



**People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport**  
35 High St, Fremantle, WA 6160  
Phone: 9430 8839

**MEETINGS:**

**Special General: Noon, Sat Aug 28**  
(venue as below)

**Committee: 35 High Street, Fremantle**  
(Rooms 1 & 2)

1.30pm Sat Aug 28 2004  
Sat Sep 25 2004

*All members welcome at committee meetings (held on last Sat of month)*

E-mail: [pacat@iinet.net.au](mailto:pacat@iinet.net.au)

Website: [www.pacat.org](http://www.pacat.org)

Please check label on envelope to see if your renewal is due!

Volume 9, Issue 4

## PACAT NEWS

August 2004

**Thanks** to all those who responded to say they could help us by receiving the **newsletter by e-mail**. It really will save campaign funds and paper. If you would like to join these members in conserving resources, just **e-mail the office today** and tell us where we can send the **electronic version**.

### Special *Cormo Express* Anniversary Demo! Friday August 6<sup>th</sup>, Perth

August 6<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the departure from Fremantle of the ill-fated *MV Cormo Express*. We're sure that you don't need to be reminded that this vessel and its cargo of 57,000 Australian sheep was rejected by the Saudi Arabians and then spent almost 3 months on the Red Sea while the 'authorities' tried to find someone to take the animals. Eventually the surviving animals were gifted to Eritrea. Since then Saudi Arabia has not received our sheep.

To highlight this sad date and to remember those creatures who suffered and died because of Australia's cruel incompetence, **PACAT will be staging a demonstration outside the office of the WA Premier, 197 St Georges Terrace (cnr Mill St) Perth, at noon on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August.**

**On the same day, our UK supporter and co-campaigner, Naturewatch, will be holding a similar demonstration outside the Australian High Commission in London.** Naturewatch has made Australian live exports one of its main campaigns during the past few months and has collected **57,000 signatures** to represent the animals on the ship. These will be presented to the Deputy High Commissioner.

### **Please make every effort to be at the Perth demo**

– change your lunch break, abandon the kids, whatever it takes! Placards etc will be provided, or bring your own (call the office if in doubt). Elections are looming and the State and Federal Governments need to know that we (and this issue) are simply not going to go away! They may hope that the public has forgotten about the *Cormo* but together we're going to make sure that this issue stays very much alive and that they know we'll be voting accordingly.

**Next regular Fremantle demo dates** are as follows (please confirm prior to each demo, in case of any last minute changes by phoning Heather on 9272 2992 A/H)

### **August 7<sup>th</sup>, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

Held at the corner of Tydeman Rd and Victoria Bridge (old Freo bridge) at 11 am—approx 1 hour duration.

Banners and pamphlets will be provided. Parking is available in the Post Office premises.

### **Demo Report**

Dear Demo Supporters,

Many thanks to everyone who made the time to turn up at the last demo.

Although I could not be there, my spies have told me there were approx 15 people doing their bit. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be holding a demo on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August, and although it is tempting to cancel our next monthly demo on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, I am

sure that those of us who cannot attend on the weekday would like the opportunity to demonstrate on the Saturday.

So if members can, why not go to one or the other, or better still both. Hopefully we will be able to use the special banner on Saturday to tie in with the Friday event.

A sympathetic passer-by at one of the demos shook her head and said to me 'Are you guys still doing this?'...and of course we are—we MUST NOT let the issue die.

So go for it and support the cause as much as possible.

*Best wishes,*

*Heather Wood*

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### **Fremantle Museum Exhibition is coming to an end**

The exhibition, '**Activism – Animal Welfare in Fremantle**', will close on **Sunday 29 August**. So, if you haven't been to view this beautifully presented account of PACAT's activism over the past 10 years, now is the time! Museum staff tell us that it has been "...going very well – lots and lots of very positive support." We can only trust that this will translate into action!

The Museum is part of the Fremantle Arts Centre on the corner of Finnerty and Ord Streets, Fremantle and is open 10.30am – 4.30pm Sunday to Friday and 1pm – 5pm Saturdays and Public Holidays.

PACAT wishes to once again thank The Sandcastle Organic Café and the Juicy Beetroot for donating many platters of tasty food for the opening night of its exhibition.

