

Wild News

ISSUE 74 - AUTUMN 2015

Rehabilitation
The Tale
of Four Bettongs

Compassionate Kids
Intricate
Ecosystems

Discover...

All News & Events

+ New Easy Reference Sheets



President's Report



By Karen Scott

Welcome to another edition of WildNews! As the cooler weather starts to arrive, we have certainly seen a welcome reduction in the number of incoming calls to our emergency hotline.

I must say a huge thank you to our small team of hotline volunteers who handled the busy spring and summer season extremely well. Never under-estimate what a small team of less than 20 people can accomplish! This small team kept the Wildcare hotline operational, so that there was only minimal need for the message service during this time. My sincerest thanks go to each and every one of you. You are a tremendous asset to Wildcare and a huge help to our volunteer rescuers, Coordinators and Trauma Carers.

Please remember to stop and check deceased wildlife on the roads to ensure that there is no live joey in the pouch or in the surrounding area (in the case of marsupials) as they will succumb to hypothermia and hypoglycemia so quickly during the colder months.

I hope that the upcoming 'quieter' months are kind to all of our volunteers and you have an opportunity for some down-time.

Take care of yourself and each other.

Of course the cooler weather and shorter days generally signal the start of what we refer to as our 'trauma season'. This is the time of the year when our wildlife is more likely to fall victim to vehicle trauma, as more people are on the roads during the hours of darkness. I would urge our volunteer rescuers to consider your availability during this time and whether you are able to attend rescues during the night, as this is a time when we really struggle to get help for our severely injured wildlife.

Wildcare Australia Inc

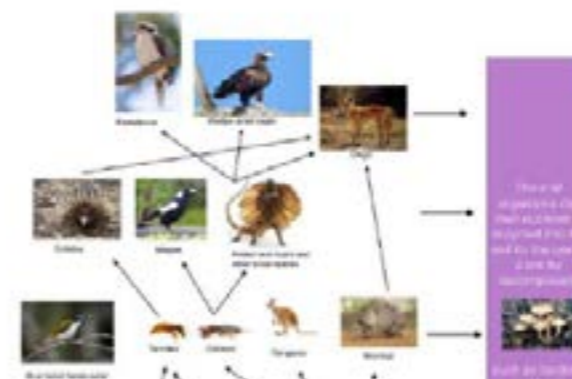
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www.wildcare.org.au



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OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the environment by providing a high standard of rescue, care and rehabilitation for sick, injured, orphaned and displaced native fauna with the goal of successful release into the natural environment.

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NEWSLETTER TEAM

Eleanor Hanger & Deborah Bianchetto.
Submissions can be sent to news@wildcare.org.au
cover photo: Shutterstock



A Warm Welcome to our New Members

Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members in January, February & March:

Chonail Bradley; Madhra Bradley; Rebecca Ferris; Karen Harrap; Jessica Ash; Annette Ferguson; Zillah Hall; Kelly Jackson; Emmanuelle Maron; Tinneale McCredie; Benjamin Anstey; Glenda Murphy, Andrew Murphy, Laura Murphy and Bianca Murphy; Laura Smith and Anthony Smith, Brianna and Ethan; Kaitlyn Walker, Jenny Brown & Greg Schulze; Lyn Shorthouse; Ashleigh Berry; Melissa Chivers; Robyn Franks; Craig Hoisington; Robert Lawlor, Gaye Lawlor and Jackson Lawlor; Anika Lister; Kimberley Weir; David Wilson and Carrie Wilson; Taryn Elphick; Alanna Clarke; Beverley Neil and Breanna Neil; Cathy Taylor; Peter Splatt; Mallory Doust; Demi Chaplin; Clive Coleman; Alison Logan; Scott Dickson; Rainey Bourke; Gina Carmady and Matthew McGuigan, Fynn, Shae and Mia McGuigan; Jackie Semple, Gregory Semple, Natalie and William; Gayle Meredith; Phil Argent, Kim Argent and Xavier; Helena Matsushiga; Jodie Purss; Fiona Gooley; Amanda Bowler; Deb Olive; Kelsey Fiegle; Dionne Evans and Nick Evans; Amanda Trinca, Silvio Trinca, Jay and Jiordyn; Michelle Woolley; Lucia Valle; Ainsley Stock, John Stock, Oscar and Juliette; Danielle Ringrose; Courtney Jackson and Karl Goodsell; Christine Hunt and Ruth Bartley; Gillian Emmanuel; Leah Walker; Kate Perry; Aliyah Shaheem; Pam Ison & Ray Ison; Melissa Kanpp; Sharon Ashe; Roy Major; Celeste Rigby; Laurie Duniam; Sarah Alexander; Faye Prufert; Nikki Kuper; Kerry Hoog; Bianca Mowbray; Marcel Freer; Daisy Lodge; Anna Loizou; Martha Poole; Gabriela Shuster; Valerie Hall; Jane Rookledge; Sianne Nipperess & Jarrad Patterson; Matthew Wright; Jemma-Lee Morgan; Rebecca Pearson & Anthony Hawes; Sharon Lock; Coral Vinter; Jacqueline Hines; Angela Roe & Benjamin Davies; Marina Riley & Benjamine Riley; Elena Romanove; Charlie Costanzo; Allison Menzies; Catherine Liddington; Laitlin Crocker; Hester Rynhoud; Muriel Rynhoud; Stephen Collom & Louella Collom; Rebekah Austin; Sandy Mitchell & Ian Hewett.

