

AJWCEF

NEWSLETTER 2011 年 4 月

Vol. 3

To Supporters of the AJWCEF
Tetsuo Mizuno, Managing Director

Thank you for your understanding of and cooperation towards the Australia-Japan Wildlife Conservation and Education Foundation. Looking back over the past year, in August the Foundation was fortunate to receive some funding for its activities from the Australian Commonwealth Government via a grant from the Australia Japan Foundation. We participated in our first international conference (the 10th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, COP10) and, as a result, were able to register with the Head Office for the Convention on Biological Diversity, an organ of the United Nations. As part of our activities to educate about wildlife conservation, an important element of our work, at COP10 the Foundation presented research papers at a side event to the main conference, had a display booth and conducted a citizens' forum to disseminate information more widely to the general public. We also visited several universities in Japan to present seminars on the current state of wildlife in Australia and their protection, etc. These were well attended, with close to 100 students gathering at some venues, and it was truly significant to be able to speak with the youth of the next generation.

Currently we have two projects underway, one being the establishment of an international artificial insemination network and gene bank to maintain a healthy genetic diversity among the Australian animals that have been sent to zoos overseas. The other is eucalyptus plantations for the purpose of securing food for injured and sick wild koalas that have been hospitalized. The first project is to be advanced as a joint research project in collaboration with Australian and Japanese universities and Japanese zoos. The eucalyptus plantation project seeks to utilize the grounds of state schools, which will add the element of an educational opportunity for students at the same time as growing food for koalas. In order to continue with these projects, your support is crucial, so I would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks for the assistance you have given the AJWCEF in 2010, and request your continuing support in the future.



Booth at COP10



Planting eucalyptus seedlings



Australian Government



豪日交流基金
Australia-Japan FOUNDATION

COP10 Activities Report

Side Event – Main Conference

With a theme of ‘Conservation of Biodiversity in Australia: from a macro and micro perspective,’ the AJWCEF brought two speakers to present papers at the Nagoya International Conference Centre on Friday, October 22. They were Dr. Steve Johnston, who talked about a new paradigm for the preservation of wildlife genetic diversity, and Dr. Josephine Kelman, whose presentation looked at biodiversity conservation and protected area management from an Australian perspective.



Stage Show (Biodiversity Fair)



With the aim of informing as many people as possible about Australia’s wildlife, AJWCEF presented a stage show on October 23 along the theme of ‘Friends in the Eucalypt Forests – Introductory Quiz of Australian Animals.’ As well as koalas and other animals well-known in Japan, Australia is also home to many unique species that are less well-known and rare. I think conducting a quiz about these animals helps to boost interest in wildlife protection, whether in Australia or Japan, and in the activities of the AJWCEF. Although we started off with just a sprinkling of people in

the audience, numbers soon increased until many people were actively participating in our quiz. The venue was punctuated with comments of surprise and interest such as, ‘I didn’t know that!’ and ‘Really?’ as people heard the quiz answers and learned more not just about the more unfamiliar Australia animals, but even those that are well-known to people in Japan. The kids also loved our ‘over-sized’ koala (see photo at right)! Some people even stayed behind after the show was over to ask more question. It was a great success, with those involved putting in more than 100% effort!!



Citizens’ Forum

As part of the COP10 Biodiversity Fair, the AJWCEF held a forum for the general public on Sunday, October 24. Panellists and presenters for the forum were Dr. Hajime Amasaki, Professor of Veterinary Anatomy, Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University; Dr. Josephine Kelman, an environmental specialist researching ecological management across Australia and in national parks in particular; Dr. Steve Johnston, expert in the artificial insemination of marsupials, and AJWCEF Managing Director, Dr. Tetsuo Mizuno. With an overarching theme of ‘The Challenge to Protect Biodiversity of Eucalypt Forests,’ the forum kicked off with a presentation from Professor Amasaki exploring why living creatures have come to be so diverse, followed by Dr. Johnston talking on the application of artificial insemination in Australian wildlife (marsupials) for species conservation and the maintenance of genetic diversity, then Dr. Kelman with a discussion on efforts towards and research on ecological maintenance in eucalyptus forests, the habitat of much wildlife. The final presenter was Dr. Mizuno, who explained the role of the AJWCEF in maintaining biological diversity.



There was a larger turnout than we expected, and I believe that many people went away with a greater interest in the topics of the current state of the natural environment in Australia, artificial insemination in marsupials, koala ecology and the like, topics about which there are generally few opportunities to learn. We will also take into consideration the valuable opinions that participants expressed when we plan future activities.



