

Mammal Mail

Newsletter of the Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group

November 2003

Lake Eacham Plan Options

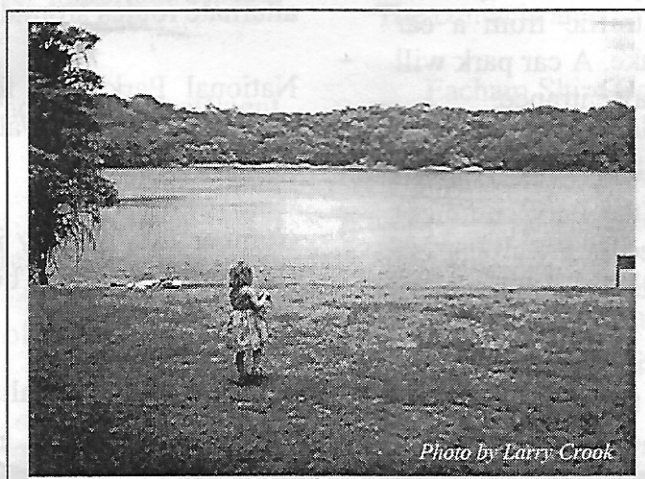
The Tree Kangaroo & Mammal Group has written a letter to the Eacham Shire Council supporting Option A of the re-development proposal for Lake Eacham which includes closure of roads through the Lake Eacham Section of the Crater Lakes National Park, with access to Lake Eacham recreation area via Lakes Drive only. The letter was also sent to Martin Lambert of Lambert Recreation Planning, the consultant engaged by Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service.

TKMG also appreciated the opportunity to contribute to discussions regarding the re-development proposal of Lake Eacham with Lambert Recreation Planning at a meeting held at the Lake in October.

TKMG's 5 reasons for supporting the re-development and road closures are outlined below.

1. Reducing roads through the park will reduce the incidence of injured and killed wildlife. We understand roads will be reduced from 4.2km to 800m.

2. Roads impact negatively on the integrity of the forest and are a conduit for weeds, feral animals, etc. Road edges are often weedy and made unattractive with litter. Negative



2 y.o. Chlöe stands on the strip of grass which currently separates Lake Eacham from a busy road.

Photo by Larry Crook

impacts due to edge effects from roads can be measured 100's of meters into the forest.

3. Roads result in forest fragmentation which can disturb whole populations or wildlife or an individual's habitat. Fragmented forests have less good quality

habitat. Next to habitat loss,

fragmentation is our most serious threat to wildlife.

4. Visitor safety will be improved by having no through traffic past the lake making it a safer environment for people and wildlife.

5. The maintenance of walking/cycling tracks on decommissioned roads is a safer, more enjoyable way to interact with the wildlife of Lake Eacham.

LAKE EACHAM MASTERPLAN

The two layout options which are currently being put forward are:

1. The closure of Lake Eacham Road and Wright's Creek Road.
2. Realignment of the road through the day use area and traffic calming (speed bumps and deviations).

Lake Eacham Road and Wrights Creek Road, and part of the recreation area at the lake, are Eacham Shire Council Road Reserve. In the event of *Option A* being adopted, the Council would apply to the Lands Department to hand over the road reserve area affected to QPWS.

Option A

The Closure of Lake Eacham Road and Wright's Creek Road.

If this option were adopted then Lake Eacham Road would remain open to cyclists, wheelchairs and walking traffic from a car park on the bypass to the lake. A car park will be established at the highway entrance.

Wright's Creek Road would be closed at Gadgarra Road turnoff (the Park entrance) and again would be retained as a walking etc track. A car park will be established there.

The walking track which is currently closed along Wrights Creek could then be reopened.

All traffic would access the park from the bypass through Lake's Drive, reducing the in park road from 4.2km to 800m.

Lake's Drive will terminate into a tear drop shaped bus and car park at the entrance to the Park. This will be right at the lake where there is already some parking on the higher level near where the food van currently parks.

The extra area created by the road closure would then become a safe day use area for all users of the Park locals and visitors alike.

Currently the through traffic, which is increasing with a number of heavy vehicles

using the road, is hazardous to anyone using the Park and to wildlife.

