



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
AUSTRALIA

HSI AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

# STANDING **for** **ANIMALS**

JULY 2021



## **Misunderstood and Maligned**

Protecting dingoes  
and flying-foxes

**INSIDE:** Global campaign to stop animal testing for cosmetics | Feature: Misunderstood and maligned: protecting dingoes and flying-foxes | New wildlife triage centre | Caring for injured wildlife | Updates: Big wins for marine creatures | Wildlife trade campaign | National wildlife protection campaign | Ending dog meat trade





**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
AUSTRALIA

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

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Share your stories of creating a more humane world by using the hashtag **#standingforanimals** on social media.

#### Front cover

*A juvenile dingo standing on the beach of Fraser Island. Image: Eloïse Déaux, behavioural ecologist*

#### Back cover

*HSI's Evan Quartermain comforts a rescued kangaroo at a Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary. Image: Sam Edmonds /HSI Australia*

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## CEO Message

Recently, a small team of us had the amazing opportunity of getting out to see first-hand some of the life-changing projects that your donations helped to realise for wildlife carers following the bushfires.

Peter and Mimi Day have officially opened the doors of their new wildlife triage centre that was fully funded by HSI donors like you. It is a custom-designed building which will allow rapid triage care for animals in trauma and for treatment by vets.

We also had the chance to stop by Wombat Stomp where you helped to build a deck area for joeys in rehabilitation, and Jarake Wildlife Sanctuary where you funded a new humidicrib to give tiny orphans a fighting chance of survival as well as an innovative project designed to reduce wildlife roadkill.

I can tell you that at every stop we were told that HSI donors had given them the most precious gift of all—hope in the aftermath of one of the toughest times they had endured—so on behalf of all of them: **thank you so much!**

In this issue we also bring you news of a couple of much-maligned species that we champion with your support. Dingoes and flying-foxes can suffer from terrible persecution and we are proud to stand up for them and work to get them the protection they desperately need.

Flying-foxes are important pollinators, just like bees, yet they are frequently killed and harassed, even though some species are teetering on the brink of extinction. And dingoes are our largest land-based predator and play a critical role in biodiversity, yet they are subject to some of the cruellest eradication methods and misrepresented as 'wild dogs'.

Thank you for standing up for these misunderstood species, and for helping us protect all animals.

In these pages are more of the incredible achievements that you help to make happen. It's only with your steadfast support that we can continue to make the world a kinder place for all animals.

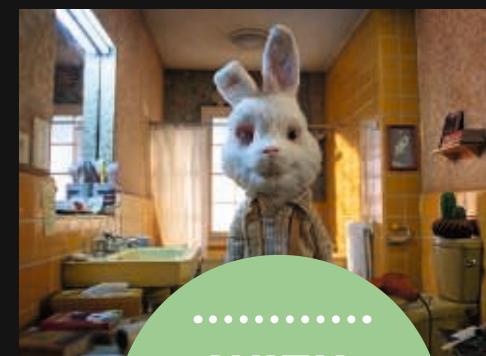
#### Erica Martin

Chief Executive Officer



*Erica and HSI Head of Programs Evan Quartermain with Marie and Ray Wynan at Jarake Wildlife Sanctuary.*

IMAGE: SAM EDMONDS/HSI AUSTRALIA



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**WITH  
YOUR  
SUPPORT**  
.....

## Star power joins cosmetics campaign

**You have helped us take action and achieve a ban on cosmetics testing in Australia, but we still need the rest of the world to join us. So our global office enlisted the help of some serious celebrities to get the message out far and wide.**

Taika Waititi (*The Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Jojo Rabbit*) and celebrated comedian, Ricky Gervais (*The Office*) quickly jumped on board to *Save Ralph*—a stop motion mockumentary from HSI highlighting the plight of animals used for cosmetics testing.

Ralph, voiced by Taika Waititi, is a rabbit who works as a 'tester' for cosmetic products. Ralph explains to the journalist, voiced by Ricky Gervais, that he is blind in one eye and partially deaf, before he takes the production crew with him on a day in the lab.

