



Sanctuary Tales

Volume One – February 2004

Friends of Calga Springs Sanctuary Inc

Telstra Commits to Frog Habitat Funding

The year is off to a great start with Telstra agreeing to provide \$10,000 in funding for the Frog Habitat project.

You will recall from the last newsletter five frog species were positively identified by our frog expert, Samantha Kneeves, and her helper, Robin Meldrum. They were: Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii* - makes a 'popping' sound), Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*), Smooth Toadlet (*Uperoleia laevigata* - deep, bass 'squelching' noise), Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog (*Litoria fallax* - small, green frog often seen on reeds during the day, high-pitched creaking call), Broad-palmed Frog (*Litoria latopalmata* - 'yapping' call).

A second survey was done on 17/1/04 where two more species including an endangered frog were identified.

Envirofund Grant Application Submitted

Thanks to Jeannie and Adam for their hard work in getting the Envirofund application completed in time for the 30th January deadline. The application addresses funding for planting trees for part one of the Koala Introduction Program.

Unfortunately applications to the Australian Bird Environment Foundation and Kelloggs were unsuccessful.

T-SHIRTS ON SALE NOW!!!!

T-shirts with Calga Springs logo now available at the Sanctuary for 1/3rd off the regular price. Great to wear for working bees or representing the Sanctuary at functions/displays - lots of colours/sizes to choose from - so take advantage of this great offer.

Change of venue for monthly meeting

Please note the 23rd February Executive and General Meetings will be held at:
16 Squirrel St, Woy Woy (Ph. 4342 2892)

And a good time was had by all.

The inaugural Spotlight walk and BBQ on 19th December was a great success with about 45 members & friends attending.

Local folk singer Linda Campbell provided entertainment during the sumptuous BBQ and our raffle raised \$124 on the night with frog expert Samantha Kneeves taking out first prize and member Karen Doyle among the other winners.

Despite it being a very hot night (which heightened the perfume of the flora in bloom) we still managed to see grazing bandicoots, pademelons, wallabies and eastern greys in the picnic area. There was a degree of competition when the two tour groups set off as to who would "spot" the first animal.

Jeannie kept her tour enthralled with information on the various spiders and insects encountered while Adam's tour spotted a ringtail possum and a sugar glider early in the walk.

\$200 raised from this raffle and the Spikefest raffle has been donated to the Sanctuary to help pay for the spotlighting equipment.

Barry said he was very pleased with the night and the success of the subsequent spotlight tours throughout January. There are now walks planned for February and March so get some friends together and make a night of it. Bookings: 4375 1100

Dates to Remember

Next Meeting: Monday 23rd February

Exec: 6.30pm, General 7.30pm

16 Squirrel St, Woy Woy

If possible bring a folding chair as a spare

Special General Meeting:

Monday 22nd March, 7.30pm

Election of Office Bearers - nomination forms in next newsletter

Australian Owlet-nightjar (*Aegotheles cristatus*) Spotted at Sanctuary

Jeannie Lawson spotted this wonderful little bird during the frog survey night which just proves that the feral proof fence is keeping species like this little guy safe.



Tom Tarrant

Description

The Australian Owlet-nightjar is the smallest (21 to 25cm) nocturnal (night-active) bird found in Australia. Its large brown eyes are non-reflective when exposed to a torch or spotlight (other nocturnal birds give a red reflection). The Owlet-Nightjar has two different plumage colourations: russet-brown (rufous), and the more common grey. In both forms the birds are paler below, and are faintly barred with black. There are two wide black stripes that extend over the head from the top of the eyes, and meet on the back of the neck. The rufous form is restricted to the female birds, which, even in the grey form, tend to be more rufous-tinged than the males. The common calls consist of a loud grating chirr of either two or three notes, typically "chirr-chirr-chirr". Young Owlet-Nightjars resemble adults, but have less distinct black markings

Animal Tales

Adam has given Cilla a tiny baby Swamp Wallaby to raise – “very challenging and wonderful though” according to Cilla. Mum was hit by a train so he was originally called 'Tangara'. He's now called Oliver Wallaby and is so beautiful!!



He has no fur yet - has 5 x 1 hour feeds per day - wears nappies - is kept at a constant 30°C - and is rubbed all over with lanolin each day. Oliver is so gorgeous but I am so exhausted.... Cilla Norris

✂ ✂
You will be pleased to know that Raj the “expelled” joey mentioned in the October newsletter is progressing beautifully according to his carer.

✂ ✂
If you haven't seen the emu chicks lately – they are now HUGE and have lost their beautiful stripes but still very cute.

✂ ✂
We now have a wombat pen without a wombat! The people wanting to relocate their wombat suffered separation anxiety and changed their minds. However we will be working on finding another one who needs a home.

NOTICE BOARD

Ph Rae 4342 2892 or email calgafriends@hotmail.com

Easter Promotion Taskforce: Volunteers Required

We need volunteers to brainstorm and then work on those ideas for an Easter Promotion to be held Easter Sunday. Perhaps an “Easter bilby hunt” (we may have to use a token system so the emus don't eat the chocolate!) and sausage sizzle to raise funds. So put up your hand and put on your thinking caps and call to register your interest.

Museum: It has been suggested that Friends create a “Museum” type display at the Sanctuary visitor centre. We need:

- ? Your ideas
- ? Your skills
- ? Items to display

So put on your thinking caps and come up with some concrete ideas so we can put a plan into motion.

Photography: Any members interested in photography are asked to let the committee know if they would like to help record changes at the Sanctuary including, flora, fauna and projects.

Fundraising Ideas: We need suggestions for possible fundraising ideas for the group (and volunteers to help implement them). At the last meeting the idea of a garage sale was suggested. This can be a good earner but we need to gauge interest from members of items they could donate for sale – items that come to mind are crafts, plants, books, old wares, bric a brac. It is envisaged that it could be organized a few months away to enable us to collect goods for sale. Also we would need a venue that has easy access to the public – so any suggestions there would be much appreciated.

Sparky Required: We are after an electrician to repair the fridge that houses the fresh feed for animals. Currently food is spoiling after only two days so if you know someone who may like to provide the service free of charge please let us know.

Project Coordinator: Keith Elder (4342 1760) has volunteered to take over the position from Jim Shellens who is unavailable due to work commitments. Thanks Jim for your initial work in getting the role off the ground and Keith for volunteering for the position. The next calendar of working bees will be issued after Adam returns from annual leave.

Special Thanks: To all the volunteers who helped build the wombat pen and to Mick Sloman who has done a great job repainting the outdoor furniture

Attached is the list of birds so far identified in the sanctuary, some of which were sighted in the unprotected area. Those who have a keen interest in any of the groups listed might find it fun to help with its updating and well as creating a photographic library of what we have here. I'll leave it for you guys to decide what uses you might make of these lists. 6/12/03. Birds list is a mixture of what Robert Payne (undertook original ecological study) saw and suggested what would be here and mine and Nick Carson's observations. Adam Cohen

Reptile and plant lists will feature in future newsletters.

Notice of Special General Meeting – 22nd March – 7.30pm

Please note there will be a special general meeting to elect office bearers and general committee members on Monday 22nd March. Nomination forms will be sent out with the next newsletter.

We really need more people to get involved with the running of the group. Even if you do not wish to be an office bearer, please consider becoming a general committee member so we have more input from members and more hands to help with projects/issues as they arise.