Park Usage.

Park usage is increasing every year. Enhanced facilities will help control the increase in usage.

More visitors means more spend in the Shire which will ultimately benefit all residents in improved facilities and road upgrades.

Road closure will further ensure that visitors have a safe and environmentally sound experience in the Park.

Road closure will extend the area that can be utilised for day use 100 fold.

There is no necessity to drive through the National Park as there are quicker and safer alternate routes around it from all areas.

National Parks are for everyone's use, the protection of the values of the park is a number one priority.

Number two priority is the protection of the Park users which is best achieved by having no through roads.

Will decrease vandalism as it cuts off their escape route.

Concerns that the road closures would mean that some schoolchildren would not be able to attend Yungaburra school were laid to rest by Eacham Shire Mayor, Mary Lyle, who stated, at a community briefing meeting at the lake on November 15th, that The Department of Transport would adjust the school bus routes to suit. No child would be disadvantaged.

It is worth noting that Option A is supported by Tropical Tablelands Tourism and tour operators generally.

LAKE EACHAM MASTERPLAN

Option B

Realignment of Lakes Drive through the day use area and traffic calming.

This option will mean less actual area for day use area and increased safety issues with users and traffic. Danger to wildlife is also increased.

The hazardous intersection of Eacham Road and Wright's Creek Road will remain.

Having a road reserve dissecting the National Park creates management issues for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

It also provides easy escape route option for vandals.

It should be noted that road closure is only one of the focuses of the upgrade of the Lake Eacham day use area other important aspects being discussed are:

- Improved toilet facilities and effluent dispersal.
- Improved BBQ and picnic area facilities.
- Safe swimming area for children.
- Erosion control.
- General control of visitor impact in the park.

See the Lake Eacham Day Use Area Masterplan insert for maps and Response Form.

PNG Talk Raises \$150

Thank you to everyone who made a donation for the Herowana Primary school at our *Kaukau, kids and cuscus* talk at the August TKMG meeting.

\$150.75 was raised on the night and with this we bought enough stationary supplies including pencils, pens, crayons, erasers, rulers, plus an atlas and a dictionary, to fill a sizeable box which has been sent to the village. And the story doesn't end there because on the night of the talk

It has been observed that road users travel at much greater speeds than are safe on this road, and visitors with children need to be constantly vigilant to ensure their children don't stray near the fast-moving traffic.

Also buses park adjacent to the main swimming area and leave their engines running for considerable periods causing noise and fume pollution reducing the enjoyment of the area.

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Martin Lambert and Councillor Ray Byrnes have made it quite clear that the decision on road closure by the Council will be influenced by the number of submissions to the Council and the consultants. The 2 options are not set in bitumen, so to speak, and are open to variation subject to the submissions received.

Submissions must be made by 28th November.

The contacts are:

Eacham Shire Council,
31 James St, Malanda, 4885
Email: info@eachamshire.qld.gov.au

Martin Lambert
Lambert Recreation Planning
PO Box 857, Smithfield, 4878
Email: lrp@iig.com.au

also received offers of second-hand children's books to send to Papua New Guinea.

We've collected a number of educational and story books from the kind folk at the Busy Bee in Malanda and will add to this as we get around to catching up with the other people who offered books. These books will help the people of Herowana village with their aim of setting up a library.

Thank you everyone for your support and thanks again to TKMG for hosting the talk.

Amanda & Alastair Freeman

LUMHOLTZ'S TREE-KANGAROO RESEARCH

Tableland Tree-kangaroo Carers & Support Group

In September a group of Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo carers and support people met at Margit Cianelli's house to discuss the care, rehabilitation and hand raising of Tree-kangaroos in captivity. Topics covered at the meeting included diet in captivity, habitat fragmentation, the importance of post mortems, post release tracking, blindness and inoculation of stomach contents to hand-raised joeys. The group believes that sharing information on a regular basis will make it easier to ensure the Tree-kangaroo's ongoing survival.

Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroos exist nowhere else in the world but here, in a small region of the Wet Tropics—stretching south to Cardwell and north to Mt. Carbine. Only 12% of the Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo population inhabits national parks. The rest reside on private property.

