

Symbiosis: developing mutually beneficial relationships between research and practitioners

PRESENTERS:

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BIOGRAPHY:

Dr Adams has been involved in feral and pest species research for over ten years, with a particular focus on applied ecological studies of vertebrate pests with the aim of improving current conservation and pest management strategies. However, applied research is a two way street, and as such he uses conservation and/or management issues of concern identified by industry and government to help guide his research.



Mrs Sue Metcalf

Chittering Landcare Centre

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BIOGRAPHY:

Sue Metcalf has been around the traps for around twenty years. Not only feral traps but local government and state agency policy development and involved in landcare activities since the 1999. Mrs Metcalf was the chairperson of the Swan Region Natural Resource Management group during development of the Strategy and is now an officer with the Chittering Landcare Centre.

Introduction

Research is often seen by on ground practitioners as being remote from day to day activities in the management of feral and pest animals. This paper seeks to showcase an alliance which has formed between researchers and a landcare group which benefits both groups and helps achieve better outcomes for feral animal control.

Background

Feral pig management is a challenging undertaking, made even more so when set in a peri-urban landscape. Many of the control methods used in farmland and forest habitats are not available or appropriate for use in closely settled areas. Therefore, it is vitally important that as new information becomes available with regard to a feral or pest species of interest, that an assessment of the suitability or application of this knowledge for use by management agencies be conducted quickly.

By having close relationships with researchers the Chittering Landcare Centre has been able to disseminate information to on-ground operators as soon as new methods and information become available. Conversely researchers are able to discuss with operators the effectiveness of the new methods and “ground truth” technologies, whilst also receiving guidance to help direct research initiatives.

In essence, a symbiotic relationship develops.