

# HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL™



Volume 11 • March 2005 • Issue 1

## Relief for the Donkeys of Darfur

**T**hank you to all our supporters who have given so generously to help the donkeys in Darfur, Sudan. The overwhelming response will enable us to send additional funding to help the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA) expand its work in the region. Jeremy Hulme, the Director of SPANA, has just returned from Darfur and has sent the following report:

### The General Situation

In the five months since our last visit, it is not easy to judge whether the overall situation has improved or worsened. The continuing drought, at the very least, will cause short-term suffering and starvation amongst the people and animals of the whole region, and even the most optimistic view can hardly see the problem resolved quickly.

### Monday 20th February

Visit to the local Department of Animal Health where the training of 15 (12 men and three women) new SPANA para-vets is underway.

Meeting with the Director of the Department who is very happy with the progress.

Then to our fodder centre – over 36,000 bundles of feed have now been collected, although we are looking to double this. Concerns about fire risk so a second separate store is being built.

SPANA vehicle for food distribution has arrived in Khartoum and will be despatched to Dafur on 28th February.

Then to Abu Showk refugee camp. Since



*Jeremy Hulme of SPANA and Stanley Johnson at Abu Showk. Image courtesy of SPANA*



*Mellit refugee camp. Image courtesy of SPANA*

October the camp has grown to a population of 70,000 and another 500 donkeys bring the donkey population to 2000 in this camp. SPANA has employed 14 trained donkey

attendants here – all women. They have identified each animal and keep meticulous records of treatment, worming etc.

*Continued page 3*

# Message from the Directors

## Dear HSI Supporter

Since we last talked to you, the world has been faced with an immense tsunami catastrophe that still leaves us all a little bewildered. You can read in the pages of this newsletter (page 4) the immediate and ongoing response of HSI to this terrible disaster. We aim to maintain small animal welfare teams in the affected regions, and support longer term conservation recovery efforts.

This international action for animals has also been reflected in our recent appeal to HSI supporters to help with another and ongoing human and animal disaster in the Sudan. May I thank you all heartily for your tremendous response to our call for help. Together with the funds raised at a special dinner put on by Joan Pearson for HSI and the Sudan crisis in February (page 10) we shall now be sending significant funds to help the suffering donkeys and other working animals in Darfur. A short report on our efforts in conjunction with SPANA can be read on pages 1 and 3.

There has also of course been a general election. Regardless of the winning party, HSI is extremely concerned that the balance of power has now been lost by the minor parties and independents in the Senate. Most of our major victories at the Federal

level over the last 10 years have been because of our ability to work with a range of minor parties and independent Senators, to negotiate new deals for animals and the environment, to pass good conservation laws, and to block the worst excesses of big government that might bring harm to animals. It means that our job in Canberra has become more difficult than ever. Nonetheless, we are committed to working harder than ever in our capital city.

Two other pieces of good news include HSI's venture into the Federal court to seek leave to sue a Japanese whaling company, and a grant we have received from Voiceless - the Fund for Animals, for a humane product campaign. As we write these few words to you, we await the decision of the judge in relation to our proposed challenge against Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha Ltd for killing Minke whales in Antarctica, and are looking for a suitable candidate to run the new humane choice "label" campaign. These stories can be found respectively on pages 5 and 2.

You will also see news of international problems with polar bear protection, a news item from Vietnam on the wildlife trade hotline we have helped to set up, news on our further financial support for our friends in Indonesia to help marine turtle conservation, news of a small grant given to Australian Lawyers for Animals and a call for help for

resources to help fight a legal battle over protection of the Southern Bluefin Tuna.

Late last year HSI held its fourth Annual Extinction Denied Art Show at the ArtHouse Hotel in Sydney. You'll see some photos of this event on page 6. This was our most successful art show yet, with significant monies being raised to help HSI's regional animal protection programs. It was really good to see so many of HSI's long-term and new members arrive on the night, and thank you all for being so generous on that evening.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter, and end by thanking you all yet again for your support for our tsunami relief efforts, our program in the Sudan, and the other international and domestic animal programs that could not exist without you.

