



**People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport**  
New address: 35 High St, Fremantle, WA 6160  
Phone: (08) 9325 5580 (until further notice)

E-mail: [pacat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pacat@optusnet.com.au)  
Website: [www.pacat.org](http://www.pacat.org)

**MEETINGS:**

Committee: 35 High Street, Fremantle  
6160 (Rooms 1 & 2)

1.30pm on, Sat Oct 25 2003

Nov 29 2003

Dec 20 2003

*All members welcome at committee meetings*

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

Volume 8, Issue 4

## PACAT NEWS

October 2003

### APOLOGY

In the July newsletter, the date for the next committee meeting was given as 23 August, when it was in fact 30 August – sincere apologies to anyone who turned up on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### THANKS TO QANTAS

As usual, QANTAS has offered its generous support to PACAT by providing a free ticket to the ANZFAS Conference in Brisbane on 11-12 October for a committee member (in this case Heather Cambridge). We thank QANTAS for its ongoing support.

### NEWS & UPDATES – from Heather Wood (PACAT President)

Since the last Newsletter, as most members will be aware, a lot of things have been happening, both within and without PACAT. Your committee is only small, and works very hard on your behalf. We have been fortunate to now have Maggie Mann as a paid coordinator, with volunteers assisting – but it is still not enough. We need many more regular volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours at the office. Please contact the office if you can assist.

#### Office Move

We have now obtained new office premises at **35 High St, Fremantle** and will move from Pier St in the near future.

#### Publicity

The '60 Minutes' coverage has taken animal welfare issues to new heights, and has tested the committee's resources and endurance to the limits. This is a large issue, and although we have been greatly assisted by Animals Aust., there has been a lot of work that needed to be done at a local level. We have maintained as much media attention as possible with some good letters getting into the West

Australian and our demonstrations getting good media showing.

#### Website

To cope with the large response and impact from '60 Minutes' we are now upgrading our website (which has been in its infancy for a while) into a much cleaner, more efficient and user-friendly site. We intend this web upgrade to be an ongoing process.

#### TV ad

We are in the process of airing our own PACAT television advertisement, and are waiting for Channel 9 to give us the scheduled time slots, which will be ASAP. Once this ad gets on air, we expect another jump in interest and activity at the office.

#### Temporary Coordinator

We have a temporary office coordinator whilst Maggie Mann is on holidays in the UK (until late Oct.). I would like to introduce Patricia Phelan to PACAT members, and hope her stay with us is rewarding.

#### World Animal Day

This is on 2<sup>nd</sup> October (see flyer for details). We are also holding a rally and march in Perth on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct (see flyer). Both events are important, as we must show that there is a large proportion of the public who is sick of this live animal export fiasco!

#### RSPCA's AGM

The RSPCA will hold its AGM and election of office bearers soon, so if you are a member, we urge you to vote for PACAT's Astrid Herlihy.

#### Our AGM and Street Appeal

We will advise members of our own AGM date in the near future, and we have decided not to hold the annual Street Appeal, as we will be based in Fremantle and the logistics will be a nightmare. We will be seeking other venues, possibly in Fremantle.

***I ask everyone to be patiently dedicated to the cause and to use all available avenues to keep the pressure on.***

## Email notifications of updated news

Some of you have email and have asked if the newsletter can be sent via your address rather than by mail.

Can all members please contact us if you have changed email addresses so that we can arrange a new email group.

This enables us to get news updates, the newsletter or urgent notices out efficiently to those listed to ensure that you have received the message. As a result of hotmail and yahoo providing small mailboxes, those of you using these addresses may not get your mail. Just lately I have had mail returned as a result of the mailbox being full and some addresses are no longer in use.

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## DEMO DATES

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2003**, 11am, Tydeman Rd/Victoria bridge (old Freo bridge) intersection.

*I have deliberately scheduled extra demo days, as these are the busiest times of the year for exports, due to the Muslim period of Ramadan.*

*Please contact me before the dates if in doubt (phone 9272 2992)*

*Hope to see you then...*

*Heather*

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## STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA

It seems a great pity that at a time when PACAT has enjoyed more sympathetic publicity than ever before, it becomes necessary to ask members to refrain from making statements to the media on PACAT policy. One local newspaper made an unfortunate mistake soon after our coverage on 'Sixty Minutes'.

In the excitement of the moment it is easy to be misunderstood. If all enquiries from the media for comment are directed to either Heather or Patricia, these mistakes can be avoided.

It may appear to be a loss of valuable time to follow this procedure, but it usually proves to be the reverse, and also avoids

unnecessary and disruptive differences within the group.

