Well it has been another ‘hopping mad’ year of action for the Friends … winning awards, helping Waterfall Springs captive breeding facility, educating school children about science and biodiversity, sharing our twenty years of conservation initiatives and partnerships through the film ‘On the edge’ and raising funds to help save Kangaroo Valley’s rock-wallaby population … from within a whisker of extinction. But as you know, the work is not over until the fat wallaby sings. Just as well we are a determined mob.

Now, at this time of year, I bet you are wondering: *Is there something I can get my loved ones for Christmas that will benefit Australia’s unique wildlife?*

**FRIENDS TO THE RESCUE! WE HAVE A VARIETY OF QUALITY GIFTS THAT ‘KEEP ON GIVING’**

PURCHASE ONLINE AT ROCKWALLABY.ORG.AU

Receive a **FREE** organic cotton kids t-shirt and quarterly updates with your symbolic **adoption pack**
- Our **eco travel cups** are just perfect for a coffee on the way to work (or holiday)
- Wear your Friends organic cotton **t-shirt or tote bag** proudly, knowing you have made a difference
  - Our adorable **new rock-wallaby plush toys** are super cuddly … and you know you are giving the **real joey’s a real chance** of survival in a world modified by humans
  - Own a **limited edition hardback photo book** of Kangaroo Valley’s Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby colonies ‘**LIFE ON THE ROCKS**’
    - *This is a rare and intimate view of the secret life of rock-wallabies like you’ve never seen before!*

BUY ... **PLUSH TOY + ADOPTION + TOTE BAG + LIMITED EDITION PHOTO BOOK + TRAVEL MUG + T-SHIRT = HELP SAVE ME!**

**Merry Christmas + Happy New Year**

And here’s heaps of recent monitoring photos … for all you wonderful SYMBOLIC ADOPTERS to enjoy!
NPWS SHOALHAVEN COLONIES REPORT

The three females (Ariel, Jewel and Wendy,) relocated to the Creek colony in June from Waterfall Springs captive breeding facility are still being radio-tracked within the colony. Unfortunately, the male Pumba was taken by wild dogs in September. The photo below of Rosie’s teenage son Gumnut is the only one we have since September – he had travelled a couple of kilometre to visit the new girls, even though he is still a long way from sexual maturity. There is still no sign of Pumba’s fecundity – in other words, no visible pouch action – with any of the other Creek colony’s females: Nibbler, Pinot, Fiona, Nala and Rosie.

In addition to the intensive fox shooting and baiting program, targeted dog baiting by NPWS and soft leg hold trapping by the Bagnall brothers (funded by the Friends) has so far protected the colonies from further predation.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: If you enjoy being a ‘fly on the wall’ for ‘LIFE ON THE ROCKS’ consider purchasing our beautiful, limited edition hard cover photo album of the Shoalhaven Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies and their creature Friends

Buy now at rockwallaby.org.au
PINOT THE POSER ... FOR SABINE, ALI, CHARLIE, CLASS 5A ILLAROO ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ALL THE OTHER PINOT FANS

FIONA IS PRETTY PHOTOGENIC TOO ... DON'T YOU THINK RICK, HENRY AND LISA?
At the Mountain colony the joeys of Merinda and Irene are jumping in circles around their mums to build their muscles. Old Wallace and Pangari seem to have split the fatherly duties; Pindari keeps a low profile.

At the River colony Gingernut is independent now and his mum, Wirra, has another joey emerging. Flower and Ray are busy with their babies. Sadly dear old Blazie was found dead at the end of September when author, Tim Lowe, was taken on a tour of her colony. Relatives Yaringa, Bindi, Brigalow and Bangarra are frequently observed nurturing her youngster Barallen. Gundaroo and joey have not been seen September.

Princess Pia carefully avoided the monitoring cameras, but did allow a close Friend to take a few professional portraits which she has given permission to publish towards the end of this newsletter.
LEFT: WIRRA KICKS HER JOEY OUT FOR POUCH CLEANING TIME; SUB ADULT GINGERNUT

RIGHT: FLOWER AND BUB

IRENE WITH HER YOUNG AT FOOT AND PANGARI IN THE BACKGROUND ... UNFORTUNATELY A CAT WAS SEEN ON THIS CAMERA
Another great Volunteers Day at Waterfall Springs!

More than 15 Volunteers braved the drizzle for a pleasurable and productive Volunteers Day at the Waterfall Springs Wildlife Sanctuary, Kulnura. For those who are not aware, Waterfall Springs was established over 10 years ago to breed Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies and other endangered species to replenish crippled colonies in NSW.

Waterfall Springs is supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Taronga Zoo, TAFE, as well as businesses and volunteers like the Friends. It is unique in that volunteers can play an active role in the development and success of the Sanctuary.
For the last 6 months, every month, up to 15 volunteers have joined the working bees to undertake everything from animal enclosure building and repairs to turf laying, tree planting, bush fire preparedness and weeding. If you would like to join one of the Volunteer Days at Waterfall Springs, contact the Friends.