By joining Wildcare Australia you are demonstrating your commitment to the welfare of Australia's native animals. Please don't hesitate to get involved in this, your organization. If you are unsure of where your personal niche may be, contact us and I'm sure we will be able to help you. We hope you have a long and happy association with Wildcare Australia.

Thank you to all those members who have renewed their Wildcare membership subscription for another year. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

NEXT ISSUES SUBMISSIONS DATES

Winter - Issue 75: 20th June
Spring - Issue 76: 20th September
Sumer - Issue 77: 20th December

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Wildcare Australia or of the editors.

Education Report

By Karen Scott

We are currently preparing our workshop calendar for the July to December period and hope to have it published and distributed by the end of May.

As our workshops are becoming more popular with both Wildcare members and other volunteers in the wild-life industry, our volunteer trainers are finding it more and more difficult to meet the demands of attendees. If anyone is interested in helping with the workshops, we would love to hear from you. We particularly need assistance with setting up, packing up, maintaining items for sale at workshops and other related activities.

Over the past few months we have re-visited a previous idea of creating Easy Reference Sheets on a variety of relevant wildlife rehabilitation topics. We have now updated several of these and added several others to the ERS library. You can find the current versions of the ERS at the links below:

- [Breeding Mealworms \(Updated\)](#)
- [Harvesting Browse and Fruit for Wildlife \(Updated\)](#)
- [Dealing with Deceased Animals \(New\)](#)
- [Rescuing Domestic Birds \(New\)](#)
- [Rescuing Domestic Reptiles \(New\)](#)

We are hoping to add to the ERS library and would love to hear from anyone who is interested in developing more of these. We have a huge list of suggestions on a variety of topics, so we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in doing a little bit of research and putting some of these together.

On a final note, please remember to check that you have completed your 2014-2015 training requirements if you wish to renew your Permit Endorsement which is due to expire on 30th June 2015. If you have any questions as to what workshops you still need to complete, please contact us urgently via email at education@wildcare.org.au.

Wildcare Facebook Pages

A reminder about the Wildcare closed Facebook pages, which were created to improve networking between members. A huge thank you to those experienced volunteers who have contributed significantly to those pages and made newer and less experienced members feel welcome.

- **WildMammals** – Closed page for members with a Wildcare Permit Endorsement who rescue and/or care for mammals including possums, gliders, macropods, bandicoots etc.
- **WildReps & Frogs** – Closed page specifically for those volunteers with Wildcare Permit Endorsements who have an interest in reptiles and amphibians.
- **WildBirds** - Closed page for members actively rescuing or caring for native birds.

If any Wildcare Permit members are having trouble finding the Facebook pages, please email enquiries@wildcare.org.au and we will point you in the right direction.

Wildcare AGM

You should have received correspondence along with your membership renewal recently, with a reminder that our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Sunday the 28th June 2015 at the RSPCA at Wacol.

