

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL™



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Dog And Cat Fur Banned

On the 21st of May the Prime Minister announced that he would ban imports of products made from dog and cat fur. HSI would like to thank all the supporters who have taken the time to write letters and sign petitions to stop this horrific trade. It has taken a year but the incredible efforts of so many Australians have finally secured a win for the two million dogs and cats slaughtered annually to supply this shocking market.

In July 2003 Humane Society International exposed the cruelties involved in the global dog and cat fur trade and revealed its grisly products were on sale in Australia. Our 18 month undercover investigation exposed appalling animal abuses at the fur farms in Asia, and the deception tactics used by the merchandisers to sell the fur to unsuspecting dog and cat loving consumers.

The public response to our investigation was overwhelming, attracting by far the biggest outcry of all the animal causes HSI has ever championed. Over 75,000 Australians signed HSI's petitions to the Prime Minister, making it one of the largest petitions ever to the Australian parliament. It was also confirmed that the Minister for Customs received an unprecedented 9,000 personal letters.

We would like to sincerely thank our many thousands of supporters for taking the time to stand up for animals that cannot speak for themselves. This is your victory. Without the level of support you contributed we would not have won this fight. ■

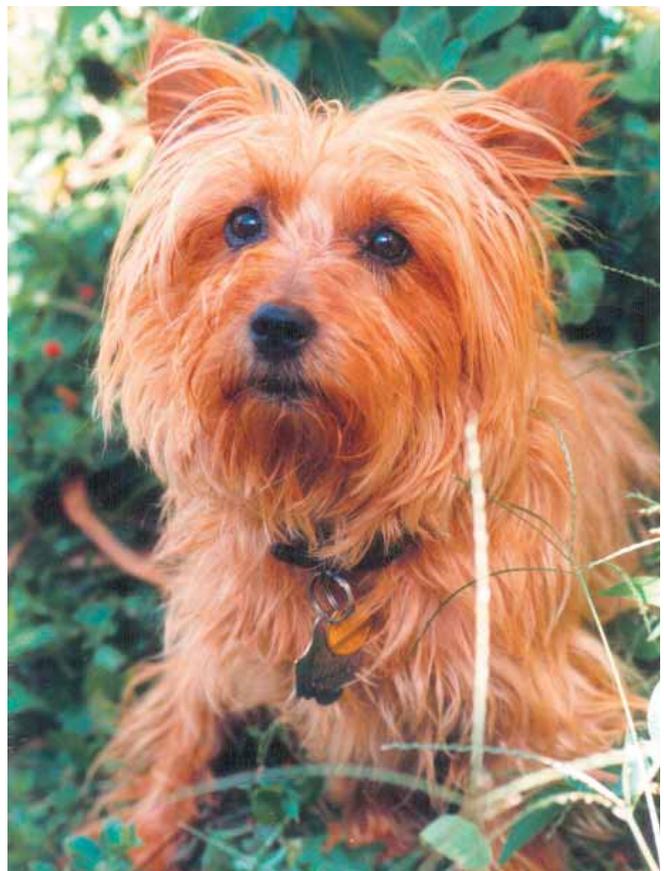


Image courtesy of David Lourie.

Protection for Coolibah Woodlands

HSI is pleased to announce that the NSW Scientific Committee has made a Final Determination to list the Coolibah-Black Box Woodland of the northern riverine plains as an Endangered Ecological Community under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995. The Committee's decision has come as a relief for many who were opposed to Regional Vegetation Management Plans in preparation that had proposed the clearing of tens of thousands of hectares in each of the Moree, Brewarrina and Walgett regions. HSI has been

working hard to secure the protection of this community for some time now. It has proved to be a controversial project and has not been easy!

This unique ecological community occurs in waterlogged floodplains, swamp margins and wetlands of NSW, and includes an array of vascular plant species, micro-organisms, fungi, cryptogamic plants and a diverse fauna, both vertebrate and invertebrate. *Continued page 3.*

Message from the Directors

Dear HSI Friends and Supporters

It is certainly with very great pleasure that we are able to bring to you the extremely good news about HSI's success in banning the import of cat and dog fur from Asia. This has been a longer than expected campaign, but the end result was the right result, and we can only thank you, on behalf of all those millions of cats and dogs that will be saved by this action, for your unwavering support.