## Best wishes

**Michael Kennedy & Verna Simpson**

## Humane Choice Label

Late last year, Voiceless, the Fund for Animals, awarded grants totalling \$141,000 to 17 organisations as part of its inaugural grants program to fight animal cruelty in Australia. Voiceless was founded by Ondine Sherman and her father Brian. Their mission is to create a world in which animals are treated with respect and compassion.

HSI put forward a proposal to assess the potential for the development of a 'humane choice' label in Australia and we were honoured to receive a grant of \$20,000. This grant is to be jointly funded by the



*HSI's Verna Simpson, Brian Sherman of Voiceless and Voiceless patron Hugo Weaving at the presentation of the HSI Voiceless Grant. Image courtesy of Voiceless.*

Berg Family Foundation and the Sherman Foundation.

Meat production is a cruel and tortuous business that encompasses unnecessary suffering. In this age of mass communication there are no secrets about how intensively farmed animals spend their short lives. Our project hopes to address that suffering and offer the public the choice of buying produce from farm animals that have been looked after in a proper and compassionate way.

We would like to thank Voiceless, the Berg Family Foundation and the Sherman Foundation for their generous contribution. ■

*Continued from page 1*

Late meeting with Dr Sara McHattie from the UN in Darfur. Her current estimate is that there are 11,800 donkeys (with little or no access to feed) in six different sites.

**Tuesday 21st February**

Visit to local Government Commissioner and State Veterinary Officer who claim they have **no** vet supplies or equipment. They are wanting to vaccinate 80,000 animals this year but admit that is virtually impossible.

The Commissioner claims there are three new transitory settlements starting on the outskirts of the town. We are taken to one. It is shocking! They have no food, no water, no sanitation, and no healthcare. There are around 500 donkeys wandering around, some carcasses, and some close to death.

With absolutely no external assistance it will be difficult to start a program for these animals but something must be done. We are looking to work with UNICEF to get feeding programs underway as soon as possible.

**Summary**

It has been reassuring to see how much progress has been made and how the health of the animals has improved so much since our original assessment. The huge store

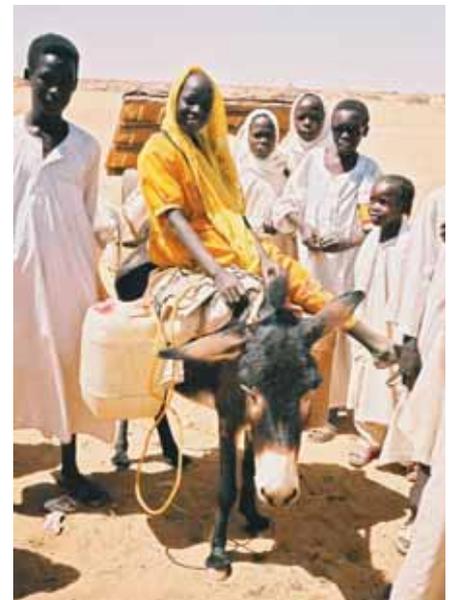


*Mellit refugee camp. Image courtesy of SPANA*

of hay and the 15 para-vets under training is very encouraging. Thank you to the supporters of Humane Society International for their contributions. Your generosity will enable us to expand our work in the region and help alleviate the suffering.

**Jeremy Hulme**  
**February 2005 - Darfur**

SPANA is performing a useful, indeed vital, and unique task, of which our supporters would be very proud. Thank you once again for the overwhelming support you have shown to the forgotten donkeys of Sudan.



*Abu Showk refugee camp. Image courtesy of SPANA*



*Refugee camp, Mellit. Image courtesy of SPANA*



*Your support will ensure donkeys no longer suffer in this way. Image courtesy of SPANA*

# Tsunami Update

One of the deadliest natural disasters in human history has killed around 150,000 people and wiped out entire communities. The underwater earthquake and resulting tsunami affected the animal kingdom too, but disaster experts are just beginning to learn how much.

Reports from our HSI Asia team and first hand accounts from our disaster relief operatives include stories of widespread animal deaths mixed with stories of incredible escapes and courage.

