



Mammal Mail

The Newsletter of the Tree-Kangaroo & Mammal Group

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CHANGE IN DATE FOR DECEMBER MEETING to 13th December

The December meeting of TKMG will NOT be held on the 1st Thursday of December but will be on **DECEMBER 13th (2nd Thursday)** at the Malanda Hotel at 7pm.

Alan Winlaw will be giving a presentation: "Through the lantana and back again: 12 months as a volunteer for Yellow-Bellied Glider project---The recruiting officer said - 'wonderful opportunity to bash lantana and expire from heat stroke for the sake of a cute little critter - hurry places limited' The real story...". It promises to be an interesting talk so come to the meeting. **Light supper following the presentation**; supper and plate contributions are much appreciated.

There will not be a meeting of TKMG Committee in January.

TKMG GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group, Inc. was held on Thursday, October 12th at the Lake Eacham Hotel in Yungaburra.

Members voted to adopt updated Rules for the Association. The revised rules can be viewed on the TKMG website (<http://www.tree-kangaroo.net/docsLinks.html>) .

Results of the election of officers were as follows:

President: Alan Gillanders

Vice-President: vacant (now filled by Keith Smith)

Secretary: Simon Burchill

Treasurer: Ilona Moerman

Committee Members for 2013:

Margit Cianelli, Ceinwen Edwards, Dave Hudson, Sigrid Heise-Pavlov

Newsletter Editor: Amy Shima

At the November 1st Committee meeting, it was announced that **Keith Smith** has agreed to fill the vacant **Vice-President** position. TKMG Committee and members thank Keith for agreeing to fill this spot and welcome the experience and expertise he brings to TKMG. Welcome, Keith!!!

2012 CASSOWARY AWARDS

The Wet Tropics Management Authority Cassowary Awards were created in 1999 as a way of celebrating and supporting the partnered and individual outstanding contributions made towards conservation and preservation of World Heritage Wet Tropics. Over the years, the Cassowary Awards have become a widely respected and supported recognition of exceptional conservation efforts from a diverse range of individuals, groups and organisations who share a passion for this place, the Wet Tropics that we call home. All share the commitment to ensure continued protection for this unique place. The 2012 Cassowary Awards were presented at a special ceremony in Cairns on November 3rd. TKMG Committee member Dave Hudson received a Cassowary Award for the work he has done to care for the Wet Tropics landscape. Keith Smith's extraordinary dedication and excellence in conservation management was recognized in his being Cassowary Award. The other 2012 Cassowary Award recipients were Traditional Djabugay owner, Rhonda Brim and Helen Underwood.



Keith Smith accepting Cassowary Award

Keith Smith has worked for Queensland Government Environmental agencies, (mostly the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service) for over 30 years. He shares his passion for his work with everyone he meets and shows great enthusiasm when assisting people. Those who have been fortunate enough to have been helped by Keith or have gotten to work with him enjoy the enthusiasm and expertise he brings to his work. Keith's knowledge of Wet Tropics wildlife and landscapes, derived over a period of 23 years working in national park management and endangered species recovery in this region, has been invaluable for many organisations and is an indication of his commitment to the protection of the Wet Tropics region. Keith has worked with Nature Refuges and their custodians over the past 10 years, recruiting over 50 new Nature Refuges and providing outstanding support and advice to landholders across the region. Keith Smith is a measured, informative and constructive communicator who inspires passion for the environment.

Dave Hudson has worked for almost 20 years in the conservation field, undertaking a variety of roles which facilitated community engagement in "hands-on" conservation. Until recently he was employed fulltime by Conservation Volunteers Australia but has also enjoyed part-time or voluntary roles with Holloways Beach Coastcare, Terrain NRM and the Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group.

Retiring from full-time employment earlier this year has given Dave the opportunity to focus on a number of his passions which include promoting the Wet Tropics region as a pre-eminent destination for volunteer tourism and building the capacity of the local community to undertake on-ground actions to mitigate against potentially devastating impacts of climate change, particularly on upland rainforest ecosystems. The two, of course, go hand in glove.

Dave and his partner Robyn are the proud custodians of an 80 hectare Nature Refuge property on the Atherton Tablelands near Malanda. Currently they are hosting some exciting scientific trials being undertaken by Griffith and Queensland Universities which are looking at providing better information for landholders and community groups on how to more rapidly and effectively restore rainforest.

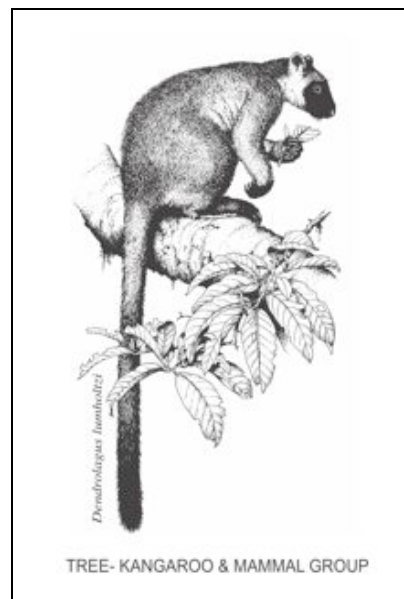
CONGRATULATIONS Dave and Keith on being deserving recipients of Wet Tropics Management Authority Cassowary Awards for 2012!