This has been a fitting campaign victory in our tenth anniversary year, and a great way to celebrate!

May we also thank you all very much for responding so generously to our latest appeal, and to all those who responded to our survey in the last newsletter. We are still analysing the results, but you will find some news on the survey in the pages that follow (page 11).

Our front page story also brings you news of another great win for the animals, with the listing and protection of the Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands in New South Wales, in the northern riverine plains. This very special wildlife habitat once covered vast areas of the State, but has been systematically destroyed, leaving important remnants that must be protected.

We are also very pleased to bring you good news of a new international program that will help protect wildlife and habitats in South East Asia and the Pacific. Announced by the Prime Minister, and negotiated by Senator Meg Lees (with help from HSI), it is worth \$10 million over three years. This is good news for wildlife in this biologically rich region (page 11).

We would like to particularly urge you to write to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, and tell him that you do not want him to approve the import of Asian elephants from Thailand for Melbourne and Taronga Zoos. If this is permitted to go ahead it will create a very bad legal precedent, and

will also lead to significant animal welfare problems.

But clearly, there are no sound conservation grounds for bringing these animals into the country, and we need you to send that message to the Commonwealth (page 7). On the zoo front, HSI has also been asked to chair the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee, advising the NSW Minister for Agriculture on matters affecting all zoos in that State. It is the first time, as far as we know, that an animal welfare representative has been asked to chair the Advisory Committee.

We would also like to give you your first notice of HSI's "Extinction Denied" Art Exhibition Opening at The ArtHouse Hotel in Sydney's CBD on October 12th. This is our fourth exhibition and should be the best one yet, aiming to raise funds for our wildlife protection programs in South East Asia and Africa.

Finally, as an election draws nearer, we need your help to convince the two major parties to commit to taking certain actions to protection animals and the environment. Please make a particular effort if you can, to write to the two political parties about some very important issues (page 6).

Thanks for all your support as ever – our team efforts are working...

Best wishes



Michael Kennedy and Verna Simpson
Directors

HSI Helps Rid Australia of Plastic Bags

You may have heard the Federal Environment Minister recently promoting the phase out of plastic bags. HSI has done much to motivate the Minister in his campaign through our nomination of 'marine debris' as a Key Threat to marine wildlife. The Minister recently listed the threat under law and is developing a Threat Abatement Plan to prevent

turtles, seals, dolphins and whales ingesting and entangling themselves in our plastic waste.

ACTION:

Please say no to plastic bags and take reusable bags to the supermarket to bring home your shopping. ■

Protection for Coolibah Woodlands

Continued from page 1.

It is estimated that prior to European settlement, the Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands once covered an area in NSW of about 1.2 to 2.0 million hectares. However, extensive land clearing has led to the decimation of over two thirds of the original woodland communities. There may be some 200,000 hectares left, which will now be protected by this action.

Land clearing continues to pose a threat to these woodlands with clearing patterns resulting in increased fragmentation, of what little is left. Over half of the remaining woodlands are surviving as patches of less than 100 hectares. In addition to this, indirect effects such as overgrazing, weed invasion and altered flood regimes continue to threaten these woodlands.

Next on HSI's agenda for the Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands, is to push for protection under federal law. We are currently waiting on Dr David Kemp (The Minister for Environment and Heritage), for a decision on this matter, and we will keep you all posted!



*Open Coolibah woodland near Moree, NW Plains NSW.
Photo credit Royal Botanic Gardens Trust.*

ACTION:

Write to Dr David Kemp, Minister for Environment & Heritage c/- Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, and ask why he is delaying decisions to protect the Coolibah-Black Box Woodlands in NSW, and many other threatened ecological communities under federal law. Please send copies of replies you receive to us. ■

Design Against Fur Competition

AUSTRALIAN WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

This year HSI Australia joined with several international organisations for the second Design Against Fur competition. This year the contest message was fur trim.

The competition has been a fantastic success, which not only assisted in furthering the vital education campaign worldwide of the atrocities of the fur industry, but also has highlighted the broad scope of creative talents of Australian design students.

