



---

Volume 6, May 2003

---

## Inside this Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 3 NPWS Atlas on line
- 4 Induction – How Far Do You Go?
- 5 Expect the Unexpected
- 6 Discussion Forum:  
Proposed Amendment to  
Pittwater Council's  
Requirements for  
Ecological Assessment of  
Development Applications
- 10 ECA Equipment,  
Resource and  
Reference Inventory

# Newsletter of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Inc.

## President's Message

Greetings all!

Since the last newsletter, issues concerning ecological consultants have been moving along swiftly. The introduction of the amendments to the TSC Act, the new application form required for a Scientific Licence and the issue of certification are all relevant to our profession. Some of these changes are described on the NPWS web site, and it is worthwhile looking at the site. The meeting last year brought the ECA and NPWS closer together, with an offer from the Service to establish a line of communication so that certification, survey methodology standards and other issues could be discussed.

An informal meeting was held with Graham Wilson and Amelia Hurren (NPWS Biodiversity Management Unit), and it is clear that the NPWS is eager for our input to any development of the certification process required under the amendments to the Act. Both Leong Lim (your Vice-President) and myself will communicate ideas etc to the Service, and it is planned to have an ECA representative on any committee established.

NPWS expect to have a workshop in June-July. The development of survey guidelines is still ongoing. The draft survey guidelines written by SMEC and NPWS are to be revised to fit in with the new 7-part test, and in response to any feedback from the public (including ECA). Again, NP has requested input from ECA members and an involvement in the process. One of the frustrations at the last ECA meeting was a difficulty in discussing issues with those representing different agencies. With such a crowded programme time was limited. Nevertheless, there are many issues that need to be aired and hopefully rectified. Some that come to mind are the restrictions to release trapped introduced animals; the lack of threat abatement plans for the key threatening processes that we need to assess; unreleased policy documents; translocation; definitions of subject site and study area; what is a 'locality'; areas of compensatory habitat; who owns the data and how much do we need provide to the wildlife database? I raised the opportunity to discuss these issues with NP, and an 'issue paper' would be welcome by NP with the promise of a meeting to discuss these issues

in the future. Any ideas and comments can be forwarded to our enterprising secretary, Judie Rawling.

As some of you know, I have taken an exception to the provision of 'observation' as part of our licence conditions. Although this condition was included in earlier licence agreements, I hadn't noticed it until the new application form came my way.

The licence requires each holder to provide the NPWS with details of all observations made when surveying an area i.e. not a list of species, but the species name, geographic reference, date and observer of all sightings. Thus a small, disturbed site may yield 20 bird species and a few reptile species, but there may have been 100+ sightings, all of which are required by NPWS. Apart from the immense amount of work this would entail, it would flood the wildlife database with a large quantity of sightings of very common species. In the case of a botanist, the condition means that details about all plants observed are to be provided. The other aspect of this condition is that observing is not part of the definition of "harm" or "pick" (the reason we need a licence), and we should be under no obligation to provide such information. I have discussed this with Graham Wilson, and he suggested crossing out the word 'observation' in the licence application form and giving a reason why I will not accept that part of the condition. This I have done,

and now wait with bated breath for the issue of my licence. The ECA executive is currently pursuing this issue. Now that the ECA has become an established organisation, with membership criteria and a code of practice, we are seeing outside groups taking a greater interest in the association. We have had enquiries from several councils regarding a list of members, as well as from a personnel placement agency, and, believe it or not, from the NPWS ("Could we direct any enquiries regarding consultants onto the ECA?"). As you know, we are getting together a list of members, with contact details to go onto our web site. The delay has been warranted, as we need to be sensitive to privacy issues. The requirement for academic qualifications (or equivalent), together with proof of experience, have resulted in an association of members that can be considered accredited. Consequently, any move by NPWS to certify individuals to undertake flora and fauna assessment will certainly put the ECA members in a good position.

Enough of this. I hope that this issue of the ECA newsletter provides some interesting reading and information. Remember, we need to increase our membership to become an even stronger voice for the profession. So pass this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested, and don't forget, we still have a web site at:

[www4.tpg.com.au/cowper/eca](http://www4.tpg.com.au/cowper/eca).

All the best for 2003.

