



For enquiries and to send copy for inclusion in future issues, contact:

The Phoenix Editor
PO Box 3711
Weston Creek ACT 2611
T:(02) 6161 9024
F:(02) 6161 4719
E: info@aiam.com.au
W: www.aiam.com.au

Editor:
Dr R W Murray
Production:
On Q Conference Support

**AIAM Inc
Executive Committee**

President: Dr R W Murray
Dep President: Mr G Irwin
Secretary: Ms E Tapley
Treasurer: Dr R Walduck

Please read The Phoenix
DISCLAIMER on the last page of
this Newsletter

Checking our bearings - why we in AIAM do what we do!

In 1999, at a Gold Coast Animal Management Conference, a think-tank meeting was held to see what it was that an organisation like AIAM should in fact be working towards.

Senior Local Government officers from each State spoke about the most pressing problems they faced in carrying out their day to day duties in animal control and regulation. Consensus was reached and the list of most important needs that the think-tank of delegates decided is as follows:

1. Recognition of the community importance and value of municipal animal management services.
2. Access for all AMOs to qualification training of National AQF standard for Animal Control and Regulation.
3. Consistency of legislation and regulative processes across municipal and state boundaries.
4. The provision of sufficient resources to properly enable the delivery of good quality animal management services.
5. The convening of a regular national forum for the sharing of progressive and innovative ideas in animal management.

To this day that direction is essentially unchanged. The Institute presses on towards these goals by convening, each year, its national animal management conference with the following objectives:

- Stimulate critical and constructive assessment of current urban animal management practices and performance,
- Encourage reflection about the essential roles and purpose of urban animal management.

- Support R&D in animal management,
- Promote training, career paths and qualification for Animal Management Officers (AMOs) within an accredited national competency framework,
- Add to a body of readily accessible quality literature on this subject,
- Share knowledge and experience to build a collegiate sense of common purpose and mutual assistance in this industry,
- Help underscore the significant occupational health and safety issues associated with animal management,
- Draw together streams of consensus for nation uniformity on important matters pertaining to urban animal management policy and practice,
- Provide a focus for the initial and continuing education of AMOs,
- Recognise excellence in animal management service.

Join with us in working towards these goals. *We need your input!*

Encourage your AMO colleagues to join. Join now via the website www.aiam.com.au or contact the AIAM Secretariat either by email membership@aiam.com.au or by telephoning (02) 6161 9024.

Save the date...

Penrith Panthers
Mulgoa Road Penrith NSW

Supported by:



EVENTS CALENDAR

AIAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE on urban animal management	17-19 Oct 12
AMO Training Day	16 Oct 12

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Message from the AIAM President



Dick Murray

Our conference year for 2011 is now wrapped and the Institute's committees are already rolling with preparations for the 2012 Conference in NSW.

The AIAM Conference in Townsville gave us all that annual shot in the arm to boost along into the tail end of this Animal Management year. It was another very good conference – with good attendance, a good program, a top venue and a whole lot of champion people from all over the country, including NZ people with very shiny shoes – black, not green!

I want to thank Townsville City Council personnel for the generous assistance they provided in helping us to convene this successful conference. Thanks also to Wayne Hein and Chris Coleman at JCU for the support they gave committee members Sharleen and Mykel in running the livestock handling training day for AMOs at the Vet School stock camp.

AMO OF THE YEAR

Debbie Bartholomew from South Australia was our AMO of the year award recipient for 2011. It was great to see how much support Debbie was given at the Townsville conference by the Director of Asset Services at Town of Gawler as well as by her direct boss, George Powell and family members who also attended.

When Alec Shaw (Director of Infrastructure and Planning at the Town of Gawler) spoke at the conference dinner in support of Debbie, he spoke from the heart about how much the Award and the conference itself had meant to all the Gawler team.

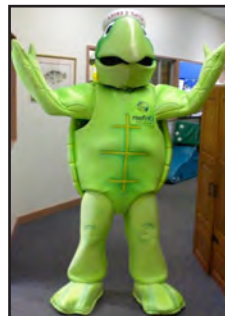
You could have heard a pin drop. I say good for you Alec, George, Debbie and all Gawler. Well done! *(More about the AIAM Awards elsewhere in this issue).*

It is worth noting that South Australia runs its own AMO of the year awards each year before our AIAM one. They submit their best nominee to the AIAM Awards. I believe the day will come when every State does the same for their Animal Management service providers too.