In the lab we meet some of Ralph's fellow lab bunnies, voiced by a host of celebrities including Zac Efron and Olivia Munn, who plead with Ralph to persuade the film crew to save them.

As the Director of the video, Spencer Susser said: "I hope the public falls in love with Ralph and wants to fight for him and all the others animals like him, so that we can ban the tests once and for all".

Puppet-master and set designer Andy Gent added: "I think the beauty of animation is that you can tell very complex stories and bring them to life in a non-threatening and educational way. It would be very nice to think that this project to *Save Ralph* will have a greater, wider effect".

Having amassed more than 12 million views and counting, we are hoping that *Save Ralph* will create the momentum needed for a global ban on this unnecessary cruelty.



**If you haven't yet seen the film you can watch it at: [hsi.org/saveralphmovie](http://hsi.org/saveralphmovie)**



*Taika Waititi provides the voice for test rabbit Ralph.*

## BECOME AN ANIMAL DEFENDER

**By making a monthly donation as an Animal Defender you will enable HSI to plan and respond effectively to the needs of animals and local communities around the globe. To join, please contact us:**

Phone: 1800 333 737

Email: [animaldefender@hsi.org.au](mailto:animaldefender@hsi.org.au)

Website: [hsi.org.au/animaldefender](http://hsi.org.au/animaldefender)







IMAGE: GARY MEREDITH



IMAGE: NICK EDARDS

# Misunderstood and Maligned

## Protecting dingoes and flying-foxes

**Working on our campaigns to protect some of Australia's most misunderstood species isn't always easy. HSI's Evan Quartermain explains why your support is so critical to these species.**

While everyone loves a koala, is fascinated by platypus, and can't help but smile when a kookaburra laughs, not all our wildlife is beloved by all.

Unfortunately, both dingoes and flying-foxes (otherwise known as 'fruit bats') are often not treated with the same love and adoration as other species and in fact are subjected to some cruel and brutal 'management' techniques.

Like you, we think that all wildlife deserves to be treated with respect and compassion, which is one of the reasons we actively work to help these much-maligned species.

### DINGOES: PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S KEY PREDATOR

Dingoes have been under attack pretty much since colonisation, persecuted in the name of protecting farm animals. Many of the draconian methods of killing them remain unchanged after more than 200 years, despite advances in understanding the important role of predators in healthy ecosystems. Poisoning, steel-trapped jaws and bounties offered for dingo scalps are all tragically considered acceptable to this day.

We are staunch advocates for dingoes and for ending the sanctioned slaughter of these misunderstood animals. Importantly, and thanks to your help, we have persuaded the Western Australian Government not to delist the dingo as native fauna which would have seen them treated simply as feral dogs.

### PREDATOR-FRIENDLY LIVESTOCK PROTECTION

Our campaign to protect dingoes is about to step up with our soon-to-be-released report on alternatives that farmers can adopt to better protect their livestock without killing dingoes.

We hope it will be a game changer for farmers who care about their sheep but are also willing to change their minds about dingoes. We want more people to know about successes such as the use of guardian animals including Maremma dogs or donkeys to protect flocks, which are proving much more effective at preventing stock loss than poisoning dingoes.



Maremma dogs make highly effective sheep guardians.

### FLYING-FOXES: PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S KEY POLLINATOR

Flying-foxes play a vital role in protecting our biodiversity but have also fallen foul of human attitudes. The role they play cannot be understated and yet they continue to suffer and die because they are viewed as 'inconvenient'.

Flying-foxes are frequently harassed out of their urban camps (their home long before developers came), trapped in backyard fruit nets and can even be shot in Queensland orchards to protect crops.

In the face of this we are making positive changes thanks to you. We have persuaded NSW that shooting flying-foxes is not acceptable and we hope to bring permanent change in Queensland as well.

This year we finally saw the release of a Recovery Plan for the grey-headed flying fox, which we nominated as a Vulnerable species in need of greater protection way back in 2001.

And sadly, we have just nominated the spectacled flying-fox for an upgrading of its status to Critically Endangered under both state and Commonwealth environment legislation.

