

CONFERENCE DELEGATES

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ORGANISATION PROFILES

**Dick Olesinski & Chris Halstead
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Resource Conservation and Management Branch
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Fleurieu District
57 Ocean Street (PO Box 721)
VICTOR HARBOUR SA 5211**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Resource Conservation and Management Division has ultimate responsibility for Whale Management within SA.

The management of whales and whale watching is primarily delegated to districts within the DENR Regions. The Coastal Regions of West, South and Central are involved through District Managers at Fleurieu, Innes, Kangaroo Island and Far West.

The Fleurieu and Far West Districts are actively involved in monitoring, public education, managing whale watch operators and formulating new whale watching regulations. This is particularly relevant to the winter visits of Southern Right Whales.

Assistance is provided through Dick Olesinski's Public Communications Branch particularly the coordination of a community awareness campaign. Other assistance is provided by the Resource Protection Branch who are involved in the legislative side particularly in the amendments to the SA National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Community awareness campaign

The South Australian Department of Environment and Land Management through the department's Coastal Management Branch, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Public Communications Branch have jointly coordinated the development and introduction of the community awareness campaign.

The campaign aims to minimise and where possible, eliminate environmental damage caused by persons involved in whale watching.

The situation in South Australia is unique compared to other states in Australia. The problems encountered are generally land based. Other states generally relate to water based problems associated with whale watching. The region is in easy reach of the general community, only being 60 kms away from metropolitan Adelaide.

Various organisations are eagerly awaiting the outcome of this community education approach to controlling and eliminating the environmental problems associated with whale watching.

Campaign objectives

The objectives of the campaign are to:

- increase the level of concern by whale watchers for the fragile vegetation, cliff areas and dune systems and to increase their level of understanding of the need for environmentally sensitive behaviour.
- minimise the environmental impact caused by whale watchers, and
- promote a whale watching code specifically for the state's Encounter coast area.

The environmental awareness code proposes to:

- educate the community regarding environmental damage caused by whale watchers,
- provide positive ways to protect the coastal dune system, and
- identify specific guidelines and safety issues associated with whale watching.

Dr Denise Russel
The University of Sydney
Department of General Philosophy
Rm S432 Main Quad A14
Sydney NSW 2006

Dr Denise Russel is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Philosophy at the University of Sydney. The Department has an interest in pursuing theoretical research related to environmental philosophy and in teaching courses in this area to students primarily in the Faculty of Arts. Of particular interest is the ethical issues that arise in human-whale interaction, questions such as what sort of contract is ethically defensible, is whaling ever justifiable, what is the reason for placing limits on tourist interaction and scientific research? Are there good reasons for placing other curbs on other human activity to save whales from depletion (e.g. relating to pollution or oceans, fishing techniques)? In general it is the principles behind regulations rather than the regulations themselves which are the Departments focus. The conference, while focusing on actual practices and regulations did raise these questions in indirect ways and thus was enormously useful.

Ald Ken Bennett
Hervey Bay City Council
PO Box 45
Torquay QLD 4655

- Chairman of the Fraser Coast and South Burnett Tourism Board. This encompasses the Hervey Bay Marine Park area, and of the 300 or so members quite a number are involved in the Whale watching industry.
- Chairman of the H.B.C.C. Tourism sub-committee. This committee also defines the local tourist operators.
- Member Hervey Bay Marine Park Advisory Committee. Through this committee Whale Watching Permits are assessed.
- Member of Great Sandy Management Advisory Committee. This committee is involved in shaping the management of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Straits for the future.
- Chairman of Hervey Bay Police/Community consultative committee. As police in Hervey Bay now have a strong presence on the waterways of the Great Sandy Straits they will probably take a greater part in control of water craft.

Doug Coughran
Department of Conservation and Land Management
Wildlife Protection Branch
PO Box 104
COMO 6152.

CALM's mission:

We conserve and manage Western Australia's wildlife and the lands, waters and resources entrusted to the Department for the benefit of present and future generations.

Western Australia has a beautiful, diverse and supportive natural environment which provides material, aesthetic and spiritual benefits. It is an essential part of Western Australians' livelihood and quality of life.

In keeping with our mission, the Department of Conservation and Land Management has the following objectives.

Conservation: To conserve indigenous plants, animals and ecological processes in natural habitats throughout the State.

Value and Use of Resources: To optimise the value and economic return to the community of wildlife, lands, waters and resources entrusted to the Department without compromising conservation and other management objectives.

Tourism and Recreation: To identify and provide opportunities and services to the community which allows them to enjoy the wildlife, lands, waters and resources entrusted to the Department without comprising conservation and other management objectives.