#### **The Sandcastle Organic Café**

**11/396 South Terrace  
South Fremantle  
Ph: 9335 2445**

#### **Juicy Beetroot**

**Shop 5 Tum Tum Tree Lane  
132 High Street  
Fremantle  
Ph: 9433 4488**

## **Special General Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> August 2004 - Noon**

Members will recently have received notification of a Special General Meeting regarding proposed new rules for PACAT. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please make sure that your **proxy form** is returned to the office Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Election letterbox drop**

In the (long drawn-out) lead-up to the Federal (and State) elections, it's more important than ever to force political leaders to take a stand against live animal exports. We are still planning to drop sample letters and/or postcards to Mr Howard & Mr Latham (along with a brief explanatory note to the householder) in residential areas around the state, **once the election date is announced**. If you can participate in this, please phone or email the office.

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### **Occasional Vollies Needed!**

Please remember that PACAT relies on the generosity of volunteers. We need to maintain a high profile to remind people that this disgusting trade is going on under our very noses...every day! If we make enough noise we can change things! With an election looming this is the perfect time to bring our cause to the fore and sway the voters. If you have not indicated your availability for e.g. being contacted for **urgent demos** or **'letter drop' campaign**, please do so. And remember, this does not mean you are committed to things when it doesn't suit... you are still free to state you are unavailable if called upon ANYTIME.

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### **Update on complaint against the *Al Kuwait* lodged by Animals Australia under the Animal Welfare Act (2002)**

The RSPCA seems to be in 'damage control' mode and has sent us an e-mail about the contents of our last newsletter: "...the RSPCA is disappointed that your group failed to contact the RSPCA for the facts about the *Al Kuwait* complaint before going to print..."

The author goes on to say that the Society has been investigating the case (how odd that no one ever mentioned this in the conversations we

had with them!) and that it is not concerned at the possibility of losing its government funding if it pursues the case. We are preparing a response to this e-mail, in collaboration with Animals Australia.

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### What makes an 'Animal Libber?'

'Chickens can no longer be kept in cages or dogs restrained by choke collars under animal protection laws passed by the Austrian parliament.' (*Weekly Telegraph* 2-8 June 04). It's interesting that a country that spawned and enthusiastically supported Hitler (who apparently loved animals) should set new standards for the world. This encouraging titbit of news follows on the lengthy discussion by expatriate Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton, in *The Australian Financial Review* of 9 May 2003, *Animal Liberation Turns Thirty*.

Singer reminds us that the care and concern most of us share for animals is derived from a range of emotions, experiences and even heredity. Not surprisingly, the moral philosophers have had a field day analysing the moral status of animals (too lengthy to describe here, although notable effect on the public's attitude to aspects of animal cruelty – particularly on animal research in both Britain and the US – and Singer himself came to prominence in the early 1970s with a collection of essays under the title *Animals, Men and Morals*, arguing that animals have interests that humans have to recognise, based on our common ability to suffer – and that to believe otherwise is the ultimate prejudice, beyond that of discrimination on the basis of race or sex.

To force animals to suffer in ways we would not undergo ourselves is the ultimate discrimination – testing cosmetics, crowding them in cages, packing them in for long sea voyages, or whatever. It was only three hundred years ago that Man did to Man what he now does to animals, discriminating then between slave owners and the millions of mainly black humanity shipped to work on plantations. Thankfully, we now accept that packing humans into slave ships is abhorrent (thought not everyone agrees: slaves from Sudan are still sold to rich Middle Easterners, if from the back of a truck than from a ship's hold). In general however, we human beings have come a long way since 'the Middle Passage.' But animals are now the slaves of Man.

In the 1970s animal libbers' views were generally either ignored or treated with indifference and contempt, even hostility. Some of that reaction is still present of course but, on the surface at least, the climate is now very different: there is frequent public debate; governments even profess to 'care' and at the very least the term 'animal libber.' If still somewhat pejorative in the eyes of many, at least has generally lost its wild-eyed anarchical context. In effect, those of us world-wide who care – young, old, middle-class or blue collar – we all are animal libbers: 'millions of activists have freely given up their time and money to support the animal movement.' (Singer)