*Martin Denny*



Stop Press: You have probably heard that the NPWS is no longer in existence, but is now called the National Parks Service, and that the threatened species functions will go to a new ministry called Sustainable Natural Resources (SNR). SNR will also include parts of DLWC, State Forests and NSW Fisheries. It is too early to know how these changes will affect our dealings with NP, and whether the process of impact assessment will be different, but keep in touch if you hear anything. It would appear that biodiversity will now be classed as a Sustainable Natural Resource.

Your Prez

*Martin Denny*



## NPWS Wildlife Atlas On-line

The new improved online NPWS Wildlife Atlas (<http://wildlifeatlas.npws.nsw.gov.au/wildlifeatlas/watlas.jsp>) has arrived. It appears to be working better than the previous one which had a lot of glitches.

You can search the atlas in a variety of ways depending on your requirements. Firstly you choose whether you want a particular species, threatened species or all species. Then, select whether all records are required or just recent (since 1980). You then define the area you want searched i.e. all NSW, a local government area, reserve, a 1:100 000 map sheet; set your own co-ordinates (decimal lat long) or choose your own area from an AUSLIG map provided on the site. The smallest size of such a chosen area is 10km x 10km. After you've chosen your parameters, the atlas will then provide your required list. On the list is a link to a map, which shows the location of the species' records. For threatened species, there is often a link to an NPWS profile of the species, which includes information on distribution, habitat, ecology, breeding, threats etc. You can readily save the web pages as files in your computer. The site is by no means perfect. It can be very slow, the maps are of limited quality and the records do not include information on the source or accuracy of the record. Unlike the NSW FishFiles site

you cannot zoom in on maps. Nevertheless, it is a useful tool and being free avoids the \$30 fee one has to pay for licensed records. It is best for single species searches, as you cannot display more than one species on a map at a time. This is unlike the licensed records, where it is possible to filter and manipulate data including into GIS applications. The CANRI site provides links to other relevant sites such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, NSW Agriculture, and Fisheries etc.

### Licensed Records from the NPWS Wildlife Atlas

There may be good news about the licensed data supplied by NPWS. At the moment data received is generalized. Useful fields such as number, description, observation type, microhabitat and other field notes are missing. These are "compulsory fields" in the spreadsheet licenses complete when providing the data to NPWS, so why we can't get them back is a mystery. Due to privacy concerns, even the observer's name is no longer included. However, some changes may be afoot. NPWS has indicated to the ECA that nearly all data to be released would be given with more detailed locational references. It is felt that most species do not need to be as protected from collectors as previously. Apparently, there are changes within the amendments that give the Director-General the right to reject any requests for

data. However, there will be a change in the data licence, in that this data will only go to 'approved' persons, and that the exact location details must not be published in public documents. This latter provision would make it difficult for those reviewing a report to assess accurately assertions and conclusions that may be made on the basis of the "un-generalized" records. How they are going to monitor or police this is not known. There will be no restrictions over any personal data.

*Thanks to Martin Denny for liaising with NPWS on this issue.*



## Induction - How Far Do You Go?

*By Martin Denny*

Over the years Mount King Ecological Surveys have undergone induction procedures whilst undertaking field work within land used for various purposes. These inductions are mainly centred on instructions about where to work and what to look out for. They have ranged from warnings about avoiding the Green and Golden Bell-frog in the Brick Pit at Sydney

Olympic Park, to moving (very quickly!) out of an area when a red flag is showing on Defence land.

Many inductions have been associated with entry onto land used for mining. Inductions for mining companies can take up to a day to complete (remember to plan for this in any costings) and are often quite comprehensive. They mainly deal with what to avoid (coal carrying trucks cannot see your vehicle), what to look out for, what signals are important, what to do and who to contact in emergencies. All of these are important for your survival and for good relations with the mining company.

However, all of the above aspects are associated with the active mining and exploration areas. In the case of flora and fauna surveys, we are usually working outside the active areas i.e. on relatively undisturbed land proposed for mining or infrastructure. So, most of the guidelines imposed during induction are not applicable to these areas, and it is usual for the mining company to acknowledge this difference.

Thus, the enforcement of brightly coloured vests, hard hats, safety goggles and steel-capped boots is usually overlooked. As you can imagine, the use of bright vests is not good when searching for birds etc, and safety goggles don't go well with binoculars. Also, the use of a flashing light and a tall flag are difficult to maintain in

dense bushland, as well as not assisting with observations of animals (particularly during spotlighting).

