

## Secretary's Report

Welcome members and friends to our well overdue Winter newsletter, so much has been happening at AEFI that it's very hard to get it all into print.

**TREE PLANTING:** AEFI has had three groups of International Student Volunteers again this Winter, each group staying for two weeks and being involved with our wildlife conservation in the region. This program of hosting students has continued for well over ten years now and has been a great boost to the conservation projects over the years. Our Facebook site is always a great place to see daily activities of these groups and you can also catch up on our Australian wildlife posts. I must, on behalf of AEFI, thank everyone involved in this Winter's habitat restoration project. Firstly the ISV organization, their team leaders, the USA students and our local volunteers for their great tree planting efforts. The program could only have happened with the funding from the Federally funded One Tree Per Child program. The next group of students to plant several thousand trees will be from a local Blue Mountains school, Cranbrook. Their outdoor education unit will plant trees on their own property in the Wolgan valley, this will bring the total trees planted this Winter to 10,000. Well Done everyone involved.

**AEFI AGM:** members please note that our annual general meeting this year is on the **18 September** not our usual day around endangered species day, this year our open day on the 11 September with include a fun run around the AEFI conservation area. This event is a fund raiser for the Bilby fund and organized by ZOO RUN. Go to [www.savethebilbyfund.com](http://www.savethebilbyfund.com) or [www.zoorun.com.au](http://www.zoorun.com.au) for more details.

## International Student Volunteers (ISV)

For the last ten years international students volunteers from all over the world have been coming to Secret Creek and supporting AEFI conservation projects. This year they were back again with three groups of ten students staying thirteen days each.

On their first day we provide lunch and orientation to explain how we manage AEFI land as a conservation reserve. During their stay they were working in the Wolgan valley planting some of the 10,000 trees that we sourced from the local native nursery from seeds collected throughout the year from the valley. This was all be based on a private property which is a farming property with fenced off conservation areas. These areas are being used to conserve the habitat of the Swift Parrot and the Regent Honey Eater which are both endangered species mostly due to the diminishing grassy box woodland.

One week was spent on the AEFI property doing track work and maintenance in preparation for the Zoo Run and had the opportunity to learn more about the native animals by helping with housekeeping, feeding etc. On their last night they enjoyed an indigenous cultural evening around the camp fire listening to dreamtime stories with Bob Sutor playing didgeridoo. Always well received.



## TAFE students come to AEFI

On Tuesday 14 June a small group of graduating students visited Secret Creek Sanctuary. They had completed Certificate 2 in Animal Studies and came to Secret Creek to get a feel for wildlife conservation and in particular some of the opportunities they may experience on their career path. On their day trip Trevor Evans founding member of AEFI explained the concept and set up of AEFI including the vision and goals of the Foundation as well as the Sanctuary. They experienced a guided tour including explanation of the endangered species, breeding programs and current and future projects at the sanctuary and other AEFI sites.



FROM LEFT: Kaylean, Shane, Bronwyn (teacher), Jamie, Adam, Olivia

This **Fun Run** day is a joint fundraising project with AEFI, Secret Creek Sanctuary and Featherdale Wildlife Sanctuary.

For enquiries and registration go to

[www.zoorun.com.au](http://www.zoorun.com.au)



**SUNDAY  
11 SEPTEMBER 2016**

## One young lady makes a big difference

Lara, a young 7 year old from Melbourne wanted to help her favourite endangered animal which happened to be the Eastern Quoll. She set out on a mission and decided to have glow in the dark green silicon bracelets made because quolls see in the dark. She had "kids care for quolls" printed on them. After they were made she set up a meeting with her school principle to start selling them at her school. She even stood up in her assembly to talk about quolls and their plight and to announce she was selling bracelets in school for \$2 each and she even had posters made and placed them around her school. To date she has made \$260 and has kindly chosen AEFI as the recipient of the donations to her save the quoll program. What a great effort ! Thankyou so much from the Eastern Quolls at Secret Creek Sanctuary.



## Creek Grant work continues

Work is progressing on weed eradication in the privately owned unnamed creek outside, but close to the AEFI Newnes Plateau Conservation Reserve. The TAFE trained crews are removing willows, blackberry, broom and other noxious weeds. Geographic Information System (GIS) weed mapping has been completed. This mapping shows the location of single large plants eg willows, blackberries and groups of other plants and helps the team locate and plan their activities. The crews start at the top of the catchment and work their way down. As work is done it is plotted on the GIS system, then a map can be printed. At any time it is possible to see which plants and areas have been targeted and what work has yet to be completed. As this is a riparian zone, it is a sensitive area and our crews take the utmost care not to harm or have impact on native species or their habitat. The techniques used to eradicate the weeds are to cut and paste for smaller shrubs, and drill and inject for large trees using invertebrate friendly approved chemicals. Work is expected to continue on this project for two years, with further funding to be received into the second year of activities. GIS is great technology for this type of project.

## AEFI enlist K9 Detection dogs

K9 detection dogs are being enlisted to help detect animals like koalas, quolls and many other endangered wildlife. K9's are great to use for this job because of the heightened sense of smell and sight. To train these dogs takes a lot of hard work and patience and the more dogs that can be trained the safer endangered species will be as we will be able to study them and learn more about them. This value has been demonstrated recently in Australia (in particular, by Oscar and Maya, both trained detection and survey of the Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*). Oscar was killed in action, removing a koala from a busy road in Port Macquarie. Oscar was trained and handled by Dr. Shields, and Maya is Dr. Cristescu's survey dog. ACK9S will work in collaboration with the University of the Sunshine Coast, setting up a canine conservation department in its life sciences faculty. Dr Jim Shields, Vice President of our Board, has accepted a position as Adjunct Professor in the department at USC. And if you head to the link below you can help by donating to this new conservation department to help fund the training of these K9'S (<https://www.chuffed.org/project/usc-detection-dogs-for-conservation#/supporters>).



