

ATTACHMENT 1 – NWC Minutes 8 November 2012

GUEST SPEAKER: Josey Sharrad – Native Wildlife Campaigner
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Josey introduced herself and spoke of the long history of IFAW and the Council going back to the very beginning of the Council. Josey told us that she has worked for IFAW for the past 12 years in the UK and has recently joined IFAW's Sydney Office working on native wildlife. Josey spoke of IFAW's mission statement and told us that IFAW have offices in 16 countries and projects in more than 40 countries with their head office being at Cape Cod in the US. Their team includes rescue workers, vets, policy experts, campaigners, scientists and support staff. Regional campaigns around the world include tigers in India, bears in Russia and fox hunting in the UK. Josey provided a wonderful PowerPoint presentation and spoke on the following IFAW work around the globe including –

- Fox hunting in the UK where foxes are of course native and spoke of the similarities between that and horrific pig dog hunting that we have here.
- Elephants and problems of the ivory trade
- Protecting whales
- Saving seals
- The trade in wildlife products, tiger parts, ivory and the links of this trade to criminal syndicates, often to fund civil wars! These syndicates see this trade as easy money for low risk prosecution.
- The internet trade being a massive unregulated marketplace
- Investigations into live pet tigers, live primates and bears and the market in rhino horns.
- The criminal gangs involved in the massacres of elephants – 3,000 in 2011, rangers killed etc and IFAW's funding of anti-poaching patrols. West & Central African elephant populations have been decimated.
- Animal rescues from marine mammal strandings, oil spills and relocations.
- Disaster relief at 2005 Boxing Day Tsunami, 2005 Hurricane Katrina, 2010 Jan earthquake and tsunami, 2010 Haiti earthquake, 2012 Pakistan floods, 2012 Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy
- Projects for companion animals in impoverished communities in South Africa, Bali and Mexico to provide pet care and education.
- Education programs to empower young people with knowledge and tools to take positive action for animals.
- IFAW in Australia has a growing supporter base and will be 30 years old next year
- Whale protection is a key issue in Australia and IFAW have been active on many fronts particularly lobbying Government.
- IFAW has a history of working with wildlife care groups, providing grants, training and new equipment including emergency wildlife rescue trailers. During disasters IFAW have been on the ground in the 2002/3 bushfires providing \$50k relief grants, 2006 cyclone Larry supporting wildlife groups, 2009 Victorian bushfires providing veterinary response, training, equipment and mobile response trailers, 2011 Qld Floods and Cyclone Yasi providing emergency relief training.
- IFAW has a long history of providing grants to wildlife carers and research projects and Josey provided a list of grants provided in just one year, there were 14 listed.
- IFAW would like to continue their work with native wildlife, particularly working with carers and groups on the ground to provide support during disasters and would support policy change to protect native wildlife.
- IFAW are interested in improving the level of veterinary care for wildlife and is developing a network of vets willing and able to treat wildlife.

Josey also spoke of a partnership with the NWC in relation to refining a phone App. She is currently investigating possibilities of how a good system could be provided that would be user friendly, accessible and effective.