Much of our work has centred on domestic pets and the vaccination, feeding and supply of fresh water has been a big part of our effort. As there are an estimated 100,000 dogs stranded in Sri Lanka alone, we are in a race against time.

Our wildlife vets have also faced an enormous challenge. There have been dolphins found in inland lagoons that needed to be moved back to the sea, an island with 50 stranded deer desperate for emergency supplies of food and water, several injured and starving animals that needed relocating from a private zoo discovered under a pile of wrecked fishing boats in Aceh – story after story of animals in need.

**HSI has continued to provide resources and specialist support to a number of countries affected by the disaster. Below are some examples of our efforts:**

- HSI activated its first response to an international disaster following the **Southeast Asia tsunami tragedy**. An assessment team was dispatched to **Thailand, Sri Lanka** and **Banda Aceh**. As of the end of December, their work had only begun.
- Two expert and experienced disaster hardened teams of veterinarians were dispatched from Washington early in the New Year. HSUS/HSI RAVS (**Remote Area Veterinary Services**) and DART (**Disaster Animal Relief Team**) program members were flown to Sri Lanka and

Thailand to continue a wide range of animal relief efforts.

- Dispatching a small team of livestock veterinarians to **Sumatra**, where it is believed that agricultural animals took a large hit from the tsunami, to provide food and water and treatment to surviving cows, goats, chickens and other animals.
- Providing financial resources to the **Soi Dog Project in Phuket, Thailand** to provide food and water or immediate veterinary treatment to homeless dogs, and a “field clinic” in **Khao Lak**, which will provide treatment, care, and food for both livestock and domestic animals in the area.
- In **Sri Lanka**, HSI provided financial resources to the NGO **KACPAW** for relief for stricken animals and rabies vaccines for dogs in the refugee camps.
- In **Phuket**, HSI helped coordinate the rescue of a critically endangered **Irrawaddy Dolphin** that was stranded by the tsunami in a lagoon a kilometre inland.
- A HSI-sponsored **wildlife expert** made regular trips to deliver barrels of fresh water to a **small island off Thailand** that was devastated by the tsunami, leaving few inhabitants but at least 50 deer.
- In **India**, HSI made a financial contribution to the **Blue Cross of India** in **Madras**, for immediate relief, particularly clean water, for dogs and livestock affected by the tsunami.
- HSI made a significant financial contribution to the **disaster relief team efforts** of the **World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)**.



*Dog being treated by HSI following the tsunami. Image courtesy of HSUS.*



*Dr Arniash and Ketut Artha in Phuket assisting animals. Image courtesy of HSUS.*

- HSI has provided resources to the grass roots NGO **Profauna Indonesia**, for their **animal relief work in Banda Aceh**, which includes **feeding the wild animals in the abandoned zoo**. HSI has also contributed to the **costs of a vehicle** (with **Bali Street Dog Australia/Animal People**) for the combined team of ProFauna and Bali Street Dogs to more freely move around in Banda Aceh on animal relief work.
- In **Sri Lanka**, HSI responded to the tsunami disaster in a number of ways, including the allocation of urgently needed resources to the **Turtle Conservation Project (TCP)**.
- HSI has supported efforts in **Northern Sumatra (Aceh) Indonesia**, through a post tsunami program established by **Fauna and Flora International (FFI)**. HSI has helped with their emergency response needs for field operations in the Aceh province, which is integrated into FFI's **Asia Elephant protection program** for which we have previously provided funds. ■

# HSI Takes Federal Court Action to Stop Whale Hunt

After years of preparation and research, HSI has commenced court action against the Japanese whaling company Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha Ltd, for routinely slaughtering whales in Australia's Whale Sanctuary, as part of a so-called 'scientific research' program.

The Australian Whale Sanctuary was created in 2000 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*, and includes the waters adjacent to the Australian Antarctic Territory. Every summer since 1987 the Japanese company has hunted minke whales in Antarctica in defiance of the moratorium on commercial whaling and every year a proportion of the whales killed have come from within the Australian Whale Sanctuary. Under the EPBC Act it is an offence to kill whales within the



Whale meat on sale in Japan. Image courtesy of Nicola Beynon.

sanctuary and the offence also applies to foreign nationals.

