince anyone to steer well clear of products of these detestable industries. Patti Cosgrove to the stage next to talk about the current situation affecting Forester kangaroos. Unfortunately Patti's talk, and the remainder of our program, was overridden by loud drumming emanating from the neighbouring festival!

Stalls by AACT, Vegetarian Tasmania, Australian Orang-Utan Project, and Still Wild Still Threatened were well attended. Free vegan muffins and cakes were hungrily devoured by visitors and stallholders alike. An art display was in place showing various works from children and adults in a variety of mediums. Children's activities were also available that included animal face masks and face painting.

Overall the event was a great success. We are entirely grateful to everyone who had any part in making the event happen. There were many, and the list is too long to give individual mentions. Thank you everyone! I think many people will now be looking ahead to next year when we do it all again, bigger and better!



# Long Distance Transport of Tasmanian Animals

Suzanne Cass

If you thought Tasmanian animals are not subject to the rigours of long distance transport, think again. Between 350,000 and 400,000 Tasmanian animals, mainly sheep and cattle, are shipped to the mainland every year. They may be transported across Bass Strait only to be further transported just to be slaughtered, they may be taken to feedlots where they may be fed hormone growth promotants and antibiotics (not permitted in Tasmania), or they may be transported to Portland for live export. Where the animals are transported for 'fattening', they may be fed chemicals, and you, by buying meat and mainly through supermarkets, are buying back the meat. This transport is cruel and unnecessary, but is claimed to be legal under the 'free trade between states' provisions of the Australian Constitution, State animal cruelty provisions notwithstanding.

This clearly affects the Tasmanian economy, and takes jobs out of Tasmania.

Animals may be purchased for this transport from saleyards anywhere in the state. Many may come from Bridgewater in the south, for example, where sales are held on Mondays. Animals may be delivered to saleyards the day before the sale and not collected until the day after. or even later. They will have been 'curfewed' (deprived of food and water) for 24 hours before transport to the saleyard, almost certainly will not be fed at the saleyard, then they will be transported to Devonport in the state's north west. Some go to abattoirs in the north of the State (at least a four hour truck journey), others are taken to the wharf at Devonport to wait for shipping interstate.



On 22.07.2009, we followed this truck, which took four decks of sheep to the Devonport wharf. The transporter and prime mover leave the trailer of animals to await loading. The heads of dozens of

sheep can clearly be seen on the top deck of the truck. The truck turned off to the wharf at East Devonport, and the camber of where the truck turns makes it easy for the animals to fall or jump out.



StopTAC has seen trailer-loads of animals left on the wharf at East Devonport in the full glare of the sun in summer and exposed to bitter cold in the winter before being loaded onto the top decks of the 'roll-on/roll-off' ships 'Searoad Tamar' and 'Searoad Mersey' which cross overnight to Victoria.

The animals are also exposed to rough seas and spray during the Bass Strait crossing. If the seas are sufficiently rough the ship may be turned back, with the animals remaining on the trailers for the duration. It could be that they are deprived of food and even water for several days. An unknown number of animals dies throughout this transport, and we have no way of monitoring what happens to them throughout, or upon their arrival in Victoria.



(Two trailers of animals on the top of the ship, including the one we followed on 22.07.2009)

We took up the matter of the animals not being fed at the point of saleyards with Dr Rod Andrewartha, the state's Chief Veterinarian and current head of the Animal Welfare Unit at DPIPW.

This is his response (with our emphasis):-

'In relation to the Animal Welfare Guidelines - Animals in Saleyards. These are approved under section 44B of the Animal Welfare Act 1993 (the Act), replacing the previous Animal Welfare Standard No 6- Animals in Saleyards which was approved under section 44 of the Act, prior to that section being amended.