Social functions

Rydges Southbank, where the conference was held, looked after us very well indeed. Rob, the functions manager is the sort of manager who waits on tables, shifts the chairs and tables and helps out with the kitchen crew when they are flat out. You really feel the difference when venue staff are positively interested in looking after their guests like Rydges did.

'Lucky T' (the green turtle) welcomed everyone to Reef HQ for our informal dinner with all the rest of the reef creatures on the Wednesday night. There was a dive show with plenty happening, even though many of the fish were trying to get a bit of shut eye after another big day of performing for the tourists. Something different, something interesting and it went well.



The program

Before and during the conference, a large number of very good photos were taken by our AV technician Frank, committee members and our conference delegates.

These were cobbled together into a slide show that ran for most of the conference in between sessions. These will be uploaded to the Conference website very shortly for all to see.

Next year

We are already working on the 2012 conference (in Penrith, NSW this time) and I am completely confident that it too will be another big success that no one will want to miss.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the AIAM Executive and Committee for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout this past year and I would particularly like to thank our trade exhibitors and all of our speakers who created the heart of our Townsville conference.

Best regards,

Dick Murray
AIAM President

Thank you to our 2011 hosts



↳ Cnr Dale Last and Mykel Smith



Please circulate The Phoenix to:

- Animal Management Officers
 - Environmental Health Officers
 - Managers
 - Team Leaders
 - CEO
 - Others Interested
- If you received this by email but would prefer to receive a paper copy, please let us know!
- Email to membership@aiam.com.au

AIAM Training Day on livestock handling

This year's AIAM pre-conference training day saw participants receive nationally accredited training in the form of the unit "RTE 2118A Handle Livestock Using Basic Techniques". This national training package unit has the capability to be imported into most nationally accredited qualifications (dependant on individual course packaging rules).

Participants were trained by Western Australian Trainer of the Year (and AIAM committee member) Sharleen Jordan and enrolled for their national unit with CY O'Connor Institute who discounted the costs for AIAM members.

The morning session was conducted indoors with a PowerPoint presentation which covered the underpinning knowledge required for livestock handling. The afternoon session was hands on at James Cook University who kindly let us use their animals. Participants were in 2 groups; one starting with the horses and the other group with the cows, swapping over midway through the afternoon.

Cattle people became proficient in moving cattle around in mobs, in yard work, and in cutting out individual animals from the mob. While horse people obtained competency in approaching, haltering and moving horses safely as well as techniques to use to ensure safe working during grooming and basic maintenance of their horse.

One of the key outcomes for the day was for participants to understand horse and cattle behaviour, read the body language of the animals, and to use their own body language appropriately in order to gain the desired outcome from the animals. Feedback from those that took part was that this outcome was achieved to an acceptable standard, and then used in other applications.

Some of these included –

- Using blocking techniques to direct the waiter carrying food to a particular location and then "hold" him there until no longer required
- Some impressive moves were also seen on the dance floor

Overall it was felt that participants had fun gaining some valuable stock handling skills whilst being able to practice them in a comfortable and controlled environment.

Enjoy the photos of the training day. It certainly looks like they all had a good day!



AIAM Training in 2012

While the detail is yet to be determined, the AIAM 2012 Training Day scheduled for 16 October 2012 at Penrith, NSW, will be just as exciting for those lucky enough to register.

Make sure you mark the date in your calendar and plan to be there!

Keep accessing the website for more information -

www.aiam.com.au

2011 AIAM Conference ... a brief summary of a great event!

Delegates attending the 2011 AIAM Conference in Townsville were entertained and enthralled by the high calibre of presenters and the interesting subject matter and vision that was conveyed to the audience over the 2.5 days of sessions.

Delegates were introduced to a world view on dog population management and best practise applications through to process development. The benefits of data analysis in strategic planning was also touched upon within the program.

