



# STUDENT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Issue 2 | Date: 10 June 2020

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to the **COVID-19 Pandemic**, the 2020 WDAA Conference has been cancelled following decisions from the recent WDAA committee meeting.

This is an unfortunate event, however the possibility of an **online set of seminars** for members is being explored.

Plans for the **2021 WDAA Conference** are currently being put on hold until more information can be confirmed regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The WDAA committee intend to hold the **AGM** online this year, with further information being provided in July/August.

## NEW WDAA STUDENT MEMBER !

The student committee would like to welcome **Alannah Jensen** to the team! Alannah is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine student at the University of Melbourne who has a passion for wildlife health and disease.

## WDAA GRANT SURVEY

If you are in need of **extra cash** to assist your wildlife studies then please fill out this survey.

This could be anything ranging from the costs of lab tests, equipment, access to journals, or even holding wildlife-related events at your uni.

Click here: <https://forms.gle/rEg7Kqmxuybaiifh9>

## WDAA MENTORING PROGRAM

The WDAA Student Chapter is keen to try and start a **mentoring program for students** in the Australasian region in 2020.

- If you are a Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) Australasian Section member that would like to be a **mentor**, please fill in the following form: <https://forms.gle/uZdVsQSpKqx1Uyko6>
- If you are a WDA-A Student Chapter member who would like to be mentored please fill in this form to sign up as a **mentee**: <https://forms.gle/rta7qRxajEyFzwti8>
- Becoming a WDA-A Student Chapter member is **free** for eligible tertiary students! Click on the following link to sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9VGRSX3>

## FINDING IT HARD TO STUDY AND FOCUS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

Here are some tips on how to study effectively while stuck at home, whatever your situation might be.



### 1. **Carve out (and clean out) your study space -**

De-clutter the space and make room for your books, computer and any other study tools. Remove, during your chosen study time, anything unrelated to your test prep.

### 2. **Communicate to others in your home that**

**you will be studying** - Give them a heads up so they don't end up distracting you during your crucial study hours

**3. Tune out distractions** - If you find that you need to tune out the noise being made by others around your home, prepare yourself with some headphones and your favorite studying music.

**4. Focus** - The more focused and dedicated you are, the more effective your study time will be. If you're finding it difficult to focus, take a short break to stretch, breathe or enjoy some refreshments.

**5. Reward yourself** - If you've managed to study and focus for the duration of your goal time, be sure to reward yourself! The reward could be an extra hour of binge-watching your favorite show, eating an indulgent dessert, taking a nap or anything else that you enjoy.

**6. Set realistic goals** - When coming up with your study plan, be sure to set goals that you can actually achieve, this helps you stay motivated!

## SHARE SHARE SHARE !!!

**Events:** Do you have an event coming up in your local area that you think fellow members might be interested in? Let us know!

**Stories:** Have you had a wildlife experience or have you come across recent study findings that you would like to share? Shoot us an email!

**Photo of the Month:** Do you have some of your work that you would like to feature in our student newsletter?

**Please email them to:** [wdaastudent@gmail.com](mailto:wdaastudent@gmail.com)

## WDAA AWARDS

Although the WDAA Conference has been cancelled, we encourage nominations for:

- **Barry L. Munday Award**, closing date July 17
- **Dave Spratt Award for 2020**, closing date July 17

WDAA has also made the decision to support the **WDAA Research Award** of \$2,000 value, closing date June 26.

**CLICK HERE for more information**

## TOP STORIES

### **One cat, one year, 110 native animals: lock up your pet, it's a killing machine**

Cats have played a leading role in most of Australia's 34 mammal extinctions since 1788, and are a big reason populations of at least 123 other threatened native species are dropping

*Read full story [HERE](#)*

### **The Coronavirus originated in bats and can infect cats, WHO scientist says**

A WHO scientist says Covid-19 comes from bats and can infect cats and ferrets, but more research is needed into the suspected animal link to the disease

*Read full story [HERE](#)*

### **Wildlife Health Australia - Ongoing wildlife incidents**

For up to date information on disease incidents in wildlife, visit the WHA ongoing incidents page. This web page outlines a number of emerging diseases occurring in wildlife. Featured articles include: Lorikeet paralysis syndrome in NSW and QLD, African swine fever and disease spread to feral pigs, mortality events in grey-headed and black flying foxes, a mysterious neurological syndrome in brushtail possums in Tasmania, and much more!

*Read full story [HERE](#)*

### **Australia's chief veterinary officer calls for new regulations on wildlife markets to prevent future pandemics**

Australia is leading an international push to introduce new regulations and standards for wildlife markets in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak

*Read full story [HERE](#)*

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

### **Understanding resistance and tolerance to chytrid fungal disease in amphibians to improve conservation**

[Griffith University Environmental Futures Research Institute - Dr L Grogan](#)

The project aims to investigate infection dynamics, immunity and mechanisms whereby frogs can either resist or tolerate chytrid fungal infections, to help with population recovery.

*CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!*

### **Marine Mammal Ecotoxicology**

[Brunel University London Biosciences - Dr G Troisi](#)

The project aims to study receptor-level interaction of pollutants with sex hormone receptors in marine mammal reproductive tissues, and to undertake population bio-monitoring of pollutant exposure and sex hormone concentrations in wild seals.

*CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!*