

**Submission
No 19**

**INQUIRY INTO THE RSPCA RAID ON THE WATERWAYS
WILDLIFE PARK**

Name: Ms Judith Mitchell

Date received: 21/06/2010

JUDITH A. MITCHELL

Friday 22nd January 2010

About 11am a woman came in to the Wildlife Park dressed in a RSPCA uniform. Present was Karen Kennedy and Teena Sutcliffe who were on the verandah of the kiosk and myself inside the kiosk.

I heard her say she had complaints about a few animals, dingoes, emu , kangaroos and wombats and asked who was in charge of the park and was told Jodie was as Nancy was in hospital having a hip replacement. Jodie was in town at that time and Karen rang her to let her know that a RSPCA officer had arrived.

The officers attitude to us was one of contempt and intimidation as we did not have any qualifications and volunteers meant nothing to her, to her we knew nothing.

The officer came into the kiosk and starting asking questions about health and safety and where our evacuation point was and where the plan was, also where are the fire extinguishers, when Teena asked if that was her area of rights she was told did she have a problem with that. We felt that OH&S was concern to the RSPCA. We were told we have to tell all visitors where the evacuation point was.

The officer made a phone call and we heard her say that nobody knows anything then she started to walk down the path towards the eagles cage and Teena went after her.

Karen left at this time in a distressed state and Jodie arrived back and went to find officer.

After the officer , Jodie and Teena came back to the kiosk the officers manner was greatly subdued . Jodie and Teena and the RSPCA officer were discussing what had to be done as far as paperwork was concerned and feeding according to weight and size. The officer had a look in Nancy's office and commented on the condition of it.

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The officer also spoke about two wildlife parks in Sydney that she closed down that had dead and dying animals and snakes in them. The officer said that the park was nowhere near that level , just a few minor adjustments to be made and paperwork to be brought up to date.

At about 3-15 pm the officer left the park, Jodie and Teena walked with her to her vehicle

J. Mitchell 9-6-2010
Judith A. Mitchell

Enclosed 2 pages