After much deliberation, our judges - award winning artist **Reg Mobassa**, award winning artist **Wendy Sharpe**, Director of Ing Design, Marketing and Advertising, **David Terrezas**, Curator of The ArtHouse Hotel, **Michael Lenehan**, and Director of Humane Society International, **Verna Simpson** - selected the three winners:

- 1st Prize:** Fran Johnson-Cash of Griffith University Queensland College of Art
- 2nd Prize:** Kari Hansen of Edith Cowan University
- 3rd Prize:** Shiho Watanabe of Edith Cowan University

Congratulations to you all, and best of luck for the next leg of the competition. All three students are now entered into

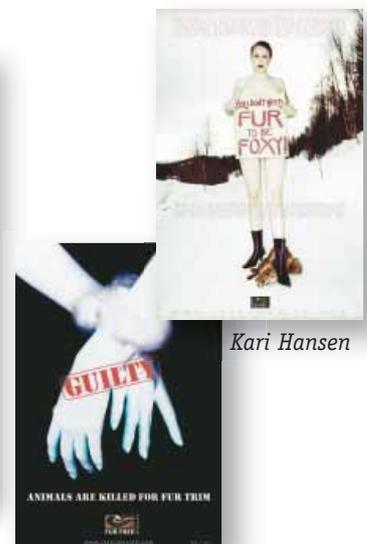
the International Design Against Fur competition, where the winner will receive \$5000 Euros and a trip to Paris.

Sincere thanks also the judges who took the time out of their hectic schedules to assist us with the difficult task of judging the submissions. We really appreciate your support.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the 2004 Design Against Fur competition. You can view all the submissions on our website www.hsi.org.au ■



Fran Johnson-Cash



Shiho Watanabe

Kari Hansen

Helping Wildlife in Africa – The Kilimanjaro Fieldmen

For two years now, HSI, in partnership with the UK Born Free Foundation and the West Kilimanjaro Conservation Project, has funded an anti-poaching patrol in Tanzania called the West Kilimanjaro Fieldmen. Fieldmen are recruited from three local villages on the Tanzanian side of the border with Kenya. They carry out frequent localised patrols, monitoring and recording human activity in their area. Over the past few years, it has had a dramatic affect on reported illegal wildlife use, including elephant poaching, reducing it significantly.

HSI has been very proud to be involved with this important project, and we are hoping to find the resources to keep supporting the critical work of the Fieldmen.

Other African programs that the HSUS/HSI family has been involved with over the last few years include, amongst many others:

- Supporting chimpanzee rehabilitation in African Guinea
- Helping protect Colobus monkeys in Kenya
- Supporting aerial anti-poaching patrols in Ruaha National Park in Tanzania
- Supporting anti-poaching activities in Kruger National Park in South Africa
- Contributed resources to a trial immuno-contraception program for African elephants in Makalali Land and Wildlife Trust Sanctuary in South Africa
- Supported African elephant conservation measures in Amboseli National Park in Kenya
- Involved in the translocation of African elephants from overgrazed and overpopulated parts of Botswana to Angola
- Provided resources to help protect the highly endangered painted hunting dog in Zimbabwe
- Provided resources to the Flower Valley Conservation Trust helping to protect threatened flora in the Cape Floral Kingdom in South Africa
- At the invitation of Nelson Mandela, joined the “My Acre of Africa” program to raise resources for conservation in Southern Africa
- Contributed significant resources for the protection of African elephants in Addo National Park, South Africa ■



Kilimanjaro Fieldmen in action. Image courtesy of Nick Martyn.

Become a HSI regular supporter and spread your donations evenly across the year!

Although our campaigners have many specific targets each year there is also a great need to plan long term strategies for many of the major environmental and animal welfare issues we face. By supporting us with a regular monthly pledge, you empower us to budget with confidence for these projects.

As a regular supporter of HSI, your tax-deductible donations will be deducted from either your credit card (Amex, Mastercard, Visa, Bankcard) or a nominated bank account once per month, and can start with any amount that suits your budget! To receive further information please feel free to contact our office on our free call 1800 333 737 or simply complete the coupon below to receive our regular pledge authorization forms.

Thank you also to all our existing regular supporters – without your support our work for the animals would be greatly diminished.

Yes, please send me information on becoming a regular supporter of HSI.

