



Mammal Mail

The Newsletter of the Tree-Kangaroo & Mammal Group

Vol. 18 No. 2 August 2018

What's Going On? Don't Miss These Upcoming Events

Thurs, Sept 6th: TKMG Committee meeting 5:30pm, Malanda Hotel. Members welcome to attend.

Sat, Sept 8th: Majestic Theatre special showing of "Into the Jungle" by Tenkile Conservation Alliance. Tickets available online: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/into-the-jungle-tickets-47293441958> or at the door.

Thurs, Oct 4th: TKMG Committee meeting at 5:30pm then beginning at **7pm, the Annual General Meeting**, followed by a special dual presentation by Macey Hales on her project 'Malanda Wildlife Watch' followed by "Marsupials in the mist: status of spotted-tail quoll populations in the Wet Tropics" by ecologist and Masters student, Jesse Rowlands, about the work he is doing with spotted-tail quolls in the upland areas of the Wet Tropics. Further details in the main body of the newsletter.

Thurs, Nov 2nd: TKMG Committee meeting 5:30pm, Malanda Hotel. Members welcome to attend.

Thurs, Dec 6th: TKMG Committee meeting 5:30pm, Malanda Hotel, followed at 7:30pm with a presentation by Dr. Andrew Dennis on conservation issues in Queensland and how they compare with conservation issues in Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Great photos and interesting observations will be shared.

TKMG meeting and Annual General with special dual presentations at 7pm, Thursday 4th October at Malanda Hotel

The October meeting of Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group will be a very special Annual General Meeting with a difference. In addition to the announcement of recipient of the 2018 William T. Cooper award, there will be two fascinating presentations following the Annual General Meeting. The first presentation will be on the *Malanda Wildlife Watch Project* by 10 year old local student, Macey Hales. This project is part of the Cairns District Science and Sustainability Enrichment program which is hosted by the Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre. The project aims, over 12 months, to raise awareness

about our local native wildlife amongst the students at Malanda Primary School. Macey has been using some of our TKMG remote cameras to capture images from various locations and help teach students about species that are commonly found in the Malanda area.

Following Macey's report, you'll get to learn about research being carried out on the spotted-tail quoll populations in the Wet Tropics by ecologist and University of the Sunshine Coast Masters student, Jesse Rowland, as he tells us about his research on the elusive spotted-tail quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus gracilis*) in upland areas of the Wet Tropics.

TKMG will also be formerly announcing an exciting new project, "Critter Camera Library". TKMG will have 5 sets of remote cameras available for loan to current financial members of TKMG. The cameras will enable interested members to learn more about the 'secret' lives of wildlife in their own back yards. Full details on the project will be provided at the meeting.

So MARK YOUR CALENDARS and be sure to attend this very special and exciting October **Annual General Meeting of the Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group on Thurs 4th October, 7pm at the Malanda Hotel.**

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TREE-KANGAROO AND MAMMAL GROUP UP TO DATE?

Please check to see if your membership in TKMG is 'financial' and up to date. While memberships **can** be purchased on the night of the meeting, prior to the Annual General meeting, doing so prior to October 4th will help the meeting run smoothly. Only current financial members will be able to vote for the Committee and be eligible for participation in the exciting new Critter Camera Library program. If you are unsure whether your membership is current, please contact either TKMG Secretary, Simon Burchill at sbburchill@gmail.com or on 0407-091-347 or Treasurer, Ruth Whiston at 4096-6372 or Newsletter Editor, Amy Shima 0499-180-961 for details on your membership. Please also make sure we have a current email and/or postal address for you.

For members who will be unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, there is a proxy form available (contact Simon Burchill or download it from our website: www.tree-kangaroo.net) and also one within this newsletter that you can fill out and give to someone who will be attending the meeting on October 4th.

The President's View

By Peter Valentine

This year has been very hectic and made more so for me by spending two months across the top of Australia via the Sandover Highway and the Tanami Track to the Kimberley Region in WA. A terrific experience thoroughly enjoyed with one highlight an exceptional sighting of a Monjon (*Petrogale burbidgei*) at the Mitchell Falls area (our smallest rock wallaby, just 30 cm long with a bushy tail tip).