The spectacled flying-fox was only listed as Endangered two-years ago after a heat wave in Cairns caused the horrific deaths of 23,000 of them—about a third of the total Australian population. The latest population figures combined with climate change projections show that status is already out of date.

**We must learn to live with nature and adopt new and innovative approaches that help us, and our wildlife, thrive together. From flying-fox friendly subsidies for orchard netting to guardian animals for livestock—we have the answers, we just need our governments to ditch the 100-year-old methods and give new non-lethal solutions a try.**

**We are so grateful that you stand with us as we advocate for all our wildlife—for the species that are universally loved, but even more importantly for the ones that are unfairly targeted.**

### DID YOU KNOW...

- As long-ranging night foragers, flying-foxes are essential for seed distribution for many plants.
- Three of the seven flying-fox species found in Australia are considered threatened.
- While many bats use echolocation, flying-foxes rely on sight, hearing and smell just like us.



IMAGE: ROSIE LEMPRIERE/HSI AUSTRALIA

Flying-fox carer Sarah Curran cares for an injured grey-headed flying-fox.



**Evan Quartermain**  
Head of Programs



# A network of wildlife heroes

## FIELD TRIP REPORT Erica Martin, May 2021

We have supported more than 100 wildlife carers since the Black Summer bushfires thanks to your generosity. In May we had the chance to visit some of them, seeing first-hand what a difference your support is making for carers and the animals they save.

### ► BADGERYS CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

As members of Humane Society International's Wildlife Land Trust, Peter and Mimi Day have pledged to devote their land to conserving and protecting wildlife.

In the height of the Black Summer fires they established a makeshift triage centre on a deck sheltered by plastic, working with volunteer vets to treat burned wildlife around the clock—a job which would become their entire life for several weeks.

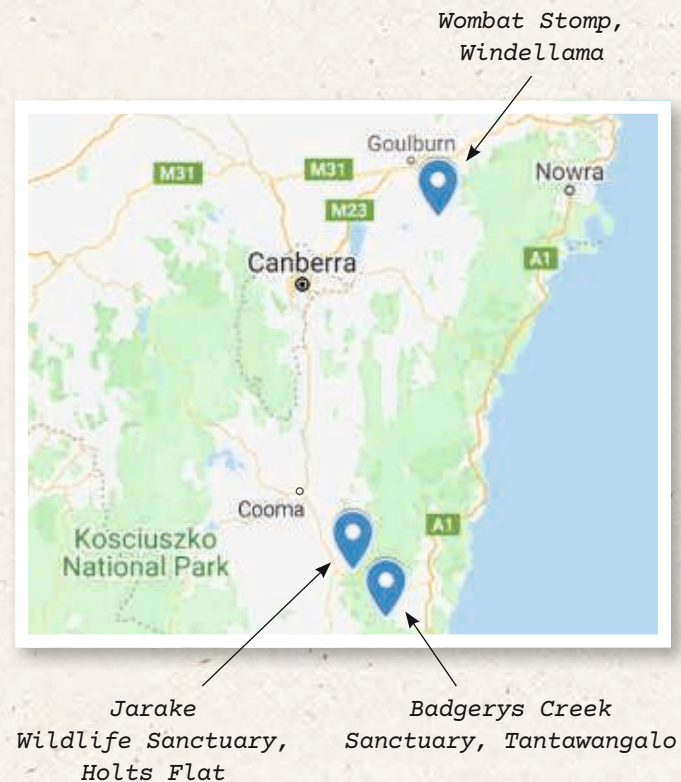
After hearing their harrowing tale, I cannot tell you how amazing it felt to visit their property and inspect the custom-designed wildlife triage centre that was made possible by you.

Specially designed for easy access when carrying a fully grown kangaroo, the centre is totally equipped to provide emergency care and prepare injured animals for treatment by vets.

These incredible carers are now set up to provide the best possible care to wildlife and are ready to assist even more animals in future disasters.