That's just as well, for – as Singer observes – there is a long way to go before the caring majority makes enough impression on governments to step in with legislation that outlaws many of the abhorred practices (that incidentally should rightly be the very 'raison d'être' of the RSPCA, fluffy domestic animals aside) – animal transport over long distances, boxed sows, caged chickens, to name but three. One might think it is strange that it is the First World that is so much at fault here ("It's those Arabs of course who have different standards from us – they really don't know how to treat animals!" – my quote) but it is *our* civilisation that demands the product of factory farms, 'the huge increase in numbers kept confined, some so tightly they are unable to stretch their limbs...last year 10 billion birds and mammals were raised and killed for food in the US alone.' (Singer)

Singer's conclusion is that although significant changes have occurred 'popular views...are still very far from the basic idea that the interest of all beings should be given equal consideration irrespective of their species. Most people still eat meat and buy what is cheapest, oblivious to the suffering of the animal from which the meat comes...imperfect information, powerful interests and a desire not to know disturbing facts have limited the gain made by the animal movement.' (Singer).

We must keep at it.

*Michael Crouch*

We must take a moment to sing the praises of **Michael Crouch**—PACAT's submission/report writer extraordinaire! We are often faced with the task of reading—and more importantly understanding—lengthy reports from government

bodies, the export industry etc. It can be a daunting task. Despite his extremely busy life, Michael somehow always finds the time to make sense of these documents and, almost within hours it seems, we have a precise yet comprehensive page or two back with us. This is a vital part of our campaign and we simply don't know what we would do without him. **Thank you Michael!**

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### Street Appeal: Friday October 15

Please note down in your diaries that Oct 15 is our annual street appeal. Any time you have to spare (even if just a half hour) would be much appreciated. Tins can be collected from PACAT office in High St or the Community Centre at the Perth Railway Station, where we will be based. You may wander to whatever location you like to then shake excitedly at passers-by! We are thinking of covering the two **peak times** when workers will be dashing past to their workplaces – perhaps **8:00-9:30am** and then again around **4:30 to 6:00pm**

*Confirmation of details will come closer to the date, but please start to consider any time slots that you can donate and let us know (9430 8839). If they could, the animals would thank you!*

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### National Export Summary for 2003

The Dept of Agriculture has issued the summary of last year's livestock export report and as usual, the raw figures illustrate just how many innocent animals endure the long journey to meet their deaths and become dinner on overseas tables. A total of 5.362 million (!) animals were transported from Australian shores, the breakdown includes: approx 4.546 million sheep, more than 763,000 cattle and 52,000 goats. Of these animals, 57% came from Fremantle and other WA ports: we said goodbye to 3,007,800 sheep, over 68,000 cattle...and more than 4,000 goats.

*Although the mortality rates were reported as being lower than last year's, we must remember that lower mortality rates are far from a reflection on the acceptability of this industry. Statistics for deaths on board (which do NOT include disasters such as deaths from ventilation breakdown or outbreak of fire) hide the plight of countless thousands that suffer (but survive) during the journey. Malnutrition from unaccustomed pellet feeding (or "shy-feeding" as the industry so politely calls it), infection with Salmonella causing diarrhoea, or "pink-eye" (leading to eye distress) are just some of the atrocities that are never mentioned in live export*

*reports. WE MUST END THE TRAUMA THESE ANIMALS ARE PUT THROUGH.* If you would like to view the report, there is a copy in the PACAT office, or we can e-mail it to you as a PDF document.

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### ANZFAS Conference & AGM

#### Weekend of October 23 & 24

Perth is fortunate to be hosting the ANZFAS Conference this year. Many members will recall the success of the last such event held in Perth and we encourage you all to let us know if you want to attend this year's. We must give the organisers **final numbers by October 1st.**

The venue is Wollaston College & Conference Centre, Mt Claremont and the attendance fee is \$30 per day, including lunch, morning and afternoon teas and dinner on both days (accommodation is extra).

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### VaultOneä

PACAT has benefited (to the tune of over \$300 last month!) from a new concept in supporting charities. Companies sign up to donate part of their financial brokerage fees to us—no fundraising hassles involved! VaultOne™ does it all. Check their website at [www.vault1.com.au](http://www.vault1.com.au)

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### Proposed Livestock Feedlot, Lightbody Road, Serpentine

We were recently made aware of an application by a Jordanian company known as Ausvision Rural Services for planning approval for the development of a livestock feedlot and transfer facility at the above. If successful this facility will have a maximum holding capacity for 80,000 sheep and 10,000 cattle and will operate over a full calendar year to supply approximately one shipment every 20 days. The feedlot will operate from 6am to 8pm and as a large portion of cattle will have been transported from the Northern Territory, delivery outside these hours would mean the cattle would have to remain on the truck until the holding facility's receiving hours. PACAT subsequently met with members of a community action group in opposition to this proposal. The application is currently before the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and has been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). Needless to say we will be working closely with the action group to hopefully nip this one in the bud. More information will be available to members in the next newsletter.