Monjon (*Petrogale burbidgei*) in the foreground with a white-quilled rock pigeon (*Petrophassa albipennis*) kindly standing nearly (behind) to provide a reference scale for the small size of this wallaby

Photo by Peter Valentine

I am very grateful to Committee members for picking up the slack while I was away, especially our Vice-President Amy Shima and grants supremo Dave Hudson. I was sorry to miss Jim Thomas's presentation in June and am pleased to see that the film *Into the Jungle* will be featured in Malanda on the 8th September. It was wonderful that Jim received the 2018 Biodiversity Award from the Prince Albert of Monaco Foundation in June this year, and fellow Australian Professor Terry Hughes of James Cook University received the 2018 Climate Change Award at the same ceremony.



H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco and (from left to right): Professor Victor Pochat ("Water" Award 2018); Professor Terry Hughes ("Climate Change" Award 2018) and Jim Thomas ("Biodiversity" Award 2018), at the Grimaldi Forum. ©JC Vinaj / FPA2

The launch of Kimberley, our Virtual Reality tree kangaroo was a key part of the Open Day at the Malanda Visitor Centre on the 21st July. Many people enjoyed the experience and we appreciate Aidan Possemeirs, the JCU research student who developed the software,

attending the opening. Several members turned up to take part in the activities. I was pleased to meet Jazmyn Pease for the first time – the Malanda school girl who came up with the great initiative of providing re-usable cloth bags for shoppers at the Malanda Spar (Jaz Bagz). Leadership from the young people in our region! Great to see. Another such leader is Macey Hales who has been developing and running a wildlife awareness project at Malanda School. Macey believes that people will more likely love and protect animals that they know so she is helping explore local wildlife at the school using wildlife cameras. There will be a chance to find out more about this innovative project directly from Macey who will be giving us a brief talk at the AGM this year. Hats off to Malanda School for supporting such excellent projects. It was also good to see Terrain and WTMA well represented at the open day along with other community groups including TREAT and BirdLife. The Mayor was present and I took the opportunity to remind him of our TKMG proposal that the Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo be adopted as the official mammal emblem for the Tablelands Regional Council. If any members have a chance to raise this with your own local councillor in the TRC area, please do so. It is surprising to me that the Council does not leap at this opportunity for some positive media interest.

At our August meeting, we held a forum/workshop to put together member ideas for our submission to the Senate Inquiry into Australia's Extinction Crisis. It was excellent to see so many members offering great suggestions for the submission and since then we have put together a lengthy document within which we express our concerns about the current situation and propose various ideas as recommendations for the future. Changes to the EPBC Act have weakened protection and action on threatened species and we now have the strange situation that few of our threatened species actually have a recovery plan and even those that do have a plan have no funds to implement it. Giving Ministerial discretion on such matters has been regressive. Clearly this issue is not being taken seriously by Governments in Canberra and funds remain wholly inadequate. The closing date for submissions was extended until September 10th and it would be valuable if members submitted private comments that might help the Inquiry deliver a good outcome for wildlife.

Thanks to the members who made suggestions about possible recipients of the William T Cooper Award for 2018. The Committee will be considering options at our next meeting and members will find out more at the AGM in October. I would **very much** encourage members who felt so inclined to nominate for positions on the Committee. A healthy organisation needs turnover at the helm and cannot be effective without strong member interest in its survival. One great way to help is to join the Committee and take on a role that suits your interests. We will also be developing some volunteer roles for members who may have special skills but limited free time.

If you have a chance do drop in to the TKMG booth at the Yungaburra Markets and see some of the work we undertake. And maybe pick up one of our shopping bags! I very much

appreciate the work of Simon Burchill and Ceinwen Edwards in keeping this public face of our group going. Meantime I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM in October.

'Kimberley' visits the Ekka

by Dave Hudson

The Queensland Government provided a \$10,000 Engaging Science Grant towards the development of the 3D virtual reality tree-kangaroo and recently invited TKMG to demonstrate Kimberley for 3 days at the Ekka (the RNA Show in Brisbane). We would be part of the Advance Queensland stand, along with other VR experiences. As our equipment is installed at the Malanda Falls Visitor Centre, Aidan Possemiers (JCU/TensorWorks) agreed to make his equipment available. Fortunately AQ had some funds available to meet "staff" and travel costs, so Aidan was able to make the trip to Brisbane to run the demo. I was in Brisbane at the time and was able to attend for some of time as backup. Silly me thought I'd be sitting around twiddling my fingers most of the time but after a slow first hour we were flat out with a steady stream of Ekka-goers of all ages; the first Friday being especially busy with primary school groups. Our new bookmarks (special thanks to Leanne for organizing them and to Jane Hopkinson for allowing us to use one of her great tree-kangaroo photos) were very popular and many hundreds of people are now better informed about Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo.



