

ALV Writers Group



A FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Issue #17 - November 21, 2005

“Speaking up for Animal Rights”

Help Stop 2006 Duck Shooting Season



First – thanks to all who emailed and telephoned Erskine House and the Lorne Bowls Club expressing outrage after they killed over 50 native waterbirds. Laurie Levy from the coalition Against Duck Shooting has recently advised...

“The bad publicity Erskine House and the Lorne Bowls Club received during this battle has stopped a Gippsland Caravan Park owner from doing the same. Great work everyone.” Laurie Levy

At end of November, The Minister for the Environment, John Thwaites will announce whether the 2006 duck shooting season will proceed or not. NOW is the time to act.

1) GET GROUPS TO ENDORSE COMMON POSITION STATEMENT

Copy and paste the below request into an email (then attach the Common Position Statement) and send to all connections/groups you know (whether environmental, animal friendly or political, etc) to endorse the Common Position Statement. (eg: The Humane Society International has endorsed the Statement). The more groups who endorse the Statement, the more pressure on the Government to immediately ban the recreational shooting of our native waterbirds.

REQUEST

URGENT - Endorsement of Common Position Statement on banning Duck Shooting

ALP (Australian Labour Party) Members Opposed to Duck Shooting (MoDS) has been involved in a campaign jointly with such animal welfare groups as Coalition Against Duck Shooting and Ballarat Organisation for Animal Rights to put pressure on the Bracks government to bring duck shooting to an end. The group is an internal ALP lobby group and has managed over the last 18 months to attract much media attention to the campaign, and to open the minds of a large number of Labor MPs and general branch members on the issue. We have also presented a report to the Premier which debunks many of the myths about duck shooting pushed by the National Party and the Field & Game.

The Minister for Environment, John Thwaites will be making an announcement at the end of November or early December regarding whether a duck shooting season will proceed in 2006. We are seeking endorsement by environmental, animal welfare groups and minor parties to the attached Common Position Statement calling on the government to immediately ban the recreational shooting of native waterbirds. MoDS will be forwarding a copy to the Environment Minister and the Premier.

We request, as a matter of urgency, that your group endorse the attached Common Position Statement. A draft media release is also attached for your interest, which will go out with the statement, once we receive as many endorsements as possible within the next week.

Please advise if your group is prepared to endorse the document or how much time you need if the matter needs to go before a Committee by contacting Trevor Poulton at the email below. The government will be making a decision during the next couple of weeks.

Trevor Poulton
Mobile 0402 987 181
Visit: www.alpmods.org.au

2) SEND A SHORT EMAIL YOURSELF

1. Send an short email (again) to the Minister for the Environment John.Thwaites@parliament.vic.gov.au saying the activity of duck shooting is cruel and barbaric. On cruelty grounds the recreational duck shooting should be permanently banned.

All who have previously written to Mr Thwaites get a standard reply ('pat on the head') reiterating that duck shooting is legal, sustainable and safe in Victoria. It completely misses the point we are making: That duck shooting is barbaric, cruel, and the very nature of shotguns makes it inhumane. One of our writers had sent this reply back...(edited)

*Dear Mr Thwaites,
"...I am writing in response to your response to my initial letter below regarding duck shooting. You basically sent a letter that told me duck shooting is legal in Victoria. No kidding! That's why I wrote to you in the first place.
I'm not interested in knowing how the Department of Sustainability and Environment implements a range of strategies to ensure duck hunting is conducted in a sustainable, responsible and safe manner. That completely misses my point about the welfare of the actual birds and that fact that many duck shooters will never be careful and responsible no matter what you try and implement. It's a cruel sport and (edited)..it holds Victoria back.".. J Paschke (VIC)*

Sign a Petition...

If you are strapped for time, and can't write a letter – sign a petition!

Request from Korean Animals: Please add your voice to our protest. Instead of making a law that prohibits the consumption of dog/cat meat, the Korean government is planning to hygienically control dog meat. Such a policy will give a sense of legitimacy to this vile trade

and result in even more dogs and cats being slaughtered in agony behind the doors of slaughterhouses. Please help us to target the Minister for Health and Welfare in Korea to write letters of protest or sign petitions in relation to this please sign online at this link:

<http://choimimi.com/zboard/zboard.php?id=sign>



Or for more info about the consumption of dog meat in Korea

<http://www.koreananimals.org/dogslaughter2005.htm>

Also visit this link for more information for letters of protest:

<http://www.koreananimals.org/help.htm>

Thank you for your help and support for Korean Animals.

regards

Laura Teresa

President (Dogaid Australia)

P.O Box 6050 Karingal Vic 3199

National Animal Welfare Bill



The Australian Senate's Rural and Regional Legislation Committee has extended the public comment period on Senator Bartlett's National Animal Welfare Bill to **30th November 2005**.

The Welfare Bill and How to send your submissions can be found here:

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/animal_welfare05/info.htm

and copies of the legislation can be obtained from Don Sinnamon, whose details are below.

The Welfare Bill is a long read but we all have particular sections we can focus on. Some people may look at the Bill feeling overwhelmed BUT it's

manageable if we each choose one or two sections we are passionate and knowledgeable about. Whether your focus is live exports, puppy farming, kangaroos, battery hens, broiler chickens, sow stalls, importing dog and cat fur, mulesing, debeaking chickens, hunting, animal testing, etc – there is something in there for everyone to make a public submission on.

Scroll through the contents page at the various topics – note the section number and read the section of the Bill that it relates to. Make sure **your area of interest** is properly covered in the Bill. If you want to make an addition or correction, simply email your submission with the section number to: don.sinnamon@aph.gov.au



Below are some dot points on these issues for those who do not have the time to investigate them in detail.