Rock wallaby

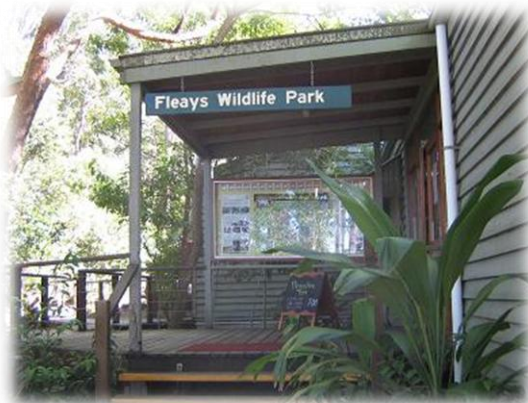
David Fleay



Cassowary

Wildlife Park

This wildlife park is one of the facilities at which the AJWCEF conducts its wildlife training courses. Although on the Gold Coast, the park lies in a quiet forest setting, and provides visitors with an opportunity to observe Australia's unique animals in an environment close to their natural habitat. Animals in the park range from local species to endangered species that can only rarely be spotted in the wild. Training course participants come into close contact with these animals as they learn about how to care for them in the park setting. Established in 1952 by naturalist Dr. David Fleay, the park carries on his work. The park



environmental education facility. Community education, ecotourism, wildlife conservation and research activities are conducted at this valuable facility so that everyone has the chance of seeing the rare creatures that live there. There is also an animal hospital for sick, injured

or orphaned wildlife where more than 1500 animals receive treatment every year before being returned to the wild. The park is divided into four different habitat areas (wetlands, rainforest, mangrove and eucalypt forest). In the nocturnal house, which houses some very rare and endangered Australian species such as the greater bilby, the mahogany glider and the Julia Creek dunnart, you can also see the elusive platypus. The park is the perfect place to learn about Australia's unusual mammals, birds and reptiles.



Tawny frogmouth

has a proud tradition, with Dr. Fleay having been the first in the world to succeed in the captive breeding of many of

Queensland's unique animals, with those species of animals still on display. Among the animals successfully bred at the park are the taipan, the powerful owl, the sooty owl, the wedge-tail eagle, and other owls and birds of prey. One of his achievements was the establishment of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland in 1962.

Currently, the Queensland government Department of Environment and Resource Management operates the park as an

Some of the rare animals that can be seen at the David Fleay Wildlife Park are:

- Cassowaries (endangered)
- platypus
- Lumholtz's tree kangaroo (threatened)
- mahogany glider (endangered)
- Julia Creek dunnart (endangered)
- greater bilby (endangered)
- Proserpine rock wallaby (endangered)
- koala
- dingo
- fresh & salt water crocodiles
- various species of reptile

Wouldn't you like to take this opportunity to learn more about Australia's unique wildlife?



Practical training



Tree kangaroo



Bilby



In the park

Moggill Koala Hospital Corner

No. 2 *Life-saving Eucalyptus – Radford's Journey*



Every day, sick and injured koalas are brought here to the Moggill Koala Hospital. Not all of them, however, are hospitalized, recover and return to the forest. In many cases, the koalas have already lost the strength to live by the time they are brought in, or they fail to recover even though we have cared for them with a certainty that they will get better.



Traces of dog saliva

Radford was one of those young koalas who breathed ever-so quietly and held onto life with little strength.

Radford was brought to the hospital one hot afternoon after being bitten by a dog. The fur on his body was matted and dirty where the dog had bitten him, but there was no obvious external wound. It was decided he should be

observed overnight, and he was placed in a small enclosure in the ICU where there were eucalyptus leaves within reach even if he were on the floor. He was sound asleep due to the effects of the sedative he had been given in order to examine him. Everyone went home that day hoping that the next morning they would find him in the branches in the enclosure munching on some leaves.



A weak Radford

But...the next morning we found Radford in exactly the same position we had left him in, still sound asleep even though the sedative should have well and truly worn off. Hoping against hope that the worst had not happened, we approached, calling his name gently. Then, he slowly opened his eyes a fraction. Thank goodness! We felt at least a little relieved, although we could not be completely reassured given that he was obviously so weak. The veterinarian and the rangers then began a discussion as to whether he

should be kept in the hospital, with the option of euthanasia also in their thoughts.

Holding onto a fragment of hope, the volunteer carers cleaned Radford's cage while this was going on. When some of the eucalyptus leaves that had remained untouched overnight were placed near his mouth, Radford opening his eyes and ate a few. With the urging of the carers who said, 'He's eating. Let's give him a chance,' and

Radford having shown this will to live, it was decided to watch him for another night.