Aidan Possemiers explaining 'Kimberley the VR tree-kangaroo' at the Brisbane Ekka
Photo by D. Hudson

Update on Kenny Road Fauna Rope Ladder

By Dave Hudson

You may remember from the previous issue of Mammal Mail that the camera monitoring the Kenny Road Fauna Overpass rope ladder was on hold as the Ergon crew had to go to another job before they could finish the installation. Overcoming unexpected delays and challenges (including the solar panel power unit proving to be incompatible with the camera!), and with enthusiastic and professional help from the crew from Energy QLD (formerly Ergon) the monitoring camera is now installed and operational. The camera is a Reconyx Microfire which can be accessed from the ground via Bluetooth and the Reconyx app so images can be downloaded and camera settings adjusted without anyone having to get to the camera itself. TKMG would welcome hearing from anyone



Photo by Dave Hudson

willing to volunteer to check the camera and review images. If you've got the interest and the skills and would like to help out with this project, please get in touch with Dave Hudson or any TKMG committee member.

Annual General Meeting, Committee Nominations and Proxy Form

Nominations for the management committee will be accepted in writing or via email. All you have to do is have 2 members in good standing nominate you and also indicate that you are willing to serve on the committee. If you want to nominate but can't think of 2 members to nominate you, please contact any of the committee. **Nominations must be submitted by 19th September** and notifications can be sent to sbburchill@gmail.com. If, by the date of the AGM, there are not enough candidates nominated to fill positions, nominations will be taken from the floor. **A list of candidates for the committee will be available from Simon Burchill by 27th September.**

If you are unable to attend the AGM on 4th October and want to have your say in voting, please fill out a proxy form (available on the website or use the form below). Just fill it out and give it to your chosen proxy (a member who will be attending the meeting) or mail to Simon Burchill, Secretary or give it to a TKMG Committee member if you want to vote at the Annual General meeting but will be unable to attend. You must be a member in good-standing (ie. Current financial member) in order to vote at the Annual General Meeting. Please also take a moment to check that TKMG has your current email and postal address.

**Proxy for Tree-kangaroo & Mammal Group, Inc.
Annual General Meeting Thursday, 4th October 2018
Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group, Inc:**

I, _____ of
_____ being a member in good standing of the
association, appoint _____ of
_____ as my proxy to

vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, to be held on the 4th day of October 2018 and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signed:

Date:

Volunteer Opportunities

Please give some thought about becoming more active and volunteering for TKMG. The Committee welcomes new members (so consider nominating for the Committee this year). One meeting a month isn't much to help keep TKMG moving forward towards its' goals of raising awareness and actively working to support conservation of the unique fauna that inhabit our region.

On-going volunteer opportunities:

Yungaburra Market Stall: We always welcome members who are willing to spend part of their Yungaburra Market Saturday helping out at the TKMG market stall. Even if you can only stay for a short while, it will help and you'll be doing your part to help TKMG get the message out about tree---kangaroos and other mammals in the Wet Tropics and Atherton Tablelands. For further information, please contact Simon Burchill 0407-091-347 or sbburchill@gmail.com or any of the TKMG Committee members.

Do you have writing, editing and publishing skills? The newsletter editor would welcome assistance from anyone with an interest in writing and editing and in tree-kangaroos and other mammals. It's a big job to get the newsletter out and having someone else to help with the task would be most welcome. If you think you might be interested, please contact Amy (0499-180-961) or tkmgnewsletter@gmail.com.

Do you have computer/internet/website skills? TKMG would love to have a member (or members) step up to help with the website and our Facebook page. Please contact any of the Committee members for more information.

Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group is a **Community Organization** so, step up and be an **active** member of our community. Volunteer to help us spread the word about our amazing environment and animals that inhabit it.



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Newsletter of the Tree Kangaroo & Mammal Group, Inc.

Please Post to:

Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group, Inc. (TKMG)

PO Box 1409, Atherton ,QLD 4883

e-mail: info@tree-kangaroo.net

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

President: Peter Valentine peter.valentine@jcu.edu.au

Vice-President: Amy Shima 0499-180-961

Treasurer: Ruth Whiston 07-4096-6372

Secretary: Simon Burchill 0407-091-347 sbburchill@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Amy Shima 0499-180-961 tkmgnewsletter@gmail.com

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



TKMG thanks Sustainable Solutions Global, Inc. for their generous sponsorship of the newsletter and website.