

Wonderful Winter—June 2011



100 Monkeys website
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Raving Fans

Some of the feedback from the Nambucca Valley Shire Service Providers Forum.



"I thoroughly enjoyed the facilitation at Macksville. In 25 years of attending similar planning consultations, that was the best I have ever been to. I was interested from the start and you kept my interest going."

"It was great visioning together! Synergy and building ideas for the area."

"It was great to have my opinions heard and documented and to have great facilitators. "

"Great networking and information. Well facilitated and ran smoothly."



Welcome to Winter

This has certainly been a year of transition and discovery. Since relocating to the Coffs Coast in September 2010, we have continued to work with our existing clients in North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales and have begun creating new relationships nearer to home.

We spoke to a community committee recently and told them that after five years of visiting the area, we felt it was time to see if the holiday experience could materialise on a daily basis. The good news is that it can and does. The coast and the hinterland are truly stunning and never cease to amaze us.

Julie & Heather



Waterfall on the Dorrigo Rainforest walk.

Evaluating

Information on the effectiveness and outcomes of a given project or program is the tool by which decisions are made to maintain, abandon or modify the strategy. Not all projects or programs require evaluation, however it is a good idea to evaluate anyway for the following reasons:

- Measuring the usefulness of the allocated resources
- Learning from the experience
- Planning for future projects/programs using the acquired knowledge
- Providing proof of the effectiveness of your work for other funding opportunities
- Uncovering both the intended and unintended consequences of the work
- Determining the value of the interventions
- Obtaining evidence upon which to base decisions about the work

Evaluations can be used as a monitoring tool for longer term projects or programs. Periodic review will also help to steer the work in the direction of the desired end point or outcomes.

Building in the evaluation process from the beginning is the best way to undertake the information gathering process. If in the end you find that "it *ain't* broke" then you will not have to fix it—but at least you will know for sure!

And if the approach or strategy is 'broke', or not quite working as well as you would like, then now is the time to tinker with it to get it working better.

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Leadership for Preservation

Interview with

Verna Simpson Director

Humane Society International



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL



Q1. How did you come to know that animal welfare and their preservation was your calling?

I had always intended working with disadvantaged children and my studies were directed towards this. I think it was the desire to stand up for the voiceless but when I got right down to it animals have the smallest voice of all and get such a small part of the charity dollar that I felt they were the most disadvantaged and needed the most help.

Q2. During the time you have been working for the protection and preservation of animals, what has fundamentally changed?

I would like to say that there is a greater determination to protect animals in need. There has been a lot of effort by a range of organisations to encourage government and industry to improve animal welfare but if you graph the effect of this we are cramming more animals into factory farms than ever before, polluting at a greater rate than ever before, losing more species than ever before and disappearing habitat at an alarming rate. So although there is great dialogue on animal issues, without the real support of Government and industry change is miniscule on the ground. What we are seeing is the general public taking mat-

ters into their own hands and communities pulling together to make change because they know if they wait for Government it will be too late.

Q3. What would you consider to be the greatest achievements for HSI over the past 10 years?

I would have to say the legal protection of over 10 million acres of important animal habitat within Australia and the protection and replanting of orang-utan habitat in Indonesia.

Highlights would also be the banning of dog and cat fur into Australia and our successful legal challenges for a range of animals.

Q4. What are the most important issues for the next ten years and why?

Climate change has to be at the top of the list and of course species survival which is linked.

Population policy is also vital if we are to survive. Factory farming is not the answer to feeding an increased population and we need to look at farming practices and move back to sustainable methods of production.



Q5. As you are aware, 100 Monkeys has a keen interest in orangutans. What needs to be done to ensure their survival?

Once again habitat is the name of the game. If we do not protect the habitat they need for survival, the only orangutans left will be in zoos. The increase in palm oil plantations is stripping Indonesia of their natural rainforest and until this is halted the future of orangutans hangs in the balance.

Q6. If you were able to give our readers an understanding of how important their support would be to the work of HSI, what would you tell them?

I feel like we are racing against time and we are always constrained by the balance at the bank. Money certainly isn't the answer to many problems but it does give us the ability to take on vital legal work, to continue to have habitat protected and to limit the suffering of animals, be they wildlife, companion or farm animals. We are one of the few organisations that not only look at the big picture, but also respond to the welfare of animals in need.

Q7. What would you like your legacy to be?

I would like to leave a healthy organisation that goes on doing the work we started and is solid enough to continue to fight the good fight for the voiceless.