*Ken Lowe*

## CORMO EXPRESS SHEEP SHIP TRAGEDY

- Dutch owned ship *MV Cormo Express* departed Fremantle, Western Australia on August 5, 2003, loaded with 57,000 sheep destined for the port of Jeddah in the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia.
- After a voyage of approximately 16 days, arriving around August 22, Saudi Government veterinarians rejected the shipment, maintaining that the level of the disease 'Scabby Mouth' was higher than 5%. A bilateral agreement with Saudi Arabia allows only 5% of sheep in any shipment to be infected with scabby mouth, an infection that causes lesions in the sheep's mouth. It can infect human handlers of infected sheep.
- There is no airflow due to the ship being 'closed sided'. Questions arise as to whether the desalination plant for drinking water, the ventilation and extraction plants that provide fresh air and the extraction of foul, air are in fact working.
- On August 23-24<sup>th</sup> the Cormo Express visited Aqaba port in Jordan, and was advised that because the ship had already called into another country, Jordan would not accept the sheep or allow the sheep to be off loaded.
- The Como Express was again anchored in Jeddah Harbour, 28 August, whilst high level talks were held between an Australian delegation and the Saudi Authorities. Permission was again refused on the basis of the scabby mouth. The Saudis refused to amend their assessment of the number of sheep infected. The ship loaded fodder to last two weeks and left Jeddah.
- Rejection again by United Arab Emirates in early September, but permission was granted to load fodder and left UAE 11 September 2003. The ship spent some time sailing the north of the Arabian Sea to seek better weather conditions.
- Around 17 September 2003, the Cormo Express berthed in a UAE port to load more fodder and water.

### 19 September 2003

- Cormo Express and the remaining (approx) 53,000 sheep are still aboard without a secure future. No country willing to take the animals.
- The ship and the LIVING cargo are still in an unknown Middle East port, in the UAE loading fodder: (pellets).
- The sheep are at a greater risk of heat-stress, as this fully enclosed ship's ventilation system requires

movement to operate at its peak. At present: temp 36 degrees, humidity 89%, with no wind.

- The talks between Pakistan and Australia have apparently not resulted in the sheep being accepted.
- To date: at least 6.3% of the sheep or 3951 have died. (Confirmed by industry sources several days ago).
- An industry-appointed Australian Veterinarian and an Australian Livestock Officer (nominated by Livecorp) and 54 crew are on board.

### 23 September 2003

- Pakistan has turned down the offer as of 23 September 2003.
- Warren Truss states negotiations are still continuing with other countries and not all were in the Middle East.
- This is the 49<sup>th</sup> day the animals have been on the ship since loading on August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Fears are rising that the ship will soon run out of fodder for the 50,000-odd sheep still aboard after United Arab Emirates refused permission for the ship to berth in the port to reload.

## STOP PRESS

### Latest news...September 24

- Negotiations between Iraq and Australia are in progress.
- The Federal Government wants to do a 'deal' with Iraq to take the remaining 50000+ sheep. Basra is a days sailing time away and is considered as the delivery point for the animals. Cabinet decided on Tuesday 23 September that the animals would not be slaughtered on board.
- Federal Govt have made repeated claims that the animals have 'gained' weight however our source understands there is no equipment to weigh the animals on board.

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### 3 Letters to PACAT Members (from Trish Brown)

Sunday, 10 August, 2003

Dear PACAT Members,

#### **Letter 1.OFFER FROM MARK CROUCHER, UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY**

Many of you may remember the letter which was published in the *Guardian* newspaper (UK) in September 2002 and repeated in our PACAT newsletter.

The writer, Mark Croucher, was a former Chief Radio Officer aboard the *MV Cormo Express*. He told of the carnage during one particular voyage and of the real moralities of between 11% and 17% on a previous voyage.

In this letter he states: "In the absence of proper regulation and with the regular falsification of death figures by ship owners and agents, ensuring animal welfare is a task left to the crews, who have no training and little experience in live cargoes."

To make a long story short, Mark, who is now Economic Affairs Spokesperson for *UK Independence Party*, has given PACAT permission to use his letter on our website and has made an offer to help us in any way that he can.

Mark will be keeping in touch by email and fax when information comes to hand, and I will forward it on to the PACAT Committee Members and to Tanya, our Newsletter Editor.

#### **Letter 2. MEAT PROCESSING TASKFORCE (MPT)**

Late last year the State Government was put under pressure by the Western Australian Meat Processing Industry and the Meat Workers Union to examine options to increase the long-term viability of this industry.

Due to the many discussion between the key players, the Department of Agriculture and Kim Chance, the Meat Processing Taskforce was formed.

The MPT comprises 8 committee members and an executive officer from the Department of Agriculture. The MPT called for submissions from members of the public and interested parties. Submissions closed in March 2003.

Heather and I perused this request for submissions and came up with an idea to submit a report by one R Nicholson. We also forwarded a bound copy to each MPT committee member, and to Wim Burggraaf, the Executive Officer. The report was well received by all the MPT members.

R Nicholson's report is an excellent, well-researched 20-page document which had been prepared for PACAT in 2002. It is entitled *The Live Export Trade: An Economic Dead End for Australia* and outlines the adverse economic impacts of live animal exports on the Meat Processing Industry.