The bulk of HSI's evidence comes from the Japanese Government's own reports to the International Whaling Commission on the Antarctic hunt. We estimate the company has killed well over 400 minke whales in the Australian Whale Sanctuary since it was declared in 2000.

HSI is seeking a declaration from the Federal Court that whaling in the Australian Whale Sanctuary is illegal and we will ask the Court to order an injunction. We are currently at the very first stage of the case, waiting for Justice Allsop to give the go-ahead for us to file the suit against the Japanese company.

Unfortunately, Australia's Attorney General, Phillip Ruddock, has provided a submission to Justice Allsop claiming that to enforce

the Whale Sanctuary against the Japanese company would cause an international disagreement with the Japanese Government. This is a very disappointing position and is not consistent with Australia's usual strident anti-whaling policy.

HSI supporters will remember that HSI was instrumental in the passage of the EPBC Act, which created the Australian Whale Sanctuary and established the offence provisions and the ability for conservation groups to have the law enforced when the Government fails to take action. We are very pleased to be using these laws to bring pressure to bear on the Japanese Government's atrocious scientific whaling program.

Providing generous legal support for the case is Senior Counsel Stephen Gageler, Barrister Chris McGrath and the Environmental Defenders Office. ■

## HSI Helps Indonesia NGO Help Turtle Protection Efforts

Funds were provided recently by HSI to the **ProFauna Indonesia** office in **Bali**, to permit their turtle campaigner to attend the Third Meeting of the **Signatory States to the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of**

**Understanding.** The agreement is under the auspices of the **Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**. The meeting will take place in **Bangkok, Thailand**. As Indonesia is not yet a party to the agreement, Indonesian



Baby Olive-Riddly Turtle. Image courtesy of Profauna.

NGOs are needed to vigorously pursue their Government's full involvement for the sake of the world's threatened marine turtles. ■

# Extinction Denied 2004: Another Successful Night

Our fourth Extinction Denied art exhibition was held at The ArtHouse Hotel during October 2004, and has been our most successful to date! The opening night crowd filled The ArtHouse Dome to capacity, with sales on the night setting new records. We hope all our supporters enjoyed celebrating a future for the animals with us.

Thank you to all the artists who generously support our event by donating their beautiful animal and/or environment themed art pieces: Gav **Barbey**, Terezka **Beck**, Kim **Bolitho**, Robyn **Caughlan**, Shaun **Clark**, Stephen **Coburn**, Adam **Cullen**, Marguerite **Derricourt**, Fergus **Donald**, David **Egan**, Deb **Faint**, Keely **Fielding** (donated by Brenda **May**), Xavier **Ghazi**, Mike **Golding**, Bruce **Goold**, Peter **Griffen**, Hannah **Hall**, Nicholas **Harding**, Ash **Hempsall**, Michael **Herford**, Euan **Macleod**, Abbey **McCulloch**, Michael **McIntyre**, Reg **Mombassa**, Joanne **Mulcahy**, Nafisa **Naomi**, Carla **Priivald**, Darren **Pryce**, Stuart **Rex**, Mark **Rhodes**, Louise **Sanders**, Mary **Shackman**, Mark



*Marguerite Derricourt at the opening night with her Rhino art pieces.*



*Mark Sofilas with his art piece "Big Cat 1" which sold on opening night.*

**Sofilas**, Philipa **Veitch**, Grant **Whiteley**, Hugh **Whittaker**, Margaret **Woodward**.

To our fabulous sponsors, we are ever grateful for your support - The ArtHouse Hotel for the venue, Dome Restaurant for the delicious food, Croser for the champagne, Petaluma and six magnums of limited edition sparkling white, Matilda Bay Brewery for the beer, and Planet Earth Store for the HSI staff t-shirts. Many thanks also to Green MP Ian Cohen MLC for taking time out of his busy

schedule to officially open the exhibition.

