

CYCAD

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YOUR JOURNAL

CYCAD, the official journal of the Gosford District Fauna & Flora Protection Society; is concerned principally with items of natural history interest in this district and the activities of its members. Conservation however, cannot be confined within political boundaries, so the work of this Society and its Members often extends interstate.

The submission of articles, photos, drawings, blocks and relative newspaper cuttings is invited. Manuscripts must be clearly typed with double interspacing and scientific data and names should be checked with appropriate authorities. This journal is produced as editorial material becomes available.

Views expressed in these pages are those of the authors and do not necessarily coincide with this Society's convictions.

Support this Society's work by joining as a member. Subscriptions are 2/6d. annually for an Associate Member, 10/- annually for Ordinary Membership and £5 in one sum for Life Membership. All members are welcome at monthly meetings and lectures. CYCAD will be issued without further cost to Ordinary and Life Members only. Separate copies may be purchased for 2/6d. per copy. Back numbers are on hand.

THE COVER

Juvenile Grey Kangaroo (Macropus major Shaw.) Survivor from a kangaroo hunt in the Western Districts of New South Wales, this little "Joey", aged about 6 months, could not live without artificial sustenance and specialized care. Normally the female

E D I T O R I A L

Eminent zoologists, Professor A.J. Marshall and Doctor T. Ealey, both of Monash University, in a recent A.B.C. Television interview stated bluntly that graziers could be considered as experts on sheep management but the study of kangaroos should be left to zoologists. It has taken a long time for somebody to say this and it is now up to the Australian graziers to accept this position and co-operate whole-heartedly in the intense programme that the C.S.I.R.O. and associated bodies are undertaking in the investigation of the kangaroo.

Too many unqualified statements have been publicly aired in the past, while the real authorities, those scientists who have been engaged for the past few years in exhaustive studies of kangaroos, have remained silent. This is because it is not yet time to publish conclusions. However, a few facts are emerging, and on these the Fauna Protection Panel has seen fit to comment

The Gosford District ironically contains some of the best country suited to the survival of the Grey Kangaroo along the eastern coast. Unfortunately this land has been subdivided into small farming allotments; A few Grey Kangaroos still exist in the more primitive parts of the Shire but these are being continually harrassed by beagle hounds let loose to hunt at will. The Grey Kangaroo herd at Morisset has been decimated by dogs and illegal weekend hunters, so on the Central Coast this species is now rarely seen. (The Brisbane Water National Park contains insufficient grazing to support large numbers of Grey Kangaroos.)

An interesting note here is that about sixty Macropods are grazed on a ten acre portion of the Australian Reptile Park

at Gosford and the lawns which are neither watered or fertilized artificially still require regular mowing.

Grey Kangaroos, while not in immediate danger of extinction, are vanishing at an incredible rate from the inland. During the war years I saw herds of several hundred strong on West Arm opposite Darwin and in the Adelaide River and Pine Creek districts. Now they are rarely seen. At about the same period I saw similar herds throughout central Queensland but on a trip undertaken last year only one specimen was sighted, and this drinking brackish water from the Bynoe River in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Red Kangaroos too, in these areas have been greatly reduced in numbers, but not to the same extent as the Grey Kangaroo.

approval and continues to bring in new members. The Society is deeply appreciative of the work done by the Editor, Mr. Eric Worrell in this connection.

The Fourth Natural History Exhibition held in September at the Australian Reptile Park, although having splendid exhibits of considerable interest, was marred by almost continuous rain. To the members who gave their time and energy to the organizing of the Exhibition and to the members and the public who made available material for use at the time, the Society is deeply grateful. Again we are indebted to Mr. Eric Worrell who placed at our disposal the Australian Reptile Park.

Conservation: Our Society continues to campaign against exploitation of Wildlife and to seek for the retention of natural habitat wherever possible. In line with this policy we have asked for, and see some remedial measures applied by Wyong Shire Council to Frazer Park. We also sought, without success, for the retention of 'buffer' areas adjacent to Bateau Bay Reserve, also in the Wyong Shire. Other items which have received our attention have been a large scale sale of Elkhorns and Staghorns in Woolworths' store in Gosford, the dumping of rubbish in our National Parks and Reserves, illegal trapping of birds at Avoca, illegal capture and holding of fauna at Narara.

We have added our weight with other organizations to prevent mining operations in the Blue Mountain National Park; to curtail the use by speedboats of certain waterways and lagoons in local waters; to lessen the widespread shooting of possums in Tasmania and macropods in N.S.W., to ask for a full enquiry into the capture of three platypuses illegally taken from the Taree