

Rosemary Margaret Race
Wildlife Victoria Volunteer and Citizen Scientist

I wrote this whilst living for two years in Portland Victoria one day after crawling under huge invasive Sweet Pittosporums careful with a locked chainsaw to get to the river side and later when I was home I was thinking of the massive canopies of tall gum trees, orchids, wildlife and the many varied oceans of seagrasses looking tree-like where I have, as a scuba diver experienced brightly colour corals, fish and laughing under water at the sight of fish all shapes and sizes and wrote these few words which is significant to me wherever in Australia (the world) you are to watch life: "As a seed shoots, sunshine beckons it forward, bending to grow, a journey of thousands if not millions of years to form another old growth hollow surviving for another life" Rosemary Race

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

As a dedicated Wildlife Victorian volunteer, open water scuba diver, snorkeler, beach goer, photographer, registered with various groups including the La Trobe Valley Field Naturalists, Portland Field Naturalists, Portland Coastal Cliffs Inc., Landcare Victoria, the Strzelecki Bushwalking club insured with Bushwalking Victoria having assisted the Australian Flora, Fauna, Birdlife, Reptiles, marine mammals it seems like a great honour to me to discuss and realise the sad implementations of The Wildlife Act 1975 as it is now and how with amendments to date as is, which has allowed subsequent to the final decision of the existing Wildlife Act 1975 has condoned the exploitation of permits for killing 'flying' wombats and koalas, various species of kangaroos which having being left on the side of major highways, roads and paddocks slaughtered for their pelts, feet, testicles and heads which are mounted and displayed in certain peoples' homes and clubs is the most pathetic form of excuse for sport when the early settlers introduced these feral to eradicate other so called problems they were experiencing due to the rabbits they brought for the foxes, horses, sambar deer, pigs, cats, dogs and various insects; not forgetting invasive species of Italian Blackthorn, Victorian Gorse and Sea Spurge as different States and Territories even towns and villages and individuals being volunteers strive to keep such feral animals away from our own, our children, family, friends, houses our very existence and the unique Australian flora, fauna, birds and marine mammals breeding and living in 'so called' protected Marine Parks where various Ministers of State and Federal governments of both Labor and Liberal have insisted on gas, oil and seismic testing which would kill, maim or destroy all of the marine life we know of today in the Australian, Antarctica and New Zealand Pacific Island region, as a considerable number are all migratory birds, mammals and other creatures we do not even though of living in vast canons below our oceans through Ramsar Wetlands, farmers wetlands and dams, National Parks wetlands and peoples' gardens with bird baths to survive the climate change, rising tides and ecological scientific fact Australia will not survive with this unique list of species if we are not prepared to eradicate now the feral animals, invasive species and prevent the killing of Australian – Traditional Owners wildlife encompassing all Australian Flora, Fauna, Birdlife and Marine mammals and marine life including seagrasses, mangroves and kelps for everyone's benefit.

Unfortunately, King Island has been raking in kelp for years and years as several Victorian coastal towns aren't realising the potential of their giant kelp for humanity and those of the marine environment which are living in it as their source of food we can work this together with carbon sequestration in our salt waters – our marine life as sea-life dies it forms more carbon for the State as does the increased non-logging tees and bird habitats for skinks and other small Australian marsupials.

Farmers are through Victorian Landcare Facilitators seeking grants and government assistance to rescue their dams with endemic plantings for their newly created wetlands as birds and other reptiles are breeding, more shade for their sheep and cattle, mixed crops with less water combining their farm produce for a more sustainable life and many including endemic orchids, grasslands, habitat for

migratory birds such as the Orange Bellied Parrot from Tasmania to Victoria or international migratory birds seeking a refuge and those of sea birds the Fairy Penguins swimming from Phillip Island to Portland Victoria to the Upwelling of food supply to be rescued by me because they are starving fished out 'by the 250 boats from Melbourne after the first COVID-19 Lockdown' as the towns trawlers sat and watched as these 'fishermen, women and children threw their cast offs of tackle, lines, rods and other equipment over the boat for the sea gulls, Humpback Whales, seals and sea dragons on the newly created rock sites along the rock groynes to be killed or maimed with fishing gear. An 'Aussie attitude I am pleased none of my family had whilst living by the foreshore planting more trees for habitat in Carrum, Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands and thousands of plantings through South West Victoria and again in Gippsland or Mornington Peninsula.

Fortunately, there are more Wildlife Victoria Volunteers being trained and many who have shelters, know 24-hour vets and other organisations which can provide pouches of different sizes if I see a dead or an Australian mammal on the side of the road or caught under someone's car the Police refuse to rescue, I have been able to come out and rescue several mammals. If you chop their own source of food and they climb to the next tree which happens to be an apple because the neighbourhood cut the gum trees down what did the owner of the house or renter think when the koala ran away from their barking dogs, shouting neighbours call a Wildlife Victoria Volunteer or better still do the course and learn what is happening in the 'real world of Indigenous Peoples protection, conservation and prevention of these mammals becoming extinct in our great grandchildren's life of wild Mammals and Flora, the Fauna and Marine Life before you decide 'what's best' for the State's economy practically not a dependent, government based authority which has a team of scientists, but an independent organisation of non-government authority with Traditional Owners and Torres Strait Islands, Aboriginals who many are/or not qualified scientists but knowledge of their grandparents and before them other aboriginals, as truth telling is why it is so important we all learn with provisions, policies, legal frameworks, changes to supplementary legislation, open communications made public, social media releases of changes, Traditional owners and their emerging citizen scientists together as many nationalities, genders, all abilities and cultures for practical lifesaving and rewilding programs throughout the State of Victoria.