Maya with her trainer and owner in the field detecting koalas

## Silk scarfs on sale to save the quolls.

Sydney silk artist Marta Madison of Silksation Silk Scarves and Fine Art has designed a limited edition scarf for AEFI to help raise funds for their Quoll conservation program. "I love the Australian Eucalypts and wanted to support the Foundation's work saving the Quoll population", says Marta. "I was inspired by the many shapes and colours of gum leaves during a walk last year, which I painted, then made into a silk scarf to wear with pride or to give as a gift".

These 100% silk scarves are digital prints of Marta's original piece, are washable and come in a lovely gift box at a very reasonable price of \$75. A percentage of sales will go to AEFI. To see more of Marta's unique art visit [www.silksation.wordpress.com](http://www.silksation.wordpress.com)

We will have scarves on display along with greeting cards, water-colours of tree frogs, quolls and kangaroos for sale in the Secret Creek Cafe gift shop.

Call Trevor at AEFI on 6351 4515 for more details.



## Volunteer profile

Hayley Newton Redstar and Jamie Newton Redstar have been a part of the Secret Creek Sanctuary volunteers for over two years involved in many of the projects and celebrating their marriage in 2012 at the sanctuary. Hayley lived in the UK before coming to Australia and has worked in the wildlife care field. Since being in Australia she has become a great lover of the wildlife and Secret Creek.

Jamie has lived in the Blue Mountains for 20 years and has always been an animal lover and just recently graduated animal studies certificate 2 and next year aims to do another course in wildlife care.

As a couple they have raised dingo puppies and helped socialise them, helped with cleaning enclosures and feeding routines and even admin. Thank you Jamie and Hayley for supporting what we do at AEFI with endangered and vulnerable species.



Jamie Newton Redstar



Hayley Newton Redstar

Become a member and Help us save Endangered babies



**Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc.**

All memberships are due for renewal this month

Single \$20

Family \$40

Silver \$150—silver members receive an extra gift (T-shirt, pen or bamboo shopping bag tote)

Gold \$500—gold members receive the above plus the opportunity to walk the pure bred dingoes at Secret Creek Sanctuary.

Platinum \$1000—platinum members are entitled to an animal experience for two people at Secret Creek Sanctuary which includes meeting & feeding the animals as well as the dingo walk, photos of your experience, lunch and afternoon tea at Secret Creek Café & Restaurant.

Memberships can be renewed on the form found in this newsletter or online at [www.ausecosystems.org.au](http://www.ausecosystems.org.au)

We look forward to your continued support.

Follow this link to

**RENEW MEMBERSHIP NOW**

Coming soon. Secret Creek Sanctuary will offer tours of its new endangered woodland bird aviary. Opening this Spring



**Tassie Devil fundraiser**

AEFI are doing a fundraising drive to refurbish the Tasmanian Devil enclosure at Secret Creek Sanctuary. Secret Creek are going through the ZAA accreditation which will allow them to receive high profile species such as Tasmanian Devils and koalas. You may have been aware that Secret Creek had already created a Devil enclosure several years ago however were never able to source animals. The enclosure was then damaged during flood episodes with the glass viewing screen damaged beyond repair. Now with ZAA accreditation sorted and animals pending the enclosure needs urgent repair. With your help we can make this a reality.

**Thank You To These Sponsors For Their Valuable Support**







*The Eastern Quoll  
- back from the brink of extinction  
on mainland Australia.*



Conserving and protecting Australian natural ecosystems

### Current Projects

- Mountain Pygmy Possum Recovery Project
- Eastern Quoll Captive Breeding and Release Project
- Restoration and Management of Conservation Reserves for Wildlife Habitat
- Working with young people to educate them about conservation issues facing our world today

For more information about our projects past and present please contact us.

### TO MAKE YOUR BEQUEST

*Please consult your legal advisor if considering a bequest. The following wording may be a useful general guide to those wishing to make a bequest to the AEFI.*

*"I give and bequeath to Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc. free of all duties, all (or a share of) the residue of my estate absolutely and I direct that the receipt of the Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc. shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor for this gift which is to be applied to the general native wildlife conservation objectives of AEFI."*

# THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

## Have you considered a bequest?

If saving Australian Native Wildlife is your passion and you want to see your passion continue to work into the future to preserve our wildlife for future generations, beyond your time here, then have you considered leaving a bequest to Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc (AEFI) in your will?

AEFI has a solid reputation among its peers in the conservation industry as undertaking cutting edge conservation projects and "getting the job done". "We are not top heavy with administration, with over 90% of our income going towards 'on ground' work", says Trevor Evans, founding President and Australian Geographic Society's 2010 Conservationist of the Year.

As a not for profit organisation we are sometimes limited by available funds. Supporting our work through a bequest will ensure we can continue on our work to save Endangered Australian Wildlife for years to come.



Dr Don Stammer AEFI president & former chief economist/director of Investment Strategy for Deutsche Bank Australia commends AEFI for its reputation for 'getting the job done'.

CUT OUT & SEND 

Yes. Please send me more information about how I can include **Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc.** in my will. Please send me information about how I can donate now.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

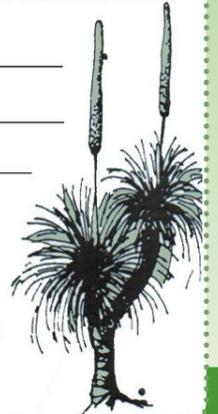
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: **Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc**  
**35 Crane Rd Lithgow NSW 2790**

Or email us at [info@ausecosystems.org.au](mailto:info@ausecosystems.org.au)



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