TKMG MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE! --Get those Christmas gifts before it's too late!!!

Don't forget that the new line of TKMG T-shirts for kids, women & men is now available. Bill Cooper's stunning artwork still graces the t-shirts and they now come in a range of wonderful new colours & styles. The TKMG tea towel, suitable for framing or use as a tea towel, has been a big hit with many commenting on the fact that this tea towel makes a wonderful gift.

And don't forget our adorable soft toy tree kangaroo—a great present for both kids & adults.

To buy our merchandise and support the work of TKMG come visit our stall at Yungaburra Markets (4th Saturday of every month) or, still in time to pick up something for Christmas, come to the meeting on **Thursday, 13th December** at the Malanda Hotel.



Alphabet Soup: What's it all mean???

by Amy Shima

DERM, QPWS, CAG, WTMA, EHP ...we see many terms like these associated with articles and projects dealing with a wide variety of animals, plants and habitats. Acronyms (words formed from the initial letters of a name or by combining initial letters or parts of a series of words) and their use are *de rigueur* these days.

To complicate matters even further, the 2012 Queensland State election brought about many changes. Among these were changes to the government agencies (and their names and acronyms) that deal with matters concerning wildlife, parks and the environment. Here's an attempt to make sense of the 'alphabet soup' of acronyms that are commonly associated with the environment, wildlife, plants and the government agencies that manage the environment. Descriptions of the responsibilities for government agencies have been taken directly from Queensland Government websites or from Australian Federal Government websites. At times the acronyms are a bewildering "alphabet soup"--here's our first attempt at making sense of it all.

DERM = Department of Environment & Resource Management

No longer in existence. Responsibilities of DERM have been reallocated to EHP and DNPRSR.

EHP = Department of Environment & Heritage Protection

This department is responsible for managing the health of the environment to protect Queensland's unique ecosystems, including its landscapes and waterways, as well as its native plants and animals and biodiversity.

The department's role is to act as a strong environmental regulator which supports sustainable long-term economic development of Queensland.

It does this by administering a range of environmental regulations and laws, providing timely approval authorities and ensuring compliance with them.

In addition to Queensland's natural environment, the department is also responsible for identifying and conserving the state's built heritage places.

The department's key activities include:

- Conservation and Sustainability Services, including the implementation of programs to conserve and enhance the health of the state's natural environment
- Environmental Services and Regulation, including the facilitation of project approvals and industry compliance
- Environmental Policy and Planning, including developing and reforming legislation, plans and programs to support front-line environmental service delivery, manage our ecosystems, waste agenda and our ongoing role in climate change adaptation.

NPRSR = Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport & Racing:

The department manages national parks and their use and enjoyment by all Queenslanders; encourages active lifestyles by providing recreational and sporting opportunities; and manages the racing industry which directly employs 30,000 Queenslanders.

Queensland's protected area estate covers more than eight million hectares and includes national parks, marine parks, forests, declared fish habitat areas, resources reserves and conservation parks.

National parks and forests play an important part in building stronger communities by providing recreational activities and helping to build the economy through sustainable ecotourism ventures.

National parks are the cornerstone of Queensland's protected area estate and are an important part of our natural environment and cultural heritage. Through proper management, we aim to ensure that the parks are protected, accessible and valued by all Queenslanders.

By managing important marine protected areas, such as declared fish habitat areas, we aim to ensure sustainable recreational, commercial and indigenous fishing.

We also encourage Queenslanders to lead active, healthy lifestyles by participating in sport and recreation. This is achieved through a suite of initiatives including funding programs, community programs and workshops, active recreation centres and physical activity resources for parents and teachers aimed at getting young Queenslanders physically active.

We help Queenslanders enjoy sport and recreation opportunities by developing and supporting facilities, and develop elite athletes at the Queensland Academy of Sport.

The department is responsible for regulating Queensland's racing industry, to ensure it is commercially responsive and contemporary. We are responsible for ensuring the industry is operated in a responsible and accountable manner and that racing animals are cared for to the highest standard.

QPWS: Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service

Now part of NPRSR

C4oC = Caring for Our Country

Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative jointly administered by the Australian Government **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)** and the **Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC)**.

CAG = Community Action Grant

Community Action Grants are a small grants component of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative that aims to help local community groups take action to conserve and protect their natural environment. The grants are targeted towards established local community-based organisations that are successfully delivering projects to support sustainable farming and/or protect and enhance the natural environment.

NRM = Natural Resource Management

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) share responsibility for delivery of the Australian Government's environment and sustainable agriculture programs, which are broadly referred to as natural resource management (NRM). Natural resource management (NRM) is the long-term care and use of our soil, water and vegetation and the ecosystems they make up. This has to be done in a way that also supports the economic and social needs of the community.