We will be having a guest speaker, Martin Fingland from Geckoes Wildlife Presentations from 10am to 12noon. Many of you will know Martin as he offers specialized wildlife training courses to members on reptiles and general wildlife handling. Martin will be speaking about what it is like for him and his family to live amongst a remarkable collection of 300+ Australian wildlife species. Martin is an engaging speaker and of course will be bringing along a collection of his favourite animals – some of which we never get to encounter as wildlife carers in South-east Queensland.

Children of Wildcare members are of course welcome to attend Martin's talk. Afterwards, we have arranged some activities for our Junior members to take place whilst the AGM is underway, including a guided tour of the RSPCA Campus and Wildlife Hospital.

The actual AGM will commence around 1pm and will only take a short while to allow members with children attending to leave at a reasonable time.

We are looking at providing lunch between Martin's talk and the AGM, so will require members to RSVP, to ensure that we adequately cater for everyone.

If anyone is intending to come for Martin's talk and the AGM, can we please ask that you send confirmation to enquiries@wildcare.org.au with your name and the number of adults and children attending. Please RSVP by the 12th June 2015 so that we have adequate time to organize the catering.

WildNews

We are always looking for contributions; ideas, suggestions, stories, events, reports, preferably related to what we do, of an educational nature, or of interest to our members. Submissions should be original work, or if not, correctly acknowledged, accompanied by written permission to use the material. Of course, we love photos, but they should be > 1MB to ensure a sharp image in the printed copies.

Please forward your submissions to: news@wildcare.org.au



Wildlife Permits in Queensland

By Karen Scott

Queensland native wildlife is protected by legislation which is governed by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP).

The EHP is responsible for issuing the various types of licenses and permits which regulate the taking, keeping, using or moving of wildlife for commercial, recreational and other purposes. It is important for wildlife volunteers to understand the difference between the various types of permits and possible ways that they may affect our work with sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

The four main types of permits involving wildlife in Queensland can be summarized as follows:

Recreational Wildlife License (RWL) (issued under S11(D) Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006)

- Recreational licenses are most commonly issued for certain species of native birds and reptiles. Animals kept under a RWL are not 'wild caught' – that is, they have been bred for the pet industry.
- You cannot put a 'wild caught' native animal on your RWL without going through appropriate procedures and obtaining authority from EHP.
- Holding a RWL does not entitle you to keep sick, injured or orphaned wildlife (see Rehabilitation Permit).
- Animals held under a RWL cannot be taken or moved from your registered address without EHP approval. The exception to this is transporting the animal for veterinary treatment. That means that you cannot take your pet reptile to visit a friend, take it to the beach or park or take it to a friend's house to be cared for whilst you are on holidays.
- Holding animals under a RWL is subject to strict record keeping guidelines.
- You cannot transfer an animal to or from a person that does not hold a valid RWL.

- If you hold animals under a RWL you must ensure that your hygiene and quarantine procedures are impeccable to ensure that there is no risk of the spread of disease between captive and wild individuals. Some diseases have the potential to be devastating to valuable captive collections and to wild populations.

- For more information on Recreational Wildlife Licences refer to the Guideline issued by EHP which can be found [here](#).

Rehabilitation Permit (RP) (issued under S12(E) Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006)

- Rehabilitation Permits cover individuals who take and keep protected animals from the wild for the purpose of rehabilitation and subsequent release of the animal back to the wild (e.g. wildlife rehabilitators caring for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife).
- A Rehabilitation Permit (or your Permit Endorsement from Wildcare) lists the species that are permitted to be kept under such Permit. It generally excludes specialised species such as koalas, echidnas, platypus, venomous snakes, birds of prey (raptors), some sea and water birds and marine animals.
- If a wildlife volunteer holds an animal that is not specifically listed on their RP, then they are deemed to be holding the animal as an unlicensed person.
- Animals held under an RP that are listed as Extinct in the Wild, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened must be reported to the EHP within 24 hours of taking possession of the animal.