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____ Contact Phone: () _____

HSI Director Joins Australian Heritage Council

HSI Director, Michael Kennedy, was recently invited by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, to join the Australian Heritage Council. The Australian Heritage Council is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on heritage matters. The Council assesses nominations for the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List and compiles the Register of the National Estate.

Important heritage amendments to the Commonwealth's Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 were passed last year, after long negotiations in the Senate, supported by HSI, the Australian Democrats and Senator Meg Lees.

These amendments permit any member of the public to nominate a place they believe to be a nationally important and significant Australian heritage area, for protection under Commonwealth law. Michael Kennedy is one of two Councillors (seven all up) who will specialise in assessing

nominations for important natural areas. Working with the other Councillors responsible for natural areas, Dr Denis Saunders, Michael will develop a long-term strategy to see the national listing and protection for "natural heritage hotspots" and other critical natural areas. This process is a huge boost for wildlife and habitat protection.

HSI has kicked off the process by making the first public nomination for a natural area under the new legislation, which was for the Tasmanian Seamounts, just south of Tasmania in Commonwealth waters. Eventually we will hope to see very special places in every State and Territory in Australia represented on the National Heritage List.

Late last year, Michael Kennedy also received a Queen's Honour 'Centenary Medal' "for services to Australian society through the conservation movement".

Please turn to page 6 to help convince political parties to do more for wildlife habitats at election time. ■

Update on Northern Territory Push to Allow Trophy Hunting of Protected Wildlife

HSI continues its campaign against the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service's (NTPWS) proposal to allow the trophy hunting of wild crocodiles. Despite continued pressure from HSI, our many supporters, and other animal welfare and conservation groups, NTPWS are still pushing for the Federal Government to allow them to cash in on the lucrative business of allowing tourists to shoot or harpoon large crocodiles.

The Federal Environment Minister, who met with a group of pro-hunting crocodile 'specialists' in late May, has not yet decided if he will lift the ban on hunting native Australian animals for the export of trophies. This ban has been part of a long held policy that has ensured Australia's reputation as an eco-friendly tourist destination. HSI still needs your help.

ACTION:

Write to:

The Hon. Dr David Kemp
Minister for Environment and Heritage
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Mr Kelvin Thompson
Shadow Minister for Sustainability & the Environment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Ask that the prohibition on trophy hunting remain a condition of approval of the crocodile management plan. Let them know you fully support the Federal Government's long held policy in opposition to the export of Australia's native animals as trophies, held by both ALP and Coalition Ministers. Indicate you consider trophy hunting of Australia's native wildlife would severely damage Australia's reputation as an eco-friendly tourist destination.

Please send any copies of replies you receive to us. ■

Your Help Leading into Next Election is Required

As we head towards yet another federal election, it is extremely important that we take this crucial opportunity to tell the two major political parties what it is we want them to do about animal protection and the environment should they win the election. We want them to make commitments to you and to HSI about certain important issues. There are of course dozens and dozens of matters that we could raise with each party and HSI will be doing just that, but we have narrowed it down to six general issues that we would like you to urge them to commit to. If you are able to write only two letters this month, please give this action your urgent priority. Thank you very much for your help.

ACTION:

Please write to Prime Minister Howard, and Mark Latham, MP, Leader of the Opposition, C/- Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600. Ask them to make a strong commitment to taking the following actions should they win the next federal election and that you are a supporter of HSI, one of the largest non-government organisations in the country. Tell them that you would like a reply to your letter well before election day. Send your replies to us.

1. The introduction of a new National Conservation Action Program for Australia that is given national priority equal with existing salinity and water programs, and is given vastly increased resources for effective national implementation.
2. Maintain the new Regional Natural Heritage Program (biodiversity hotspots in Asia and the Pacific); significantly expand its budget; and extend the program on a permanent basis.

3. (a) Commit new and very significant resources to improve the implementation of the National Heritage Program, ensuring that all "Natural Heritage Hotspots" are listed under the National Heritage List as soon as possible, and (b) maintain and increase the resources of the National Biodiversity Hotspots Program permitting effective management of areas.
4. Ensure the final listing of all threatened ecological communities including those from State and Territory lists and identified in the National Biodiversity Audit, under the EPBC Act, by mid 2005.
5. The introduction of a new National Animal Welfare Act, which fully utilises all the powers available to the Commonwealth to contribute to effective animal welfare policies, giving legislative power to the recently developed National Animal Welfare Strategy.
6. To institute a ban, before the end of 2004, on the export of all live sheep and cattle, and to develop an industry package that will ensure minimum disruptions to jobs and actions.