1. The circumstances under which egg-laying hens are kept are abhorrent in the extreme, and the public demands that the government addresses this issue, and **all** cages be phased out. De-beaking must be banned forthwith, since it causes the birds lifelong pain. The wire floors of the cages cause hens tremendous pain in their legs and feet, evidenced by footage available showing them trying to move their weight, within their hopelessly cramped conditions, from one leg to the other.

2. Broiler chicks are packed in their tens of thousands into sheds and, never see the light of day or feel grass under their feet. They are fed a diet of antibiotics to assist their rapid growth that causes lameness and crippling because their legs cannot cope with the weight. Due to this cruelty and the threat of bird flu and antibiotic resistant bacteria, chickens must cease to be farmed intensively. As per the Code of Practice (CoP), farmers must isolate and assist crippled birds who are unable to reach food and water instead of leaving them to die slowly from starvation.

3. Pigs are known to be as intelligent and sensitive as dogs, yet sows are confined to concrete and metal cages barely larger than their own bodies for most of their

lives. They never see daylight except when they are loaded onto trucks headed for the slaughterhouse, by which time they are worn out from constant breeding and many are unable to walk. There is no justification, moral or economic, for this cruel confinement in which a sow is lucky if she can move one step back or one step forward. Codes of Practice state that hooved animals become "foresore" from being confined on concrete surfaces, yet the "Model CoP for the Welfare of Animals - Pigs" provides for just that. Sows live in sow stalls until they are due to give birth, when they are moved to an even smaller structure, a farrowing crate - and there, she cannot even reach to touch her young. This denies the animals the most fundamental rights, the "Five Freedoms". Sow stalls are banned in the UK and Florida, and are being phased out in the EU. The Australian public demands that the government do the same and end this appalling cruelty. "Producers" claim that this curbs aggression - if the animals were not so grossly overcrowded, there would be no aggression issue. Piglets ears are notched, their tails cut off, their teeth clipped, and they are castrated without any anesthetic or analgesia; this would be a criminal offence if they were cats or dogs.

4. The live export trade has been denounced as the gross cruelty that it is by various interest groups, and a WA exporter is facing cruelty charges over what was a voyage "representative of the industry" (Animals Australia, 2005). Animal welfare in the trade is measured solely by mortality rates, without regard to the fact that for every animal who dies, countless others suffer appallingly - blindness, lameness, salmonellosis (a form of gastro-enteritis), starvation (inanition, shy feeding), and trauma from brutal handling. The government and the industry openly state that they cannot influence animal welfare in importing countries, so no animals should be sent to countries which have absolutely no animal welfare safeguards in place. The journey is long and arduous, on third world wrecks of ships, most of which are registered under "flags of convenience", and those unlucky enough to survive the journey are the victims of horrific cruelty in the destination countries. Review after review has failed to address these issues. The live export trade must end.

4. Animals in sale-yards and feedlots are often left without food water or shelter (certainly in Tasmania at least). They are deprived of the use of their natural behaviours in conditions that are usually atrocious. Safeguards must be put into place to address the issue of "curfews" (denial of food and water in the animals' language), and shelter at these establishments. "Bobby" calves and young lambs often are too weak from being removed from their mothers to stand, and should never be loaded for transport.

In addition, animals are now routinely being transported on trucks from Western Australia to the Eastern states - simply because there is no journey time limit in the

Model CoP. Clearly this is a cruel, unnecessary and indefensible practice, and it must be banned. Animals should (if they must) be slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production.

Animals on eBay

Great grassroots action by one of our writers!

eBay has a policy against listing live animals on its site.



<http://pages.ebay.com.au/help/policies/wildlife.html>

Under Animals and wildlife products: 'Some examples', eBay clearly states "Live Animals: Live animals and pets may not be listed on eBay."

Violations of this policy may result in a range of actions, including:

- Listing cancellation
- Limits on account privileges
- Account suspension
- Forfeit of eBay fees on cancelled listings
- Loss of PowerSeller status

However someone tried to get around this by auctioning a tin of cat food and giving away free kittens to the successful bidder.

One of our newest writers, Susan (along with other members of the public) sent eBay a letter, reporting the seller.

Dear eBay,

Re item 7725409670: This seller has attempted to get around the guidelines prohibiting the selling of live animals by offering four kittens free with the winning bid on a tin of cat food.

Please alter your guidelines, so that auctions like this are no longer possible in the future.

Frivolous attitudes such as these continue to result in animals being abused and dumped, and do not encourage responsibility with companion animals.

Thank you, S Manderson

A few days later, Susan sent a second letter...

Dear eBay,

Following the second listing of live kittens on the eBay Australia website in less than a week, I am writing to request that you place a notice on your home page, which restates your policy on this issue.

Given that Christmas is coming, this is a traditionally bad time of year for companion animals, who are often bought without any consideration for their future circumstances.

Shelters are overflowing and animals are often dumped after Christmas, when people go on holiday, or find that the animal is no longer "amusing".

Please emphasise that you expect that people wanting to offer animals will do the right thing, and find good homes for them.

Thank you. S Manderson

Please write to eBay (www.ebay.com.au and choose contact option) urge them to take a firm stance with people who try to off load animals on eBay. By applying the penalties (listed above.) eBay's policy is quite clear that "live animals cannot be listed on eBay." Suggest this policy and the penalties be clearly highlighted on their home page.

eBay could do a good and responsible thing by suggesting that people looking for a companion animal "save a life and visit a shelter instead." where steps are taken to ensure the animal is desexed and going to a responsible home. Thanks Susan!

Melbourne Vegan

See these fabulous 'Melbourne Vegan' newsletters by Peter Carr from Vegan Voice. Issues 35 and 36 are packed with photos from World Vegan Day and lots of upcoming vegan/animal rights projects, events and social gatherings. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive the Melbourne Vegan newsletter link, (it's just a link – so it won't take up much room in your inbox) email petercarrman@hotmail.com

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/melbv/web/Archive351.html>

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/melbv/web/Archive361.html>

Animal Law

Animal law was taught at the University of New South Wales for the first time at the beginning of this year. It is great to hear that the course will be held again in 2006,

over the first and last weekends in March.