We recently had the misfortune to undertake some work for a mining company in the central west that insisted that all of the above should occur wherever you were i.e. in the middle of the bush. On top of this, was the condition that we were to be tested for drugs and that we give the mining company a list of medicines that we may be using. In addition, we were informed that random drug testing was compulsory i.e. we could be asked to attend a pathology centre at any time. Apart from the incredible disruptive effect from such a condition (we could be pulled away during trap checking etc), it is against all the principles of civil liberty. We refused to take the work, and later found that other consultants had done the same.

I notice that the Australian Workers Union has condemned the practice of compulsory drug testing. Most mining companies have a policy of voluntary control i.e. each worker must assess whether they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and volunteer for any testing. Up until this episode, inductions have been an advantage rather than a problem. But this episode has brought out several issues that may be worth thinking about if you are in the same situation. One, some of the conditions that could be

enforced by induction procedures may inhibit your performance in the field. Two, there could be an invasion of your privacy. Three, there are implications regarding your own insurance and insurance cover for any of your staff, if the company imposes unrealistic working conditions. Who is responsible for you and your staff whilst on mining land? Is it the mining company or you (through your own insurance)? Remember you are a contractor, and not employed by the company. In addition, I'm sure that you have a policy (albeit unwritten), when employing staff, of no alcohol or drugs on site.

It is obvious that some form of safety guidelines are necessary when on land where dangerous activities could be carried out. But, many of the conditions in the guidelines may not need to be enforced when away from the areas where danger is apparent e.g. the active mining area. As for the case for drug testing, this may be necessary if you were working heavy machinery or were near such machinery, but away from such conditions drug testing would be unnecessary.

After thinking about this problem, I have come up with a guideline that may be useful if you are in a similar situation to that described above. I propose that there be two sets of conditions imposed upon any contractor undertaking flora and/or fauna surveys within mine land. There

should be two zones set up on the land:

Zone 1: an active zone that covers the land where all active mine workings are being undertaken i.e. where mining is taking place and where any infrastructure is being constructed.

Zone 2: land that is outside the active zone where no mine workings are being undertaken. This is usually the zone in which we would be undertaking surveys.

Whilst in Zone 1, all of the conditions outlined during the induction process are to be complied with.

Whilst in Zone 2, only those conditions that are considered important for your personal health and safety e.g. emergency procedures, use of sun-screen etc, need apply, and any others can be applied at your discretion.

If you have any comments or ideas about this, please contact me at [mtking@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtking@ozemail.com.au).

I propose to put this guideline up for endorsement by the ECA in the near future, so any member can avoid the situation described above.

*Martin Denny*

## Expect the Unexpected

*By Jason Berrigan*

In the process of quoting for a flora and fauna survey, most of us by now would have a reasonable degree of personal and professional experience

and knowledge that would allow us to make a judgement on the types and potential of threatened species likely to occur on a particular site, based on the habitat present. On arriving at a site, and conducting an initial inspection, one can put together a mental list of expected species to survey for, and appropriate survey techniques. This is most useful, as it allows the fee proposal to be streamlined in terms of not being prohibitive to the client's budget, covering the work required, and most of all adequately meeting your fee. It also has an affect on your competitiveness with tenders from other consultants. As a one-off client remarked to me, "you're the one who seemed to know what he was talking about." However, a word of warning here: Always expect the unexpected.

The unexpected in this article is the occurrence of a species least expected. This situation has happened to me recently, and has significant consequences for the proposed development which I had not foreseen, and taught me a timely lesson.