These guidelines (and the same applied when they were previously called standards) are advisory. **Failure to comply with the guidelines is not an offence under the Act.**

The Act was amended in 2008 and now under section 44A it includes provisions to prescribe animal welfare standards which must be followed. Work is progressing nationally developing standards which will be adopted under this provision but **to date no standards have been prescribed for animals in saleyards.**

As the guidelines are only advisory, any concern in relation to failure to provide feed or water to an animal needs to be addressed under section 8 of the Act. **This section does not provide any time limits within which feed or water must be provided, but simply refers to providing appropriate and sufficient food, drink etc.**

**This means that simply holding sheep in saleyards from more than 24 hours without feed or water is not an offence under the Act. For there to be an offence it would be necessary to demonstrate that the sheep were subject to "unreasonable and unjustifiable pain or suffering" (s8(1)) as a result of being confined and not being provided with "appropriate and sufficient food or drink" (s8(2(e))).**

We continue to monitor saleyards and remind the livestock agents of the provisions in the guidelines. Action has and will be taken in circumstances where an offence under section 8 of the Act can be substantiated.

Regards,

Rod Andrewartha  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment  
Phone 03 6233 6836 6836  
Fax 03 6278 1875

We would like Dr Andrewartha to clarify how the animals are to prove that they are suffering from a lack of food and water over what could be a number of days, because we suggest that any animal so deprived will suffer physiological (and other) harm at any point in this rigorous process.

At an earlier time, we also took the issue of this journey up with Dr Mick Middleton, the now retired head of the Animal Welfare Unit at DPIPW, and he claimed that this journey is 'the most regulated in the country'. He was unable to tell us, however, who monitors this regulation.

We also took up the issue with the then Minister, David Llewellyn, who was also the Attorney General at the time, in the context of sending Tasmanian animals to Victoria for live export, and another section of the Australian Constitution, s118, which provides that 'full faith and credit shall be given, throughout the Commonwealth, to the laws, public Acts and records, and the judicial proceedings of every State'. Our reference was that the animals should therefore be protected by Tasmania's *Animal Welfare Act 1993* (amended), and were clearly being transported in a manner that would cause 'unreasonable and unjustifiable pain and suffering'.

Mr Llewellyn's response was that he would not 'debate the Constitution with (us)'.



# Seagulls, Tips and TasPorts

Chris Simcox

A call came in on the AACT phone in the middle of August: "They're shooting seagulls on Macquarie Wharf". In this case "they" are TasPorts, the operator of the major shipping ports in Tasmania. AACT launched into action and notified the media of our disgust at the killing of native seabirds. This set the ball in motion.

TasPorts came out declaring the seagulls to be a safety risk to their workers. They said that the seagulls dropped shells on the wharf and that this was hazardous to their staff. They also said the birds' droppings were a health risk, carrying disease pathogens, and that the excrement caused packaging on goods to perish.

Some of these claims may well be true but the undeniable fact is that conditions have been created by humans that obviously suit the seagulls very well. What the port authority needs to do is make conditions around the ports unattractive to seagulls. This has been achieved using some very effective deterrents in other locations.

A big part of the problem is the readily available food supply. Anyone who lives near the major rubbish tips around coastal cities can tell you about the large flocks of seagulls visiting twice a day. Management of rubbish tips is the real problem in this situation, and the finger needs to be pointed at the local councils who have been entrusted with this responsibility. Currently most councils fail in this regard and so the problem continues.



Photo: Integration & Application Network  
<http://ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/>

The initial story aired on ABC, WIN and Southern Cross on 29 August, and was featured in the Mercury with a colour photograph the next day. Letters featured for the next week. People were talking about in on the streets. It was hot news.

Then the situation got worse. TasPorts had their eye on the seagull colony at the Domain slipway. This they believed was the problem, the fact that seagulls had chosen to nest near "their" port. So what was TasPorts "solution"? Move the seagulls, of course. They hired "pest control" contractors to relocate the seagulls. They netted the gulls for a time to stress them and then released them to scare them away. They smashed their nests, stole their eggs and destroyed the whole colony. An estimated 5000 birds were uprooted and told to go "elsewhere".

Predictably this caused an uproar. Cries of "how dare they" could be heard around town. Many people were in a state of disbelief. Why are humans so callous, so thoughtless, so ignorant? The "blame the victim" mentality is alive and well. Sadly.

