



June 2015

Welcome to the first edition of the *Friends* evolving E-newsletter.
If you don't usually get around to reading our newsletter, please make an exception this time ...

ON THE EDGE

The *Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby* recently celebrated the launch of their Environmental Trust-funded documentary in beautiful Kangaroo Valley. The film was very warmly received by one hundred and twenty supporters. Local politicians, the NPWS Regional Manager and other special guests spoke of the inspirational achievements of the Friends over two decades. A number of locals generously donated their time, entertainment talents and raffle prizes. A handful of committee members worked tirelessly to make the evening a big success. But if you couldn't make the party ... [watch 'On the edge' NOW !](#)

And here's an easy way for **YOU** to actively help the Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies – simply share these links on Email, Twitter and Facebook:

<http://www.rockwallaby.org.au/documentary>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-Brush-tailed-Rock-wallaby/190159674366571>



The community support, partnerships and management of the *Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby* has never been stronger. We have come a long way in twenty years, but still have a long road ahead.

The simple truth is: The more memberships, adoptions, merchandise sales and tax-deductible donations that come through to the *Friends*, the more feral control we can fund. The more *Friends* we have, the more Waterfall Springs Rock-wallabies we can release into the struggling Shoalhaven colonies. This is what is needed to make a stand against the species demise in the south.

