

Submission
No 343

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF
KANGAROOS AND OTHER MACROPODS IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

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INQUIRY INTO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF KANGAROOS AND OTHER MACROPODS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Thank you for inviting members of the Public to make submissions into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW.

Being a 74 year old British born Australian who arrived here in 1950 I still get a thrill whenever I see native Australian animals, particularly kangaroos and other macropods in the wild. It makes me feel proud to be an Australian.

Several years ago we took a family of visiting Scottish relatives to Euroka Clearing, Glenbrook, where we were lucky enough to see a small group of kangaroos adjacent to the walking track. Our visitors were overjoyed. To this day they claim it was the highlight of their trip to Australia.

More recently we visited an old Punchbowl School friend in his new home near Sussex Inlet on the South Coast. Whilst we were standing on his back verandah we saw a kangaroo standing about 50 metres away between us and the water. This scene was truly idyllic.

However, sadly, my old school mate then informed us that on his arrival at Sussex Inlet a few years back a neighbour informed him that kangaroos are 'pests' and invited him to go kangaroo shooting. My friend accepted the invitation and it appears he was successful in shooting at least one kangaroo. He became aware of a joey that he had just orphaned by killing its mother and inquired of his neighbour what he should do with it. The neighbour then took the joey and stamped on his head until it was dead!

My friend who described this incident to me had never used a firearm previously and as an ex National Serviceman I can say that the chances that the joey's mother was killed with a clean head shot would be next to nil.

I found this story quite confronting as I like animals. The whole thing seemed abnormal and abhorrent to me as I had been raised to be kind to animals.

Later I had the opportunity to view the movie 'Kangaroo' and was shocked at what I saw. It demonstrated to me that the cruelty described by my friend at Sussex Inlet is relatively common place. This kind of thing reflects extremely poorly on all Australians.

None of us can be proud of this kind of slaughter!