The course can be taken as part of a Masters of Law, or as a one-off course which means you don't have to be enrolled in a UNSW degree. According to lecturer Geoff Bloom, the course is designed to be accessible to people with or without legal qualifications.

It is planned that there will be 14 two hour classes covering the following topics:

1. Introduction and case study on live animal exports
2. History and present status of animals as property
3. Anti-cruelty law, including the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (NSW) 1979
4. Ethics of human treatment of animals
5. Jurisprudence of human treatment of animals
6. History and profile of animal politics
7. Standing
8. & 9. Agricultural use of animals, including case study on pig rearing
10. Animal experimentation
11. Companion animals
12. Zoos
13. Animals in the wild
14. Veterinary surgeons

Anyone who is interested in attending the course is encouraged to contact Jenny Jarrett on j.jarrett@unsw.edu.au at the UNSW Faculty of Law for information. Comments on 'Voiceless' by attendees of the course in 2005 seem to have been very positive. See <http://www.voiceless.org.au/edulinks.html> for humane education resources and courses.

Thanks Michaela.

Fur at Safeway

I was shopping in Safeway the other day when (yikes!) I see a big furry rat (cat toy) on the shelf. Sure enough, the packaging said the toy was made from fur (no animal specified) and made in China. While we are protesting against fashion designers and fur coats, the stuff is still getting in right under our noses!

Please take a moment to add your name to this email and send it to Safeway:

Visit <http://www.woolworths.com.au/contactus/index.asp> to fill out their feedback form by copying this letter (or write one of your own.)



You may or may not be aware of the cruel cat and dog fur trade in China. Millions of dogs and cats in China are being bludgeoned, hanged, bled to death, and strangled with wire nooses so that their fur can be turned into trim and trinkets – including pet toys. This fur is often deliberately unlabelled or mislabeled as fur from other species and exported to countries around the world (including Australia) as unspecified fur. Your supermarket sells unspecified animal fur from China in the form of PetLife 'squeaky rat' cat toys in the pet aisle. It's quite possible these cat toys are made from cat and/or dog fur. Although I can't find this product listed on your online shopping site, the products have been seen at the Malvern store (area code 3143). There are cat toys made from faux fur in your stores – why take a risk and sell fur that could be cat/dog or any other animal skinned alive in a country unprotected by animal welfare laws? In the interests of animal welfare and compassion, please remove this product immediately, and inform the supplier that Safeway will not sell products made from animal fur – only faux fur.

Please visit http://www.jcruel.com/catdogfur.asp?int=weekly_eneus or <http://www.petatv.com/> to see video evidence of China's shocking cat and dog fur trade.

Please inform me of your decision at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Animal Testing



This UK website www.buav.org has a lot of useful info and campaign ideas for those who's focus is on animal testing. Even though it has a great cartoon introduction, there is one area I have decided to include in this newsletter as it involves everyday products we can boycott and emails we can easily send:

Testing household products on Animals:

<http://www.buav.org/campaigns/household/soiled.html>

Every year around the world, countless animals suffer and die to test household cleaning products such as toilet blocks; washing-up liquid or laundry detergent. Most household products are manufactured by a handful of large companies: Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, Reckitt Benckiser and SC Johnson, all of which conduct or commission animal testing. They produce most of the best-known brands. The truth is if they really cared about ending animal suffering, they could stop animal testing today by only using ingredients that have already been accepted as safe for use. But 'continual product innovation' (fresher smell, more appealing colour) is used to give their brands a market advantage, in other words to sell more products and make more profit. Wash your hands of animal cruelty by boycotting these brands.

Here are the worst companies for testing household products on animals:

*** Manufacturer: Colgate-Palmolive**
email: consumers_aunz@colpal.com

They manufacture the following products:

-Ajax
-Fab
-Palmolive

-Pinosol
-Dynamo

*** Manufacturer: Unilever**

email: Leverfaberge@unileverconsumerlink.co.uk
Or choose contact us option on their website:
<http://www.unilever.com/resources/contactus.asp>

They manufacture the following products:

-Comfort
-Omo
-Persil
-Sun
-Vim
-Dove impulse
-Lux
-Lynx
-Sunsilk
-Ponds

*** Manufacturer: Reckitt Benckiser Plc**

email: corpcomms@reckittbenckiser.com

They manufacture the following products:

-Air Fresh
-Airozone
-Brasso polish
-Dettol
-Down to Earth
-Easy-Off cleaners
-Finish
-Harpic
-Mr Sheen
-Napisan

*** Manufacturer: Procter & Gamble**

Go to website: <http://www.pg.com/getintouch/index.jhtml> and choose the contact us option, then 'email us' option.

They manufacture the following products:

-Bounce
-Cascade
-Cristal
-Febreze
-Finish
-Mr Clean
-Salvo
-Tide

*** Manufacturer: S.C. Johnson**

website: <http://www.scjbrands.com/contact/>

They manufacture the following products:

- Brillo
- Drano
- Glade
- Mr Muscle
- Pledge furniture polish
- Raid
- Shout
- Toilet duck
- Vanish
- Windex

You can email them using the form letter below

I am appalled at (*company's name*) continued practice of animal testing which is completely unjustifiable. I have now joined the Global Boycott of (*company's name*) and will continue to support the boycott and advise family and friends to do the same, until the company introduces a permanent ban on all animal testing. I have also contacted my local supermarket and advised them I will not be purchasing your products for the above reason. Yours sincerely....



You can email Coles, Safeway and BiLo advising them...