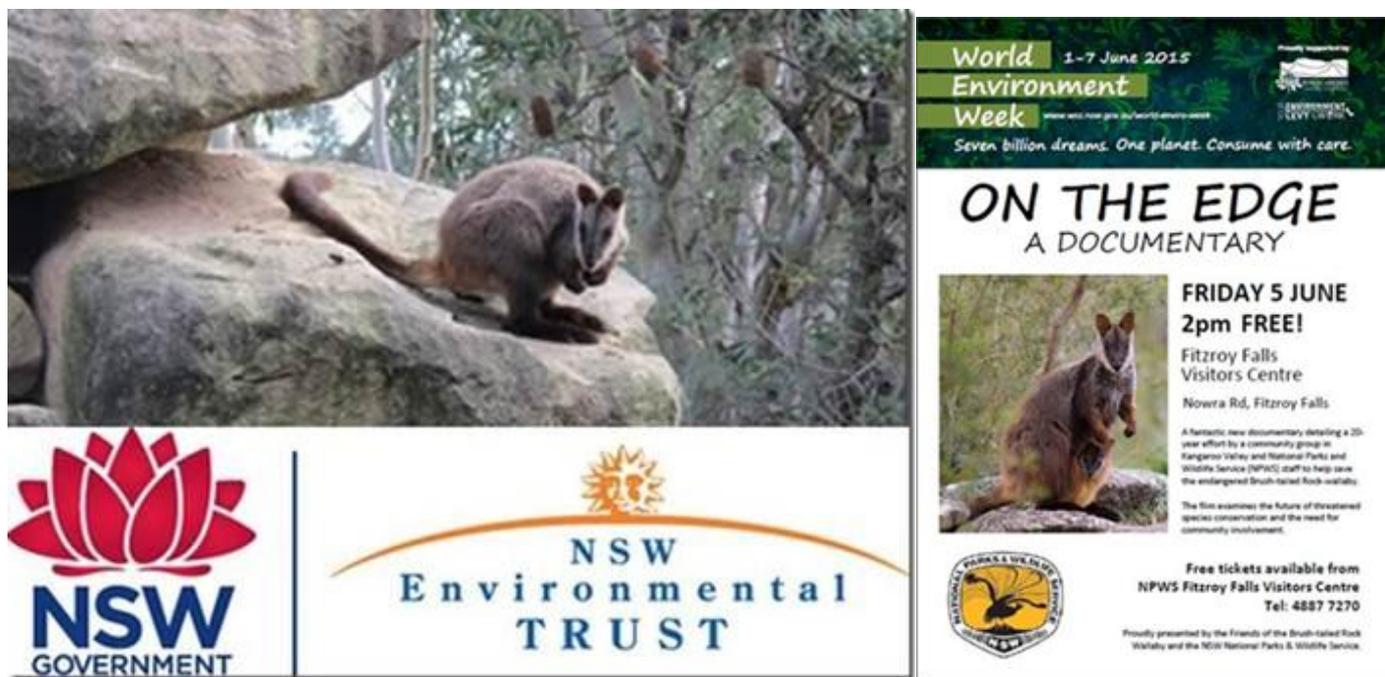
HELP US HELP THEM

The *Friends* hope the documentary inspires lots of people to visit rockwallaby.org.au. Please help us by promoting 'On the edge'. If you are a member of another organisation or club (and who isn't) – for example bush-walking, gardening, Lions, Rotary, Landcare – be *bold and beautiful* and show your group the *Friends* documentary. New *Friends* flyers and posters are available – if you know of somewhere suitable to display them, please email friends@rockwallaby.org.au

RECOGNITION FOR THE FRIENDS

The *Friends* are steadily gaining a reputation as a model of excellence in community-based conservation. The *Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby* have just been announced as one of three finalists in the *Community Award* category for the United Nations Association of Australia 2015 World Environment Day Awards. This national awards program plays an important role in raising awareness about key Environmental issues and challenges, and inspiring and motivating individuals, organisations and businesses to take positive steps towards sustainability and environmental excellence in their homes, schools, communities and workplaces. These awards will be held on 5 June 2015, Park Hyatt, Melbourne.

Wingecarribee Council is promoting a second public viewing of 'On the edge' for World Environment Day at 2pm Friday 5 June 2015 at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre – Phone 4887 7270 to secure free tickets.



The image is a composite of several elements. On the left is a photograph of a brush-tailed rock wallaby sitting on a large rock in a natural setting. Below this photo are the logos for the NSW Government (a red lotus flower) and the NSW Environmental Trust (a sun-like emblem with the text 'NSW Environmental TRUST'). On the right is a flyer for the documentary 'ON THE EDGE: A DOCUMENTARY'. The flyer includes the following text: 'World Environment Week 1-7 June 2015', 'Seven billion dreams. One planet. Consume with care.', 'ON THE EDGE A DOCUMENTARY', 'FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2pm FREE!', 'Fitzroy Falls Visitors Centre', 'Nowra Rd, Fitzroy Falls', 'A fantastic new documentary detailing a 20-year effort by a community group in Kangaroo Valley and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff to help save the endangered brush-tailed rock-wallaby. The film examines the future of threatened species conservation and the need for community involvement.', 'Free tickets available from NPWS Fitzroy Falls Visitors Centre Tel: 4887 7270', and 'Presented by the Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and the NPWS National Parks & Wildlife Service'. There is also a small circular logo for National Parks & Wildlife Service.

NPWS REPORT

Merinda, Irene, Wallace, Pangari and Pindari are all well at the Mountain Colony. We are contracting some expert feral trapping here soon, as (from our feral monitoring cameras) we know of a fox, cat and two feral dogs that have been avoiding the 1080 baits. This site, is not amenable to shooting due to the thick vegetation. At the River colony, Brigalow continues to be a playful and attentive dad to his offspring with Wirra, Bangarra, Blazie and Yalgoo. Little Bella, Bindi, Barellan & Yaringa (respectively) are *still* alive!

We need to step-up our joey survival rate at the Creek to match the River! Flower and Ray may have joeys on the way. Unfortunately Princess Pia's joey, Pilbara, was not been observed in May and might have succumbed to predation. All evidence points to the same old, cunning fox being responsible for the killing of three of the captive bred rock-wallabies released at the Creek colony late last year. This is really disappointing considering how much effort has gone into monitoring their wellbeing and how *well* they had adjusted to their new habitat and diet. Previously we have had minimal problem with predation of released sub adults and adults. This particular fox has avoided all targeted shooting, trapping and baiting to date and is causing us considerable anguish. Poor Pinot, Nibbler, Rosie, Fiona and Nala are out at the Creek colony without a male, since old Adam passed on. It is a shame the wild-born males leave their own colony in search of another upon sexual maturity, otherwise Ilyroo could have taken the throne here. And he wouldn't have been able to find another colony these days because they have all been lost. Another handful of individuals (including a new young stud) from Waterfall Springs will be soft-released into the predator-proof enclosure within the month. We are determined to trap this sneaky fox before it is time to open the enclosure gates. Remember that it is really helpful if you can report feral sightings, especially foxes, around Kangaroo Valley, Budgong and Illaroo directly to Dean Bagnall on 0427 462 044.