Do they really think the seagulls are going to stay away? Taken from a seagull's perspective it makes absolutely no sense that they were told to "move on". Taken from a logical perspective it makes absolutely no sense. They must still be scratching their heads trying to figure out what they did wrong. They'll be back again, less a few chicks from this year's brood. Maybe by then TasPorts may have become a little more tolerant, and enlightened.

What this whole saga emphasises is that education is all important. Learning the facts, and not being blinded by ignorance and presumption, is the key to finding a solution. Researching the issue has yielded a fairly straightforward solution, but one that requires some co-operative effort. Councils, port authorities and animal rights advocates need to work together in a pro-active way to find a humane solution. There is at least one there to be found.

What you now need to do is write to your local council, be it Hobart, Clarence or Glenorchy and tell them to get their waste management up to scratch. Burying waste in a timely manner will deter seagulls and reduce the likelihood of them causing a problem on the wharves.

# A Small Win for Wildlife

Karen Bevis

As reported in the July 2010 newsletter, the Draft Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Export of the Common Brushtail Possum was up for federal approval. This plan included provision for the live trapping, transport and then slaughter in an abattoir of Brushtail Possums, for export overseas for Asian food markets. This horrific practice was carried out from the mid 1990s until 2004 when the previous management plan expired. One operator was pushing to establish this industry and has been continuing to push for this industry, and that is John Kelly of Lenah Game Meats, who stood to gain the most from the Asian export market. The federal government had asked the Tasmania government to provide a more detailed and accountable management plan for consideration, and it took another six years for them to do so.

The good news is that thanks to the letter writing and campaigning of AACT, Animals Australia, and wildlife groups from around Australia, and their many supporters, the federal government has not approved the portion of the plan that involves live trapping and transport. Possums must be killed in the field. This will save an enormous amount of suffering and torment for these shy nocturnal creatures.

Having said that, AACT does not agree with a commercial possum industry of any kind. Currently an average of 270,000 are killed annually under crop protection permits, and an average of 10,000 for commercial local sale. The new plan is unlikely to result in an increase in the number of possums killed, rather a redistribution of numbers from crop protection to commercial (seen as "less wasteful"), with a total quota for commercial export of around 100,000.

We will continue to work for the possums who are being shot in the forests and farmlands. We must continue to educate people to live with wildlife and value them for their own sake. These creatures have their own lives to live and should be left alone to live them. Go to our website for information on living peacefully with possums [http://www.aact.org.au/possum\\_harmony.htm](http://www.aact.org.au/possum_harmony.htm)

Write to David O'Byrne and tell him that people need to learn to live with possums (and other wildlife), not murder them for commercial gain.

David O'Byrne MP  
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage  
Level 2, 10 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7000  
Email: david.o'byrne@parliament.tas.gov.au

**Have you discovered an  
injured or orphaned  
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## No Third Choice

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Dear Colleagues:

There is veganism and there is animal exploitation. There is no third choice. If you are not vegan, you are participating directly in animal exploitation.

If you are not vegan, think about whether your comfort, pleasure, amusement, or convenience is worth anyone's life. If you conclude that it is not, go vegan. It's easy, better for your health and the environment, and, most important, it's the morally right thing to do.

[The World is Vegan! If you want it.](http://www.TheWorldisVegan.com)

[www.TheWorldisVegan.com](http://www.TheWorldisVegan.com)

# Book Review: Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer

Lin Ashton

After the usual rush of media attention that Jonathan Safran Foer's book, *Eating Animals* received in late 2009, I decided it would be the next book I would purchase and read. Jonathan Safran Foer was born in America in 1977, and is also the author of two previous novels. He then embarked on three years of research which became his latest book *Eating Animals*.

After becoming a father for the first time, Jonathan starts to question our relationship to food. He says "I simply wanted to know for myself and my family what meat IS. What are the economic, social and the environmental effects of eating animals? Where does it come from? How is it produced? How are animals treated, and to what extent does it matter?"