While working on a site at South West Rocks (the Bermuda Triangle of the NSW Mid North Coast - everything turns up there), I came across a most unexpected occurrence: A population of Wallum Froglets, on the side of a hill. For those with little experience with this tiny and difficult to detect frog, the commonly cited habitat preferences of

this frog are: acidic paperbark (*Melaleuca*) swamps, Melaleuca-Swamp Mahogany forest, sedgeland, *Blechnum* (fern) swamps and ephemeral bogs, low closed scrub, warm temperate grasslands and wet heath. Occurrences in temporarily flooded areas, such as tall pasture adjacent to swamps/wetlands and heaths are not unknown (personal observations). As one can discern, such habitats usually lie on land with low relief. When I quoted the site I am working on, I expected Squirrel Gliders and Phascogales due to local records (<50m away), continuous *E. signata* - *E. pilularis* dry sclerophyll across the low hill on the eastern end of the site, and presence of hollows and food species. The other half of the site consisted of a partially cleared open dry sclerophyll forest/woodland, with a dense groundcover of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) and some sedges, which I assumed had little value other than secondary foraging habitat for the former species. On the western footslope of the hill was a patch of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* barely 400m<sup>2</sup>, underlain by dense *Gahnia* spp. This was not unusual - *Melaleuca quinquenervia* dominates much of the hill slopes in the South West Rocks and Hat Head areas, and I have trapped Squirrel Gliders in these.

The adjoining land to the north and south is virtually the same ie dry sclerophyll at the rear, dwelling or partially

cleared land to the east. Urban land lies to the west, and Hat Head National Park lies to the east, over the other side of the hill across a road.

Trapping on the site a fortnight ago coincided with the first substantial rain in at least six months. This produced some runoff of course (as six inches of rain in one night will do), which led to filling of some holes left by tree removal on the lower, flatter half of the site, as well as general waterlogging of the groundcover.

Within two days, to my surprise (and client's dismay), about half a dozen Wallum Froglets started croaking from the lower end of the site, up to the mid-slope of the hill on the adjoining property (slope >15°), which had been slashed <6 months ago, leaving nice moist dense detritus on the ground. I'm left to assume that the small isolated patch of *Melaleucas* lie on top of a spring, and may have once been more extensive on the site pre-clearing. The spring forms a drought refuge (thanks to the dense *Gahnia*), and following enough rain, the Wallum Froglets have dispersed into the waterlogged pasture to breed in the small ephemeral pools, as per their ecology.

What added to the surprise was that the nearest wetland is well over 1km away, across a hill and pastoral land. This isolated population of Wallum Froglets either existed in formerly more extensive habitat before urban settlement/progressive

clearing of the general area (ie 30-50 years ago) and has been progressively forced to contract to the spring; and/or were formerly linked to a swamp to the northwest (now developed) over the next hill; and/or linked to a population in wetlands over 1km east (up a hill, then down a slope of dry sclerophyll forest) in Hat Head National Park.

Regardless, the point is this: Never underestimate the resilience of some threatened species to occur in habitats that may have once supported them. I have seen a colony of Squirrel Gliders (7) squeeze into the single hollow of a Pink Bloodwood <30cm dbh, on a lot with a barely six semi-mature eucalypts, adjoining a patch of remnant dry sclerophyll forest <1ha in total. It goes to show that some populations may be holding on by their tooth and nail, and the onus is on us to detect and (if possible) protect these populations of threatened species. Remember, the process of extinction is usually incremental.

When you prepare a fee proposal, always allow for unexpected occurrences in your fee proposal (or conditions/contract) for extra work. When planning and conducting a field survey, be precautionary and use all the standard survey techniques (eg trapping, call playback, etc) even if in your opinion and experience, the target threatened species only have a marginal chance of occurrence. It's a good idea because it will not only save you money,

protect your credibility, and avoid a trip to the L&E Court, but it's a step toward the proper management and conservation of our threatened species.

See you in the field,

*Jason Berrigan*



## **Proposed Amendment to Pittwater Council's Requirements for Ecological Assessment of Development Applications**

### **Summary of Issues and Comments by ECA Members**

*Compiled by Judith  
Rawling, UBMC*

In February 2003, Mia Dalby-Ball, Manager Natural Resources Pittwater Council (PC), approached the President of ECA requesting feedback from members on procedural changes she advocates for ecological assessment of development applications in the LGA. Based on her experience in implementing the standing requirements, which she states results in frustration for

applicants, consultants and council staff alike, Mia has prepared a draft Outline of Requirements for flora and fauna (F&F) surveys and bushland management plans (Bushland PoM).

The aims of the proposed changes for Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) are stated as follows:

- i. To provide meaningful assessments (F&F/Bushland PoM) that are easy to review (by Council staff);
- ii. To provide appropriate, educational, and enforceable long-term management (Bushland PoM); and
- iii. To identify standard requirements for reports and survey effort.