This is a very important opportunity to show our combined strength for the animals. You have shown how your voices make a difference in Canberra with our victory over the importation of cat and dog fur. It is now time to let the political parties know again that they must act decisively on animal and environment issues.

Please post this page up on your notice board at work, or photocopy it and give it to your friends to take action.

Thanks for your prompt action.

How can I help animals even when I no longer share their world?



Through your bequest for animal protection to Humane Society International, you can provide for animals after you've gone. Naming HSI in your Will demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal protection and

strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal protection programs and material that will assist you in planning a Will.

Yes, please send more information on leaving a bequest to HSI.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Postcode: _____

Please post to HSI, PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107

Fight Importation of Endangered Asian Elephants

HSI has joined forces with other international and national animal welfare and conservation groups to oppose plans by Taronga and Melbourne Zoos to import highly endangered Asian elephants from Thailand. The zoos plan to import nine Asian elephants in conjunction with Auckland Zoo. The push by Australasian Zoos stands in stark contrast to the decision last month by Detroit Zoo to close its elephant exhibit recognising that, despite its best efforts to upgrade facilities, a zoo environment could not provide for the well being of elephants. To import new elephants to Australia the zoos require approval from Federal Environment Minister, Dr David Kemp, and we recently met with him to discuss our serious misgivings about the zoo's request.

One of HSI's major concerns is the inability of urban zoos to provide an environment even close to what elephants enjoy in the wild. Asian elephants in the wild have a complex social structure and live in family groups, which roam over vast areas of up to 30 miles a day. Australia's domestic legislation on importation of live animals requires that "the person receiving the animal is suitably equipped to manage, confine and care for the animal, including meeting the behavioural and biological needs of the animal". Scientific evidence shows that elephants in zoos suffer a catalogue of physiological problems ranging from arthritis, obesity, stereotypic stress disorders and reproductive disorders. All are conditions suffered precisely because urban zoos, even when providing the best possible care they can, simply cannot meet the behavioural and biological needs of an elephant.

Explaining the reasons behind the decision, Ron Kagan, Detroit Zoological Institute Director said, "It is important we provide all animals in captivity with a socially and physically healthy environment. We now more fully understand an elephant's needs. Just as polar bears don't thrive in hot climates, Asian elephants shouldn't live in small groups without many acres to roam". Detroit Zoo is sending the two elephants currently in its care to one of the United States' top animal sanctuaries in a move strongly congratulated by our US office.

Taronga and Melbourne Zoos will claim the driving force for their plan is to establish captive-breeding programs for these highly endangered animals for conservation. But despite the importation of over 33 animals since 1962 and a current population of eight animals in Australian and New Zealand zoos, no captive breeding of these animals has ever been successful in the region. Biologists regard the minimum population necessary for a self-sustaining captive population to be at least 500 elephants. Even in Europe and the United States where hundreds of elephants remain in zoos, they are still not able to establish viable breeding programs. Because elephants suffer terribly in captivity and breeding is not a viable prospect, HSI believes all efforts should focus on conserving elephants and their habitats in the wild.



Melbourne Zoo Elephant by Nicola Beynon, June 2004.

The real driving force behind the zoos' desire for new elephants is to increase visitor numbers and raise revenues. This is why Taronga Zoos is investing \$40 million in new facilities for the new imports overlooked by a 600-seat restaurant. Under the law the Minister is not allowed to permit imports of Asian elephants if the overriding motivation is commercial.

Perhaps most troubling of all, to make way for the new elephants, we understand Taronga plans to send the two aging elephants currently in its care, in substandard conditions, to Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo. They will not benefit from the new improved facilities being built at Taronga and will instead suffer harsh inland NSW winters.