One session provided delegates with information and models around pet overpopulation and managing breeders through consultation. The session title 'improving relationships' accurately described the presentation where delegates were informed of excellent options to access scientific research and how to go about influencing legislators to benefit future direction in processes and resource allocation.

Delegates spent time reflecting on the difficulties experienced in Australia in 2011, where Mother Nature dealt some severe and catastrophic hands. Much discussion ensued on the benefits of emergency planning for animals and the impacts of the floods in Grantham. The options and resources known as toolboxes available across Queensland and Victoria were highlighted with information on how to access the great reference material available to those having to handle these situations. As a group, we need to think now of how it can all be amalgamated and simplified.

Day two of the conference focussed on health and safety for officers with experts from James Cook University providing scientific reference material and tips on understanding the impacts of zoonotic disease in our day to day role. Two officers present at the conference shared their personal experiences with zoonotic issues. Their presentations highlighted the need for due diligence and care in the day to day performance of work by AMOs.

Insights into dog behaviour focussing on barking and aggression were topics for discussion throughout the day with Position Statements on 'barking dogs' and 'dogs behaving dangerously' preceding the AIAM 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Governance and tips on dealing with reviews and legal considerations kicked off the final morning with community inspired presentations for the Conference finish.

The theme for Townsville was 'Onwards and Upwards' – and what a success it was!!

Listen to the expert Panel on YouTube.....



The AIAM Conference Panel of industry experts discussing the "Strategies for putting an end to dog bites" (L → R):

- Dr Cam Day, Veterinary Consultant, Queensland
- Mr Geoff Irwin, Gold Coast City Council, Queensland
- Mr Peter Chandler MLA, Member for Brennan, NT
- Ms Tracey Helman, Bureau of Animal Welfare, Victoria
- (At the lectern) Associate Professor Pauleen Bennett, Latrobe University, Victoria

You can hear the full session on audio recording by linking to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00Elt-HqsNQ>



Assoc Professor Pauleen Bennett presents her keynote



Professor Rick Speare presenting his keynote session on Zoonoses



Darryl Simpson talks on the Grantham Floods

What's happening in Victoria?

Legislation changes have been unprecedented over the past two months in Victoria following the tragic death of a child in August.

The Government has introduced changes to the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to tighten controls on restricted breed dogs, increase penalties for breaches to these controls and also to attack provisions in general. The Crimes Act 1956 has also been updated to now include offences relating to dog attack and imprisonment.

- An Approved Standard for Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria was published by the Minister in the Government Gazette on 1 Sep 2011. Any dog that meets the general appearance and characteristics of this standard can be declared a restricted breed dog.
- Penalties for attacks by a dog on a person or other animal have increased and can be up to \$4,886 with seizure and destruction of the dog.
- If a dog is set to deliberately attack a person or animal the penalty is a maximum of 6 months in jail.
- If the dog is already a declared dangerous or menacing dog, or is a restricted breed dog (registered or unregistered), and the owner is found guilty of this dog endangering life, the Magistrate can sentence a maximum 5 years in prison.

- If the dog is already a declared dangerous or menacing dog, or is a restricted breed dog (registered or unregistered), and the owner or person in control is found guilty of the dog causing injuries that result in the death of a person, the Magistrate can sentence him to a maximum of 10 years in prison.

New legislation has just been tabled in Parliament around puppy farms and includes:

- Maximum penalty increases for puppy farms operating illegally have increased from \$1,195 to \$20,000.
- Breaches of the Code of Practice attracting penalties of up to \$30,000
- Bans placed on owning animals for up to 10 years for operators found guilty of operating unregistered premises or breaching the Code of Practice
- A requirement for breeding establishments to provide a microchip number or Council registration number in an advertisement for a dog or cat
- Seizure and recovery of costs provisions

Report from Elke Tapley, Knox City Council

AIAM 2011 Award Winners



Deborah Bartholomew from the Town of Gawler, South Australia, is the 2011 recipient of the **AIAM Animal Management Officer of the Year Award**.

Deborah's submission will shortly be uploaded to the AIAM Website (under the Awards pages) alongside those submissions from previous winners of the Award.

AMO's are encouraged to submit for the AIAM Awards. Share your experiences and expertise with your colleagues.



The 2011 AMO Plan of the Year was won by the City of Charles Sturt in South Australia.