I will not be purchasing household products from Colgate-Palmolive, S C Johnson, Procter and Gamble, Reckitt Benckiser and Unilever because they test their products on animals when they could use ingredients that have already been accepted as safe for use. Animal testing is unjustified. Please ensure there are compassionate alternatives that do not have animal ingredients and are not tested on animals. Eg: Natures Organics, Earth Choice and Orange Power to name a few. Yours sincerely...

Go to their websites and choose the 'contact us' options.

www.coles.com.au

www.woolworths.com.au

www.bilo.com.au

Russian Kangaroo Sausage Factory in Queensland

In Charleville (south west Queensland) a Russian-backed kangaroo processing plant is to open by the end of the month. The Shire expects to export millions of sausages to Russia (using Kangaroo as a no-name meat) and to France, as a table delicacy! The Russians have put \$7 million into this venture along with capital from local investors.

No mention is made by any of them about the terrible cruelty inflicted on kangaroos and their joeys when shot. How do we counteract the full force of government subsidised marketing and promotion to the KIAA (Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia)? What other small business gets such special treatment of hundreds of thousands of dollars subsidised over the years to promote the killing and eating our national symbol. Perhaps we can write to our local newspapers and ask how can we profit from a multi million dollar tourism industry, luring tourists to Australia with images of herds of kangaroos, only to hide a stinking Russian sausage factory in Queensland to grind up our national icon as some no-name meat. What a disgrace!

The Queensland Tourism Strategy (QTS) is charting an integrated whole-of-government and industry approach to achieving sustainable tourism targets. The new Strategy will improve the performance, competitiveness and structural efficiency of the industry and deliver a range of long-term benefits to both business and government. Let them know what an fly in the ointment this will be for the tourism industry once overseas newspapers and magazine's become informed of Queensland's dirty little secret (by us) – a kangaroo sausage factory. It clashes with Australia's image of bounding kangaroos in the great outdoors and as the logo of our international airline - Qantas!

Contact Tourism Queensland: info@tq.com.au

Contact Queensland Tourism Strategy qts@tq.com.au

See this article for details...

Kangaroo may solve Russian meat shortage

CEE (central and eastern European) food industry.com

<http://www.cee-foodindustry.com/news/ng.asp?n=63729-kyros-meat-kangaroo>

By Angela Drujinina

07/11/2005 - Kangaroo, no longer merely exported as a furry toy from down under, is rapidly becoming a popular dish in Russia as importers increasingly look to Australia to solve Russia's domestic meat shortages.

Russians now consume one third of processed kangaroo meat, according to Australia's association of meat manufacturers, making Russia the world's biggest kangaroo importer.

The demand has become so great that Russian producers are even considering farming kangaroo in Russia itself.

Igor Gorohov, head of a Russian meat importer, said "Australia cannot cope with Russian demands. So, if we need each month about 100 containers of kangaroo meat, Australia can provide us with only 25".

Coupled with this, more Russian meat processors are getting bogged down with the high costs of 'traditional' meat production in Russia. The national statistics department said meat manufacture fell two per cent in the first half of 2005.

Serghey Yushin, member of the National Meat Association, said: "Beef manufacture in Russia is not a profitable business because expenses are growing. There is also no confidence in the market's stableness. This is why companies are not interested in this business. But they are looking forward to growing kangaroo."

Farmers in the Urals region are seriously thinking about this, according to mass media reports.

Some importers, however, feel that Australia could be a much bigger player on the Russian meat market than merely a source of kangaroo.

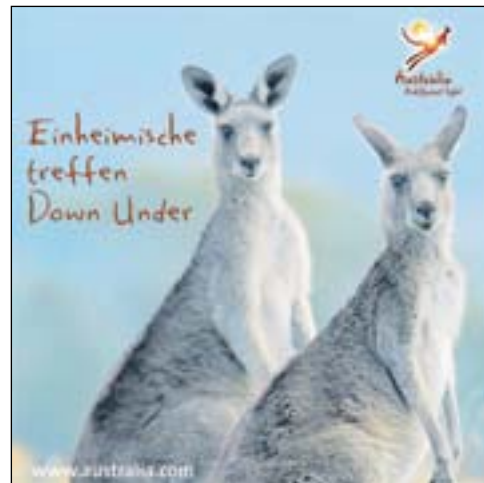
Kyros, one of Russia's biggest frozen food distributors, recently announced a new deal to begin importing a range of Australian meat, including beef, lamb and mutton.

"Australia can become an alternative to the US for beef and to New Zealand for lamb and mutton with gains in purchasing and sale prices, without detriment to quality" said Kyros marketing director, Nikolay Kuznetsov.

The group has signed the deal with Australian meat makers during a beef deficit in Russia, after banning marmoreal beef from the US and steep price rises in New Zealand. Russia also currently has no import quotas on Australian meat.

Kyros also said that, despite the interest in kangaroo, other meats, such as beef and mutton, remain more profitable on the market because consumers know them.

That is why the firm has yet to do a deal for the bouncing marsupials.



Here is the link to KIAA's newsletter

http://www.kangaroo-industry.asn.au/news/news_frame.htm (Current issue Vol 43)

Not for the weak stomached – this newsletter is pure garbage! After congratulating itself for doing a presentation to the NSW Liberal Party while serving them Kangaroo meat for lunch, it goes on to thank Food Industry Magazine for running its 'Lets call Kangaroo meat something else' competition. Then it has an article about the 'twisted thinking that motivates PETA', and finishes with a picture of a smiling kangaroo on a motorcycle with a frying pan (Jamie Oliver style) urging people to enter a competition to create a culinary name for Kangaroo to win (that motorcycle) Yech!