*"HSI was there from the very beginning getting us burns medication at the start of the Black Summer bushfires. To have this facility now is beyond our wildest dreams and we will forever be grateful to all the HSI donors who made it possible."*

Peter Day



### ► JARAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

We also stopped in to Jarake Wildlife Sanctuary for an update from Wildlife Land Trust members Marie and Ray Wynan.

When we first heard from Marie she was in urgent need of help. She had a tiny baby wombat in care and desperately needed to keep him warm after his mother was killed by a car. What would give this little fellow the best chance of survival was a humidicrib, and thanks to you, we could say, "yes, we can help!"

Marie observed that following the fires many more wombats were heading on to the roads and being killed. She was keen to



The team had the chance to visit with some of the carers and the animals that you have helped.

trial a 'virtual fence' project with scientists from the University of Western Sydney. It involves a series of guideposts that flash to alert animals to approaching vehicles and, when used with signage and speed limits, the fence has the potential to greatly reduce the impact of car strikes.

To support a project that prevents wildlife deaths and suffering is something that we really wanted to get behind, and thanks to you the trial is now up and running.

### ► WOMBAT STOMP

We also visited Wombat Stomp, another Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary owned by Beth Nasser and George Morton.

Your generosity helped to build a feeding area and wildlife enclosure off their main care centre.

Living completely off-grid, Beth and George provide a safe haven for all the animals that call their property home.

They also look after the animal victims of road strikes, fires and floods and have a constant stream of wombats, kangaroos and wallabies in care before they can go back to the wild.

We met a lovely kangaroo joey, Tina Arena, who is well on the road to recovery, and were lucky enough to help feed her a bottle of milk.

*"We really try to make do with very little, so when a group like HSI steps up and offers us a hand with funding this incredible recovery area it is life changing for us—thank you so very much!"*

Beth Nasser





## Helen Church

HSI's Project Officer for the Wildlife Land Trust

In her role as Project Officer for HSI's Wildlife Land Trust, Helen is involved in recruiting sanctuaries, managing the network and organising its media. She also works on terrestrial conservation issues and manages HSI's wildlife funding program.

### Why did you join HSI?

I've always been passionate about wildlife, and a career in conservation meant that I could actively work to protect the wild spaces that I loved. HSI's history is initially what drew me—its work in safeguarding threatened species and habitats as well as fighting for animal welfare in Australia and around the world is inspirational.

### What is it that motivates you each day?

It's incredible being able to work for animals, but working with passionate and like-minded people is what motivates me! Managing the Wildlife Land Trust means that I get to talk to wildlife rehabilitators, conservationists and incredible advocates for nature every day, and their enthusiasm fuels mine.

### What is special about HSI's Wildlife Land Trust and its members?

Our Wildlife Land Trust is a terrific example of our collective power to change the world. By conserving and restoring their sanctuaries, each of our members contributes to a cleaner, healthier and more biodiverse Australia. Our members are also incredibly supportive of each other, fostering a wonderful community of wildlife advocates across the country.

### Do you have a favourite animal?

Quolls are one of my (many) favourites! These native carnivores are tenacious, clever and very cute—I hope to see one in the wild someday!



## EVERY PROPERTY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**If you have a property of more than one acre and you care about wildlife then join our Wildlife Land Trust.**

With more than 740 properties protecting more than 77,000 hectares of wildlife habitat, every property is providing a safe haven for animals.

For more information visit [www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au](http://www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au) or contact Helen on 1800 333 737 or at [wlt@hsi.org.au](mailto:wlt@hsi.org.au).

## Rad Wombat Society

## Cinema by the Sea fundraiser



Above: Aleks, Otis and Armand (left to right), members of the Rad Wombat Society from Barrenjoey Montessori School at the fundraiser for wombats.

In March, Barrenjoey Montessori School (BMS) hosted a fun-filled family screening of *Trolls World Tour* under the stars in Avalon, just near to where our office is located on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Held annually as a fundraiser, Humane Society International was chosen to be the recipient of this year's 'Cinema by the Sea' event after a group of students visited our office and heard an inspirational talk about the plight of wombats by our Head of Programs, Evan Quartermain.