The night could not have been possible without our team of wonderful volunteers ... Lia Sickbitch (photographer), Lana Mossell, Adrian Brown, Lisa Brown, Peter Perry, Kelly Carbery, and Craig Lumb ... thank you all for your continued support.

We'll keep you posted on the upcoming 2005 Extinction Denied exhibition which will be held in October! ■

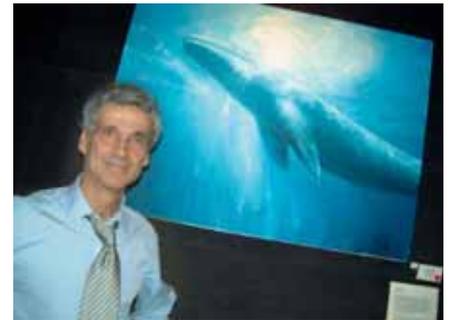
*All images courtesy of Lia Sickbitch.*



*Hugh Whittaker with his art piece "Rising Tide" which sold on opening night.*



*Dr Andrew Rowan Executive Vice President HSUS, Ian Cohen MLC, Michael Kennedy and Verna Simpson at the opening night.*



*Xavier Ghazi with his art piece "Breaking to the Light" which sold on opening night.*



# Global Warming and Wildlife Trade Threatens the Polar Bear

The situation for the world's largest land predator, the polar bear, is not looking so good. Not only is international wildlife trade a cruel threat, but also the real possibility of their icy home melting away from around them is becoming apparent with continuing reports on the threat of global warming.

The problem is so serious that a US environmental group, the Centre for Biological Research, is making a formal plea to the Bush administration to award the species protection under the US Government's *Endangered Species Act* and has cited global warming as its major threat.

Studies are beginning to surface, indicating that polar bear populations have already been affected by warming trends in the Arctic. One of the studies indicates that the sea-ice season has been shortened by about 2 ½ weeks, limiting the time polar bears are able to prey on seals. This may seem like a short time, but the length of the sea-ice season is critical for polar bears. When it ends, polar bears are forced back on to land and must then fast for months at a time.

Unless the US takes immediate action and produces a plan that involves advice from polar bear biologists, climatologists and sea-ice specialists, it may be too late. These beautiful animals may very well be one of the first casualties of global warming.

Meanwhile HSI is trying to protect the species from the cruel international polar bear trade, in which Australia is sadly a major player. HSI was extremely concerned at the injustice imposed on Ping Ping, a polar bear who was 'lent' to Australia's Sea World on the Gold Coast, in Queensland by China's notorious Beijing Zoo. Ping Ping was held in Sea World on a 4-year lease agreement and was recently sent back to Beijing Zoo. While we do not support captive situations for polar bears, the conditions at Sea World's 'Polar Bear Shores' exhibit are far preferable to Beijing Zoo where the animals are locked in a dirty dungeon-like enclosure. Thus HSI would have preferred to see Ping Ping remain at



*Ping Ping at Sea World. Image courtesy of Animals Australia.*

Sea World and finds it disturbing that the company entered a financial agreement that placed Ping Ping's welfare second. The signing of a lease, which did not prioritise the long-term future and welfare of Ping Ping, was ethically unacceptable.

Now, despite many animal welfare groups urging Sea World not to take part in any future trade in polar bears, the company has recently received two wild born polar bear twin cubs from Canada. Sadly, there is a possibility that one of the twins will be shipped off to Japan's Oga Aquarium, when it reaches adulthood.

That Canada is prepared to export polar bears from the wild to zoos and marine parks, adds to HSI's dim view of that country's irresponsible care for the species. Despite studies revealing plummeting population numbers, the Canadian Provincial Government of Nunavut has increased the annual quota to hunt polar bears by 28%. HSI has spearheaded an international outcry over the increase.

*As if that's not enough for polar bears to suffer, HSI is sad to report that the Government of Greenland is planning to*

*introduce polar bear sport hunting and the export of polar bear hunting trophies. HSI and a coalition of groups have written to the Greenland Home Rule Government, demanding that they abandon this barbaric and irresponsible proposal.*

## ACTION REQUIRED

### Please write to:

Senator, The Hon Ian Campbell,  
Minister for Environment  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Fax: (02) 6273 6101  
**Email:** senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au

Express your concern that the Government allowed Sea World to import two wild born polar bear cubs and ask that no further imports of this species be allowed.