The Queensland Government's Regional NRM Programs business unit works with people and organisations both inside and outside of government who are involved in natural resource management. These include 14 community-based regional NRM groups and landholders, industry groups, Traditional Owners and Landcare volunteers.

Through the lantana and back again: 12 months as a volunteer for the Yellow-bellied glider project

Mark you calendars and come prepared for an entertaining and inspiring talk by Alan Winlaw about his experiences working as a volunteer with John Winter on the Yellow-bellied glider project. The talk will be held at the **Malanda Hotel at 7pm on Thursday, DECEMBER 13th**. As Alan says, "The recruiting officer said '...wonderful opportunity to bash lantana and expire from heat stroke for the sake of a cute little critter--hurry, places limited'." Alan is going



photo by Terry Barnes

to give us the "real" story.

It promises to be an interesting talk so come to the meeting. **Light supper following the presentation**; supper and plate contributions are much appreciated.

Please note that the meeting and this talk will be on the **2nd Thursday -December 13th--** rather than the usual first Thursday of the month.

Sense of Place: Impressions of the Atherton Tablelands

by Adrienne Ellis (with additional text by A Shima)

Adrienne Ellis is an undergraduate student from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. She has been in Australia, participating in the School of International Training Sustainability and Environmental Action program based in Byron Bay, NSW. For her final 5 weeks of the program, Adrienne chose to come to the Atherton Tablelands where her interests in Environmental Studies and writing are being put to use in a creative writing project on developing sense of place.

In Adrienne's own words: *"I am doing a creative writing project on developing sense of place on the Atherton Tablelands.*

Coming from a totally opposite environment in Ohio where I grew up, I am interested in the feasibility of seeking sense of place in a new location. I have been writing of my daily

experiences with the local land as well as interviewing some people that I believe are passionate about the rainforest. I have met some wonderful people, including Alan Gillanders, Yungaburra-based wildlife tour guide, Campbell Clarke who works for the Wet Tropics Management Authority in Cairns, and Stan and Kaisa Breeden, local nature writers and photographers. I have been staying at On the Wallaby hostel in Yungaburra, which is full of friendly, adventure-seeking people. I have also fallen in love with the landscape, from the rolling farm hills to the dense, wait-a-while filled rainforest. I have learned about some local conservation efforts like the Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group and the Parks and Wildlife Office's efforts to create corridors connecting spots of rainforest within the Tablelands. I also went on one of Alan's spotlighting tours one evening and saw numerous possums, a tree kangaroo, and leaf-tailed gecko."



While on the Tablelands, Adrienne has volunteered at TREAT and taken a trip with ECHO (Eacham Community Health Organisation) to Innot Hot Springs. Adrienne has been *"constantly amazed at the beautiful plants, flowers, and fascinating animals of the area"*. She writes that, so far she has concluded *"it is very possible to love a place and feel connected to it even if it's foreign to you if you get to know the people, actively seek adventures and leave yourself open to new experiences."* She is looking forward to the remainder of her time here on the Tablelands.

See the October-December "Storm Season 2012" issue of the TREAT Newsletter

(<http://www.treat.net.au/publications/WnsOct2012.html>) for an update from Simon Burchill on "Rainforest Mammals of Peterson Creek" and an article by Sigrid Heise-Pavlov reporting on findings from School of Field Studies student work which indicate that tree-kangaroos are using restored/revegetated areas.

Update on Community Action Grant: Mt Fisher Landscape Connectivity Enhancement

by Dave Hudson

The Mt Fisher Landscape Connectivity Enhancement Community Action Grant is coming along well. This project aims to assist landholders in adopting environmentally sensitive grazing practices that will address the threats of habitat degradation and landscape-scale fragmentation in an area that has been identified as highly vulnerable to impacts associated with climate change. The area includes land which has been cleared for use in beef cattle production, areas of endangered rainforest and areas of advanced high-value regrowth vegetation. Endemic to this area of high altitude rainforest are at least 11 very restricted species of wildlife that will benefit from habitat and corridor restoration. The project supports landholders to modify their existing land management practices by providing funding assistance for fencing cattle out of critical corridor areas, accelerating natural regeneration through the removal of weeds (including lantana) and providing alternative off-stream water points to remove the impact of cattle on streams associated with critical corridors and endangered ecosystems.

As of early October 2012, negotiations with 2 key landholders on adjoining properties resulted in 2 off-stream watering points being installed, 370 metres of new fencing being constructed to prevent cattle accessing a sensitive creek line, and removal and replacement of 150 metres of old and ineffective fencing. In addition, 0.25 hectares of degraded riparian vegetation has been identified for rehabilitation (weed control) and replanting which will be undertaken prior to the coming wet season.



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The opinions expressed in Mammal Mail are not necessarily those of the Tree Kangaroo & Mammal Group, Inc.



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<http://www.tree-kangaroo.net>

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<http://www.pesavento.biz>

A Big THANK YOU to Pesavento Web Development & Marketing for your invaluable assistance in enabling TKMG to get their message out to the community and to the world.