



Issue 3 | Date: September 2020



WDA-A UPDATE

WDA-A Conference 2021
SAVE THE DATE: The conference will be held in Adelaide Hills from September 26 - October 1st 2021.

WDA International Conference 2021
Due to the **cancellation** of the 2020 WDA Conference as a result of COVID-19, the **WDA 2021 Annual International Conference** will be a joint meeting with the European Wildlife Disease Association, and will be held in **Cuenca, Spain** from **August 30 - September 3, 2021**.

For more info on the 2021 conference click [HERE](#).

WDA-A AGM Meeting
The **2020 WDA-A AGM** meeting will be held via an online Zoom link on **Wednesday 30th September** at 2-5pm AEST. Click the [Zoom](#) link.

WDA-A MENTORING PROGRAM

The **WDA-A mentorship program** has been a **success!** A number of mentees have signed up to receive helpful advice and skills from our mentors.

Mentors: Don't forget to contact your mentee if you have not already!

Mentees: Regularly check your inbox for emails from your mentor!

Mentors and mentees: Regular engagement is important to get the most out of this program.

HOT discussion topics: Career advice, volunteer/job opportunities, CV/resume and cover letter tips, study tips, and grant and scholarship applications.

Remember: There will be more opportunities for new mentors and mentees to join next year!

WDA-A Q & A WITH AN EXPERT

Our first Q&A session with Dr Scott Carver was a success! If you missed out on joining this opportunity don't fret!

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch Scott's talk.

****IMPORTANT:** We would like to emphasise that some content of the talk includes unpublished research and personal details. Scott has asked that if anyone wants to use any of that information they contact him first for permission.**

Scott's email: scott.carver@utas.edu.au

SAVE THE DATE: The next Q&A session will be held in October 2020.

Keep an eye on your emails and don't forget to check out our [Facebook page](#) for details on the event and expert speaker.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Would you like to **join** the **WDA-A Student Chapter committee**? We are looking to recruit **3** new students to be a part of our team in **2021** for a 2 yr term.

Send us your **EOI** by the end of October, and be sure to include:

- Who you are (include a photo!)
- Why you would like to be on the committee.
- What you think you can bring to the Student Chapter.

Please email this information to: wdaastudent@gmail.com

TIPS FOR STUDENTS DURING COVID



Emotional:

- Limit time spent on social media platforms, and set a routine for checking the daily news.
- Acknowledge how you feel, notice your emotions, and be gentle and compassionate to yourself. It is okay to feel anxiety, grief, sadness, or anger.
- Journal your feelings, practice mindfulness/grounding techniques, perform deep breathing and practice yoga to help calm your mind and relieve stress and anxiety.
- Set up daily check-ins with family and friends, especially if you live alone.

Social:

- Be empathetic and non-judgemental toward others. Similar to being gracious to yourself, be gracious towards others' emotions and behaviours, even they do not make sense to you.
- Continue to engage in worship and community virtually.

Physical:

- Eat regularly and healthily, and ensure that you limit the amount of snacks you consume each day.
- Take some "stretching breaks" during your studies, or go for a walk while still ensuring that you maintain social distancing.
- Take regular showers and clean your living space to improve the mood and energy of the room.
- If working at home, get dressed as if you are going out to work; this may boost your energy levels.

Simple stretches to keep active:

Stretches can help in times of stress and anxiety, so take some time out of your day to perform a variety of stretches, holding for 30-60 seconds each!

■ Hip flexor stretch

Kneel on the floor and place one foot in a large stride in front of you. Push the hips forwards evenly whilst keeping your buttock tucked under until you feel the stretch in the front of the hip on your back leg.

■ Side-lying thoracic rotation

Lie on your side with your head supported on a pillow and your knees bent to 90 degrees. Reach your arms out in front of you with your hands together. Rotate the upper arm upwards and outwards from your trunk.

■ Levator scapulae (neck) stretch

Start in a seated position. Then, to stretch the left side, place your left hand behind your back so that your elbow is over the top of your head. Take the right hand and pull your head towards your right armpit until you feel a stretch from the base of your skull down to your shoulder on the left side. Repeat the opposite side.

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

WDA FUNDING CAMPAIGN

The WDA has initiated an **Australian Bushfire Response Funding Campaign** to support WDA members and partner organisations involved in **wildlife response activities** relating to the unprecedented and catastrophic **bushfire crisis in southern and eastern Australia**.

WDA Australasia is making funding immediately available to support **eligible applicants** under a number of varying **funding categories**.

For more information, please **[CLICK HERE](#)**.

TOP NEWS STORIES

Bushfires killed or displaced 143 million mammals, 2.46 billion reptiles, 180 million birds and 51 million frogs

Almost three billion animals were killed or displaced by Australia's most recent summer bushfires. The figure is almost three times more than an earlier estimate released in January.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Coronavirus: 'Overexploitation of nature' spreads diseases like Covid-19

Illegal trafficking in wildlife and the overexploitation of nature are factors behind the spread of new diseases like coronavirus, a new report says.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Indonesia resumes release of captive wildlife amid COVID-19

Indonesia has allowed the release of captive animals back in to the wild to continue, after freezing the activity to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus to wildlife populations.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Coronavirus: three misconceptions about how animals transmit diseases debunked

As global COVID-19 cases top two million, it's humbling to remember that it all started when one person got infected by one wild animal.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Most laws ignore 'human-wildlife conflict'. This makes us vulnerable to pandemics

Never before have we seen how the human use of wildlife can yield such catastrophe, as we have with COVID-19.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Orange-bellied parrots, all but extinct, survive Tasmanian summer only to die migrating

Study finds efforts to bolster breeding ground population were successful but the good work is undone when migratory species flies north

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Master of Wildlife Health and Conservation

Murdoch University, Australia

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

MSc Veterinary Public Health (Emergency Animal Diseases)

University of Melbourne, Australia

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Vet Residency - Uni of Melbourne & Melb Zoo

Melbourne, Australia

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Master of Veterinary Studies (Epidemiology)

Massey University, New Zealand

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Masters of wildlife health and population management

The University of Sydney, Australia

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!

Small Animal Rotating Internships

The University of Queensland, Australia

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info!