Write to the Canadian and Danish embassies to express your opposition to the hunts for polar bears in their countries. Approximately 70% of the world's polar bears live in the Canadian province of Nunavut and in Denmark's island of Greenland. Those countries owe it to the world to protect them.

Canadian High Commission  
Commonwealth Ave  
Canberra ACT 2600

Royal Danish Consulate General  
1 Alfred Street  
Circular Quay NSW 2000

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

# HSI Supports Australian Lawyers to Help Animals



ALFA to provide protection for animals in Australia. Image courtesy of Lizzie Bowman.

**H**SI has recently provided a small establishment grant to Australian Lawyers for Animals Inc (ALFA). We are very pleased indeed to be able to give such support to a team of young and committed legal professionals, and we wish them much luck in their future endeavours on behalf of the animals.

ALFA President Ian Lewis describes his organisation thus:

“Australian Lawyers for Animals Inc is an incorporated non-profit association based in Brisbane, Queensland. At present, we represent a small group of individuals trying to coordinate law students, legal academics, practicing solicitors, barristers or other legal graduates/professionals into an effective legal research and support organisation for animals on a national level. No equivalent body exists in Australia and we seek to

emulate the model of the Animal Rights Legal Advocacy Network (ARLAN) based in New Zealand. There are already a significant number of lawyers in Australia with a keen interest in animal issues but they have not been networked into an effective force for change up to this point. ALFA wishes to facilitate, encourage and promote this interest. Despite the fact that ALFA has not been in existence very long we

have managed to locate and network several practising lawyers and barristers, four legal academics, one articled clerk, and a large group of law students with a keen interest in animal issues. We have principally focused on Queensland but are expanding our network into other states”.

E: [contactalfa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:contactalfa@optusnet.com.au)

W: [www.alfa.org.au](http://www.alfa.org.au) ■

## Hotline Set Up to Nab Environmental Outlaws

The following article is from **Vietnam News 12/1/2005, promoting the HSI financed anti-smuggling program.**

**H**anoi – a hotline to support wildlife protection authorities’ efforts in combating the illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam has been established by The Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV).

While ENV encourages people to report

instances of wildlife trade directly to their local forest protection department first, ENV has established a special telephone line in order to help facilitate reporting efforts to provincial authorities, particularly relating to observations that might otherwise go unreported.

According to Government figures, from 2000 to 2002 there were 5,351 cases involving confiscation of wildlife in 53 provinces and cities throughout Vietnam. In the first half of 2003, over 33 tonnes of animals were seized

nation-wide. Estimates suggest confiscations may only represent 5-20% of the total trade, and that thousands of tonnes of wildlife and hundreds of thousands of individual animals may be traded illegally each year.

Recently, Vietnam has made significant progress in efforts to protect wildlife including strengthening wildlife protection laws, establishing more parks and protected areas, increasing and strengthening enforcement, and promoting public awareness. ■

# List of Conservation & Animal Welfare Ministers

## Federal:

- The Honourable John Howard, MP  
Prime Minister (Fax 02 6273 4100)
- Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
(conservation issues)  
Senator, The Honourable Ian Campbell  
(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\*,  
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 Environment, The Honourable  
Desley Boyle MP (Fax 07 3221 9954)
- Minister for Primary Industries &  
Fisheries, The Honourable Henry Palazczuk  
(Fax 07 3229 8541)
- QLD 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 Ljiljana  
Maria Ravlich (Fax 08 9213 6501)

## South Australia:

- Minister for Agriculture, Food and  
Fisheries\* The Honourable Rory McEwen  
MP (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)
- Minister for Parks and Wildlife,  
The Honourable Dr Chris Burns  
(Fax 08 8901 4165)

## Tasmania:

- Minister for Environment and Planning\*,  
The Honourable Judy Jackson  
(Fax 03 6233 2671)
- Premier, The Honourable Paul Lennon  
(Fax 03 6234 1572)
- Minister for Primary Industries and Water,  
The Honourable Steven Kons MHA  
(Fax 03 6233 8013)

## 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 addressed**

C/- Parliament House, in your capital city

\* Animal Welfare Minister

**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 free call **1800 333 737** or simply complete the coupon below to receive our regular pledge authorisation forms.