Mia has summarised the problem with the standing requirements in Pittwater as:

1. Reports are usually commissioned after the house has been designed, and generally before other studies such as on-site wastewater, arborist reports/tree surveys and fire management have been completed.
2. The procedures available for determining if a development is appropriate for a given size are almost useless at the scale of individual blocks. Eight-part Tests (and the updated 6/7-part Test) will rarely be 'significant' at the individual block scale, and the lack of listing of Critical Habitat means this one question that could be positive is answered as 'no'. A finding of 'no significant impact' for questions is generally interpreted as no significant

impact, rather than no further studies are required.

To address these problems, Mia proposes a new 8-step procedure for ESA. The 8-steps are set out below. As space in this Newsletter is limited, explanatory text provided by Council has not been included. Comments received from ECA members have been summarised in dot point format.

**PC Step 1** – ESA to be carried out 'up front' to determine the areas of least environmental impact (within each block). The site would then be zoned according to these environmental considerations, and combined with other information to determine the most appropriate location for development (if any). The ESA report to be 'site plan' based, showing habitat types, corridor locations etc, and should include a colour-coded map.

**PC Step 2** – All Other Environmental Studies (eg fire, waste water, arborist report, landscaping plan) to be completed prior to completion of F&F Survey and/or Bushland PoM. All relevant reports (with Council input) to be combined with ESA and used by architect (or equivalent) to determine appropriate development footprint of house, driveway, water tanks, play areas and other associated structures.

**PC Step 3** – F&F Impact Assessment to be completed

addressing a wide range of issues (17 core issues are identified, with a number of dot points attached to each core issue). Core issues include: habitat type/classification; condition/health of vegetation; critical habitat; flora and fauna lists (including invertebrates), presence of endangered communities/populations/species; site impacts and loss of habitat; potential for modifications, potential for site to be utilised by threatened fauna; landscaping and/or bush regeneration post construction, pet ownership. The results of any Eight-part Tests and/or Species Impact Statements must also be included.

**PC Step 4** – Bushland PoM to be provided to provide management information for the owners or those living on the site to help them to maximise the long-term sustainability of the site's (and region's) ecological processes.

**PC Step 5** – all Reports submitted to Council for assessment, and sites in core/fragmented bushland, or within corridors to be referred for further ecological assessment.

**PC Step 6** – Site Visit by Council representative to confirm accuracy of reports. Reports found to be incorrect and/or insufficient may result in suspension of DA pending amendments. Repeat problems from any one

individual may result in Council not accepting their work for a period of time (until issues are resolved).

#### **PC Step 7 – Application**

Determined with respect of ESA and findings of F&F Impact Assessment (accepted, refused, accepted pending modifications). Council officers to determine what conditions are appropriate, and when each condition should apply (timing of works).

#### **PC Step 8 – Compliance**

Officers responsible for ensuring conditions are met at each stage of the development. Assessment of compliance will rely on clearly marked site plans and maps. As Conditions of F&F Impact Assessment and Bushland PoM will be active for life of the development, the Occupation Certificate may be invalid if conditions are not met.

### **ECA SUMMARISED RESPONSES**

A number of ECA members responded to the 8-step proposal, forwarding correspondence to the Secretary. Most members were critical of PC existing requirements and the way natural resources staff assessed development applications. There was general concern about the nature and extent of the proposed changes to these requirements. These concerns are set out below.