The meeting allowed research and experiences by individual carers, veterinarians, Zoo staff and researchers to be discussed. The experiences often differed and were unique because, like us, Tree-kangaroos enjoy individual tastes and preferences.

Diet and Digestion

It is common practice to inoculate orphaned Tree-roo joeys with stomach contents from fresh tree-roo road-kill. It is believed that the bacteria from the fresh stomach contents help to establish bacteria in their gut. The bacteria are necessary to aid the fermentation process breakdown of cellulose so that leaves can be digested.

Tree-kangaroos, as with all macropods, are foregut fermenters. This means that they ferment their leafy diet in their stomach. This is similar to ruminants, such as cows. In contrast, Koalas and possums are hindgut fermenters, which means that they ferment their leaves in the large intestine and caecum.



Photo by Lee Curtis

Hindgut fermenters are known to eat faeces. It is believed that adults can benefit from the nutrients that may have been lost in the faeces and joeys can obtain bacteria from eating the adult's faeces. Kangaroos can not benefit in the same way, but have been seen to eat faeces in captivity. We don't know why. Perhaps they can still get some nutrients out of it. It has been suggested that Tree-kangaroo mothers regurgitate food for their joeys, thereby passing on the necessary bacteria that way. Hence, this is why we feed stomach contents to joeys. Obviously, further research is needed.

Concern was expressed about feeding any vegetables to Tree-roos especially at early age when they need to get their stomach functioning properly. Tree-roos are folivores and a large percentage of their diet is leaves. They do eat some flowers and fruits in the rainforest but to a lesser degree.

Milk flora vs solid food flora

As part of her ongoing research at James Cook University, Karen Coombes has found that Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroos, as with many other kangaroos, have an interesting

LUMHOLTZ'S TREE-KANGAROO RESEARCH

structure inside the stomach. This structure, in suckling young, allows milk to bypass the fermenting fore stomach straight into the hind stomach and is similar to one found in ruminants such as cows. However, plant material goes directly into the fore stomach where it is fermented by bacteria. This structure allows young to suckle and eat solids over the same period of time during weaning, which is up to two years for Tree-roos. As milk bypasses the stomach, inoculate of stomach contents should not mixed with milk as it too would bypass the stomach where it is needed.

Milk composition

Does the composition of the mothers' milk change over time or do different teats produce different milk for the young of varying ages as in other macropods? This may very well be the case and determining the milk's constitution would make it possible to add necessary elements to Divetelact, a formula feed to joeys. This analysis can take place when the milk of nursing mothers can be tested in captivity.

Leaf Toxins

Rainforest leaves can contain compounds that are toxic to insects and animals as a defence against being eaten. We know very little about what is toxic to Tree-roos and what is not. We also do not know how they break down toxic leaf into harmless matter. More research is needed to determine whether the body can break down these toxins, or whether they ingest something that makes them able to cope with leaf chemicals—something that is not produced in their body but obtained from an outside source. Tree-roos have been observed eating dirt in captivity. Does this help them deal with the toxins or does it help build up the bacteria in their gut? Or, it may be something else altogether.

Andrew Krockenberger (Senior Lecturer in the School of Tropical Biology at James Cook University) has been studying the relationship between hot weather and Green Ringtail Possum deaths. Anecdotal evidence in

Victoria reveals that Ringtails have been observed falling out of trees on very hot, 40° days. A paper on toxins and Green ringtails by Jonathan Kingdon pointed out that some trees produce toxins in select branches, i.e., those being devoured by insects.

Are Tree-roos affected by these phenomena as well? How do Tree-roos eat lantana and tobacco which are both very toxic to cattle?

Post-mortems

Veterinary post-mortems records show that gastric problems are the primary cause of infant Tree-roo deaths on the Tablelands.

As we still know relatively little of their biology, research is vital to increase our understanding of these unique creatures. As part of this research, post mortems will be conducted on fresh road or dog kills. Therefore, we urge the public to report any tree-roo road kill or dog attack victims to us as soon as possible and we will collect them for post mortems.

