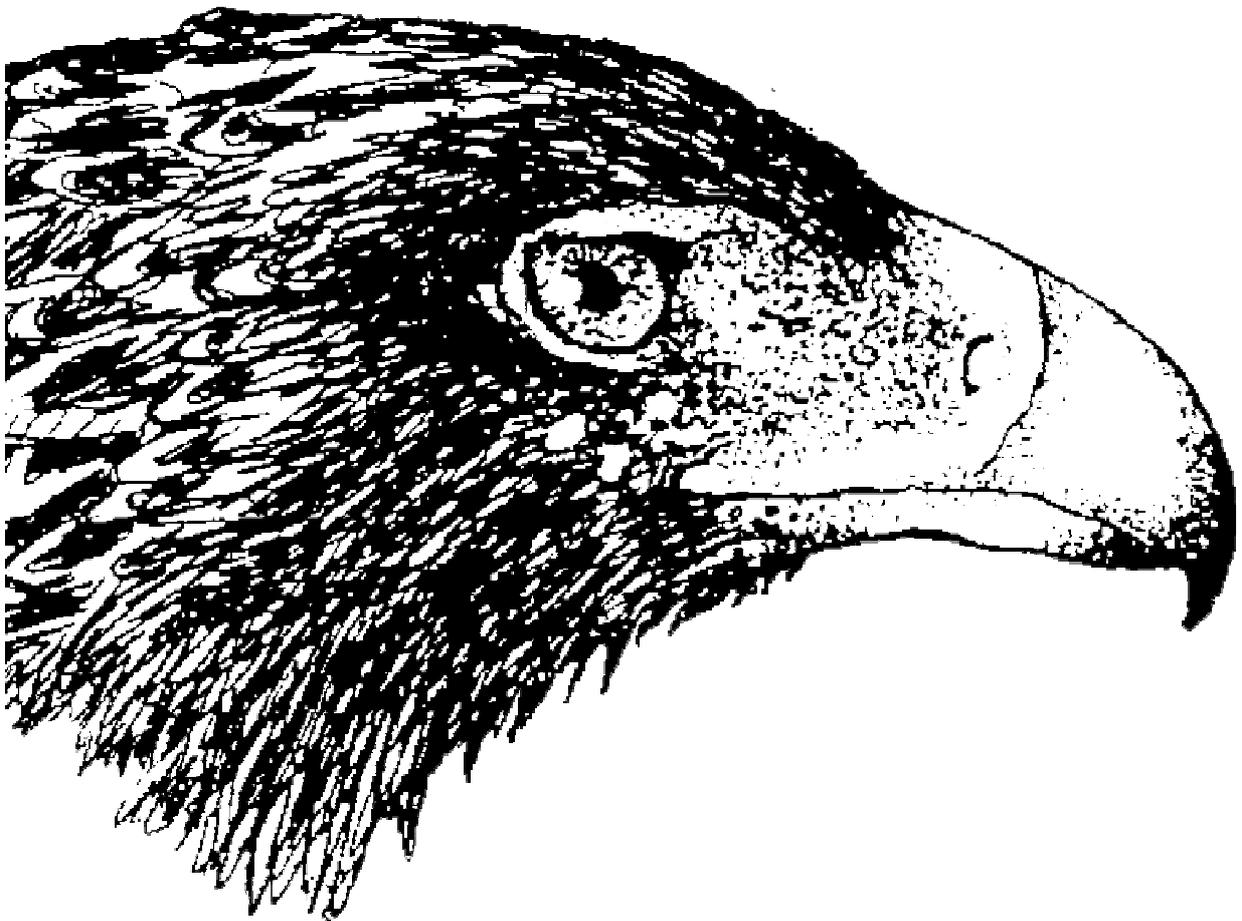


• REHABILITATION • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION •

# **SOCIETY for the PRESERVATION of RAPTORS (Inc.)**



## **NEWSLETTER**

**March 2010**

[www.raptor.org.au](http://www.raptor.org.au)

## **EDITORIAL**

It is with heavy hearts that we share with all our members and friends the sad news of the loss of one of our stalwarts. Caleb Delamare, who had been with the Society for twenty-two years, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 15 January 2010. He was 38 years old.

