

# Animal

## ROUNDAABOUT



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Produced for people with an interest in the exhibition of animals in zoos, circuses, mobile farms, fauna and wildlife parks in NSW.



NSW Agriculture

## Frog log

Animal records are submitted each year from all authorised exhibitors when renewing their applications. In this issue of *Animal Roundabout*, the focus is on frogs and toads. Statistics of other animal groups will be looked at in following editions.

As frogs are popular with the general community, it's surprising that such low numbers of frogs are kept. Due to the diversity of Australian habitats, many different species of frogs have evolved that are adapted to arid conditions as well as wetter environs. This means there is ample

The least-kept species were the Giant Burrowing Frog and Tyler's Tree Frog and only one exotic species (Cane Toad) was held at the end of the record-keeping year.



Green and Gold Bell Frog  
Photo courtesy of Taronga Zoo Education

During 1999, the records showed that authorised exhibitors in New South Wales held 184 individual frogs and toads from 16 species – 11 came from one genus *Litoria* (tree frogs). There were fewer amphibians kept than any other vertebrate class.

scope for exhibiting a greater range of frog species to help the community better understand this group of animals.

It is encouraging to see those who already exhibit frogs have devoted resources to caring for endangered species. There was more endangered Green and Gold Bell Frogs kept than any other species. However, other popular species included the Spotted Grass Frog, the Green Tree Frog and the Rocket Frog.

### Amphibian records for the year ending 30 April 1999

Broad-palmed Rocket Frog <i>Litoria latopalmata</i>	6
Cane Toad <i>Bufo marinus</i>	6
Dainty Tree Frog <i>Litoria gracilentia</i>	3
Dwarf Tree Frog <i>Litoria fallax</i>	4
Giant Burrowing Frog <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	2
Great Barred Frog <i>Mixophyes fasciocatus</i>	11
Green and Gold Bell Frog <i>Litoria aurea</i>	38
Green Tree Frog <i>Litoria caerulea</i>	30
Peron's Tree Frog <i>Litoria peronii</i>	9
Red-Eyed Tree Frog <i>Litoria chloris</i>	7
Rocket Frog <i>Litoria nasuta</i>	20
Splendid Tree Frog <i>Litoria splendida</i>	6
Spotted Grass Frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensi</i>	32
Striped Marsh Frog <i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>	5
Tyler's Tree Frog <i>Litoria tyleri</i>	2
White-lipped Tee Frog <i>Litoria infrafrenata</i>	3

# Looze Lipz



## Charmed by Pythons

The angelic grey-blue eyes of one of Australia's rarest and most elusive snakes, the rough-scaled python (*Morelia carinata*), beguile keepers at the Australian Reptile Park. The first two official specimens are now contented residents at the park and their keepers agree there is definitely a very serene feeling about these very private pythons. Intensive research and study is being carried out before a breeding program is launched – keep an eye out for an exciting birth notice in the future.

## Up to Scratch

It's important for animal exhibitors who hold a licence, approval or permit to make sure their animal keepers have a comprehensive understanding of the

standards for exhibiting animals in New South Wales. Ultimately, the licence holder is responsible for compliance with the standards, and keepers who have a thorough understanding of the standards can be a valuable asset to the licence holder. Place the standards in a spot where all keepers and staff can easily access them.

## Great Expectations

The Sydney Aquarium is excited about its expectant hatching of 40 *Sepia apama* (giant cuttlefish) eggs. Preparation is underway to house and care for these babies that can grow up to 80 centimetres.

## Zoo News

Taronga and Western Plains Zoo recently became licensed under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*. Their late entry into the licensing world is due to the fact that when the Act originally came into existence, the Zoological Parks Board of NSW administered the legislation and its zoos were exempt from licensing. When administration of the Act transferred to NSW Agriculture the anomaly of the two major zoos in New South Wales not being licensed under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act* began to be addressed.



What followed was an extended period of preparation for the licensing of the two zoos, including amendment of the legislation and extensive pre-licensing inspections of both facilities to assess for compliance with the standards. As well, there was the lengthy assessment process of the licence applications, processing hundreds of permits and the assessment of hundreds of exhibits and off-exhibit holding facilities.

## Changing Direction

Catherine Greenwood and Peter Johnson, have moved on from the Animal Welfare Unit to greener pastures. Catherine made a career change for a promotion and has joined the Department of Health. Peter has accepted a position with the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission and will be working in the Chemical Assessment Division.



## Doing it better

Keepers and other animal carers can keep in touch with industry trends and developments in animal care through "continuing education". Keeping up-to-date with developments and updating skills is an investment in the well-being of animals and business. It's probably tax deductible too!

An easy, effective form of continuing education is by reading industry publications and books on the care of animals in captivity. Videos and internet sites are also valuable sources of information and education. Visiting animal parks, zoos and circuses and talking to other keepers can also be an enlightening experience.

Most formal courses are aimed at those working in the industry with the emphasis on the practical aspects of animal care. Many courses are conducted through distance education where it's not necessary to leave home – except in

some cases for short residential schools. (This gives the opportunity to put theory into practice and meet other people doing the course). A prerequisite for the *Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in NSW* is apprenticeship-style training and work experience for new keepers and handlers.