Post-mortems are a vital source of information and it was suggested that more be done to find out about diseases in the wild populations. Peter Latch (QPWS Threatened Species Co-ordinator) wants to establish post-mortem standards for Tree-roos similar to those QPWS/EPA have created for Cassowaries.

A plan for the future is to encourage Tablelanders to alert someone with a permit about any Tree-roo road kills. This will allow the permitted person to bring the dead Tree-roo to one of the Tableland Veterinary Clinics. Road kill collectors will be encouraged to refrigerate (not freeze) the body.

Information and Sightings

If you have information on injured or dead Tree-roos please ring Karen and Neil: 4096-6316 or Margit Cianelli: 4095-0292.

Tableland Tree-kangaroo Carers & Support Group



Attending the meeting were, from left to right, top row: Rigel Jensen (Botanist), John McKenzie (Tableland vet), Margit Cianelli (Tree-roo carer), John Winter (Zoologist, Massey Creek Ecology Centre), Terry Carmichael with Susan on shoulder (Rainforest Habitat Curator), Karen Coombes (PhD scholar and Tree-roo carer), Tim Hawkes (Rainforest Habitat Tree-roo carer), Beth Stirn (Tree-roo carer)

Bottom row: Tania Simmons (President of TKMG) and Kiah, Lars Kazmeier (PhD scholar), Wendy Bergen (Tableland vet)

Photographer: Lee Curtis (Tree-roo public relations)

TREE-ROO XMAS SPREAD

A four-page spread with colour photos on Tree-kangaroos will appear in the Summer issue of *Wildlife Australia Magazine*.

The article is written, and photos taken, by Lee Curtis, a local who is passionate and knowledgeable about both the Tablelands and Tree-kangaroos.

You can subscribe to the magazine by going to www.wildlife.org.au. It's a terrific Xmas present! All proceeds go to the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

Lee, the Northern Correspondent for *Wildlife Australia Magazine*, is happy to drop by and let you peruse a few of the latest *Wildlife Australia Magazine* issues. Lee can be contacted on Tel: 4095-3155, Fax: 4095-3157 and email: lee@atagance.com.au.

President's Report 2003

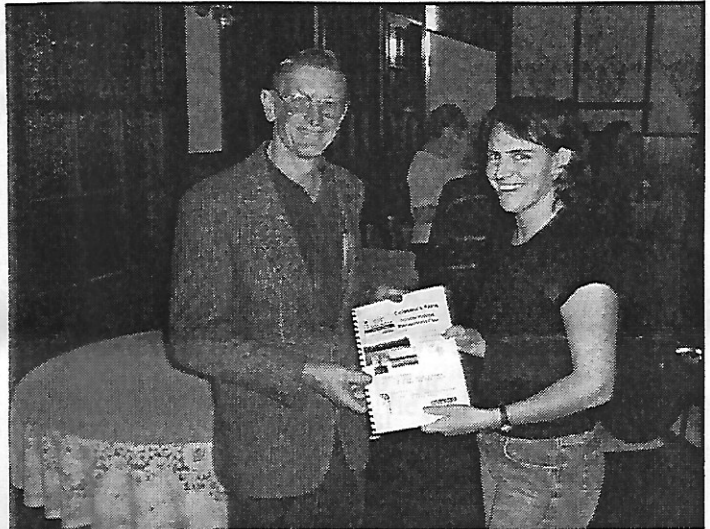
by Scott Burnett, President, TKMG Inc.

The end of this year marks the start of the TKMG's seventh year as an incorporated group. This past year has been a busy one for the group. We have finished projects, commenced new projects and we have new project applications in the wings.

The Case Studies II project, *Conservation of Remnant Vegetation on Private Property on the Atherton Tablelands*, was finalised at the August meeting. This project used three Tablelands properties to showcase the economic and environmental benefits of retaining and enhancing remnant vegetation on rural properties. At the meeting, project co-managers Larry Crook and Sue Mathams presented *Wildlife Habitat Management Plans* to two of the three participants: the Walthams (Olive and Reg), and Neil Coleman. The property management plans include documentation and mapping of the existing flora and fauna habitats, a survey for Tree-kangaroos, and habitat management plans for controlling pests and enhancing remnant vegetation.