Knowledge: To seek and provide an up-to-date and sound scientific and information basis for the Department's conservation and land management activities.

Community Support: To promote community awareness and appreciation of the values of the wildlife, lands, waters and resources entrusted to the Department, and the develop community understanding and support for the Department's conservation and land management activities.

Human Resources: To recruit, develop, reward and retain knowledgeable and talented staff, and to provide a stimulating, safe, productive and supportive work environment where staff can pursue individual goals consistent with those of the Department.

Corporate Efficiency: To optimise the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the Department in the achievement of conservation and other management objectives.

Greg Kaufman & Paul Forestell
Pacific Whale Foundation
101 N. Kihei Rd., Kihei, Hawaii, USA 96753 or
GPO Box 407, Brisbane, 4001, Queensland, Australia

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Australia	Ph: (071) 28 4424	Fax: (071) 28 4423

The Pacific Whale Foundation is a non profit research, education and conservation organisation whose purpose is to educate the public, from a scientific perspective, about marine animals and the ocean environment. Founded in 1980, Pacific Whale Foundation has conducted scientific field studies of humpback whales in Hawaii, Alaska, the Ogasawara Islands of Japan, Tonga, American Samoa, Queensland and Western Australia. Foundation scientists are also conducting studies of the status of tropical reef corals and coral fish communities in Hawaii. In addition to supporting studies carried out by Pacific Whale foundation personnel, funding support has also been provided for studies of endangered dolphins in New Zealand and South America.

Current research efforts include studies of the distribution and movement patterns of humpback whales along the east coast of Australia using aerial surveys and photo identification from small boats; abundance estimates of humpback whales near Perth, Western Australia, based on photo identification; distribution and behaviour of humpback whales wintering near Maui, Hawaii; assessment of human activity on diversity and abundance of coral reefs and coral fish species at selected sites in Hawaii; and determination of attitudes and values influencing public participation in structured programs to view marine mammals in the wild.

Pacific Whale Foundation's educational efforts are incorporated under the Ocean Outreach Program. Projects include the organ Adopt-a-Whale program; guided whalewatches and tide pool excursions for school children; school visits with the Ocean Van; an internship program to provide the general public exposure to field research opportunities; development of marine mammal educational materials; public awareness activities; and educational marine recreation programs. Pacific Whale Foundation has recently developed a Marine Mammal Naturalist Certification, which is offered through Maui Community College.

Conservation efforts have been directed at working with management agencies in Queensland and Hawaii to encourage public interest in whale watching, while managing activities to ensure long term protection of the resource. Pacific Whale Foundation has conducted workshops for whale watch boat operators in Hawaii and Japan, and participated in similar programs elsewhere in the United States and Australia. Currently, Foundation staff are working with state and federal agencies in Hawaii to develop a Management Plan for the newly designed Humpback Whale Sanctuary.

The Pacific Whale Foundation is a membership organisation of approximately 3,500 supporters. While these are primarily from the United States and Australia, we also have members from Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria and the Middle East. Our funding sources include memberships, internships, sales of merchandise, donations, and research grants. Pacific Whale Foundation's main office is in Kihei, Maui, with a satellite office in Brisbane, Australia.

Further information about Pacific Whale Foundation's programs, reprints of scientific articles, and copies of educational materials and brochures may be obtained by writing either the Hawaii or Queensland addresses.

**Margaret Gooch & Tim Stevens (Brisbane), Allan Jeffery (Maryborough),
Brent Vincent (Cairns)
Queensland Department of Environment & Heritage
GPO Box 155
BRISBANE QLD 4002.**

The Department is required to be the lead agency in all environmental management matters in Queensland. As such it is required to:

- monitor the quality of the natural environment
- manage the environmental impact assessment process in relation to the natural environment
- co-ordinate environmental management aspects of the activities of other Queensland government departments at a policy level and conduct appropriate environmental audits
- regulate environmental management matters generally
- report to government on the state of the natural environment and environmental management
- establish a consultation process which allows Government, industry, the public and all relevant client groups to participate and contribute to decision making processes.

Implementation of these requirements in most respects aligns closely with the Department's corporate strategies.

In accord with the Departments role, the Division of Environment has been active in promoting sustainable resource use practices and responsible environmental management across government. A close working relationship between Divisional offices, many agencies including the Departments of Business Industry and regional Development, Housing, Local Government and Planning has assisted all parties in achieving better environmental management.

In particular, the Division of Environment has played a major role in promoting the adoption and implementation of those actions detailed in the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and the National Greenhouse Response Strategy. Strategies endorsed in December contain about 400 actions designed to steer society onto a path of development which is sustainable in the long term.