**Thank you also to all our existing regular supporters – without your help 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: ( ).....

# Joan Pearson's Fundraising Dinner Assists the Donkeys of Sudan

Our campaign to assist Sudan's suffering donkeys was given a huge boost, thanks to the generosity and hard work of Joan Pearson. Joan kindly hosted a fundraising dinner for HSI at her beautiful Mosman home on 25th February to raise funds for the animals suffering in

Sudan. The combined proceeds of ticket and raffle sales, and an auction of a host of items have provided HSI with \$13,000!

We were very fortunate to have founder of HSI and recently retired President of HSUS, Paul Irwin, in attendance.



Joan Pearson



HSI supporters Andree Mocsari and her son Dion. Image courtesy of Mick Toal



HSI supporters Matthew Ma and Lenore Lambert. Image courtesy of Mick Toal

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Joan for coordinating and holding such a fabulous night for HSI, to her marvellous team of helpers who volunteered, and to the numerous individuals and companies who donated items and services including:

- **Joan Pearson** – for holding the event and donating a cruise on “Moonlight Lady”
- Butler and Blackberry – donated a staff member to assist with service
- Distinguished Vineyards – donated eight cases of wine
- Bridgeclimb – donated two Bridgeclimb tickets
- Kaye Gordon and Dave Lakeman – who provided entertainment
- Dome Restaurant – donated dinner for two at Dome Restaurant with cocktails
- Gav Barbey – donated numerous art pieces
- Lorraine Hawke – donated four hand-made bears
- House of Phillips Fine Art – donated a framed Pro Hart print
- Margot Lewis – donated a watercolour art piece
- Sylvain Remy – donated two autographed-framed dog collars
- Ross Smith – donated mirrors and paintings
- Elsie Quinn – donated a culinary gift basket
- David Dickman – auctioneer
- Marguerite Derricourt – donated art pieces
- Peter Griffen – donated art
- Jan Nash – donated prune and walnut logs

**The animals of Sudan will directly benefit from your support and generosity. ■**

# Underwater Sonar Blasting Away our Whales

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the world's most powerful military alliance, was challenged recently by a coalition of conservation groups (including HSI), to reduce harm from high intensity sonar systems, which cause injury and death to whales, dolphins, porpoises and other marine life. HSI has also voiced our objections over the Australian Defence Force and US Forces Talisman Saber 05 proposal, which plans to carry out military exercise in several places around Australia. The exercises will involve practice military assaults including target bombing and the use of high-intensity sonar. One of the places included in the proposal, believe it or not, is a section of the Great Barrier Reef.

Noise pollution is increasingly becoming a problem for marine mammals and of particular harm is the use of high-intensity sonar in military exercises. Military active sonar works like a floodlight, emitting sound waves that sweep across tens or even hundreds of miles of ocean, revealing objects in their path. But that kind of power requires the use of extremely loud sound. These devices can produce sounds up to 2.7 billion times as loud as those that produce pain in humans and 8.8 trillion times as loud as those that cause permanent hearing loss in humans. You can imagine what it does to marine mammals, which have a sensitive and complex sense of hearing.

There is overwhelming evidence that links the use of underwater sonar with mass marine mammal strandings. The US Navy has acknowledged that its mid-frequency sonar activities in the Bahamas led to

the death of a number of Cuvier's and Blainville's beaked whales in 2000; and investigations into a NATO exercise in Greece during 1996 concluded that military activities could not be ruled out as the cause of death of 12 Cuvier's beaked whales. Since these events, strandings and unusual behavioural observations continue to be associated with military exercises involving sonar activities around the world.

Several major international bodies, including the European Parliament and the International Whaling Commission, have called for restrictions on high intensity sonar. Some nations have already begun to tailor the use of high intensity sonar to minimise harm. The Spanish Ministry of Defence, for instance, recently announced that it would prohibit active sonar exercises off the Canary Islands, the site of many whale strandings correlated with naval exercises.