John Winter has been spending considerable time on Cape York Peninsula undertaking surveys for possums as part of his CYNHT project examining declines in possums on Cape York. John has made four of his six planned field trips. He has visited sites at Jardine River, Embley/Mapoon, Coen, and the Kimber Plateau. Prior to this, it had been suggested that Brushtailed and Ringtailed Possums had become extinct from much of Cape York Peninsula. Preliminary results from John's recent field work suggest that this isn't necessarily the case, although it does appear that Brushtail populations are very localised and are cyclical and ringtail possums are very scarce. This project is due to finish in November 2003.

The Quoll project, managed by Scott Burnett, is all but finished. One more hair tubing survey is required and the poster still needs to be produced. The project has resulted in an increased awareness of Quolls by landowners, and phone calls are still received regarding problem quolls, even though there has been



Sue Mathams presents Neil Coleman with the *Wildlife Habitat Management Plan* for his property.

no formal media work done for many months. Results of the quoll project have been fed into the Qld Wild Dog Strategy. The Quoll web site continues to function and is being accessed by government departments and community groups across Australia. Most recently, the Victorian Department of Environment have used pictures from the web site to launch their own community survey for Spotted-tailed Quolls.

A new project which intends to map the distribution of Tree-kangaroos in towns on the Atherton Tablelands has commenced. This project will provide fine scale information on the distribution and threats to Tree-kangaroos in the town precincts and will raise community awareness of Tree-kangaroos in their area. This project has been instigated by John Winter, with support from member Kylie Freebody. Initially the project will conduct a community survey of the Malanda area. Survey forms will be available to the public at the Eacham Shire Council Office, the Tree Kangaroo Café, and the Little Bottler Bottle Shop at the Malanda Hotel. Alex and Jane at the Tree Kangaroo Café are the project managers for this project.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003

Several new projects have been proposed and funding applications submitted. These include a project to examine the impacts of domestic cats on wildlife submitted by Scott Burnett and two projects aimed at enhancing habitat quality and connectivity of two areas of important Tree-kangaroo habitat, one in the Millaa Millaa area and another in the Yungaburra areas. More details of the latter two proposed projects are given in the Sept 2003 edition of the *Mammal Mail*.

Lars Kazmeier has worked tirelessly promoting the TKMG at the Yungaburra markets and on the World Wide Web. He has manned 5 stalls at the Yungaburra and Malanda since our last AGM and has managed the TKMG web site. Lars has also been organising the preparation of a stuffed Tree-kangaroo for future TKMG promotional work. The Tree-kangaroo to be stuffed is a roadkill and will be housed at the Tree Kangaroo Café, although we will take it on the road as need be. Lars has liaised with EPA and submitted a permit which we have been assured will be issued to us. He has also obtained the details of taxidermists and their

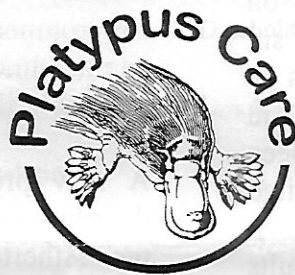
quotes for the job. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Lars for his commitment to the group during what has been a trying year for him.

Several of the executive are standing down at this meeting, including our treasurer of many years Beth Stirn. Beth has been on the executive committee since the group's inception and has done a magnificent job as treasurer, especially given the chaos accompanying the implementation of the GST in 2000. We all owe Beth a tremendous debt for her generosity with her time during her period as treasurer of the TKMG and hope that she'll continue to be involved with the group in a non-executive function.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the running of the group: members of the executive, ordinary members and guest speakers and wish the group well over the next year.

I would also like to thank the English family for the support they give to TKMG by their very generous provision of a monthly meeting place in the Malanda Hotel.

Along with being one of Australia's best-loved animals, the platypus is also one of the most difficult to survey and monitor. If you've ever seen a platypus in the wild, you can make a real contribution to platypus conservation by sharing the details of your sightings with a new community-based program, *Platypus Care*.