ACTION:

Write to:

The Hon Dr David Kemp
Minister for Environment and Heritage
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2601
EMAIL D.Kemp.MP@aph.gov.au FAX (02) 6273 6101

Ask that he does not allow Australian zoos to import any Asian elephants because the zoos' primary motivation is commercial, the existing breeding program has failed to produce any offspring, any urban zoo is unable to meet the biological and behavioural requirements of elephants, and because you do not believe sustaining elephant populations in Australian zoos will bring any conservation benefit in the long term.

Copy your letter to:

The Hon Kelvin Thompson
Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Please contact HSI if you wish to write letters to more decision-makers on this important matter and send us copies of any replies you receive ■

Protecting Our Oceans...

Our long time supporters will know HSI has led the pressure on Australia's fishing industry to be more selective in its techniques so that seabirds, seals, sharks and turtles are not caught up the nets, hooks and lines. While many problems remain, we are making progress:

TURTLES ESCAPE NETS

The Northern Prawn Trawl Fishery has reported a 95% reduction in turtle mortality thanks to the Turtle Excluder Devices HSI has campaigned long and hard to have installed as a mandatory measure in all prawn trawl nets around Australia. Uptake of the technology by the Australian fishing industry was spurred on by a prohibition on the import of prawns to the United States from fisheries that don't use the devices, following court action by US conservation groups including our parent organisation, The Humane Society of the United States.

KEEPING SEABIRDS OFF HOOKS

In 1995 HSI secured legal recognition for the threat longline fishing poses to threatened species of seabird and a Threat Abatement Plan was drawn up in 1998 to tackle the problem. Unfortunately the plan was dogged by reluctance among a sector of the tuna industry to face up to the problem and lack of a firm hand by the Federal Government. The Plan is now being revised and HSI is in discussions with government and industry to come up with a new plan that will finally resolve this awful problem once and for all. The talks have been positive.

Action:

Write to Dr David Kemp, Minister for Environment and Heritage c/- Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 and ask that he not accredit the Commonwealth longline fisheries as ecologically sustainable until a new revised Threat Abatement Plan is in place and working. Please send copies of replies you receive to us.

SEAL FRIENDLY FISHING

In 1999 HSI drew attention to the hundreds of seals that die in Australia's southeast trawl fishery when fishing for blue grenadier. As a result Seal Excluder Devices have been tested on the nets of the large factory trawlers in the fishery. Regrettably last month an application for funding to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, which would have seen the devices trialed on the smaller boats in the fishery, was knocked back. Between them the smaller boats in the fishery kill approximately 700 seals every winter. HSI will not be deterred by this setback.

Action:

Write to Senator Ian MacDonald, Minister for Fisheries and Conservation c/- Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 and ask that funds are secured to trial Seal Excluder



Image courtesy of Brad Page, La Trobe University.

Devices in the wet boats in the Commonwealth blue grenadier fishery to prevent them catching approximately 700 seals a year. Please send us copies of replies you receive to us.

SHARK FINNING OUTLAWED

As many of you know, HSI has campaigned for several years for a ban in all Australian jurisdictions on the hugely destructive practice of finning sharks and discarding their carcasses. HSI was delighted when the Northern Territory was the last jurisdiction to come on board late last year. Now that Australian fishers are required to land carcasses before selling their fins, the wasteful and abhorrently cruel practice of slicing the fins from live sharks before throwing them back into the sea, should no longer occur in Australian fisheries. HSI is now keen to ensure the bans are strictly implemented and that further measures are taken in Commonwealth tuna longline fleets to ensure sharks are not caught in the first place.

Action:

Write to Senator Kon Vatskalis, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries for NT, GPO Box 3146 Darwin NT 0801, and ask that he ensure the new laws banning the practice of shark finning in Northern Territory waters are properly implemented and more effort be put into shark conservation. Please send copies of replies you receive to us. ■

HSI's "Extinction Denied" Fundraising Art Exhibition Fast Approaching!