Among the requests to NATO were common sense measures to reduce harm from high intensity sonar. These measures include avoiding concentrations of marine mammals; reducing sonar intensity; and conducting post-operational surveys for dead or injured marine life. The measures would not restrict the use of sonar in times of war or heightened threat.

HSI will continue to pressure the Australian Government to introduce harm minimising measures for underwater noise pollution. In addition to the Talisman Sabre defence proposals, we are also working with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society to prepare comments on the Commonwealth

Strategic Assessment of offshore petroleum exploration and appraisal activities. These activities include underwater seismic surveys using airguns to produce extremely loud sound waves. HSI will urge the Government to ensure adequate measures to safeguard the environment.

## ACTION REQUIRED

### Write to:

Senator, The Hon Robert Hill, Minister for Defence, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
 Fax: (02) 6273 4118  
 Email: minister@cbr.defence.gov.au

Urge Senator Hill to introduce measures to reduce harm to marine mammals from the use of high-intensity sonar in military excercises.

### Also write to:

Senator, The Hon Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
 Fax: (02) 6273 6101  
 Email: senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au

Urge Senator Campbell to ensure that marine mammals are safely protected from noise pollution in Australian waters and ask that he does not approve the use of high intensity sonar in the Talisman Sabre defence proposal in areas that are important for marine mammals.

**Please send any copies you receive to us.**

## 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**

# HSI Needs Your Help to Save Southern Bluefin Tuna in Court

**H**SI has waged a long campaign to have the Southern Bluefin Tuna protected as an endangered species. In our last newsletter we reported on a small win in the campaign to have the magnificent predatory fish protected under NSW law. Sadly, it remains unprotected in Commonwealth waters where the bulk of the fishing occurs. While the Federal Minister has delayed a decision on HSI's nomination for Commonwealth protection for the species,

he has been willing to declare the fishery ecologically sustainable and allowed exports to continue. (The Minister has to assess all fisheries for their ecological sustainability by December last year to decide which fisheries could continue to be exported. Among other things the Minister needed to be satisfied that the fishery did not affect the conservation status of a species!). HSI finds this decision to approve the SBT fishery quite staggering and has been advised that

we have strong grounds to challenge the declaration in court. Bringing the case will be costly (approximately \$10,000) and we need your help. The court case presents a rare opportunity to negotiate drastically reduced quotas for the fishery. Having fought so hard for this highly endangered species for so long, HSI does not want to give up on the brink of a major campaign win due to the costs involved. Therefore we are seeking financial backing for the case from HSI supporters. ■

If you think you might be able to help financially back this important precedent-setting case, please call HSI Director Verna Simpson on (02) 9973 1728.



Many thanks to

BIO DISTRIBUTORS BIO-DYNAMIC & ORGANIC WHOLESALERS OF TASMANIA

who sponsored the printing of this newsletter

PO Box 12, Sheffield, Tasmania 7306

Phone/Fax: (03) 6491 1439 Email: biodistributors@microtech.com.au www.biodistributors.com.au



## ALL DONATIONS TO THE HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

HERE IS MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION OF :

\$250  \$100  \$50  \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ other

I am paying by:  Cheque/Money Order  Bankcard

Mastercard  Visa card

Amex

Card No \_\_\_\_\_

Card Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ (quantity) Counter Packs (50 leaflets plus stand) to distribute locally.

You may also donate by telephone (02) 9973 1728 or via our free call 1800 333 737.

Yes, I am willing to sell raffle tickets.

Please send me information on HSI.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A REGULAR MONTHLY DONATION OF:

\$25  \$50  \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ other

Per month until further notice. I understand that this payment can be stopped by me at any time.

Please debit my  Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa card  Amex

OR Please send me information on DIRECT DEBIT from my bank account.

Card No \_\_\_\_\_

Card Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to : HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107  
Phone (02) 9973 1728  
Email: enquiry@hsi.org.au  
Website: www.hsi.org.au