To get a better handle on where platypus remain abundant and where they may have disappeared in Queensland, the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ) is collecting platypus sightings records in partnership with the Australian Platypus Conservancy, a non-government group devoted to platypus conservation. The records will also be forwarded to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's *NatureSearch* program.

Dr Melody Serena, Senior Conservation Biologist with the Australian Platypus Conservancy, said that although the platypus is still officially regarded as common across its range in eastern mainland Australia and Tasmania, the species is known to have declined dramatically in some degraded river systems.

Community sightings of platypus can be used as a very effective mapping technique - as long as plenty of sightings are provided.

Persons wishing to report where and when they've seen a platypus - either recently or in the past - can contact their local branch of WPSQ to register the sighting. These details can also be registered online by visiting the Platypus Care page of the WPSQ website (www.wildlife.org.au).

For further details contact:

WPSQ Far North Queensland Branch
Lee K. Curtis
Telephone: (07) 4095-3155
Email: lee@ataglance.com.au

Australian Platypus Conservancy
Geoff Williams
Telephone: (03) 9716 1626
Email: platypus@vicnet.net.au

Regional Board appointed

The new Wet Tropics Natural Resource Management Board (FNQ NRM Ltd.)

Directors on the new Regional Board (WTNRM Board) have now been selected and the Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group welcomes the opportunity to work with them. TKMG, represented by Lars Kazmeier, met with the Directors recently when they visited the Tablelands as part of their first regional road tour.

Chaired by Douglas Shire Mayor Mike Berwick, the Board includes: Director Catchment, *Caroline Coppo*, from Ingham; Director Coastal, *Chris Gloor*, from Cairns; Director Industry, *Bill Shannon*, from Mission Beach; Director Conservation, *Peter Stanton*, from Cairns; Director Indigenous, *Troy Wyles-Whelan*, from Ingham; Director Local Government, *Ray Byrnes*, from Yungaburra; and Director World Heritage, *Colin Hunt*, also from Yungaburra.

Since the Board's formation in October they have been focusing on securing employment of the region's coordinator and facilitator network (all positions now extended till June 30th 2004), progress of the Wet Tropics Regional NRM Plan (developed for the body by the Rainforest CRC to guide funding priorities and management actions) and the initiation of community consultation and interaction. The Plan draft is almost completed, having commenced under the old NRM Board.

Pivotal in planning for and prioritising the region's natural resource needs, the Board will develop management strategies and set resource condition targets. It will also continue the initiatives and programs developed and managed by the old NRM Board under the Natural Heritage Trust 1.

Areas of involvement will include protection and conservation of plants and animals, sustainable use of land, water and vegetation, protection of the reef and building community capacity.

The WTNRM Board replaces the old Natural Resources Management (Wet Tropics) Inc

Board (NRM Board). The role of the new Board is to administer all future federal government money (such as Natural Heritage Trust II) delivered to the region for natural resource management projects. Previously this was done by the Department of Natural Resources & Mines. The old NRM Board was involved in ranking natural resource management projects (NHT I) and making recommendations to the State Assessment Panel. It is presumed the WTNRM Board will take on a similar role once a bilateral agreement between State and Federal governments has been signed (NHT II).

The only federal funds available at the moment are Foundation funding (an initial component of NHT II) to be used purely for getting the new Regional Board set up and the new Wet Tropics NRM Plan (with targets set) completed. Currently, the new Regional Board is not involved in administering federal funding for any on-ground works until NHT II is signed off. The whole system is only as good as the deal not yet struck between the State and the Feds.

Qld is the only state not to have signed off on NHT II (for nearly 12 months), arguing with the Federal government over how much the State government will contribute to NHT II. The stymied situation hovers mainly around a disagreement over 'tree-clearing' compensation issues. The 'bargaining' continues.

TKMG, as a community group reliant on federal funding for its natural resource management projects, sees a number of challenges ahead for the new Regional Board. One challenge being to expedite public funds

NEW REGIONAL BOARD

towards conservation in our region via community groups, increasing the efficiency in time of getting money to the groups.

Budget efficiencies need to be implemented so the bulk of the funds go into conservation and less is directed towards administration.

