

Wallaby Summit Agenda

EARLY MORNING SESSION		
8.30 am	Welcome	Cairns Regional Council
8.45 am	Outline of agenda & objectives	Dr Martin Cohen
9.00 – 9.45 am	<p>Ecology and management of agile wallabies – a case study</p> <p>This presentation will provide information on aspects of agile wallaby behaviour and ecology that are relevant to wallaby management in urban and peri-urban environments. The broad dietary range of the wallaby will be discussed as well as behavioural and dietary responses of wallabies to the highly seasonal environment of northern Australia. This information will be presented in the context of a case study of agile wallaby management which can provide as the basis for workshop discussions.</p>	Dr Simon Stirrat
9.45 – 10.30 am	<p>Agile Wallaby Populations Around Cairns – White Rock and Barron River</p> <p>During early 2010 wallabies have been surveyed in the White Rock area on behalf of Cairns Regional Council. The presentation outlines the results of repeatable transect surveys and opportunistic surveys of Agile Wallabies in the Area from Blackfellows Creek to the Cairns Golf Course. Conclusions are outlined regarding the areas of higher population densities and a likely population in these areas.</p> <p>During 2007 Wallabies were surveyed on the Barron River Delta for the local canegrowers as part of a project funded by the Sugar Research Development Corporation. The results of this survey and behaviour modification trials will be presented. An approximate population and range of densities will be discussed.</p> <p>A general description from the literature of the known biology of Agile Wallabies is outlined. As a result of the surveys on the Barron River and White Rock observations of the Wallaby population and their biology and behaviour will be discussed.</p>	Guy Chester
10.30 – 11.00 am	MORNING TEA	

LATE MORNING SESSION		
11.00 – 11.20 am	<p>Veterinary involvement in the Cairns suburban Agile Wallaby population dilemma</p> <p>Suburban and semi-rural land development in the Cairns area has degraded and fragmented agile wallaby habitat, while at the same time providing permanent grasslands and water sources to support ever-increasing populations. Dog attacks and vehicle strikes are the primary reasons wallabies are presented to vets. Pouch young are frequently presented for care as a result of adult deaths. Management options for suburban populations will be presented as a basis for community discussion.</p>	Annabelle Olsson
11.20 – 11.40 am	<p>Urban Fauna Management Issues</p> <p>This talk will discuss the typical direct and indirect impacts of urban development on fauna habitat. The positive and negative aspects of wildlife living in close association with humans in an urban context. Behavioural changes that may affect wild life populations isolated in an urban environment. Appropriate management responses in the context of the pest/resource dichotomy that generally occurs when dealing with urban wildlife populations.</p>	Tim Perry
11.40 – 12.00 pm	<p>WHY? – Wallabies are people to.</p> <p>I will be detailing my experiences raising the animals over the past 10 years. The presentation will include a 4min slideshow. You can preview a copy of this on my website at http://www.wallabyrescue.com.au/wallaby_summit.htm .</p>	John Hungerford
12.00 – 1.00 pm	LUNCH	
AFTERNOON SESSION		
1.00 – 1.20 pm	<p>Urban wallabies – the role of the Department of Environment and Resource Management</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is the state government agency vested with the conservation of nature. The <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> has provisions that protect native wildlife and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is the principle division within DERM that is engaged in wildlife management. Agile wallabies are just one of a range of species that is impacted by habitat loss and urban development and resolutions to these issues are often complex. The presentation aims to clarify the legislation as it relates to the protected species and the role of DERM in managing urban wallabies.</p>	Hayden Ferguson

1.20 – 1.40 pm	<p>Wallaby Impacts on Barron Delta Cane Farms</p> <p>The presentation will follow the increase in wallaby damage over the past ten years, and describe the current levels of damage and the economic losses incurred.</p>	Alan Hopkins
1.40 – 2.00 pm	<p>Planning for Wallabies: Utilising the policy and planning framework to address wallaby conservation and management in southern Cairns</p> <p>This presentation will identify areas of disparity and possible measures to increase the efficacy of wallaby conservation and management policies. Specifically, this presentation will focus on policies which affect the southern zone of the Council and then extrapolate these recommendations to the larger Council area and region.</p>	Sarah Hoyle
2.00 – 2.20 pm		Cairns Regional Council
2.20 – 2.40	Wrap up of talks & questions	Dr Martin Cohen
2.40 – 3.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
3.00 - 5.00 pm	Panel of Experts discussion	

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Martin Cohen (Director, Wild about Australia)

Martin Cohen has worked as a zoologist and wildlife commentator in Australia's tropics for over 20 years. After successfully completing a PhD in Zoology, Martin has guided eco-tours all over Australia, written countless popular wildlife articles, worked with several relevant community groups and presented fascinating information on wildlife and conservation to people from all walks of life. Recently, he has researched and presented wildlife information on television and radio and authored several wildlife books. Now based in Cairns, Martin runs his own wildlife education and interpretation business – Wild about Australia – that utilises his extensive experience and knowledge of tropical Australia and its wildlife.