Many Society members and friends turned out for Caleb's funeral on 28 January. It is a tribute to Caleb's dedication and the esteem in which he was held that members came from as far afield as Margaret River, Nannup and Geraldton as well as the Perth metropolitan area to pay their respects and say farewell to a dear friend for the last time.

Secretary Noelene Jenkins has written an obituary for Caleb which may be found in this issue of the newsletter.

The Society extends heartfelt sympathy to Caleb's father Noel and the extended family.

Thank you to Marra for taking on the job of looking after Caleb's birds.

## **DEC BASIC COURSE IN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION**

Dates for next year's Basic Courses in Wildlife Rehabilitation are as follows:

Perth Metropolitan (Kensington):

- 20/21 March
- 29/30 May
- 17/24/25 July (3 days)
- 11/12 September

Kimberley (Broome):

- 1/2 May

Great Southern (either Walpole or Denmark):

- 21/22 August – *to be confirmed*.

Remember, demand is high and places are limited so if you have not yet attended the Basic Course or it's been more than five years, book yourself a place by contacting Judith Holmes, DEC's Community Involvement Coordinator at Kensington on (08) 9334 0251.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS 2010**

WA's Minister for the Environment has announced the Environmental Community Grants for 2010. They have a closing date of Thursday, 8 April.

Amounts of \$500 are available for individual wildlife rehabilitators, and organisations can apply for amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. There are various criteria that must be met in order to apply. If you would like more information, you can go to DEC's website at [www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/5135/1559/](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/5135/1559/).

If you have a project which can be carried out under the purview of the Society and you feel it meets the eligibility criteria, please contact us (see back page for details.)

## **SOCIETY T-SHIRTS**

We are about to order some Society t-shirts with the new logo (as per the front cover of this esteemed organ) so if you are interested please contact our Treasurer Kathy Pain at Eagles Heritage with your details.

You can phone Kathy on (08) 9757 2960 to place your order and arrange payment.

T-shirts are from Aussie Gold: 100% cotton, Australian made in sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL. Society members generally use black t-shirts as these don't show the dirt and the colour doesn't upset the birds (remember diurnal raptors can take fright when approached by people wearing bright colours) but if you would prefer another colour you can go to [www.aussiegold.com.au](http://www.aussiegold.com.au) and follow the links to find the colour and size charts.

## VALE CALEB DELAMARE

In January 2010 members were left stunned and dismayed at the sudden passing of our dear friend and colleague Caleb Delamare.

As Secretary of the Society, I first met Caleb when he was about sixteen years old. My first impression was of an excitable teenager full of life, bursting with passion and with an insatiable thirst for knowledge about all things raptorial. I can remember thinking to myself, "We've got a stayer here!"

As it turned out, he was. Twenty-two years later, Caleb was one of the Society's most ardent supporters, both experienced and knowledgeable. His particular area of expertise was Ospreys.

Caleb and his father Noel designed and installed one of Western Australia's first Osprey platforms at Port Gregory from which a number of Osprey chicks have fledged successfully. Caleb also acted as a consultant and advisor for several groups and organisations who wanted to put up Osprey platforms and encouraged them to be active in Osprey conservation and awareness. As a result of Caleb's hard work and enthusiasm there are now a number of man-made Osprey platforms up and down the WA coast.



For more than ten years, Caleb would make an annual trip from his home in Perth to Rottnest Island to observe and document information on the nesting sites and breeding behaviour of the Island's Ospreys. He was well known to the Rottnest Rangers who helped out with transport around the island in later years.

As a Department of Environment and Conservation registered Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitator, Caleb was on call day and night. He was always ready to respond to emergency calls from members of the public. Over many years he would have travelled hundreds of miles throughout Perth and its surrounding districts collecting and rescuing a great many sick, injured and orphaned birds. He was also a reptile remover and left quite a few householders breathing sighs of relief when he rescued snakes from homes.