- That PC is seeking to modify the existing State legislative process (i.e. 8-part Test/SIS) to address biodiversity issues on individual house blocks) – something the State legislation was never designed to achieve.
- That protection/conservation of flora and fauna values on individual blocks (or in the locality) is best addressed through the local government planning process (i.e. LEP, DCPs).
- That if the flora and fauna values of a block/group of blocks has been identified as ‘high’ or has a ‘core bushland’ designation, Council should amend its LEP and rezone the land for conservation purposes – this land should not be zoned for residential (or other) development.
- That PC seems to ignore the fact that if a block is zoned (and sold as) residential, the owner has a reasonable expectation of building a house and using his land as his neighbours do.
- That the current and proposed requirements of Council effectively ‘sterilise’ large sections of residential land without recompense to the landowner.
- That, in recent years, the interests of the ‘bush lobby’ have become paramount. Increasingly, people and their needs and wishes seem to be ignored by PC.
- That the community has basic rights and freedoms, and by refusing to allow residential development on land zoned as such, prescribing landscaping (and even points of purchase) in private gardens, or prohibiting pet ownership, Council is outside its area of responsibility.
- That PC is over-represented in the L&E Court, and the reasons for this were questioned.
- That PC has a record of taking cases to the L&E Court unnecessarily, where they often lose as their requirements do not stand up in Court. It was noted that PC is most often successful in enforcing its requirements where the landowner cannot afford a court case.
- That some consultants are reluctant to take on work in Pittwater because of the inherent difficulties of working in the LGA, and the very real prospect of an L&E Court case arising.
- That the cost to the landowner of commissioning a large number of investigations (prior to even submitting a DA) would be exorbitant. Further, in many cases information required by Council is simply not known.
- That PC frequently requires studies that have little or no bearing on the proposal, but it uses this approach to compile its environmental database without cost.
- That PC frequently requires the same information to be submitted more than once, or in a different format, and at times staff appear not to understand the conclusions of the reports submitted, and



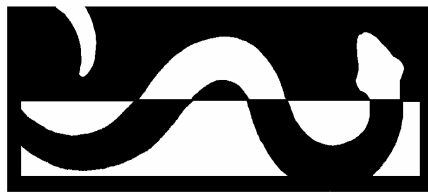
- may reject the DA on that basis (see Step 6).
- Most people buying in Pittwater want to live there because of the bushland environment, and most will seek to retain native trees and other vegetation wherever possible.
  - That introducing increasingly draconian legislation does little to gain public support, and sets the residents against their own Council – an attitude that prevails post development. Result is loss of goodwill and ensures that the minimum work is done to comply.
  - That forcing landowners to carry out bush regeneration and/or bush landscaping on (usually) small residential blocks is not always in best interests of the owners or the environment (eg ignores bushfire risk, safety issues).
  - Unless the block is part of a vegetated corridor, the majority of bushland ‘bits’ on residential blocks are not viable without active on-going management. WHO is going to pay for that?

## **SUGGESTIONS PUT BY ECA MEMBERS**

1. That PC’s natural resource team liaise with other LGAs managing large areas of native bushland, and to be better informed about what is actually required by the *existing* legislation (eg Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby, and Sutherland).
2. That PC adopt field survey guidelines recommended by the ECA (or NPWS guidelines where those are available), rather than initiate a new and

different site of survey guidelines.

3. That a simplified, legally clear, and accurate step-by-step ecological assessment process be adopted based on correct interpretation of the actual legislation.
4. That PC work in co-operation with its residents and potential residents, and seek to provide helpful and above all, practical advice on a range of issues at each stage of the development process.
5. That the requirements of the Ecological Assessment Process should be published on Council’s web page and that this information should be easily available to all potential developers (and existing residents).



## **Assessment Standards Survey**

Jason Berrigan, ECA Standards Officer, is currently contacting all Shire and City Councils in NSW on behalf of the ECA as part of a state-wide survey.

The ECA is in the process of collating all currently implemented Council guidelines and standards for all aspects of flora and fauna surveying, particularly relevant to fulfilling the requirements of surveys and assessments for Threatened Species Assessments/Eight Point Tests, SEPP 44 Koala

Habitat Assessments, Species Impact Statements, biodiversity surveys, habitat/bushland restoration, etc.

The ECA wishes to collate and review all current standards and guidelines used by NSW Local Government, in order to develop an appropriate set of guidelines and standards which ECA members will employ in their professional practice, according to the rules and code of ethics of the Association and legislative obligations. The aim of this is to standardise ecological assessment practices to both refine the industry and meet the aims of the Threatened Species Conservation Amendment Act 2002. This survey will also assist the NPWS’s development of standards for flora and fauna survey and assessment. In addition, this survey has been used as an opportunity to broaden awareness of the presence and development of the ECA as a body representing consulting ecologists, with the survey form assessing interest from Councils in learning more about the ECA, or obtaining lists of ECA members. Thus far, about half of the contacted Councils have promptly replied, with results showing very few Councils have their own guidelines, and virtually all requesting a copy of the future ECA guidelines. Many were very interested to know more about the ECA, to obtain copies of the ECA Code of Ethics and lists of members, and to receive the ECA

newsletter. Some Council environmental officers also expressed interest in membership of the ECA. This bodes very well for the ECA and the merits of membership. The survey is continuing for the next few months to allow all Councils sufficient time to reply. However, if there are any ECA members that can supply guidelines currently in use in LGAs or other bodies (eg used by a statutory authority), could you please contact Jason Berrigan on (02) 65 833 968 or [wolfen@felglow.com.au](mailto:wolfen@felglow.com.au).