Submitted by Dani Vukoje, Project Officer, the Award was received by the team and accepted by the Supervisor, Marco Wenzel, who is seen at the lectern in the photograph above.

Once again this submission will be uploaded to the AIAM website.

Consider submitting for your own and being in with a chance to win.

Please direct any enquiries to the AIAM Secretariat - conference@aiam.com.au

Are you a member of AIAM?

Is your membership status current?

Access the membership database through the website and bring your membership up-to-date.

Encourage your colleagues to join!

We need you to assist us to develop an environment for best practice in animal control and regulation service delivery in Australia!

www.aiam.com.au

Enquiries contact the Secretariat

PO Box 3711 Weston Creek ACT 2611 | Tel: (02) 6161 9024 | Email membership@aiam.com.au

Help us make AIAM Conferences better than ever!

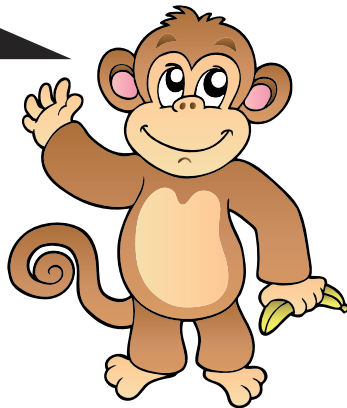
To assist the AIAM Committee in organising Conferences that will work for you, we would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to complete a general survey on what you might expect when you attend an AIAM event.

It won't take anymore than five minutes and it will make a big difference to how we put the event together. Click on the link below. (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/aiam2011>)

Once you have completed this conference planning survey, please also help us by forwarding the link to anyone else in your Council that you think might be interested in having input.

We *really* do want to reach all Managers, Councillors, Supervisors and AMOs who might be interested in animal management and the Institute's next annual conference.

**SIMPLY CLICK HERE
TO COMPLETE THE
5 MINUTE SURVEY**



Submit a paper for AIAM 2012

As you will be aware the AIAM Conference is to be held in Penrith, NSW on 15-17 October 2012.

Planning is underway and will include two active members from the Penrith Council who are providing sponsorship of the event in 2012.

If you have a conference paper that will be available to consider for the AIAM 2012 Conference, be sure to submit your abstract online as soon as the link is available (within the next week).

Don't forget that we will be drafting the program early in 2012.... and to do this, our programming committee will consider all the abstract offerings submitted by that time.

Of course not all submissions will be accepted. It depends on what comes in and what the available program time slots can accommodate.

All enquiries, or if you have trouble uploading, please email your submission to conference@aiam.com.au

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Did you know that you can gain an Animal Science degree by distance education? And with 3 specialist majors, you can tailor your studies to be relevant to your chosen career. For those wanting to upgrade their qualifications, we recognise prior learning, and if your individual background means that you don't quite fit in the box, we have alternative entry pathways.

For those interested in the management of wild or domestic dogs, we have specialist canine units that can be taken on their own, or as part of a graduate certificate, diploma or degree.

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Visit www.une.edu.au/animalscience
or call 1800 818 865



Now you're thinking!

GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT TEAM "DIVE INTO THE DEEP"

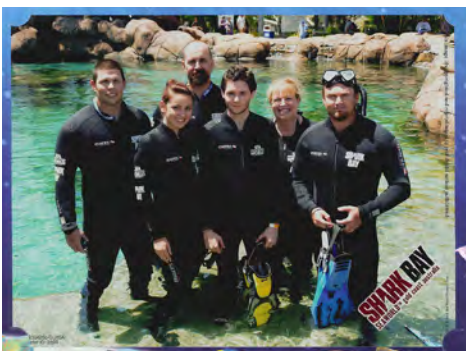
GCCC Animal Management section has a staff enrichment program which rewards nominated staff for their exceptional service throughout the year

As part of this years' staff enrichment program over the past 18 months, 6 of the units team members were nominated by their peers to attend one of the reward programs

The officers have a multitude of adventures that they can choose from including Swimming with the Dolphins at Seaworld, Walking with the Tigers at Dreamworld, attending the Animal Sanctuary at Currumbin to name just a few. All the rewards are based around knowledge of animal behaviour and training which proves invaluable when in the field and answering queries from the public from time to time.