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to this young man who dedicated his life to the care of birds of prey. Caleb was always a very active and vocal member. He attended meetings, could always be relied upon to participate in educational displays, was part of our support team for the DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation and was always quick to grab an opportunity to further the cause of raptor conservation. We have many great newspaper articles on Caleb's challenges and exploits.

Caleb was a lovely young man: kind and gentle, always polite and respectful of others and eager to please. He will be sorely missed by his fellow members not only for his friendship but for his dedication and expertise in wildlife care. We have lost a kindred spirit. He will always be remembered with love and affection.

*Noelene Jenkins*

## AN OWL OF A DIFFERENT COLOUR



Society Coordinator Phil Pain has had a rather unusual bird hatch out at the Eagles Heritage Raptor Wildlife Centre. The park's breeding pair of Lesser Sooty Owls have produced a chick that has fledged pure white with brown eyes.

This is leucism, as opposed to albinism.

The Eagles Heritage owlet, nicknamed "Chip" for its most common vocalisation, hatched out on October 19, 2009 and took a good three months to fledge. Interestingly, unlike other *Tyto* owlets reared at the park, it seemed to have only one down, which was long, fluffy and pure white.

In size and weight the bird appears to be similar to its father, so it is speculated that it may be male, but there very little available data on weights for this species. A DNA test is planned.

It is not known how many leucistic Lesser Sooty Owls there are, but it is considered unlikely that they would be common.

## TEMPORARY REGISTRATION OF WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

The Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc, of which the Society is a member, has been communicating with the Department of Environment and Conservation regarding the suspension of new registrations for wildlife rehabilitators and has issued some good news: the suspension period is coming to an end and before the new accreditation process becomes official a temporary registration system is to be put in place.

To apply for temporary registration, there is a form to be filled out and supplementary information to be provided such as:

- Names and letters of reference from two nominees who are Registered Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Copy of your Attendance Certificate from DEC's Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Course
- Written confirmation from your local government council acknowledging your wildlife rehabilitation activities
- Any other relevant information as requested, eg -
  - A letter from your vet
  - Details of any courses or conferences attended
  - Other references or letters of support
  - Details of Admissions and Outcomes

Thank you to WAWRC for providing information on the new temporary process. If you need a form, please contact us (see back page.)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Raptors will be held on Saturday, 27 March 2010 at 1pm. Marra and Dion will be hosting the meeting at Perth Raptor Care, 18 Wellaton Street, Midvale.

Please notify Noelene Jenkins on (08) 9453 6567 to RSVP, make apologies or include any items or topics on the agenda.

As usual, afternoon tea will be provided.

## HOW TO CONTACT THE SOCIETY

### General inquiries (including membership and newsletters)

- e-Mail: via the website
- Website: [www.raptor.org.au](http://www.raptor.org.au)
- Post: PO Box 415, Forrestfield WA 6058

### Coordinator – Philip Pain

- Telephone: (08) 9757 2960 (Margaret River)
- Fax: (08) 9757 2964

### Emergency assistance

#### *Perth Metropolitan Area*

- Marra Apgar and Dion Mendel – Perth Raptor Care, Midvale Ph: (08) 6369 0705
- Yvonne Sitko – Western Australian Bird of Prey Centre, Herne Hill Ph: 0438 388 383
- John Frings – Fur and Feathers Wildlife Rescue and Release Inc, Mandurah Ph: 0419 395 114

#### *Country WA*

- Philip Pain – Co-ordinator SPR, Eagles Heritage, Margaret River Ph: (08) 9757 2960
- Brian Mawby-Brown and Nancy Tang – EarthWings, Nannup Ph: (08) 9756 0669
- Janelle and Glenn Ende – Just Raptors, Geraldton Ph: (08) 9938 1447
- Rose Best – Pilbara Wildlife Carers Association Inc, Karratha Ph: 0438 924 842