### Certificate III in Zookeeping

A flexible learning course for those in the industry run at various locations Department of Education and Training (TAFE) NSW, QLD, VIC.  
Ph: NSW 131601 or (02) 9299 5011, Qld 1800 004455, Vic 131 823  
[www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au) (NSW)  
[www.tafe.net](http://www.tafe.net) (Qld) [www.otfe.vic.gov.au](http://www.otfe.vic.gov.au)  
[www.vetnet.edu.au](http://www.vetnet.edu.au) (VIC)

### Welfare of Kangaroos and Wallabies in Captivity

Practical Handling of Marsupials for Veterinarians and Wildlife Managers Residential courses of two or five days. Macquarie University, Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)

Phone the CRC, (02) 9850 8214  
[www.mq.edu.au/marsupialcrc/](http://www.mq.edu.au/marsupialcrc/)

### Graduate Certificate in Applied Science

(Captive Vertebrate Management) Distance education, part-time, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus  
Ph: Course Coordinator (02) 6338 4382  
[www.csu.edu.au](http://www.csu.edu.au)

### Caring for Australian Wildlife

Part-time course, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary  
Ph: Education Service (07) 5534 1266  
[www.cyberdata.co.au/currumbin/cshomepg.html](http://www.cyberdata.co.au/currumbin/cshomepg.html)

### Native Animal Care

Courses for people wanting to become volunteers for NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES)  
Ph: (02) 8977 3333  
[www.wires.webcentral.com.au](http://www.wires.webcentral.com.au)

If you know of any other courses available, contact Len Cantrill at NSW Agriculture on (02) 6391 3430.

# Reportable diseases



Australia has an enviable reputation for being free of the major epidemic animal diseases that affect other countries. While its world-class quarantine system is designed to keep such diseases out, it pays to play it safe and keep a look out for the unexpected.

While many diseases are only of concern to particular livestock species, some diseases such as foot and mouth can infect a wide range of animals. These include cattle, buffaloes, pigs, sheep goats and deer as well as most wild cloven-hoofed species, elephants hedgehogs and some rodents. Newcastle disease can affect all birds including domestic poultry.

Healthy populations of exhibited animals maintained in low-stress, clean environments and with the correct food supplies are a low risk group when it comes to contracting major exotic diseases. However, exhibitors should be aware it is a legal requirement to report any unusual

**Emergency Disease Watch Hotline  
1800 675 888**



disease symptoms to their nearest government vet, private vet or a stock inspector.

Think the worst first and report any

unusual signs of disease immediately. A national 24-hour hotline has been established for this purpose on 1800 675 888.

**STOP  
PRESS**



## **Exhibited Animals Standards**

*now on-line*

[www.agric.nsw.gov.au](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au)

To view, click on:

- Animals
- Animal Welfare
- Entertainment and Education

## **SITES TO SEE**

[www./lisp.com.au/~primate/  
index.htm](http://www./lisp.com.au/~primate/index.htm)

“Australian Primate Welfare in the New Millennium” conference proceedings. Read about the new policy on exhibiting primates in New South Wales. View by clicking on Matthew Crane.

[www.npws.nsw.gov.au](http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au)

The official site of the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. This site contains a licensing section which provides information and application forms to apply for a variety of licences, including import/export licenses for moving native animals interstate.

[www.sydneybats.org.au](http://www.sydneybats.org.au)

Flying fox fact sheets, habitat restoration, bat rescue and conservation. Useful information for people with an interest in bats.



# Change of executive

The beginning of the new millennium inspired a change in the long-standing executive of the New South Wales Fauna and Marine Parks Association (NSW FMFA).

The NSW FMFA provides many opportunities for wildlife parks in New South Wales by acting as a voice and a forum to develop industry standards as well as networking opportunities.

- **President** Paul Metcalfe, Ranger/Manager of Blackbutt Reserve, Newcastle.
- **Vice-President** Rick Webb, Park Manager of Featherdale Wildlife Park, Doonside.
- **Vice-President** Michelle Gallo, Supervisor of Operations of the Fauna Reserve and Aviary within the Auburn Council Botanical Gardens, Auburn.
- **Secretary/Treasurer** Vicki Bradbery, Wildlife Supervisor at the Australian Wildlife Park, Eastern Creek.

For more information e-mail Paul Metcalfe at [pmetcalfe@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pmetcalfe@ncc.nsw.gov.au) or phone (02) 4952 1449. The new address for the association is NSW FMFA, PO Box 20 Blaxcell NSW 2142.

The new executive will focus on increasing training and workshop opportunities for members. It intends to continue the development of partnerships with government bodies and other related organisations striving to review legislative requirements. It aims to educate and strengthen the association's position within the industry.

## HANDY HINT

### DOWN-TO-EARTH

Circus primates really benefit from a little extra space while on display at venues. One innovative New South Wales circus has given its animals access to the ground, doubling the space available to the monkeys. An annexe has been constructed and attached to the transport/display wagon similar to those seen on the side

of a caravan. This annexe, however, is made from steel mesh and folds up on to the side of the wagon while in transit. After stopping on-site, it takes just a few minutes to open out. Ropes, climbing gear and other behavioural enrichment equipment can be added easily and the natural floor provides an interesting change for these demanding performers.



Photo courtesy of  
Lindsay Lennon,  
Stardust Circus



## NEXT ISSUE

### Introductions

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### Mailing list:

If you would like your own copy of *Animal Roundabout*, we can add your name to the mailing list.

Contact: Diane Williamson  
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Fax: (02) 6391 3570  
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[diane.williamson@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:diane.williamson@agric.nsw.gov.au)

### Contributions:

Short items and good quality photos are welcome. Send them to the editor:

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### Information on the Exhibited Animals Protection Act:

Matthew Crane, Registrar  
Ph: (02) 6391 3716  
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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up-to-date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Agriculture or the user's independent adviser.



NSW Agriculture