The Department has promoted incorporation of the strategies' initiatives and policy directions into policies and programs of, in particular, the Department of Transport, Primary Industries, and Minerals and Energy. Areas of input have focussed on energy efficiency and conservation, greenhouse gas emissions, transport planning and water resources management.

As lead agency, it also provides policy advice on a range of environmental issues to the Office of Cabinet. This advice assists in the development of Government policy.

Regional planning particularly in the south-east corner of the State is one of the major issues facing the Government. The Division has played a key role in identifying environmental management issues at the earliest possible phase.

Andrew Baxter
The Department of Conservation
PMB 5
Nelson NEW ZEALAND

The Department of Conservation's (DOC) mission is to conserve the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand for the benefit of present and future generations. More specifically the Department is responsible for ensuring:

- Conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources
- Public awareness of, support for, and enhancement of a conservation ethic both within New Zealand and internationally
- Sensitive and sustainable use of New Zealand's natural and historic resources by the public.

New Zealand's Protected Heritage

Our protected heritage contains:

- Plants and animals found nowhere else on earth
- A remarkable variety of landscapes and landforms
- Sites of great historic and cultural significance
- Some of the world's most outstanding national parks, including two World Heritage Areas
- Island nature reserves which are internationally important havens for threatened birds and marine mammals.

Caring for Threatened Species

Environmental problems are complex, and the DOC works on many fronts, from the local to the global. New Zealand is home to some of the world's oldest plants and animals, including the beech forests, kauri trees, tuatara, native frogs, kiwi, kakapo, giant weta and land snails. Many of them are now at risk. Protection and recovery work includes special breeding programs; transferring endangered species to offshore islands without predators; and controlling cats, rats, possums and other introduced animals. Increasingly the focus is on protecting whole communities of interdependent plants, insects and animals.

Caring for the Coast

Coastal and marine ecosystems face growing problems of pollution and overuse. Ensuring that these often fragile environments are managed sustainably, and seeking greater protection for them, are priorities. The Department:

- Works to reduce coastal pollution
- Promotes better understanding of the coast and more effective coastal planning and management
- Prepares the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement which guides regional councils in ensuring wise use of coastal resources
- Looks after marine mammals, sea birds and turtles in New Zealand's waters
- Maintains a record of New Zealand's coastal resources
- Is working with community and interest groups to set up a network of marine reserves around the coast
- Promotes the conservation of fisheries and the marine ecosystem

Involving the Community

Community support for conservation has grown rapidly, and increasingly the public are sharing the responsibility of conserving New Zealand's natural resources. Activities include visitor programs, information displays and education activities. Conservation volunteers and New Zealand Conservation Corps give 'hands on' experience. The community is also being given more of a voice in the department's decision making. DOC's regional conservation management strategies seek full public participation in deciding conservation priorities.

Mark Simmons, Deb Postle, Janine Kuhl & Steve Raaymakers
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is the principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is universally acknowledged as one of the natural wonders of the world, and proper management of the Reef is vital to its conservation for future generations. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority were established in 1975 to ensure the Great Barrier Reef's protection and wise use.

The Authority has an established national and international reputation for excellence in marine protected area planning and management, and regularly receives requests from Australian and overseas agencies for assistance in marine natural resource management.

The Authority is a Commonwealth statutory body consisting of a full time Chairman, Professor Graeme Kelleher, and two part time members, presently Professor Rhondra Jones of James Cook University of North Queensland, and Dr Craig Emerson, Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage.

The Authority is part of the environment portfolio of the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories. The Authority's functions are specified in sections 7 and 7A of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. In summary the Authority's functions are:

- to make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including areas that should be declared as parts of the Marine Park and the regulations that should be made under the Act
- to carry out and arrange for other persons or institutions to carry out research and investigations relevant to the Marine Park
- to prepare zoning plans for the Marine Park
- to furnish advice and information to the Minister on matters relating to the Marine Park, including agreements and financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and Queensland
- to provide and arrange for the provision of educational, advisory and informational services relating to the Marine Park
- to provide assistance to other institutions and persons in matters relating to environmental management

The organisational structure of the Authority, which mirrors its areas of responsibility and expertise, is comprised of the following sections: Planning and Management, Research and Monitoring, Environmental Impact Management, Education and Information, Administration, External Services and Corporate and Strategic Projects. The Authority also runs the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium in Townsville, an important educational facility devoted to enhancing community understanding, appreciation, experience of and support for the Great Barrier Reef, the Marine Park and the Authority.

The Authority works cooperatively with other government agencies, to the maximum extent possible, in pursuing its goal of providing for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.