The group formed the Rad Wombat Society and decided to raise as much as they could to help wombats in need.

The entire school got behind the cause and immediately set about creating handmade bookmarks, friendship bracelets, knitting and other handicrafts, with their innovative creations ready for sale on the night.

The event was blessed with a perfect clear night where picnic blankets carpeted Des Creagh Reserve for the evening's movie viewing, enjoyed by more than 300 members from BMS and local communities.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to the Rad Wombats who raised more than \$600 for us and to BMS Principal Fiona Campbell for her support.

We will make certain these funds are invested in the care and protection of wombats and are grateful that young people like the Rad Wombat Society care about making this world a better place for the animals we all love.

**If you are interested in holding a fundraiser for HSI you can contact Caroline Pattison on 1800 333 737 or at [supporter@hsi.org.au](mailto:supporter@hsi.org.au) for more information.**





Endangered hammerhead sharks and many other marine animals lose their lives for no reason every year in shark nets.

## Calling time on shark nets

**After 80 years of use and the deaths of more than 19,000 marine animals, local councils are revoking their support for the use of shark nets.**

HSI has been working with coastal councils across New South Wales to inform them about more modern methods of shark protection that improve swimmer safety without killing a wide variety of marine life.

We know so much more now about how important sharks are for healthy oceans and it is not just sharks that have lost their lives in this outdated program. Whales, dolphins, rays and turtles all fall victim to the nets, just to provide swimmers a false sense of security.

After testimony from HSI's Marine Biologist Lawrence Chlebeck in April, the Northern Beaches council voted to tell the NSW Department of Primary Industries that they no longer want shark nets deployed on their beaches. They join Newcastle, Wollongong, Waverley and Randwick Councils in calling time on shark nets.

## Another city bans dog meat

**We are proud to be a founding member of the Dog Meat Free Indonesia (DMFI) coalition, which is working tirelessly towards a permanent end to the slaughter of dogs for food in Indonesia.**

In May this year, Mayor Yuliyanto of Salatiga City passed explicit regulations prohibiting the cruel and dangerous dog meat trade throughout his jurisdiction.

While dog meat is consumed by some for its perceived health properties, the reality is that aside from the animal welfare issues, the dog meat trade poses a significant and very real threat to public health. Research shows that the highest prevalence of rabies occurs in regencies with the highest dog meat consumption.

Mayor Yuliyanto is the third leader in Central Java to take action against this trade, joining the regencies of Karanganyar and Sukoharjo. With your support we will continue until we have eradicated the dog meat trade across the country.



IMAGE: DMFI

With your help we are making tremendous progress in ending the dog meat trade in Indonesia.

## We delivered!

Thank you! We have been overwhelmed by your response to our request to send a postcard to the Minister for Agriculture, David Littleproud. We received more than 450 postcards which Nicola Beynon, HSI Head of Campaigns, delivered to Minister Littleproud in person on 15 June.

By adding your voice, we can continue to ensure the Australian government plays a leading role at international fora when it comes to speaking out against this cruel and unsustainable trade.



IMAGE: ALEXIA WELBELOVE/HSI AUSTRALIA

HSI Head of Campaigns Nicola Beynon made certain that your voices were heard when she took your cards to Canberra and handed them to Minister Littleproud's office.



## Standing firm for our wildlife

**As we go to print the Senate has remained steadfast against the Government's plans to devolve powers to approve harm to matters of national environmental importance to state and territories.**

Senators are insisting on environment reforms with 'strong' standards and a 'tough' cop on the beat as proposed by Professor Graeme Samuel, which are missing from the Government's proposals. Once again HSI appeared before a Senate Inquiry to persuade senators to stand firm to protect the wild places and species Australians cherish, and which are so important to our economy. Places like the Great Barrier Reef and endangered species like the koala, Australian sea lion and tiger quoll. The threat of devolution still remains and discussions will continue over Parliament's winter break.



Our #missingwildlife campaign is a collaboration with other organisations to push for stronger laws.





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*Thank you for  
your support*