## **LETTER FROM PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA (sent to Naturewatch UK for its August '04newsletter)**

Dear friends

It's the middle of winter here and although it's not that cold compared to the northern hemisphere, the temperatures can fall below zero.

But whatever the weather, the trade in live animals continues, though numbers are down due to our recent drought and the suspension of trade with Saudi Arabia. As I write this, a livestock ship has been sighted on the horizon and soon a conveyor belt of trucks, all jam-packed with animals, will be on our streets. So the exporters can make as much money as possible from these poor creatures, the sheep will have been shorn, so they will be cold as well as frightened, confused and often injured.

The live animal export trade continues to be a contentious issue in Australia although, as is always the case, groups such as PACAT have to work hard to make sure it stays in the public eye. A Federal Election is due within the next few months, so it's imperative that we keep up the momentum.

Recently a current affairs programme called 'Four Corners', which is Australia's equivalent of 'Panorama', went to air with a programme exposing the neglect of farm animals by the RSPCA. The West Australian (WA) branch of the RSPCA was taken to task over the live export industry and their perceived lack of care or action, plus the fact that two farmers with interests in the live trade currently sit on the RSPCA council in WA.

Of the 5.36 million animals exported annually from these shores last year, almost 60% left from our port of Fremantle. PACAT has always maintained that if the RSPCA were doing their job – that is 'preventing cruelty to animals' – there would be no need for groups such as ours. But there is rarely, if ever, an inspector at the port as the animals are herded and prodded from the trucks onto the ships.

A legal case has ensued, as Australian animal welfare groups believe that the 2002 WA Animal Welfare Act is being contravened each and every time a sheep ship departs from Fremantle. The clause in question reads "A person in charge of an animal is cruel to an animal if the animal is transported in a way that causes, or is likely to cause, unnecessary harm". If the world could see the daily horror of this trade, there would be no question that the law is being ignored.

Australia is a land of extremes, no more so than in climate changes. Large parts of the continent have been ravaged by drought, which has meant that there is a shortage of meat producing animals. It is not unlikely that soon we will be importing meat for the home market, as a large percentage is promised in forward contracts to the live export trade.

Such folly and such unnecessary cruelty, so that a handful of people can line their pockets!

Currently there is a proposal by a Jordanian company to build a further holding facility for the live export market, on the outskirts of Perth. This facility has the capacity to hold 80,000 sheep and 10,000 cattle prior to export. PACAT firmly believes that this sort of money should be spent on improving our infrastructure so that Australian animals can be humanely slaughtered in Australia.

August 6<sup>th</sup> marks the first anniversary of the departure from Fremantle of 57,000 sheep bound for Saudi Arabia on the *MV Cormo Express*. These sheep, as the world knows, were rejected and stranded in the Red Sea for nearly 3 months before finally being 'gifted' to Eritrea. To add insult to injury, many of the survivors were trucked back to Saudi Arabia.

A year down the track and live animals still leave these shores by the millions.

As I prepare to leave the office for the day I know that I shall see the ship and the trucks and therefore bear witness to cruelty that simply should not be happening in a developed, 'civilised' country.

I can do nothing to help these particular animals—whose sad little faces look out as I pass. How I wish they knew that there is an international campaign, stretching from Australia to the UK, to stop this from happening to their kind in the future.

*Maggie Mann, July 2004*

For your friends and family...

# MEMBERSHIP/DONATION

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I ENCLOSE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION:

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PO Box 499  
FREMANTLE WA 6959

For more information contact us:

Ph: (08) 9430 8839      Fax: (08) 9430 8861

Email: [pacat@inet.net.au](mailto:pacat@inet.net.au)

Website: [www.pacat.org](http://www.pacat.org)

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**Editor: Tanya Marwood, who can be contacted with items for inclusion on e-mail at <tanya.m@globaldial.com> or by snail mail at 30 Flora Tce, Lesmurdie, 6076 (phone 9291 3723). Feedback welcome!**