Well lets send them an entry they wont forget – like 'Murdered Marsupial' or how about 'Aussie shame steak' 'Kanga carcass' or even 'Slaughtered Skippy' or 'Butchered Mum of bashed joey'

You can print out the form and post it off to the address they provide or if you dont have a printer - I have found an email address to send it to.

info@kangaroo-industry.asn.au

And don't forget to "Tell us in 25 words or less why you choose this name for kangaroo."

While I cannot find a contact address for the food industry magazine, we can contact the **National Food Industry** and let them know we will not eat Kangaroo meat and the cruelty behind shooting kangaroos.

Email: nfismedia@nfis.com.au

For facts about the brutal inhumane slaughter of kangaroos please visit www.awpc.org.au

This story that was on the front page of The Age newspaper today

Kanga meat ruse in the works



THIS summer you could well be throwing a hunk of marsu on the barbie.

Mystified? Well, don't worry, it is just one of the suggested fancy new names for kangaroo. Food Companion magazine has received more than 300 entries, many from overseas, for a competition to rename the roo.

The campaign, supported by the Kangaroo Industries Association of Australia, would create a "new champagne marketing name", editor Mel Nathan said. "The current name inhibits some chefs from using the product because they know people will be put off ordering it," Ms Nathan said. "I was inspired when I went to New Zealand and saw their name for venison — cervina. And I thought we needed to do something similar with kangaroo meat. After all, we eat pork and beef, not pig and cow."

The \$200 million kangaroo meat industry is haunted by the marsupial's place in Aussie culture.

Some suggestions for rebranding the meat, including Marla and Wallagang, were drawn from Aboriginal languages.

But some entrants have not impressed the judges. "We have received silly suggestions, such as Cyril, Skippy and Roadkill," Ms Nathan said. "They will definitely not be successful."

Journalists may be quite put off by the latest push by John Kelly, the KIAA and the chefs to rename kangaroos.

The Age takes letters at letters@theage.com.au

Save the Whales

The long awaited arrival of Farely Mowat and S/S crew are due to **arrive tomorrow (Tuesday 22nd) at Victoria Harbour in the CBD – Melbourne. Its actually right behind the Telstra Dome.** Unfortunately at this stage they have not been able to confirm if it will be am/pm but will let us know as soon as able. I will send out email as soon as I know or people can call Kristy on 0408 179 394

Brendan McMahon update

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3485166a10,00.html>

Bestiality accused 'too depressed' to report to cops

21 November 2005

SYDNEY: A former Auckland man, charged with animal cruelty and bestiality, failed to meet his bail conditions because he was too depressed to leave his house, a Sydney court has been told.

Brendan Francis McMahon, 37, appeared in Parramatta Local Court on Saturday after failing to report to police as required by the courts on Thursday.

McMahon is on bail on 21 charges, including aggravated cruelty to animals, bestiality and drug possession.

Police alleged when he was arrested in August that 17 dead or dying rabbits and a dead guinea pig were found near his central Sydney office between July and early August.

McMahon was put under surveillance after central Sydney pet store staff noticed he had marks consistent with rabbit scratches on his face when he sought to purchase batches of the animals.

The court was told yesterday that McMahon was too depressed to report to police.

He was granted bail again and will appear in court again on Wednesday.

Go Go Writers Go!



Thank you to all writers who sent copies of their letters to:
writers@alv.org.au

(Don't forget to send copies of your letters in, whether they have been published or not.)

Live Exports

To the Anglican Messenger

Maysora, the vessel fully laden with up to 80,000 sheep, was held up at the port of Fremantle for one week while an accident involving a crane was being investigated. Soon after sheep fat was found washed up on the beaches. Obviously, before even leaving, some of the sheep were sick or injured and were minced, possibly while still alive!

The sheep on board the Maysora will suffer extremes of heat and crowding, and will have no reprieve awaiting them at their destination. They will be shoved

and pushed, until their execution, without the benefit of being stunned first. They will see their companions die in front of them by having their throats slashed.

There was a report recently of Australian cattle being left in trucks without food or water for 24 hours in harsh climate on the Israeli/Palestinian border. They were being urinated and trampled on and left to die.

These facts illustrate the unsustainability and cruelty of live exports.

We, as Christians concerned for animal welfare, want to express our horror and opposition to this undeniably cruel trade. The Australian government passes laws to protect the profits of sheep farmers promptly, (by imposing heavy penalties on animal activists), but does nothing to alleviate the suffering of farmed animals industry.

Christians, who know the Creator and sustainer of all life, should have the loudest voices when it comes to the injustices of the exploitation of our environment and animals. "Share with justice the resource of the Earth" as we say each Sunday. Jesus, as the shepherd of His sheep, should be our example, as a protector and defender of His creatures. Therefore, our farming and export policies based on profits, should be examined from a Christian perspective. Christians should not remain silent on

these issues.

V Ortega (VIC) 13.11.05

To Farm Weekly

Question - does the "West Australian" ever publish anything against the live export trade?

Dear Sir

The "West Australian" makes some extraordinary claims, as usual, about the worth of the live export trade. Far from being worth \$700 million, leading agricultural economists have found that something more than the reverse is in fact the case.

Dr Selwyn Heilbron and Terry Larkins found that, far from being of benefit to Australia, the opportunity cost of the live export trade is, in fact, \$1.5 billion in lost GDP, \$270 million in lost household income, and around 10,500 lost jobs. The Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union puts this last figure far higher.

Professor Lindner, of the Meat Processing Industry Taskforce, agreed with the Heilbron and Larkins comment that the profitability of the live export trade is the result of market distortions, and the extraordinary cross-subsidizing of the live export trade by the Federal Government, and, of course, State governments provide their own incentives in

terms of lost payroll and other taxes.

The live export industry is on its knees, and deservedly so. The West Australian Police have laid charges against Emanuels and two of its directors (one of whom reportedly lost his export licence over the disaster that was the "Becrux" maiden voyage in 2002) of cruelty under Section 19 (a), (b) and (d) of the Animal Welfare Act (WA) (2002).

