

## Secretary's Report

Well we have come to the end of another financial year. Thank you for your generous support so far this year. We would particularly like to thank 13 year old Rose O'Donnell who ran her own campaign and donated \$400 in birthday money to the Foundation to support our work with Eastern Quolls. The future for conservation is looking bright with dedication like this in the conservationists of the future.

Without your support AEFI's work to save endangered species and habitats would not be possible. Our work is far from over, there is less funding available in the current economic climate for not-for-profits and even for the government agencies who manage our national parks. Our wildlife is suffering for it. So please take this opportunity to think about making a tax deductible donation before the end of this financial year. We are currently running an important campaign to raise funds for AEFI's own property, Newnes Plateau Conservation Reserve, which joins private and public land on the edge of the World Heritage Blue Mountains area. See our special lift out in this newsletter for more on that project.

As part of the busy time of year that is June, AEFI memberships are due for the new financial year so take this opportunity to renew your membership by either returning the form attached with this newsletter, or by completing the online form on our website.

This year our AGM falls right on Threatened Species Day, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, and all members are welcome to attend. It will be held at Secret Creek Café inside Secret Creek Sanctuary at 10am. We will also hold our annual Open Day on the same day, following the meeting. Come along and see the Sanctuary's animals, enjoy a free BBQ lunch (supported by Family First Credit Union) and meet with our other supporters. Bring your friends and share with them the experience of what it means to save threatened species and their habitats.

## Eastern Quolls



The quolls at Secret Creek Sanctuary have put on their research hats and will be part of a valuable

new project. Dr Shawn Wilder from the University of Sydney, together with colleagues at Taronga Zoo, is undertaking a study on the dietary requirements of marsupial carnivores. The team will be looking at food preferences in Tasmanian Devils and our Eastern Quolls. Animals often need different nutrients at different times of the year, for example they may need a higher fat or protein content in breeding season, so this study will be extremely important for improving our Eastern Quoll breeding project.

Most wildlife nutrition research to date has been on eutherian carnivores.(placental mammals), there is no data available for marsupial carnivores. Since most of our native predators are marsupials, this study is particularly important for Australian wildlife.

## Mountain Pygmy Possums in the news



Mountain Pygmy-possums have been gathering publicity lately. Our Foundation is a partner in efforts to save this gorgeous creature, and with a bit more support, Secret

Creek Sanctuary in Lithgow will soon house a secure population of these little critters. As the natural habitat of these marsupials is above the snow line, and that habitat is shrinking, the breeding program will also investigate whether the pygmy-possums are able to survive below the snow line. Dr Linda Broome from the Office of Environment and Heritage has been out with the possums, gathering support for their cause.

You can watch the latest on the possum story on ABC Lateline online, 8th March 2013 titled "Plan to save pygmy possums from global warming" The Sydney Morning Herald also featured a story on the 24th March 2013 (see our facebook page for direct links). [www.facebook.com/AustralianEcosystemsFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/AustralianEcosystemsFoundation)

## Hats off to our volunteers and donors

These are hard financial times and AEFI would like to thank all of the donors who have supported us this financial year. For reasons of privacy we won't name you all here. Suffice to say that we've had incredibly generous individuals helping us out. This includes our long term supporters and members who are the backbone of our organisation. Other new members have visited the Sanctuary at Secret Creek, come face to face with the region's threatened species, and been so moved that they've donated \$10,00 on the spot. We are privileged to have you supporting our cause, and together we can continue to make a difference. Thank you.



AEFI Office staff are greatly appreciative of the generous donation of a laptop by local businessman Andy Piggott. We had a small IT crisis this year and Andy came to the rescue, getting our office back up and running again with a brand new laptop. Thanks Andy. Now our office staff don't have to fight over computers anymore.

## AEFI in the Media

The plight of the eastern quoll was featured in **Australian Geographic Magazine** online in February 2013. Sadly, that month marked 50 years since the least eastern quoll was seen on mainland Australia, officially qualifying the quoll as an extinct species on the mainland. Further research is required to find out how these animals became extinct and how best to reintroduce them into the wild. You'll find the link to the story on our facebook page. Don't forget to like us!

**ABC Radio National's 'Off Track' program** visited Secret Creek and AEFI on 16<sup>th</sup> March. If you missed the interview segment with Trevor and Kellie on the Foundation's role in breeding endangered species at Secret Creek Sanctuary, take a look at the news page on our website to listen in.

[www.ausecosystems.org.au](http://www.ausecosystems.org.au)

We receive help from all sorts of people, in all sorts of ways. We'd like to say thank you to AEFI volunteer Serlina Wong, a graphic designer who donated her time to produce some promotional material for AEFI – a stand-up banner (pictured right), and a wrap around promotional table display. These will be used at Open Days at Secret Creek Sanctuary and at off-site locations such as community fun days and fetes, as well as guest speaker events. The materials will be a great help in raising the profile of our organisation and educating the community about our the plight of Australia's threatened species. As a volunteer based organisation, we rely on the efforts of people like Serlina. If you have skills and some spare time to give, please get in touch.



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CONSERVATION  
THROUGH

ACTION



Australian Ecosystems Foundation  
is dedicated to restoring  
and conserving Australian  
ecosystems and biodiversity

Please ask how you can help

[www.ausecosystems.org.au](http://www.ausecosystems.org.au)

AEFI is a nationally registered not-for-profit environmental organisation.  
Registered charity: tax deductible gift recipient, income tax exempt.

## Thank You To These Sponsors For Their Valuable Support



Celebrating a new century  
Founded in 1909





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



**Australian  
Ecosystems  
Foundation Inc.**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

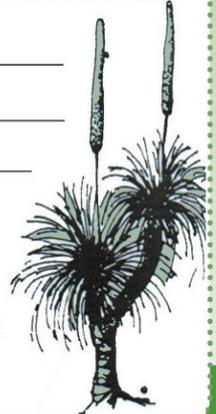
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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