BIG THANK YOUS

A member has pledged a generous donation for every fox shot by our contracted shooter, Dean Bagnall. A Kangaroo Valley property owner has made a kind donation, acknowledging that the *Friends* extensive fox shooting program is responsible for saving many young calves. Thanks to these other recent adopters too: Elizabeth and Michael King from the UK, Fran Asbury, James Swinton and Mia Wright-Miller.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Since the Friends visited Illaroo Road Public School, several students in Class 5A have been busy baking and selling cupcakes to raise money. They were personally presented with their hard earned symbolical adoption of *Pinot* the Rock-wallaby, as well as DVD copies of 'On the edge' and party bags. Juliet is now visiting the Stage 6 extension class at Nowra PS to demonstrate the science behind the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby recovery plan and how we can all help to stop the extinction of species. Berry PS is next on her list thanks to the enthusiasm of one particular student, Mia. The teaching resources of the Friends Environmental Trust School Education Program are available online at: rockwallaby.org.au/school_ed Juliet is available to present at Schools and Community Events, groups and clubs. Just ask the Friends. The more *Friends* we have, the better for our Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies and other native biodiversity.



CATITUDES

Can attitudes change before its too late for Australia's unique biodiversity? You *can* love cats and *still* recognise the daunting threat they pose to thousands of native mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs and insects species. While the killing spree by domestic and stray cats can be brought under control largely by changing human habits, the nation wide extinction epidemic caused by feral cats is far trickier.

To catch-up on the science, check out this article:

<http://www.smh.com.au/good-weekend/menace-in-the-suburbs-20150508-122gk8.html>

WATERFALL SPRINGS

Concerned *Friends* travelled north of Gosford to Waterfall Springs Wildlife Sanctuary to meet with Celia Thomson (manager), Lloyd Oldfield (owner) and Deb Ashworth (head of NSW BTRW Recovery Team) to discuss the urgent and longer-term needs of the captive breeding facility upon which the state wide BTRW Recovery Program hinges. The severe storms in April caused significant damage to expensive predator and Rock-wallaby proof fencing. Last month Celia and Lloyd worked tirelessly, after their business days, in the dark and wet, rectifying the immediate mess and ensuring all Rock-wallabies were safe and secure. The meeting was stimulating and productive, with frank discussion of the needs of Waterfall Springs and many ideas for support thrown onto the table for consideration. Lloyd has been gravely concerned for the future of the successful and privately funded breeding facility. He has been reassured knowing the Friends and OEH are determined to provide ongoing support.



HANS WALLOSCHEK, DEB ASHWORTH, LLOYD OLDFIELD, CHRIS PRYOR AND IAN CHAMBERS RELIEVED AFTER DISCUSSING PLANS TO SECURE BTRW CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM AT WATERFALL SPRINGS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

BUNDANON FIELD DAY

Despite the soggy ground and afternoon rain, a good day was had at the Bundanon Field day on 2 May. The Friends played a big role in assisting with the event preparations and also held a stall on the day. There was a great turn out for the presentation by NPWS Project Officer Melinda Norton on the Shoalhaven BTRW Recovery Program including the partnership between NPWS and the Friends. Attendees were then invited to practice their radio-tracking skills and fauna camera-setting skills, technologies that are both vital to the work undertaken by NPWS on the BTRW program. We hope that Bundanon holds the event again next year as a little sunshine and the beautiful scenery make it a wonderful setting for a field day and a great opportunity to connect with the local community.



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