Member assistance in this task would be greatly appreciated. The collated guidelines are to be reviewed by a specialist panel, and a report detailing the review will be provided to both ECA members and Councils later in the year.

## ECA Website

The ECA web site address is: <http://www4.tpgi.com.au/cowper/eca>

The site is in the process of being updated and registered with internet search engines to increase the likelihood of the public finding us and to provide a better presence for generating interest in the Association.

A few basic links are provided on the site including a list of the office bearers, past newsletters, abstracts from past conferences, an application form for membership, links to some related sites and a short description of the history and objectives of the Association.

## ECA Council 2003

The current composition of the Council is:

**President:** Martin Denny  
[mtking@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtking@ozemail.com.au)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Leong Lim  
[countryw@bigpond.net.au](mailto:countryw@bigpond.net.au)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Martin Fallding  
[lep@calli.com.au](mailto:lep@calli.com.au)

**Secretary:** Judith Rawling  
[ubmc@urbanbushland.com.au](mailto:ubmc@urbanbushland.com.au)

**Treasurer:**

Paul Burcher  
[pburcher@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pburcher@ozemail.com.au)

**Membership Officer**

Paul Burcher  
[pburcher@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pburcher@ozemail.com.au)

**Council Members:**

Stephen Ambrose  
[stephen@ambecol.com.au](mailto:stephen@ambecol.com.au)

Jason Berrigan  
[wolfen@felglow.com.au](mailto:wolfen@felglow.com.au)

Danny Wotherspoon  
[the.spoons@mountains.net.au](mailto:the.spoons@mountains.net.au)

Nick Skelton  
[nicksk@mail.usyd.edu.au](mailto:nicksk@mail.usyd.edu.au)

Michael Murray  
[forestfauna@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:forestfauna@hunterlink.net.au)

David Thomas  
[thomasdalmj@bigpond.com](mailto:thomasdalmj@bigpond.com)

Peter Cowper  
[cowper@tpgi.com.au](mailto:cowper@tpgi.com.au)

Andrew Smith  
[austeco@tpgi.com.au](mailto:austeco@tpgi.com.au)

---

## ECA Equipment, Resource and Reference Inventory

Jason Berrigan, ECA Inventory Officer, has prepared a draft of the ECA Equipment, Resource and Reference Inventory. This inventory is available only to

ECA Members to assist sourcing of equipment (eg traps), journals, references (eg for a particular plant or animal species), websites, Koala Plans of Management, SISs, etc. The current table of contents is provided below as an indicative guide.

The inventory is to be kept as up to date as possible by the Inventory Officer (with the assistance of members), and will be placed on the future ECA website as a PDF document.

The current draft has been prepared from information provided by ECA councillors, and the Council now makes a formal request to all members to assist in the finalisation of the document by providing contributions to the Inventory to increase its value to ECA members. The inventory is envisaged to be an evolving document in both structure and content, and will reflect the diversity of interests and specialisation of various members.

Members are encouraged to contact Jason via email at [wolfen@felglow.com.au](mailto:wolfen@felglow.com.au), to obtain a copy of the current draft, or to seek further information. Any amendments or additions or feedback should be sent to the author at [wolfen@felglow.com.au](mailto:wolfen@felglow.com.au).