This isn't a book designed to convert people to vegetarianism (however his family are vegetarians), but rather it is his well researched view of Factory Farming and all its associated horrors. Safran Foer is left feeling very angry and shocked by what he has seen.

Being American, the majority of his research is based there, and I was disappointed that he didn't state that what happens in the United States, unfortunately happens everywhere. I wondered whether some readers may think what is described in the book, only does happen in America.

His use of statistics is overwhelming. For example the consumers in the USA eat 27 billion pounds of beef from 35 million cows. Over 23 billion pounds of pork are consumed from 115 million pigs and 38 billion pounds of poultry are eaten from 9 million birds. The sheer scale of these statistics is really hard to comprehend.

Like *The ethics of what we eat*, a book by Peter

Singer and Jim Mason who also wrote on *Factory Farming*, Safran Foer also includes a range of views from industry stakeholders, consumers, farmers, abattoir workers, consumers and animal rights activists. All types of animals involved in factory farming are included, and there is also a large section entitled "Our under water Sadism", which deals with fishing (as we know it) and the horrors of long line fishing.

Perhaps the most disturbing section of this book discusses the brutal ugliness that frustrated workers subject animals to. In parts I had to leave the book, as it was totally gut wrenching, blunt, shocking and utterly harrowing, and left me feeling depressed and so angry, that humans could treat defenceless animals with so much appalling abuse. The actions of large companies are also ethically shocking. The pollution and health risks associated with large scale factory farms in the United States is horrific, and yet huge companies still manage to spread their operations overseas while the public generally accept the environmental and health risks that are associated with this form of farming.

Although this book in parts made me feel physically sick, it is really compelling reading and should be read by as many people as possible.

The following statement from Safran Foer sums up his view on Factory Farming:

"We can't plead ignorance, only indifference. Those alive today are the generations that come to know better. We have the burden and opportunity of living in the moment when the critique of Factory Farming broke into popular consciousness. We are the ones of whom it will be fairly asked, What did YOU do when you learned the truth about Eating Animals?"

It seems to be an angry plea from Safran Foer for everyone to consider the environmental, ethical, and social implications of Factory Farming, and he advocates that how we treat animals also matters to our morality and health...

well worth a read.

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# Cruelty Free Recipe

## Make Your Own Vegan Cream

### Dairy-Free Cream

2 tblsp corn flour  
60g Nuttalex  
30g Sugar  
½ tsp Vanilla Essence  
250ml Soy Milk

Blend corn flour with a little soy milk then add the rest of the milk gradually and transfer to saucepan. Bring to boil gently, stir until mix thickens. Set aside to cool. Cream margarine with sugar. Beat in the cooled corn flour mixture a little at a time then add vanilla essence.

### Soy Cream Cheese Glaze

112 grams soy cream cheese (Kingland or Toffuti brands)  
½ cup maple syrup  
½ tsp vanilla  
Blend all ingredients together in a food processor until smooth.

### Tofu Cream

300gms firm silken tofu  
¼ cup oil (reduce or omit as desired)  
⅓ cup caster sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
½ teaspoon lemon juice  
dash of salt

Blend all ingredients together in a food processor until smooth. If using as a cake filling or frosting, you may need to add some cornflour and cook

### Cashew Cream

This is another nice cream to use as a cake filling  
½ cup cashews                      1 ½ cups of water  
2 tsp maple syrup or rice malt  
Soak cup cashews in water for a couple of hours then blend until you have a smooth cream. Add maple syrup or rice syrup for a sweet tooth. Add more water if too thick or extra cashews if too thin. Other nuts can also be used.

## Sheer Madness

Barry Hebbard

Once again the Tasmanian Government has signaled the slaughter of the amazing Short-tailed Shearwater, *Ardenna tenuirostris*, will occur in 2011 with a "recreational" chick killing season and a commercial season in March/April 2011. The young chicks are dragged from their warm burrows and their necks snapped.