Since lodging my own submission and providing to the MPT extra information I had obtained to help this industry, I have received on-going feedback from Wim. He has recently informed me that the MPT Report is due out in mid-September and all persons who participated will receive an abridged copy of this report. However, due to my extra support, I will receive the full report, which I will photocopy for PACAT.

I am appalled that R Nicholson's report had been gathering dust in the PACAT office until I was told about it and read it. However, I cannot seem to find out who R Nicholson is.

So if you happen to read this R Nicholson, thank you for all your efforts in putting together this valuable information. I can now assure you that it has been

widely distributed, including to a number of state and federal politicians and state and federal government departments to peruse.

### **Letter 3. JAMES POINT PTY LTD PROPOSAL**

#### **Stage One – Stage Two**

The Minister for the Environment, Dr Judy Edwards, has notified me by fax that a decision will be made at the end of August in regards to Stage One.

**Stage One is the private port proposal** which would be approved by government and is to be built by the company to allow three ships at a time to come into Cockburn Sound to load containers, general cargo and animals.

**Stage Two is the private livestock holding facility** (feedlots – three tiered) which is yet to be assessed by a number of government departments and agencies including the Environmental Protection Authority (“EPA”) and the Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”).

I have on-going contact with a group of environmentally concerned organisations spearheaded by Dot Hesse (who has won an environmental award). She has recently informed me that the major shareholder and governing director of James Point Pty Ltd has died suddenly – so this may change or delay both of these proposals from being developed in the near future.

Should any member require further information on the above proposal may I suggest you contact Mr Hans Jacob on 9222 7043 at DEP.

Yours sincerely  
TRISH BROWN  
Preston Beach Road North  
Via Waroona, 6215  
Phone/fax 08 97 391 148

### **2 More Letters to PACAT Members (from Trish Brown)**

Sunday, 07 September, 2003

Dear PACAT Members

#### **Letter 1. Live animal Exporter's licence cancelled**

Following an incident on the 26 and 27 September 2002, at Portland Victoria the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) has cancelled the export licence of SAMPAC Pty Ltd.

#### **Letter 2. Animal Welfare Act 2002**

The State government has finally passed the Animal Welfare Bill 2001, which has been sitting at the bottom of their list for over 2 years.

The *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, which was proclaimed in April 2003, repeals the old Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1920.

Western Australia now has some of Australia's toughest animal cruelty penalties with offenders facing fines of up to \$50,000 and 5 years imprisonment. New arrangements have also been introduced and developed in regards to the appointment of General Inspectors and Scientific Inspectors and the term “Special Constable” is no longer applicable.

A copy of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* can be obtained from State Law Publisher as a cost of \$10.25 plus postage. Phone 9321 7688.

The Codes of Practice (which now number 23 in all) have also undergone many changes in favour of animals instead of people, but can only be obtained from the Department of Agriculture. Contact Michael Paton on 9368 3627. These booklets are free but can only be emailed.

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

***PACAT is run almost entirely by volunteers.***

# People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport

Contact our office for more information...9325 5580

## LATEST ACTION

1. A RALLY will be held at 11am on the Cnr of Tydemans Rd and Queen Victoria St Fremantle on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. It is imperative that we maintain our outrage and opposition to the live animal trade especially in view of the latest tragedy on the 'ship of death' the Cormo Express.

*We ask you all to join us in this demonstration of unity against this greedy and cruel trade.*

2. Thursday, 2 October is World Farm Animal Day. In recognition of the significance of the day and to make a stand against the trade we will be holding a SILENT VIGIL outside the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel, The Esplanade, Scarborough Beach while the Primary Industries Ministerial Council is conducted. All state and federal agricultural ministers will be attending. Warren Truss; Federal Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Aust and Kim Chance; State Minister of Agriculture will be there.

*We would ask that everyone who opposes this trade, meet with us from 11.30 to 1.30pm to present a united front. We will be laying floral tributes in recognition of the 57000 suffering animals aboard the 'ship of death' the Cormo Express.*

*The flowers are a tribute to the horrendous suffering endured by the dead and ever increasing number of dying animals.*

*A floral gesture may be left anytime of the day or bring it with you and we will issue a black armband to signify this dark time in the history of animal welfare in Australia.*

3. Friday 3 Oct. there will be a MARCH through the streets of Perth City in recognition of World Farm Animal Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2003) and World Animal Day (4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003). Animals all over the world endure unimaginable suffering in a number of different ways. We are at present witnessing the tragedy of over 50,000 sheep, victims of the questionable live animal export trade, presently languishing aboard the *Cormo Express* somewhere in the Red Sea, with no secure future in sight.

We will assemble at 11.45am and start on the Esplanade at Barrack St. Black armbands, placards and banners are provided if you don't have your own.

*We welcome animal lovers from all walks of life, all animal welfare/rights groups and concerned citizens to participate in this march to highlight these two important days, a dedication to all animals everywhere.*