He had been given a chance, so now it was vital to build up his strength. Small amounts of eucalyptus leaves were placed near his lowered head as the carers fed him young leaves. Each time we looked around his enclosure, our hearts always skipped a beat upon seeing him lying there as still as if he were dead. Despite having a second chance, we wondered if he would still be in the same state when we arrived the next morning. The mood was very sombre.

However, the next morning, we got the feeling that Radford looked like he had a bit more fighting spirit in his eyes. Although he was still lying on the floor, it looked as though he had eaten some of the leaves during the night. Radford had made it through another day. Every day it seemed that his eyes showed more and more will to live, and each day he moved further and further away from the possibility of euthanasia.

Nevertheless, since he was still unable to climb up the tree, a long journey still had to be made until the day he would be able to return to the forest. Koalas that can't climb trees cannot be returned to the wild.



With the aid of the rangers, rehabilitation was begun to get him to grab onto the tree at least a little.



You've got a dirty bottom!

Then, one day when it seemed that his strength was returning through eating some leaf a little at a time, Radford stopped eating all together. Without eating, a koala with no subcutaneous fat at all will immediately start to lose muscle. Even when we put leaves up to his mouth he showed no interest whatsoever.

As a further blow, he had developed mild cystitis, perhaps due to the stress of being hospitalized.

But why did Radford refuse to eat? He would be eating, and then he would go off his food altogether, causing continued concern among his carers. After much observation, we gradually came to realize that there were certain types of eucalyptus that he would eat, and others that he wouldn't!

Perhaps it wouldn't be unfair to say he was a fussy koala! Having said that, koalas eat different eucalyptus varieties depending on the intestinal flora that they receive from their mother, the region in which they live and the concentration of toxins in the eucalyptus leaves. Giving them only leaves that they cannot eat is the same as giving them no food at all. This was particularly marked in Radford probably because he was in such a weakened state.

Once we understood this, there was nothing for it but for the leaf-cutters and the carers to band together to completely indulge this koala! No matter who was giving him his food, they made sure there was always a mixture of soft, orangey-coloured new leaves of blue gums and the red leaves of the spotted gum that he could eat. With this, Radford surprised us with the voraciousness of his appetite which

I can climb a bit now.



rivalled the other koalas. You could not recognize him as the koala that was first hospitalized, such was the twinkle in his eyes when new leaves were brought in and the way he grabbed the delicious eucalyptus leaves he was so keen to devour.

In time, he became able to climb up and down the tree and started to spend his days as any other koala, up in the branches. It was great; he was one step closer to being free! We just needed to make sure the cystitis didn't worsen.

People had mixed feelings when Radford was moved from the small enclosure in the ICU to the cystitis ward. Although genuinely delighted that he was moving out of the ICU, it made us sad because it confirmed he had cystitis. It is not unusual for koalas to be in hospital for up to a year due to cystitis, and the stress of that frequently worsens the symptoms. To alleviate the stress, it is important to quickly start the koalas on milk and medicine and to keep the cloaca clean.



While receiving treatment for cystitis

Most important to boost the immunity, though, is that they retain the twinkle in their eye as they happily munch on their favourite eucalyptus leaves!

At last, the efforts of the carers and Radford's will to live bore fruit!



I'm going home today!

Radford's journey for life, which started with the carers fearing each morning that he had lost his battle, had led to a bright gateway back to the wild. From now on, he would have to find the eucalyptus leaves that formed the source of his energy. Having regained his strength, though, we were pretty sure he was up to the task. We farewelled him with the hope that he would enjoy his freedom to the full and someday in the future grow into a big, daddy koala!

AJWCEF Eucalyptus Plantation Project

The decrease in eucalyptus forests due to development is having a major impact on food sources and habitat for wild koalas, and also poses a significant issue for hospitalised koalas. This is because, although the finest quality of eucalyptus leaves is essential to the recovery of injured koalas, it is becoming extremely difficult to source a sufficient supply of fresh, new eucalyptus leaves. This necessitates more plantations.

In order to address this issue, AJWCEF conducts tree planting through cooperative activities between participants in training courses and study tours and the local community. In conjunction with local public schools, space in school grounds is being utilised for plantations and people are given the opportunity to consider environmental protection and human co-existence with other animals, all the while furthering exchanges between local students and participants from Japan. This activity provides benefits to all participants, and has even been reported in local newspapers (The Courier Mail) and magazines.