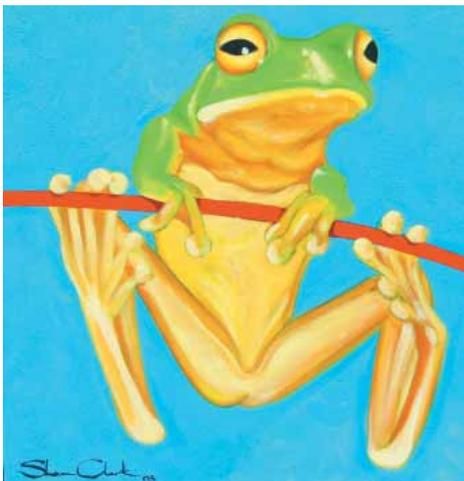
Preparations for our annual fundraising art exhibition "Extinction Denied" are well underway with the opening night set for Tuesday 12th October from 6-8pm at The ArtHouse Hotel (275 Pitt Street, Sydney). Once again, support from the art community has been amazing, with an ever growing list of talented, award-winning and dedicated artists generously donating art pieces, including:

Adam Cullen, Nicholas Harding, Gav Barbey, Stuart Rex, Xavier Ghazi, Stephen Coburn, Reg Mobassa, Euan Macleod, Nafisa Naomi, Ash Hemphill, Louise Saunders, Darren Pryce, Mark Sofilas, Mary Shackman, Michael Herford, Michael McIntyre, David Egan, RS Levy, Joanne Mulcahy, Shaun Clark, Bruce Goold, Mike Golding, Hugh Whittaker, Margaret Woodward, Abbey McCulloch, Terezka Beck, Fergus Donald, Marguerite Derricourt, Grant Whiteley, Peter Griffen, and Philipa Veitch.

With the proceeds of sales going towards our animal protection campaigns, we'd love to see the place buzzing with supporters and plenty of buyers! Please set aside the date and come along. We'll provide more details in our next newsletter in September, but to ensure a place please feel free to RSVP prior to public announcements to Melanie at our office on (02) 9973 1728. ■



Margaret Woodward's "Young Orangutan".



Shaun Clark's "Green and Yellow Frog in the Blue".



Adam Cullen's "Grape Ape".



Nicholas Harding's "Little Kingfisher".

Nicola Beynon Receives Award



Nicola Beynon, HSI's Wildlife & Habitat Protection Program Manager, was recently presented with an award for her long-time and effective commitment to the protection of all animals.

HSI Founder and President Paul Irwin presented Nicola with a beautiful painting by well known-artist Nafisa Naomi, a collage of the many animals Nicola has worked tirelessly to protect. We congratulate and thank Nicola for six years of successful campaigning for wildlife and their habitats. Thank you also to Nafisa for her kind donation of this marvellous painting. ■

Art piece by Nafisa Naomi.

Conservation & Animal Welfare Ministers

FEDERAL:

- The Honourable John Howard, MP Prime Minister (Fax 02 6273 4100)
- Minister for the Environment and Heritage (conservation issues)
The Honourable Dr David Kemp (Fax 02 6273 6101)
- Minister for Forestry & Conservation Senator, The Honourable Ian MacDonald (Fax 02 6273 7096)
- Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry*
The Honourable Warren Truss (Fax 02 6273 4120)

VICTORIA:

- Victorian Premier, The Honourable Steve Bracks (Fax 03 9651 5054)
- Minister for Agriculture*
The Honourable Bob Cameron (Fax 03 9637 8930)
- Minister for Environment and Conservation
The Honourable John Thwaites (Fax 03 9651 1188)

NEW SOUTH WALES:

- Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries*
Senator, The Honourable Ian MacDonald (Fax 02 9228 3452)
- Minister for the Environment
The Honourable Bob Debus (Fax 02 9228 3166)
- NSW Premier
The Honourable Bob Carr (Fax 02 9228 3933)

QUEENSLAND:

- Minister for the Environment
The Honourable John Mickel (Fax 07 3229 8541)
- Minister for Primary Industries and Forestry
- The Honourable Henry Palaszczuk (Fax 07 3229 8541)
- Queensland Premier
The Honourable Peter Beattie (Fax 07 3221 3631)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

- Minister for Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries*
The Honourable Kim Chance (Fax 08 9213 6701)

- Minister for Environment
The Honourable Dr Judy Edwards (Fax 08 9221 4665)
- Minister for Local Government & Regional Development
The Honourable Tom G Stephens (Fax 08 9213 6501)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

- Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*
The Honourable Paul Holloway MLC (Fax 08 8226 0316)
- Minister for Environment and Conservation
The Honourable John Hill MP (Fax 08 8463 5681)
- SA Premier
The Honourable Mike Rann (Fax 08 8463 3168)