There is the challenge of successfully and fairly dealing with a diverse range of community groups with a diversity of

objectives competing for conservation funds. The new Board will need to relate well to all of their clients and not just rub shoulders with a select two or three larger groups that are well versed in lobbying.

For further information contact the WTNRM Board's Communications and Capacity Building Officer, Rachel Wicks on 4061 6477 or 0407 576 815.

Their web site is www.nrmboard.org.au.

LETTERS

Tree-kangaroos in Millaa Millaa.

It is necessary to point out a misconception in the *Mammal Mail* (Sept 2003) that Malanda is the only town in Australia where Tree-kangaroos are regularly seen in the town. Indeed, only last week one was chased by a dog up the Main Street of Millaa Millaa. Approximately two months previously one was found dead beside St Patrick's Creek, adjacent to Tobin's Foodstore. In the past 12 months, six have been reported killed adjacent to the clinic and on the main road from Millaa Millaa Caravan Park to Main Street, Scenic Route road crossing. (A distance of about 500 metres).

The presence of Tree-kangaroos along the golf course greenway, up to the environmental park opposite, down through St Patrick's has been a regular 'corridor' for the species, the presence of the species observed and recorded within the Reserves surrounding Millaa Millaa Falls. The need to extend habitat inspired my husband and I to participate in upgrading St Patrick's Creek walkway, which was to be part of a 4 km internal 'corridor' linking with Irwin Road, and ultimately, the Reserves, right through to Moregatta Road. Our participation in the project resulted in a successful bid for approximately \$14,000 funding for the upgrade of the St Patrick's Creek section. Consequently, we would also appreciate if the 'survey' area for the study of Tree-kangaroo could be extended to Millaa Millaa.

Yours sincerely
(Mrs) O. Waltham
Millaa Millaa

Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group Inc

MEMBERSHIP is only \$11.00 for singles or family (\$11.00 = one vote at the AGM) and is due every June 30th. Join at our meetings or send your details (name, address, e-mail) and cheque (donations gratefully received) to TKMG, PO Box 1409, Atherton 4883

ART EXCHANGE

We will be visited again by our colleagues from Roger Williams Park Zoo in November (23-27). This year there will be a combined TKMG TREAT interaction with the Papua New Guinea Education Program. If you are interested in volunteering your time we'll be running a couple of hours program with Herberton State School on November 25th where students will end up exchanging art work with other students from PNG and USA. Should be fun! Please let Tania Simmons know if you are interested.

Tania's contact details are Ph: 4095 1085 or email: kanuka.creek@bigpond.com

TKMG Display

TKMG will stage a display at the Malanda Dairy Centre on January 25th, 2004. If you are interested in volunteering your time to assist with manning the stall, please contact the TKMG Display Officer, Lars Kazmeier, on 4096 5508 or Tania Simmons on 4095 1085.

THIS, THAT & THE OTHER

IF I COULD TALK

The forest is all dying, the tops all brown and grim,
The drought is still here and the feed is sure thin.
"But that's not the whole story", the Tree-kangaroo would shout!

"It's the damn aerial spraying that's knocking us about.

When you live in the forest, high up in those tall trees,

The poison drifts like vapour and lands upon our leaves.

Our food is being poisoned and it's going to weed us right out,

We pass it on to our children, which really are looking quite queer!

You come from all different places, to look in wonder, as we scramble about in trees,
Reality in motion, as the tourists are climbing the trees,

Clicking away with their cameras; to prove that we really were there.

Man's right to poison the forest, a place where we've lived all our lives,

Trying to survive Man's plunder, it's enough to bring you to tears".

The platypus tells the same story, "My water's too dirty to swim".

The birds are all chirping, "My last grub was seen in a dream".

Bats have left town, looking for cleaner places to hang around.

If I could talk, I'd probably ask you to stop all the poisonous rain.

You all want the tourist dollars but not for long I fear,

It's not too late, but nearly, so stop while you still can.

You want to see us in person, but not for much longer I fear.

Because if you keep walking the path you're all taking, the future for us is clear.

Then that photo you have all taken would be worthless without the real thing.

Now isn't it better in person, than something put away in a tin.