The Courier Mail, 30 November 2010

Report on the August 2010 Training Course (Advanced)

**Kaede Maruyama, 3rd Year Student,
Laboratory of Wildlife Studies, Nippon
Veterinary and Life Science University**



With a orphaned koala While having the opportunity to visit a number of wildlife protection facilities and talk with the rangers, veterinarians and volunteers that work there, I was surprised to realise that there is a common recognition of 'protection of the natural environment with a focus on the ecosystem.' When a wild animal is rescued, the first points that are considered are can it be returned to the wild, can it survive there, can it breed? Consideration is given to whether that animal can function as a member of that ecosystem. While sometimes the decision is made to euthanize, this is only after thorough discussion based on government guidelines as to the stress and suffering of the animal in the case of lengthy

treatment, ecological balance and other factors. Euthanasia and permanent captivity are particularly difficult issues associated with wildlife protection, and is one for which I have yet to find an answer within myself. I don't know what the answer is, but having come to Australia I am left with the strong impression that approaching wildlife conservation from this perspective of the broader ecosystem is another way to consider this issue. I was greatly encouraged by the presence of the rangers, veterinarians and volunteers working to make sure that as many animals as possible are able to live in the natural environment. In Japan, too, the time has come for us to think hard about our association with wildlife. My hope is to lend my efforts as an AJWCEF volunteer to inform many people in Japan about the meaning of wildlife protection as I was taught by many people in Australia, and the difficulties involved, and get people thinking.

S.I., Biotechnologist

As I am involved in rehabilitation activities in Japan, it was really a case of dipping my hand into an unknown field when I came face to face with animals overseas and certainly with Australia's unique marsupials. Nevertheless, I applied to participate in this training course because I thought it was important to understand that 'different' efforts are being made towards animal protection.

The result was practical training content more replete than I had imagined, and support from Dr. Mizuno and the rest of the staff that allowed me to enjoy a very fulfilling time.

More than anything, I was able to see and feel up close the animals that I had only ever seen from afar on television, in books and at zoos.

It is said that there is nothing like seeing for oneself and this was the best way of learning.

At the Moggill Koala Hospital we learned about husbandry for captive koalas and how to care for their illnesses. At Daisy Hills we experienced the tracking of wild koalas.

Tracking the koalas using radio telemetry in the middle of an urban area really represented the characteristics of koalas and the current status regarding the habitat of wild animals.

Then there were the seminars about endeavours towards wildlife protection within the state of Queensland. The state of crisis of the wildlife in Australia is not known in Japan. It does seem, however, that both government and the private sector are involved in a variety of protection activities. We heard the opinion that, 'Even so, it is still not enough,' but honestly I felt envious. When I wondered if the same things could be done in Japan, I felt less hopeful.

We did practical training in husbandry for three days at the Moggill Koala Hospital and the David Fleay Wildlife Park, learning to care for Australia's rare and unique animals including the platypus and dingo; how to feed animals according to their ecology, and cautionary points and hints for keeping animals within a specific space. We learned about 'cracking and touch' for the tree kangaroo. Pine cones or blocks with holes are filled with avocado and given to the tree



Tree Kangaroo

kangaroo, purposely making it not so easy for them to access. Familiar items, rather than large contrivances are used to add variety to the animals' lives. I eagerly

took it all on board, thinking that even if the animals are not on display, maybe we can use these ideas when looking after animals that spend their lives in captivity.

Not just through the practical experience, but from the materials and seminars that we received, it was very clear that efforts towards protection require cooperation and communication between special research institutes, volunteers and the government. To this end, I think that we also need to throw ourselves into the daily tasks with a broad perspective and the energy to keep on going. In Japan, too, wildlife habitat is deteriorating and issues relating to humans have come to the forefront. Although I feel a sense of urgency each time I hear reports of this, what I can do is to fully absorb that with I learned on this occasion and relay it to other people. I would also like to apply the various methods that I learned to activities for the protection of wildlife in Japan.

You can read about the experiences of other participants on the AJWCEF website, so be sure to have a look!



2010 Activities Report

Dec. 2009 to Nov. 2010

Academic Presentations

1. **149th Meeting of the Japanese Society of Veterinary Science** (March 2010)
2. **COP10 Side Event** (October 2010)

Wildlife Protection Seminars and Symposiums for Universities

1. **Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University** (March, June, October 2010)
2. **Okayama University of Science** (March 2010)
3. **Azabu University** (June, November 2010)
4. **Kitasato University** (November 2010)
5. **Gifu University** (October 2010)

Wildlife Protection Seminars and Symposiums for the General Public

1. **31st Australia-Japan Joint Seminar** (June 2010)
2. **COP10 Biodiversity Fair, Citizens' Forum** (October 2010)