Less than two weeks before this, we had the fiasco that was the most recent visit of the "Maysora", a ship with some highly adverse reports behind it already. Following a crane falling off the ship onto the wharf, injuring a driver and writing off a truck, the "Maysora" apparently developed engine problems, and remained in Fremantle, fully loaded with 80,000 suffering sheep on board in temperatures approaching 30 degrees Celsius, for seven days. It is reported that RSPCA inspectors were refused permission to board the ship to check on the animals for spurious reasons to do with safety inductions (which would suggest that perhaps the RSPCA does not in fact monitor ANY of the ships which come in and out of Fremantle). It has yet to be confirmed that an AQIS appointed veterinarian was on board the "Maysora" during this debacle in accordance with the Australian Live Export Standards and the MoU with Saudi Arabia (not to

mention Recommendation 5 of the Keniry Review), or that AQIS animal health and welfare officers inspected the ship prior to its departure under cover of darkness. The fact that sheep remains washed up on local beaches in the days following suggests that neither was the case.

It is believed that the "Maysora" was bound for Jeddah.

In fact, the industry as a whole is remarkably quiet about this - as it is about reports of a number of cattle from the "Bader III" being transported on trucks from Aqaba to Israel being delayed for 24 hours. An animal advocacy group there filmed the cattle, ill, suffering, down and dying; being trampled by, and urinated on, by one another.

This is an industry that is morally bankrupt, and which cannot be sustained on any grounds, including economic ones. The WA and Federal governments should be directing the funds and concessions provided to the live export trade to expanding local processing, and creating jobs in this country.
S Cass (TAS) 13.11.05

To SMH and the West Australian

The purpose of the Animal Welfare Act is to promote responsible animal care and protect animals from cruelty. The law should apply to the export industry whether

or not proven charges would cause trouble for farmers. Animals deserve protection from cruelty, whether they suffer at the hands of stupid pranksters or export companies. The Act is especially relevant to export livestock because they are being shipped long distances in crowded conditions. Given the embarrassing history of Australia's live export animal welfare disasters, prosecution of the companies and people responsible is long overdue.

C Stansfield (VIC) 13.11.05

Whales

Dear Mr John Howard,

This report from Greenpeace (Newsletter, November 2005) is extremely disturbing:

A Japanese whaling fleet has left for the Southern Ocean, where it will hunt and kill almost 1000 whales. The whaling company has doubled its usual kill and, for the first time, will hunt up to 10 endangered fin whales, with humpbacks on their list for next

Please, even if you don't really care about whales and this cruel slaughter near our shores, at least the plan to hunt humpbacks should concern you as it will affect our eco tourist industry and we need our tourism dollars with nature and whale watching. Please, urgent, make sure there is a

SANCTUARY in the Southern Ocean, or our waters will be red with the blood of these endearing, intelligent creatures.
V Ortega 18.11.05 (VIC)

Senator Bartlett's National Animal Welfare Bill

To Don Sinnamon,

I am please to be able to give a submission for the above National Animal Welfare Bill.

I would like to recommend that the 2 commercial animal breeders/farmers be leaders in animal welfare husbandry, and not be involved in live exports, museling, tail docking etc. They should be totally 'above board' in not have any vested interest in laws that help them financially.

Also that is illegal to keep dogs in cages for breeding purposes, and continually use them for breeding and supply for pet shops. With the appalling numbers of stray dogs and cats being euthanised each day in the RSPCA and animal shelters, it is totally unethical to be continually flooding the markets with more animals! The only breeders should be registered with the KCC or other recognised breed organisation. Private owners are controlled with respect to desexing etc, but not breeders.

Battery hen cages should be phased out, and

debeaking. Poultry are unsuitable for cages of any size, and should live the outdoors where they can behave normally. (digging, dirt bathing etc). The public should realise the cost of poultry and eggs is so low because of the cruel practices allowed at this time.

Broiler chickens are fed a diet of antibiotics to help them grow quicker making them so grossly deformed that their legs cannot cope with the weight.

Sow stalls are totally cruel to pigs, as intelligent and sensitive animals. They never see daylight except when they are loaded onto trucks headed for the slaughterhouse, by which time they are worn out from constant breeding and many are unable to walk. They cannot even interact with their babies. Sow stalls are banned in the UK and are being phased out in the EU.

Piglets ears are notched, their tails cut off, their teeth clipped, and they are castrated without any anesthetic or analgesia; this would be a criminal offence if they were cats or dogs.

Live exports should be banned. Animal welfare in the trade is measured solely by mortality rates, without regard to the fact that for every animal who dies, countless others suffer appallingly - blindness, lameness, salmonellosis (a form of gastro-enteritis), starvation (inanition, shy feeding), and trauma from brutal handling.

Museling should be banned as brutal and inhumane.

Thank you

V Ortega (VIC) 18.11.05

Heritage Forests

Premier Paul Lennon,
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Hobart, Tasmania

Dear Hon Mr Lennon,

I am writing about my deep concern for the old, heritage forests of Tasmania's wilderness. Gunns Ltd is claiming damages for media statements, what they claim is unlawful lobbying of shareholders, customers and governments, and disruption to its logging operations.

Not long ago I visited Tasmania and was overawed by the beauty and ancient-ness of these old growth forests, and the tall trees that have grown for hundreds of years, undisturbed.

These forests need to be kept for future generations of Australians, not just Tasmanians, and should not be pulped for any amount of economic benefits. These areas are irreplaceable in our generations, and should be held as part of World Heritage areas.

Areas of forest that have received calls for World Heritage Nomination are still

being clearfelled and woodchipped and their native wildlife deliberately poisoned and shot

I and other Australians, people who love their country and appreciate the uniqueness and value of our native fauna and flora, implore you to not let this company (Gunns) or any other win this case against these ordinary people who have the right to speak up against environmental exploitation.

