



## FROM THE EDITOR

BY SAREN STARBRIDGE

# Exotic, remote, remarkable

How could we describe the Northern Territory, theme of this issue? *Exotic*, which means alien or introduced from abroad, is an unfortunately apt description of what has happened to many of the Territory's otherwise relatively undisturbed ecosystems. *Remote*. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, at the end of June 2003, the Northern Territory's population represented approximately 1 percent of Australia's total population. For 99 percent of us, the Territory is remote. *Remarkable*. Very much so, as our talented array of contributors aptly demonstrate. Many thanks to the people who have shared their research, writing, photography and painting to bring some of the magic of the Northern Territory to this issue of *Wildlife Australia*.

Speaking of remarkable – this is a good place to highlight some exceptional people, events and services.

### Mud and laughter

Long-time wildlife advocate (and Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland member) Molly Crawford has spent much of the past 20+ years focused on mangroves. They piqued her interest in 1983, leading her to study them and then, in collaboration with cinematographer Jeff Simmons, spend eight years making an educational film about them, which she continues to promote and sell. *Amazing Mangroves*, in VHS video, is clear, informative and fascinating: a tribute to Molly's teaching background.

The accompanying booklet, *Mud, Sweat and Laughter*, describes the making and marketing of the video and is a must-read for anyone with an interest in nature documentaries. As is often the case, a look behind the scenes enriches your appreciation of the final product. Video and booklet can be ordered directly from Capricorn Nature Productions, Unit 55 Carooona Village, Goonellabah, NSW 2480.

### No joke

Kangaroos that climb trees. Sounds like one of those stories you tell gullible tourists. It's true, of course. WAM's northern correspondent Lee K. Curtis wrote about these rare, intriguing and unlikely marsupials



Photo © Lee K. Curtis/ataglance.com

in 'Hey, that's no koala' (WAM V40-4). Now she is assisting with an international conference to be held 27-30 November 2005 in tree-kangaroo territory at Genazzano Lake Tinaroo Conference Centre. With Tim Flannery as keynote speaker, participants will explore the status of research, captive management, health and conservation of tree-kangaroos and their habitat, and set priorities for conservation and research of tree-kangaroos for

Australia, New Guinea, the US and Europe for the next 10 years. A draft program is available at <http://tesla.jcu.edu.au/schools/zoology/treekangas>.

### Click on a bird

Want to see what an Australian bird looks like? You've got your field guides, coffee-table books and dedicated periodicals, but for a varied look at an excellent range of our feathered finest, visit [www.aviceda.org](http://www.aviceda.org) and discover ABID, the Australian Bird Image Database. The database was created and is maintained by Tom and Marie Tarrant and supported by dozens of photographers. Several ABID images have appeared in WAM (by photographers Tom Tarrant, Rohan Clarke, Neil Fifer, Julien Phillips and Tony Crittenden); we hope there will be many more. Congratulations to Tom and all the contributors for this wonderful resource.

### And the winners

Congratulations to the winners of our WOW subscription draw. Dr Harry Lorang, Mosman NSW wins a Weekend of Wildlife at O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse in beautiful Lamington National Park. Diana Cummings, Indooroopilly Qld; Mr M Atkinson, Moss Vale NSW and Colin Hutchinson, Ashton SA each win a World of Wildlife with a copy of *Wildlife Photographer of the Year Portfolio 14* – top images from the competition run by the Natural History Museum and BBC *Wildlife Magazine*.

SAREN STARBRIDGE, editor

## Swamp