**Long-time Friends supporter, Jann Mattick, thoroughly enjoyed the September Working Bee at Waterfall Springs Sanctuary. Here’s what she said about the experience:**

*What a wonderful experience to be ‘up close’ with the gorgeous Waterfall Springs Brush-tailed Rock wallabies. I even saw a very small joey in the pouch - what a treat! Clearing enclosures of debris from recent storms was easy and enjoyable with a great group of volunteers and staff followed by a lovely BBQ lunch. It was a pleasure to meet like-minded, dedicated people who care about the future of the BTRW. I hope every member of the Friends of the BTRW avail themselves of this unique and satisfying experience.*
Potential Sponsorship

Exciting news! The Friends have been contacted by Landcare who are acting as an agent for an iconic Australian corporation looking to support projects protecting threatened species. We were asked whether we would like to be considered in the selection process – we said Yes! Nothing happens very fast with large organisations, so we don’t expect to hear anything for some while, but watch this space....

Taking ‘On the Edge’ on the Road

In May we launched our beautifully made and informative documentary ‘On the Edge’ by Stuart Cohen, then a senior media officer with the Office of Environment and Heritage. The documentary was produced with a NSW Environmental Trust community education grant. We have started taking ‘On the Edge’ on the road, which is proving highly popular with community groups such as U3A, CWA and Probus. We give some fascinating insights into why the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby is so special and then follow-up the 20 minute documentary with a Q and A session. The whole presentation takes an hour to an hour and a half.

If you know of a community group in or around Kangaroo Valley (including Berry, Nowra and the Southern Highlands) who might be interested in this entertaining presentation, please call Chris on 4465 1922.
The Natives Fight Back ... with a little help from their Friends in Kangaroo Valley

Kangaroo Valley is unique in many ways: beautiful landscape, magnificent native animals and great community spirit. Nowhere is this more evident than in a recent campaign to protect our natives.

Following the tragic killing of more than ten wombats at Bendeela (news that reached as far as the UK) a group of residents have decided to fight back – to work on ways of protecting our native animals, many of whom cannot fight back themselves when faced with feral predators. The riparian habitat near the Hampton Bridge is home to many birds, reptiles and mammals. But it is also adjacent to human habitat.

Local residents became concerned about the number of native animals, particularly birds, falling prey to feral and domestic cats. These Wildlife Warriors decided they could no longer stand by and watch the devastation and so they borrowed a safe trap from Shoalhaven council. Two feral and one domestic cat were subsequently caught unharmed in this wildlife habitat and handed safely over to the council rangers.

“This is a big win for the local birds and animals” said one local resident, who has been working hard with Shoalhaven council to help address the predator problem.

“We can all make a difference, by either keeping our pet cats enclosed on our own premises or by helping with the trapping. Nobody ever thinks their cat kills native wildlife. However, the facts are quite different” the resident said, encouraging other local residents to become Wildlife Warriors.

“The domestic cat was caught in an area where there were regular bird kills. Already we are noticing the native bird populations returning to what we remember when we first moved here 20 years ago.”
We have had some great news over the last month. Australian National University (ANU) scientists lead by Professor Robert Costanza, a global expert on ecosystem modelling, are set to proceed with a Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby ecosystem modelling project. This project will incorporate works undertaken at Waterfall Springs, Kangaroo Valley, Jenolan Caves and the Warrumbungles to rebuild regional BTRW populations.

Ecosystem modelling, for those who have not come across this before, is based on the development of computer-based models of a particular ecosystem, involving all of the key elements of this ecosystem.

The work began in the United States, when a regional council was asked for approval to log a mountain region. A rather clever group of regional planners sat down and worked out what functions this area contributed back to the region, including clean water for the local towns and cities, recreational facilities and habitat for native animals.

They then calculated the cost of replacing these ‘natural capital’ resources from other sources. The result was twofold. It was clear that it was much more costly to have to replace the ‘natural capital’ from the mountain region, than any economic benefit to be gained by the proposed logging operation. Logging was therefore NOT approved, not just based on ‘environmental reasons’, but also the cold, hard economic facts – it didn’t add up financially.

Ecosystem modelling has continued to evolve from this, and is now the basis for the work done on Climate Change through the United Nations, as well as many other natural capital projects – and it is making a real difference to our ability to value and therefore manage environmental and natural capital resources.

A group in China has requested ANU investigate Panda habitat, and the work on the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (BTRW) will parallel this project. For the BTRW’s, the aim will be to develop an ecosystem model that will not only be able to measure all of the value that is contributed to and by the BTRW’s in the regions, but also to enhance our ability to successfully manage the threats to BTRW. This ground breaking work will involve a multidisciplinary team including representatives from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterfall Springs, the Friends, as well as academic staff from ANU.

To add to the excitement, the team at ANU are also looking to develop these models into interactive educational games. These games will enable children and adults to interact ‘virtually’ with the environmental factors that can improve BTRW habitat and survival. ‘Players’ will gain a ‘first hand’ understanding of the complex recovery issues and what they can do to assist the BTRW’s success.
OWNER OF THAT TAIL: A NATIVE BUSH TURKEY (JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!)
LOCAL POPULATIONS ARE RETURNING AS A RESULT OF THE FOX CONTROL PROGRAM

GORGEOUS COLOURING-IN ENTRY
BY SHARNI STEWART, AGE 6

‘ON THE EDGE’ ON THE ROAD HAS BEEN
STIMULATING MATURE AUDIENCES AND
ATTRACTING NEW FRIENDS MEMBERS
AND DONERS AT COMMUNITY GROUPS

CONTACT US BECOME A MEMBER TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION ADOPTION MERCHANDISE DOCUMENTARY