Any woodchipping benefits cannot out weight the terrible expense of the loss of our irreplaceable environmental treasures. Please don't sell these native trees for short term profit. They are needed for many future generations to appreciate.

V Ortega (VIC) 18.11.05

Kangaroos

In reply to Name wanted to sugar-coat Skippy steaks
Jonathan Porter
November 14, 2005

Letter to The Australian

17 November 2005

Russians now consume one third of processed kangaroo meat, according to Australia's association of meat manufacturers, making Russia the world's biggest kangaroo importer.

In order to convince the public to include kangaroos in our diet,

the Government has started a 5 year campaign to promote the meat as healthy, tasty, and also a good investment for our environment. To do this, they are trying to convince us that they can be consumed, without remembering Skippy, and that they are a much loved, world recognised icon of Australia. They are looking for another name to market it under.

We are to believe that there have never before been so many kangaroos as now, and they are in 'plague proportions', and therefore their numbers need controlling to secure pasture for farming.

Also, the commercial kangaroo industry will benefit of our environment, meaning more vegetation and less erosion, is another myth being sold to us.

However, the facts are otherwise. Kangaroos only need a frugal amount of water, especially compared to thirsty livestock needs.

Kangaroo numbers follow the run of seasons and increase when food is abundant and of high quality, and decrease through drought. In fact, counts have shown declines in Queensland, NSW, SA and WA of the western greys, wallaroos, red kangaroos and eastern greys. The so called 'plague proportions' is propaganda to support the kangaroo killing industry.

Pastoralist would like us to think that reducing kangaroo

numbers will preserve our native flora and grasslands, but in reality, they want to use them as scapegoats for the pressure on grazing areas, thereby maintaining or increasing livestock densities.

Finally, the Code of Practice of killing humanely is not monitored at the point of kill, but only later as carcasses in 'chillers'. Head shots are not always possible. Young joeys are dependent on their mothers for 4-6 months after leaving their mothers' pouches, until weaned. They have no commercial value for the industry, and they are often abandoned and left to die of starvation or predators. This 'small percentage' is calculated to be about 3 million left to die a cruel death.

The amount of revenue from the kangaroo industry of meat and hides is insignificant to the amount from our tourist industry. A large part is based on our unique wild life and natural resources. We have these assets still, despite being devastated by increased human population and industrialisation. Tourists want to see herds of kangaroos, not a few survivors, and they don't want to have to travel kilometres to find them in our vast horizons.

V Ortega (VIC) 17.11.05

Just a reminder to Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia chief executive John Kelly: no "sexy twist" with names will alter the reality of the kangaroo "industry" as it

exists. Call it what you will, but Australians, and indeed our overseas visitors, are understandably reticent about eating the national icon.

Many kangaroos do not die instantly from a shot to the head, but limp off into the bush to die a slow and agonising death. Orphaned joeys are cruelly killed on the spot or left to die, unable to cope without their mothers.

Kangaroos are an essential part of the ecology of this country, and live in harmony with the environment. A tourism industry based on our wildlife is much more valuable to our country as a whole, than one based on the continued cruelty and exploitation present in the current kangaroo "industry".

You may choose to call it marsu, but to the public it's still Skippy the Kangaroo.

S Manderson (VIC) 17.11.05
(same letter was sent to the Guardian - UK)

(submitted on website)

"Name wanted to sugar-coat Skippy steaks"

14th Nov

A name will not disguise the fact that kangaroo meat comes from our much loved Australian icon, the most recognised national symbol in the world. The public hold onto it affectionately as Skippy, our own precious, unique creature, and mass slaughter and possible reduced numbers would be the result of having kangaroo on our menu. Another name will not

fool the public.

V Ortega (VIC) 14.11.05

Jamie Oliver

To The Herald Sun

I must admit I was very distressed to hear that Jamie Oliver slaughtered an un-stunned lamb on television with the dubious admonition that we are at the top of the food chain and thus seemingly have the right to be doing such things. I sincerely hope that people viewing this unpalatable episode can finally see the connection between slaughter and meat consumption. I am certain Jamie Oliver will be questioning what he has done and we should all be questioning what we are indirectly doing when we purchase meat.

L Campano (VIC) 14.11.05

Sent to the Hobart Mercury and the Advocate

I find that the current hysteria about Jamie Oliver's repugnant antics on a TV show to be hypocrisy at its very best. The appalling thing about this man's actions is that he was prepared to let a lamb suffer the agony of slaughter without first pre-stunning it for TV ratings.

But surely the community is aware that millions of baby lambs are slaughtered, worldwide, day in, day out, for human consumption. It is the

same for baby calves, billions of chickens, pigs, deer, kangaroos - in fact pretty much any animal is fair game in the human bloodlust. Is it offensive just because you saw it?

It would be great to see anything that Jamie Oliver does blacklisted in this country; books, TV shows and endorsements if he thinks that his appalling behaviour is acceptable - but remember, your food had a face, and it felt hunger, thirst, fear, pain and loneliness.

Meat comes from living, breathing, feeling creatures; it does not come automatically packaged in polystyrene and plastic.

Most of these animals have lived all too short lives full of suffering at the hands of "producers" (farmers) before they made it to your plate.

S Cass (TAS) 14.11.05

Jamie Oliver slaughters a lamb on television and viewers throw their hands up in horror because suddenly what happens to millions of sheep, lamb, cattle, goats and chickens every day is happening to one small sheep in their lounge rooms. If you cannot handle a sheep being killed in front of you, why are you eating meat? Why are we endorsing the live export of our sheep, and cattle to Middle Eastern countries where cruel treatment awaits them and a heartless death. Every time I

hear a farmer saying , "But I love my animals," I can't help but wonder what their definition of love is. How can you state that you love your animals, then load them onto a ship bound for the middle East without a backward glance? Knowing full well what will happen to them upon arrival?