Dr Simon Stirrat (Principal Biodiversity Planning Officer, Natural Resources Strategy and Policy, DERM)

Simon Stirrat has an Honours degree in Zoology from Monash University and a PhD from the Charles Darwin University in Darwin where he studied agile wallaby ecology and management. After completing field work for his PhD he joined the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission in the wildlife management unit and managed a variety of projects including the federally approved crocodile management program involving population monitoring and crocodile harvest regulation. For the last 7 years he has worked for the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (formerly the Environmental Protection Agency) on kangaroo management, threatened species management and state and regional biodiversity planning.

Guy Chester (Managing Director of EcoSustainAbility)

Guy Chester has extensive experience in protected area management and World Heritage throughout tropical Australia and internationally. Guy has worked in Kakadu, Uluru, Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Areas. Guy was the inaugural Manager Planning with the Wet Tropics Management Authority and was on the Board of the Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre for four years. Guy undertook the development of the Management Plan for Lorenz World Heritage Area in Indonesia for the Australian Government as part of an AusAid project.

Guy has substantial environmental management experience having been National Technical Coordinator for one of Australia's largest environmental consulting companies and now runs his own consulting firm, EcoSustainAbility. Guy has undertaken projects in many countries ranging from China to Fiji, India to Iceland and including Belize, Indonesia, PNG and Chile. Guy is on the board of the UN organisation, the Tourism Sustainability Council.

Guy recently developed the Northern Beaches Wildlife Management Strategy for the EPA (now DERM) and Council and has undertaken research on Barron River delta wallabies for canegrowers.

Annabelle Olsson (Principal, Airport Veterinary Surgery and Boongarry Wildlife Services)

Annabelle Olsson is a local wildlife vet, with a Master of Science in Veterinary Science and Tropical Ecology, and is halfway through a PhD researching immobilisation of estuarine crocodiles. She has advanced qualifications in medicine of Australasian wildlife, avian health and captive animal management. She has contributed wildlife papers to a number of recent veterinary texts and journals.

Annabelle has worked extensively in private practice and provides consultancy services to wildlife organisations, zoos, crocodile farms and government agencies, both here and overseas. As a founder and training officer for FNQ Wildlife Rescue for many years, Annabelle has written and taught basic and advanced

courses in the care and management of wildlife, to carers, Aboriginal rangers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife officers.

Annabelle is the President of the Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland. She has received numerous awards for her contribution to wildlife research and wildlife carer training, and for the past 15 years has had a regular radio talkback segment on ABC Radio.

Tim Perry (Principal Ecologist, NRA Environmental Consultants)

Tim Perry graduated from University of New England (NSW) with an Honours degree in Applied Science. His honours thesis investigated weed invasion in sub-tropical forests, and he continues to have a keen interest in weed ecology and management. Tim has worked with numerous state and federal government agencies gaining broad experience in tropical and sub-tropical flora and fauna, and has developed particular expertise in wetland ecology.

Tim's skills include wetlands inventory; wetland ecology, landscape ecology; restoration ecology; natural resources management and land and vegetation mapping.

John Hungerford

John has worked extensively in the aviation & tourism industry for the past 30 years both in Cairns and overseas. He has lived in Cairns for over 20 years and has been a volunteer wildlife carer for 10 of those including past President of FNQ Wildlife Rescue. John has facilitated macropod care training courses for new members. John is currently running his own IT business where he designs and administers online reporting systems for aviation companies and organisations in Australia and Vietnam including Qantas, Jetstar, Australian Air Express & Jetstar Pacific. John also administers his own website (wallabyrescue.com.au) and gets frequent requests from overseas regarding wallaby care.

Hayden Ferguson (Senior Project Officer with the Wildlife Branch of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)

Hayden is new to the QPWS and his current role includes the management of wildlife in North Queensland and working with stakeholders to resolve human wildlife conflict issues. Hayden has recently moved from South Africa where he has 13 years experience in protected area and wildlife management. His previous role has included the resolution of a diversity of community-wildlife conflict issues ranging from damage causing leopards to vervet monkeys in urban areas.

Alan Hopkins (Manager, Cane Supply and Productivity, Mulgrave Central Mill)

Alan is an Agricultural Scientist (Adelaide and Ohio State Universities), and have been in the local sugar industry for almost thirty years. I have been with Mulgrave Mill for twenty years, as a sugar chemist, field officer, and currently managing the cane rail operations and farm productivity.

Sarah Hoyal (Coordinator of the Cairns and far North Environment Centre)

Sarah has a bachelor of Applied Science and Masters in Social Science with Distinction and currently works for CAFNEC, the peak conservation group in the FNQ region. She has over 12 years experience working in the environment and community sector, which includes working for a Senator in Federal parliament, with Industry, government and Indigenous organisations as a consultant, and in community work both as a volunteer and paid employee. Sarah has travelled extensively and maintains a strong passion for environment and social justice issues.