We are so few, so listen with both ears and listen clearly,

With dogs, poisons and clearing, we don't stand a chance around here.

It's not always someone else's problems, so it's time to give it away

And stop the aerial spraying and give us a break around here!

*Contributed by D. Brown.....for the
Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo*



TKMG Christmas Party

Lake Eacham

Thursday

December 4th

6.30pm

BBQ facilities

Bring food, fizz, fun & frivolity!

TKMG Meeting Time Change

The time for the TKMG Business Meeting (every 2nd month) will no longer commence at 7.30pm.

They will now commence at 5.30pm and finish at 7.30pm. The venue remains at the Malanda Hotel.

The Public Meeting time remains at 7.30pm.

All meetings will still be held on the first Thursday of the month.

2002/3 Committee Elected

Prominent local conservationist, Tania Simmons, was elected TKMG President at the September AGM.

John Grant was re-elected Vice President. Ecologist, Sue Mathams took on the Secretary's position and Wendy Bergen, a Tableland vet. and Tree-kangaroo carer, dropped into the realm of GST and BAS when she was elected Treasurer.

Tree-kangaroo PhD scholar, Lars Kazmeier continues as Display Officer and Larry Crook was allowed to continue staying up all night putting the newsletter together.

Tree-roo carers Margit Cianelli and Rhonda Winger were elected Committee Members.



In this issue:

- Lake Eacham Development Plan
- Tree-kangaroo Carers
- President's Report 2003
- New Regional Board for Wet Tropics
- Platypus Care
- Art Exchange
- Christmas Party
- New TKMG Committee

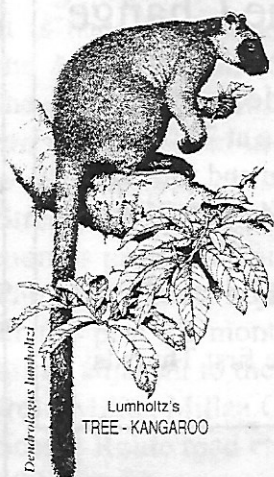
Photo by Steve Parish



Mammal Mail

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Newsletter of the Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group
PO Box 1409, Atherton, Q, 4883

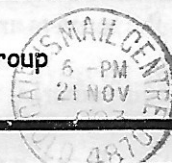
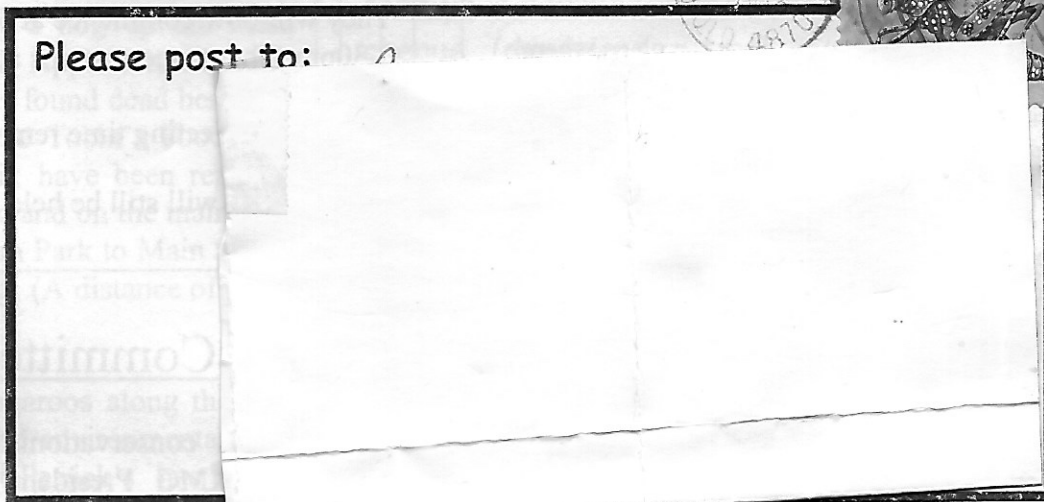


Dendrolagus lumholtzi

Lumholtz's
TREE-KANGAROO

Drawing by W. Cooper

Please post to:



Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group Inc (TKMG)

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