The number of chicks killed each year can be as high as 155,000 during the seasons. Cruel poaching occurs right around the state mostly under the cover of darkness. No accurate figures are available but are certain to be high.

I wrote to the new state Environment Minister David O'Byrne MP protesting the killing of this navigator of the world's vast oceans. The last sentence of his reply was "it is the view of the Tasmanian Government that this activity should continue". His letter dated 30/9/10.

It would greatly assist our "stop the killing" campaign if all AACT members would kindly write stating their opposition to:

Minister for the Environment  
Hon David O'Byrne MP  
Level 2  
10 Murray Street  
Hobart Tas 7000

Email: david.o'byrne@parliament.tas.gov.au  
Minister for the Environment  
Hon Tony Burke MP  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

The Shearwaters have to make an exhausting 6 week trip from near the Arctic. Some years the trip takes a brutal toll, dying en route with an empty stomach. This year seems to be such a problem year. "The Advocate, Burnie 23/10/10 contained this "Sydney Mutton Birds on their annual migration from the northern hemisphere are dying from exhaustion along the NSW coast. Wildlife, information, rescue and education service (WIREs) said yesterday it is receiving calls to rescue hundreds of seabirds found dying on the coast. The birds, mainly Short-tailed Shearwaters or Tasmanian mutton birds as they are sometimes known, are on their annual migration – one of the longest of any bird".

Talk about a death of a thousand cuts! Birds do not breed until 5 years old only one egg is laid; huge numbers are killed during the open seasons that only occur in Tasmania and by poachers; feral cats (and foxes if they get established here) take a shocking toll also gill nets, long-line fishing.

*continued over...*

**(Sheer Madness cont'd)**

Numbers are down since Bass and Flinders in the 1700s saw a flock of "a hundred million". Now is the time when we must act while numbers are reasonable. It may be too late to save a remnant species when there is talk of putting it on a threatened species list!

Earth Week ([www.earthweek.com](http://www.earthweek.com)) 4/10/10 carried an item "Migratory Mismatch". European researchers say climate change is happening so quickly that migratory birds are not keeping up with the earlier arrival of spring. They warn that a resulting "ecological mismatch" could be the main reason the birds' populations are declining. Spring is arriving an average of 11 days earlier than 30 years ago. Long-distance migratory species are the most affected".

The birds referred to breed in Europe. Our shearwater in the far northern pacific travels down to breed in Tasmania. Logically it will not be immune to such climatic changes.

The Wildlife Regulations 1999 that provide the shearwaters with protection are being reviewed. The draft shows maximum penalties lifted to about \$13,000.00. I have not seen the final version but it must be in place as law no later than 31/12/10.

We have for sale some aids for our campaign: T-shirts and car stickers. I have one black T-shirt with "Save the Shearwaters" logo on it, \$25 size XXXL. No returns, sorry. T-shirts can be ordered direct from Tas Clothing Co., 19 By Drive, Spreyton Tas 6427 Ph 6427 2256, Fax 6427 2665 Email [tascloth@ozemail.com.au](mailto:tascloth@ozemail.com.au)

For Tasmanian Conservation Trust car sticker please send stamped self addressed business sized envelope to: Body Corporate, L6/74 Steel Street, Devonport, Tas 7310.

Breeding aged shearwaters are currently down near the ice in Antarctica feeding up on krill etc. to reach optimum condition before returning to Tasmania mid-November. Egg laying in a very small window 24-25/11/10 or a few days either side. All their activities are done to a precise timetable!

**Thank you to:**

- The following Salamanca Market businesses for permanent AACT collection tins:
  - **100% Fresh Squeezed Juice**
  - **More than Skin Deep**
- The State Cinema for sponsoring AACT advertisements.
- Jamie McArthur for printing AACT banners at discounted rates.
- The following kind donors of prizes for the 2010 AACT Quiz Night:
  - **Lush Cosmetics**
  - **Kathleen McLaren**

**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.

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 [www.brightside.org.au](http://www.brightside.org.au) or phone 0408-658-356.

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