This year the team members chose to dive into the deep and get up close and personal with the Sharks and marine life at Shark Bay, Seaworld. The adventure gave the officers the opportunity to swim with whitetip and blacktip reef sharks, leopard sharks, shovel nose and bat rays and numerous other species of fish. All animals in sanctuaries like this are monitored and trained to some extent.

The experience educated the officers gain on how even the lives of the Sharks are enriched by the changing environments within the aquatic containment pools. Shark Bay actually replicates a natural tropical environment. Officers were also taught what role all marine life play within the balance of nature and how we all need to preserve our natural environment and waterways by educating the community for years to come.



AIAM

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL MANAGEMENT INC

2012 Annual Conference



20 years of activity

17-19 October 2012

Penrith Panthers Leagues Club
Mulgoa Road, Penrith NSW

AIAM Training Day

Tuesday 16 October 2012

SAVE THE DATE!

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT
and be part of the conference program

Access the website for regular updates
www.aiam.com.au



Penrith NSW

Penrith is a city on the western fringe of the Sydney metropolitan area, in east central New South Wales, Australia.

Penrith is approximately 54 kilometres by road west of Sydney. The local government boundaries of the City of Penrith cover an area of some 407 square kilometres on the Nepean River flats of the Cumberland Plain. The Blue Mountains rise at the western border of the City area.

The venue for the Conference is the Penrith Panthers League Club, The property offers onsite accommodation at Panthers Chifley, a 4 star hotel with 216 beautifully appointed rooms that will ensure you have a comfortable and relaxing stay, with all the facilities you'd expect from a premier hotel, including cable/satellite TV, in-room movies, free newspaper delivered to your room.

Delegates will be able to book accommodation through registration as soon as it is available at very competitive rates in the vicinity of \$150-\$160 (including breakfast).



DID YOU KNOW....

- You can find all sorts of relevant information relating to your job as an AMO, from the AIAM website 'Publications/Links' pages?
- The full papers from Proceedings for all AIAM Conferences can be found on the website and be downloaded as required?
- The full papers from Proceedings for all Urban Animal Management Conferences can be found on the website and be downloaded as required?
- Hardcopies of all AIAM Proceedings are available for sale at approx. \$55 (incl. postage) by contacting conference@aiam.com.au?
- You can register for to join or renew your membership through the AIAM website?
- You can access your membership record and change your email or address details yourself through the AIAM website (under the membership pages)?

Contact the AIAM Secretariat on (02)61619024 for all enquiries or email conference@aiam.com.au or membership@aiam.com.au



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Keep safe and we look forward to seeing you in Penrith in October!

Report from the AIAM General Meeting 2011

The 2011 AIAM General Meeting was held in Townsville during the Annual Conference. AIAM Committee members were up for re-election. All nominations were accepted unopposed so your 2012 Committee members comprise:

President:

Dick Murray, Veterinarian, Townsville

Deputy President:

Geoff Irwin, Gold Coast City Council, Qld

Treasurer:

Rick Walduck, Trovan Microchips, Vic

Secretary:

Elke Tapley, Knox City Council, Vic

Committee:

Robyn Butterfield, City of West Torrens, SA
Margaret Gaal, Bathurst City Council, NSW
Claire Gick, Benotto Animal Management, WA
Sharleen Jordan, CY O'Connor TAFE, WA
Steve Larsen, Pittwater Council, NSW
Mykel Smith, Townsville City Council, Qld

The AIAM Constitution allows for nine management members. The Committee can consider appointments to fill the required number until the next election process.

If you are interested in being considered for the committee, please email conference@aiam.com.au. Just remember that all committee members are voluntary and do not receive any payment for their participation.



Let us know what you are up to, ask your questions for colleagues to help

If you or your Council have implemented any interesting new animal management initiatives, we would like to hear about it. Providing copy for Phoenix will share your news within the industry!

Email: info@aiam.com.au

The Phoenix is Published by
The Australian Institute of
Animal Management Inc,
PO Box 3711,
Weston Creek ACT 2611



Telephone (02) 6161 9024
Facsimile (02) 6161 4719

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