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

- Minister for Primary Industries & Fisheries
The Honourable Kon Vatskalis (Fax 08 8901 4134)
- Minister for Environment & Heritage
The Honourable Marion Scrymgour (Fax 08 8901 4110)

TASMANIA:

- Minister for Environment and Planning*
The Honourable Judy Jackson (Fax 03 6233 2671)
- Minister for Primary Industries and Water*
The Honourable Steven Kons (Fax 03 6434 5224)

ACT:

- Chief Minister for the Environment*
The Honourable John Stanhope (Fax 02 6205 0433)

All letters to Federal Ministers should be addressed

C/- Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

All letters to State Ministers should be address

C/- Parliament House, in your capital city

* Animal Welfare Minister

Protecting Wildlife and Habitats in SE Asia & the Pacific

Last year, HSI worked closely with Senator Meg Lees and the office of the Prime Minister, to agree upon a new program to help wildlife and habitat protection in South East Asia and the Pacific.

The program is targeted at biodiversity hotspots in the region, incorporating the following countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, East Timor, Philippines, China, Polynesia/Micronesia (all States), Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia.

The initiative is called the Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP) and is worth \$10 million over a three year period and will go primarily to non-government conservation organisations in the region. Some of the world's most endangered animals will benefit from this program, including the Asian Elephant, the Sumatran Tiger, the Sumatran Rhino and Orangutans. HSI Director Michael Kennedy is a member of the Federal Government Taskforce, established to advise the Minister on how to distribute the funds throughout the Asia Pacific Region, and the first monies will be disbursed before the end of June this year. In the next issue, we shall bring you news of the important projects that have been funded by this program.

ACTION:

Please write to the Prime Minister and Senator Meg Lees, C/- Parliament House Canberra, ACT, 2600, saying well done on this great new initiative. Ask them to make this a permanent program with increased funds, that also looks at helping African wildlife. Please send your replies to us.

Please also turn to page 6 to help convince political parties to do more for these regions at election time. ■



Reforestation in Tanjung Puting National Park.

Survey Feedback

Thanks to all our supporters who took the time to fill out our recent survey. The results have been extremely interesting and helpful. As some of our supporters were interested in why we wanted this information we thought we should explain our motivation.

Our supporters are what have made this organisation what it is today. The financial contributions you provide give us the means to mount effective campaigns on several levels including political, scientific, and educational and the means to broadcast it to the greater public through widespread media campaigns.

The letter writing and campaign support you provide is incredible and can be demonstrated in no better way than by the dog and cat fur win. The Government has stated it has never before received as many personal letters on an issue and the petition signatures are in excess of 75,000. There is no doubt that this was a major contributing factor in the final victory.

So in putting together a profile of our supporters we are strengthening our position even more. Governments and

corporate supporters generally do not take action because it is the right thing to do. They do it to please voters and shareholders and to improve their image. Knowing who are supporters are will certainly help in our negotiations. It will also help us increase our support base by targeting the kind of people who fit our profile.

In order to ensure truth in fundraising the survey was also to ensure we were spending your donations in areas you supported. The feedback from the survey has shown that we have the blend fairly accurate. The other important feedback was that there was a desire from a huge number of our supporters to receive e-mail updates. We have provided a section on the donation form for you to update your details to enable us to do this. Many of our supporters also suggested we should sell Christmas cards so we will produce a range this year.

We are still analysing the survey data but thank you once again to all those who took the time to complete it for us. ■

Keeping up the Good Fight for Whales



Image courtesy of Nicola Beynon.

HSI's Nicola Beynon will again be an adviser to the Australian Government delegation at the International Whaling Commission to be held in Italy in July. The future looks bleak for whales unless the pro conservation countries can maintain a simple majority of votes at the IWC against Japan, Iceland and Norway and the band of countries that are beholden to Japan's fisheries aid. The vote count at this year's meeting on the different resolutions for and against whaling will be knife-edge. The Australian Government has recently celebrated 25 years of a strong policy opposed to commercial whaling and HSI is proud to work alongside them. We will not give up until Japan, Iceland and Norway retire their harpoons once and for all. ■



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