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 EQUIPMENT/JOURNALS

- 1.1 MAMMAL TRAPS
- 1.2 NETS AND HARP TRAPS
- 1.3 REPTILE AND FROG EQUIPMENT
- 1.4 GENERAL EQUIPMENT
- 1.5 JOURNALS, BOOKSELLERS AND PUBLISHERS
- 1.6 NIGHTVISION EQUIPMENT
- 1.7 ANABAT, RADIO TELEMETRY ETC
- 1.8 WEBSITES
- 1.9 ANIMAL AND BIRD CALLS AUDIO MEDIA

#### 2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 GENERAL
  - 2.1.1 Survey Techniques and Information
  - 2.1.2 Govt Policies, Legislation, Circulars etc
  - 2.1.3 Wetlands
  - 2.1.4 Fire
- 2.2 PLANTS
  - 2.2.1 Taxonomy
  - 2.2.2 Threatened Plant Species Ecology and Management
    - 2.2.1 General
- 2.3 FAUNA
  - 2.3.1 Taxonomy and General References
    - 2.3.1.1 General
      - 2.3.1.2 Mammals
        - 2.3.1.1.2 Bats
      - 2.3.1.2 Birds
      - 2.3.1.3 Reptiles
      - 2.3.1.4 Frogs
      - 2.3.1.5 Invertebrates
    - 2.3.1.10 Microchiropteran Bats
    - 2.3.1.11 Megachiropteran bats
  - 2.3.2 General Threatened Fauna Species Ecology and Management
  - 2.3.3 Threatened Species
    - 2.3.3.1 Mammals
      - 2.3.3.1.1 Koala
      - 2.3.3.1.2 Spotted Tail Quoll
      - 2.3.3.1.3 Yellow-Bellied Glider and Squirrel Glider
      - 2.3.3.1.4 Brush-Tailed Phascogale
      - 2.3.3.1.5 Potoroos, Bettongs, etc
      - 2.3.3.1.10 Microchiropteran Bats
      - 2.3.3.1.11 Megachiropteran bats
    - 2.3.3.1 Birds
      - 2.3.3.1.1 Swift Parrot
      - 2.3.3.1.2 Square-Tailed Kite
      - 2.3.3.1.3 Forest Owls
      - 2.3.3.1.4 Glossy Black Cockatoo and Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo
      - 2.3.3.1.5 Rainforest Pigeons
    - 2.3.3.2 Frogs
      - 2.3.3.2.1 Green-Thighed Frog
      - 2.3.3.2.2 Green and Golden Bell Frog
      - 2.3.3.2.5 Mixophyes Frogs
    - 2.3.3.3 Reptiles
  - 2.3.4 Wildlife Care

- 2.4 FISHERIES AND AQUATIC HABITATS \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2.4.1 General \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2.4.2 Plants \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2.4.3 Fauna \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.0 CONSULTANT/GOVT DEPT REPORTS \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3.1 NORTHERN ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3.2 SYDNEY ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3.3 SOUTHERN ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3.4 WESTERN ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.0 KOALA PLANS OF MANAGEMENT \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4.1 NORTHERN ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
    - 4.1.1 Hastings Shire \_\_\_\_\_
    - 4.1.2 Coffs Harbour Shire \_\_\_\_\_
    - 4.1.3 Port Stephens Shire \_\_\_\_\_
    - 4.1.4 Greater Taree Shire \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4.2 SYDNEY ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4.3 SOUTHERN ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4.4 WESTERN ZONE \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4.5 OTHER AREAS \_\_\_\_\_

---

## ECA Conference on Legal Matters

Danny Wotherspoon is organising a conference to be held in late July. The theme of the conference will be on legal issues for ecological consultants. To date, Danny has procured the assistance of at least two speakers who are well versed in the legal aspects of environmental consulting.

The Land & Environment Court Registrar has agreed (with permission of the Chief Judge) to speak in the afternoon session, to give a presentation on Expert Witness Practice Direction, followed by a Q&A session. It is hoped she can also deal with 'Who does what - solicitor, barrister, commissioner/judge/whoever and what's the difference'.

Also, a solicitor with a vast experience in environmental matters will provide an insight into what he wants from an expert witness, and hopefully cite some personal experiences with good and bad witnesses.

Other topics in mind are:

Rules of evidence - what is appropriate, and what is 'hearsay' and so on.

Confidentiality - of data (as NPWS licence requires that data is submitted to them as a condition of licence), and other matters. I am planning to ask someone from NPWS legal branch about some of this for the conference.

Qualifications - what makes one an expert, and when is one out of one's field. What does the court accept?

Danny would like any suggestions and offers of help from all members, and remember to let others know about this conference, so we can have a good roll-up. Danny can be contacted at

[the.spoons@mountains.net.au](mailto:the.spoons@mountains.net.au)