Jamie Oliver was only performing an action that most prefer to keep behind closed doors. It seems hypocritical to me to criticize Jamie, and then go down to the Supermarket and buy your lamb chops ,steak and chicken for the week. I do not agree with Jamies' actions, but then I do not agree with ANY animals being killed for food, I do not agree with animals being factory farmed just to satisfy our never ending appetite for meat, and yes, given the choice I would starve rather than eat anything that once had a face.
E Hardy (TAS) 14.11.05

I find the uproar about Jamie Oliver killing a lamb (Critics lambaste Oliver 12.11.05) very interesting. Are some of those up in arms meat eaters themselves? If so, is it the truth which is upsetting them so much? Because animals like that little lamb are hurt and killed every year - in the millions. Not every animal is stunned before it's throat is sliced open. And the fact that "kids might be watching" just goes to show how scared we are that our children might find out how their dinner got to the plate.

Would they not be horrified? And rightly so? I think if they knew the truth, then maybe this world would grow to be a compassionate and humane one.
J Paschke (VIC) 14.11.05

Sent to Herald Sun feedback
"Critics lambaste Oliver" 12 Nov05

Inadvertently, this chef's on-stage cruelty has probably created a few more confirmed vegetarians! Perhaps people should realise that in 'growing' meat, they are killing animals that are capable of suffering and fear, just like us. Despite not stunning the lamb before hand, it is taking a life and is still cruel and unnecessary. There are many nourishing and delicious foods to eat without violence. However, what is more appalling than this lack of Jamie Oliver's callasness is the fact that many animals suffer extremely miserable and deprived lives in intense factory farming, where they are hidden from the public in crowded sheds. Seeing this spectacle on television hopefully make people more aware of their meat source.
V Ortega (VIC) 13.11.05

Ducks

Dear Mr. Kelly

My wife and I were appalled at the recent decision to slaughter what were tame and harmless

birds at your resort. I am a conservative, middle aged Rolls-Royce driving businessman. I mention this because people who commit these acts of cruelty often dismiss criticism as coming from left wing greenies living off the dole. You may be surprised to discover that they are outnumbered by people with good disposable incomes, but we are selective where we spend our dollars. I know ours will not be at your resort.
Yours sincerely

I Killip (VIC)

Dear Mr Kelly
I feel that I must write to you in regard to the recent killing of our native waterbirds at Erskine House resort. This really is unacceptable, despite the birds causing problems by greatly increasing in number. Our native wildlife are unique and precious as is all species of non-human creatures. To take their lives is not a decision for us to make. Please ensure this tragedy does not occur again by employing other, humane methods of control, such as relocation, scare guns etc. There are many animal welfare organisations, in Victoria alone, who would be more than happy to advise on appropriate ways to manage wildlife.
Yours sincerely

L Bristow (VIC)

Dogs

To The Age: Re:The Puggle

It's heartbreaking to watch human beings use animals like their playthings.

(13.11.05) They are not here to be bred with this and that and the other to see "what we can come up with"! Such selfish behavior. What about the hundreds of healthy lovable dogs that are killed each day in pounds because no one wants them? We're as bad as children who are sick of their old toys and just want new one.

J Paschke (VIC) 14.11.05

Dogs are not toys, or the source of jokes for the breeding of freakish mixtures of breeds. Here in Australia we have already huge numbers of strays and unwanted dogs and cats, healthy, young and uninjured, that are on death-row each day due to being unwanted. Councils are reluctant to give details on numbers that are euthanised, but the percentages and numbers are huge. We do not need another 'breed' as a novelty for a short time, then have them dumped.

Our state governments need to seriously consider regulating this breeding industry. While they discuss more controls for private owners of dogs (and cats), businesses that keep dogs in cages to continually mate and have puppies are allowed to keep adding to the excess numbers of puppies in the

community. While the idea of compulsory desexing and obedience training is to be commended, the breeders (of mixed breeds) go untouched and can continue to operate.

It is a sad reflection on our laws and society that puppies and other animals in pet shops are treated as a saleable commodity for business profits, and that they can be disposed of so easily when their novelty wears off the reality of pet ownership is not convenient any more. Only a few lucky ones find new homes, and often shelters are dependent on public donations to re-home them.

V Ortega (VIC) 13.11.05

Bird Flu

With the imminent threat of bird flu (Turkey Out For Christmas Dinner, 6/11/05) and 150 million potential deaths on our doorstep (according to the World Health Organisation) I was pleased to see that Supermarkets in the UK may not be stocking poultry this Christmas. When will Australia join them in realising that the best way to stop the bird flu threat is to stop farming chicken?

Alexandra Purchase
Melbourne

Whales

Dear Ministers
I am writing to strongly urge

you to ensure that our Government continues, without compromise, to maintain its current position on the moratorium on commercial whaling and to reaffirm its commitment to the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary in the Antarctic.

The intention of Japan to double their 'scientific' slaughter of minke, humpback and fin whales is totally unacceptable to the majority of Australians. That some of these whales will be slaughtered in the Australian Whale Sanctuary makes a mockery of Australia's pledge to protect these magnificent mammals in that environment.

Japan is already blatantly ignoring regulations under the IWC. To allow the killing under IWC Special Permit in Antarctic waters is condoning this heinous behaviour.

Let Japan know that Australia is 'fair dinkum' in its stance on the moratorium on commercial whaling by taking them to the International Court of Justice.

Please continue to apply pressure in the Pacific Islands encouraging the Soloman's, Turalu, Kiribati, and others who have joined the IWC, to vote against whaling.

Australia can be instrumental in maintaining the survival of the humpback, minke, and fin whales. We have to be relentless in the pursuit of this goal.

L Bristow (VIC) 6.11.05