Media

1. **'Gutto Chikyu-bin'** [Worldwide Delivery] Yomiuri TV (September 2010)
2. **'Motto Shiritai Seibutsu Tayosei'** [Tell Me More About Biodiversity], NHK Radio (October 2010)
3. **'Nihon ni iru koara no kinshin kohai mondai to kokusaiteki jinko jusei nettowa-ku koso'** [Interbreeding of koalas in Japan and the concept for an international artificial insemination network], Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper (October 2010)
4. **'Nihon ni iru koara no kinshin kohai mondai to kokusaiteki jinko jusei nettowa-ku koso'** [Interbreeding of koalas in Japan and the concept for an international artificial insemination network], Chunichi Shimbun newspaper (October 2010)
5. **'Rentaru Koara'** [Loan Koalas], Nagoya TV (October 2010)
6. **'Tadaima Kinmu-chu! Moritani Tetsuo no osewa ni narimasu'** [I'm Working Right Now - Meeting with Takeo Moritani'], KBS Kyoto Radio (October 2010)
7. **'Kyo-purasu,'** KSB Kyoto (October 2010)
8. **'CBC News – koala special,'** CBC TV (November 2010)

Wildlife Conservation Training Courses

1. **Introductory training course** (March 2010)
2. **Advanced training course** (August 2010)
3. **Introductory training course** (September 2010)

Wildlife Conservation Study Tour (max. 40 persons)

- 1. Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University** (August 2010)

Projects

- 1. Eucalyptus plantation** (Moggill Koala Hospital, Pullenvale State School, AJWCEF joint project – August 2010)
- 2. International artificial insemination network for unique Australia animals**
(commencement of discussions with Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Tama Zoological Park, Higashiyama Zoo – October 2010)
- 3. Australia-Japan Research Exchange** (The University of Queensland, Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University, Moggill Koala Hospital, David Fleay Wildlife Park, etc.)

Donations to:

- 1. Ipswich Koala Protection Society - \$249**
- 2. Daisy Hill Koala Centre - \$500**
- 3. Moggill Koala Hospital - \$400**
- 4. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary - \$700**

For those who wish to view it, the AJWCEF FY2010 financial reports will be available on our website (click on 'About Us').

Event Information

《Training Courses》

(Subject to change – see our website)

- ① March 13 (Sun.) – 27 (Sun.), 2011
Australian Wildlife Conservation Training Course
(Introductory)
Queensland, Australia
- ② July 31 (Sun.) – August 14 (Sun.), 2011
Australian Wildlife Conservation Training Course (Advanced)
Queensland, Australia
- ③ September 4 (Sun.) – September 18 (Sun.), 2011
Australian Wildlife Conservation Training Course (Introductory)
Queensland, Australia



AJWCEF Staff

Masumi Yamaguchi

(participant in the March 2010, introductory training course)
Hi! I am Masumi Yamaguchi, a publicity volunteer with the AJWCEF. I decided to become involved with this Foundation after participating in the training course. I am interested in wildlife protection and reproduction and, through the training course, came to want to learn more about Australia and the animals that live in that vast land, as well as to tell more people about their current status. I will do my best, not only for the protection of animals in Australia, but all around the world.



Tomoko Takeda

(participant in the March 2010, introductory training course)
From the first 'non-student' to participate in a training course, to the first 'non-student' volunteer. I am a volunteer with the Kanagawa Society for the Protection of Wildlife, and a volunteer for my company in disaster emergency supply activities (supplying clean water to affected areas). Having majored in engineering studies at university I have little knowledge about animals, but feel I can contribute in terms of English language ability and data analysis, etc. My motto is, 'Why have two irons in the fire, when you can have a hundred!'

Takae Kawaguchi

(participant in the March 2010, introductory training course)
I first came to know of the AJWCEF when I participated in the March 2010 introductory training course. While studying veterinary science at university, I noticed that there was an abundance of veterinary services for people's pets but wondered why there was not sufficient veterinary practices for animals on the brink of extinction, especially since many were dying out because of human activity. Initially I thought I would participate in the course and get the chance to experience the different culture in Australia. Through the daily practical training that I received, however, my thinking began to change a little at a time. I am deeply grateful to the people who taught me about things that I had not considered, or even known, in daily life before.



Satomi Okuno (COP10 volunteer) I am a member of the workforce, but also volunteer in the area of publicity for the AJWCEF. Since childhood, I have loved all creatures and had long wanted to be involved in wildlife protection. I am involved in activities surrounded by the wonderful staff of AJWCEF, all the while looking for ways to help. I hope that many more people will join us in our activities in the future.

Request for New Members and Donations

Your donation will help save animals' lives.

Please click on the 'Membership and Donations' link
on the AJWCEF home page www.ajwcef.org for more details.

Newsletter published by:

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