Watching an Egret spy my new bird bath from the neighbour's tree put a smile on my face as I've begun my endemic garden in my front garden, then the back yard, then the nature strip then coax the neighbours as soon the whole street will be one long connection from the nearest reserve of the Edward Hunter Heritage Bush Reserve where I met a Gunaikurnai man who was able to advise me his culture and those of his mother's generation living in Moe regarding the intensity of the bush and it's animals, birds and reptiles with such enthusiasm I knew I wanted to know more about his culture too. Invited to two smoking ceremonies for a death of a close friend in the Cobboboonee National Park and for the rebirth of cultural ways of life with the Gunditjmarra peoples I was thoroughly immersed with such wonderful culture and awareness of one another regarding the grasslands, national parks, whales and marine life of South West Victoria their imparting their knowledge through song and dance of Australia should be a curriculum for all schools of Australia we need to know the learnings, way of life and protection, conservation of the mammals, indigenous animals, birdlife, reptiles, marine life for all of us to appreciate and benefit.

Out bushwalking the Mirboo North – Boolarra Rail Trail we saw numerous fungi, lichen, mosses, massive tall canopies of messmate and other gum trees, tree ferns taller than 2 metres in the cleanest rivers I have ever seen, sensing the ground moving realising either a mob of kangaroos or wallabies as three dark grey wallabies ran towards us inspecting a 1800's culvert I was waiting as the others were

chatting I shooed the wallabies away with my arm in a swishing movement as they scattered away the other hikers were delighted they could mark it on their mobiles of the encounter with wildlife. To me zoos and parks for our Australian Wildlife will never be enough for their habitat which stretches all over Victoria and of course into other States and Territories there are no boundaries for our wildlife, birdlife, marine life it is for all of us to be aware, conscious of their habitat and protection of it. Being aware of 'our role' as each one of us is responsible in protection, conservation, and enjoyment. Eco tourism to see wildlife is more enjoyment than paying \$100.00 for a family of four to look at zoo type enclosures as animals sway backwards and forwards its not 'natural' for any animal to be living as such. Send the elephants, lions, rhinos, and other African, American, European mammals to their own countries keeping this wildlife separate from the countries they once roamed now also destroying them in captivity in Australia, so they do not become extinct either.

Praise to Phillip Island in their efforts to rid the island of feral and domestic cats and dogs for the protection of the island's Fairy Penguins where beachside mansions were bought out to extend the fairy penguins habitat – that is what I call eco-tourism – no touching as they have their own burrows within the sand dunes away from prying eyes a sustainable use and access for educational studies of feeding, behaviour and breeding for scientists and universities professors.

STOP organised destruction of Wildlife of Australian Flora, Mammals, Fauna and Marine Life, rocks and sea shells, corals and their cohabitation with their food sources must in my opinion be punishable under the new Wildlife Act with any gaps or inconsistencies resulting from the changes to other legal frameworks or policy settings with insights from reviews of similar legislation with the most effective and appropriate fines to discourage this violence and violent behaviour towards this wildlife in the State of Victoria and elsewhere in Australian States and Territories.

STOP Invasive pests like feral pigs prowling pigmy possums, sugar gliders, kangaroos, wallabies and other Australian animals unaware of these feral species attacking them and their pouches as I've seen ripped pouches with unborn fetuses I know our wildlife in Gippsland is finding it more difficult to survive as are birds being captured for pets, skins, snakes and other Australian species and of course stealing Australian flora, starving our fauna of their natural habitat and source of food. If the sand was burnt at the beaches of Cape Conran as was the saltwater, rivers where fish, crustations of crayfish, yabbies live dug under ground to survive how will the State of Victoria protect Gippsland's unique Australian Flora and Fauna as hunters readily talk about the brumbies, pigs to shoot, deer to shoot and know exactly where all the eatable fungi is?

STOP legislation which has never been updated properly with Traditional owners, Aboriginals, Torres Strait islanders, coherently and with adjusting relevant by-laws, legislation, amendments which affect Australian Fauna, Flora and other habitats including birdlife, marine life and invertebrates of the State of Victoria and those with borders including Tasmania, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, Far North Queensland, it's islands and all marine coastal waters, air, alpine, forests, national and state parks and of course reserves and covenants for the protection of home ownership to protect wildlife near their properties for conservation purposes.

STOP Seismic drilling at Dutton Way Portland Victoria where migratory whales breeding areas are along this coastline (once a whaler station killing whales)now protected and promoted for tourism with locals, Australians and International Visitors who walk the Great South West Walk for its scenic foreshores, Ramsar wetlands, forests, parks, birdlife, reptiles and other Australian fauna and flora for the ecological, botany, scientifically significant Portland Coastal Cliffs, Port Campbell Coastal Cliffs, Cape Bridgewater Coastal Cliffs, Nelson wetlands, Portland Fawthrop Ramsar Wetlands all for the

conservation and protection with a new Wildlife Act which is available to everyone significant for its untouchable ecotourism and enjoyment with Indigenous Peoples, Torres Strait Islanders, Aborigines of truth telling regarding our Australian Flora, Fauna, Habitats and Marine life in the State of Victoria.

Sincerely,

Rosemary M. Race./.

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