Wildlife Permits in Queensland

By Karen Scott

- Animals held under a Rehabilitation Permit cannot be sold or given away.
 - A Rehabilitation Permit does not allow the holder to keep or hold pet birds or reptiles that are subject to Recreational Wildlife Licenses. For example, if you rescued a Central Bearded Dragon (which is not endemic to South-east Queensland and therefore assumed to be an escaped or released pet), it cannot be held under a Rehabilitation Permit – it must be relinquished to the EHP (even if you hold a RWL).
 - The care of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife is governed by the Code of Practice – Care of orphaned, sick or injured protected animals by wildlife care volunteers and all wildlife rehabilitators should be well versed in its contents.
 - Animals held under an RP cannot be displayed in public unless authorized to do so. This means that you cannot take an animal to a shopping centre, talk, display or expo without written authority. The EHP will only issue approval to use wildlife held under a RP to a wildlife care association (such as Wildcare) – not to an individual wildlife carer. If you wish to take an animal in your care to a school or community talk or function for education purposes, you need to make application to the Wildcare Management Committee who will assess the need and may elect to make application to EHP for such approval. Wildlife volunteers who hold individual wildlife permits cannot make application to EHP for this purpose.
 - Wildlife being held under a Rehabilitation Permit cannot be moved from their registered address except in the following instances:
 - o From the rescue location to your address where you will be caring for the animal;
 - o To a veterinarian for treatment;
 - o To a release site for the purpose of releasing back to its natural habitat;
 - o To another licensed person who is taking over the care of the animal;
 - o To a location as instructed by EHP;
 - o To a Species Coordinator or mentor for advice or assessment;
 - o To your workplace but only if it requires regular feeding and you have the approval of your employer and do not breach any local laws or health regulations;
 - o To a wildlife training workshop or course provided the animal is placed in a quiet room during the duration and is fed away from other course participants.
 - Animals held under a Rehabilitation Permit that are deemed to be ‘unreleaseable’ need to be referred to the Wildcare President (the holder of the Wildcare group rehabilitation permit). In some cases, it may be suitable for an application to be made to EHP for the animal to go through the Queensland Species Management Plan (QSMP) for placement within a zoo exhibit.
 - Holders of Rehabilitation Permits are not licensed to deal with animals that need to be removed/relocated due to human activity. This means that a wildlife carer is not permitted to remove uninjured wildlife, such as a snake or possum, from a property because it poses a risk or inconvenience to the homeowner. Calls of this nature need to be referred to a DMP holder (see below). Demands from both homeowners and commercial enterprises for volunteers to undertake these types of ‘rescues’ are becoming more frequent in an effort by the homeowner/enterprise to reduce costs (i.e. a wildlife volunteer is free compared with a DMP holder who charges a fee).
- It is important for wildlife volunteers to be aware that they are breaching the Regulation by undertaking these types of activities.**
- Damage Mitigation Permit (Removal and Relocation of Wildlife) (DMP)** (issued under S12(a) Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006)
- There are a number of different types of Damage Mitigation Permits (DMPs see below). However the most common one that wildlife volunteers will come across are ones that allow the permit holder to remove and relocate wildlife.
 - The most common species covered under a DMP are snakes, possums and magpies.
 - DMPs exist to help deal with situations where wildlife and humans come into conflict (e.g. snake in the house, possum living in a roof, aggressive swooping magpies).
 - DMP holders operate on a commercial basis i.e. they provide a service to the public and charge a fee for their service to offset their expenses, such as licence fees and insurance cover.
 - DMP holders need to keep detailed records of animals that they remove and relocate.
 - A DMP does not allow the permit holder to keep protected species collected in the normal course of their business.

Wildlife Spotter Catcher Endorsed Rehabilitation Permit (WSCRPE) (issued under S12(e) Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006)

- A Wildlife Spotter Catcher is a licensed individual with a demonstrated ability to handle a wide variety of wildlife including macropods and reptiles, has well developed wildlife identification skills and has knowledge of fauna, flora and habitat requirements.
- Most WSCs have experience in zoo-keeping, wildlife rehabilitation or other relevant industry experience.
- A WSC deals with wildlife whose habitat has or is about to be destroyed by human activity (such as land clearing).
- WSCs are called upon to undertake activities such as:
 - o Checking hollows and nest sites in trees prior to the felling;
 - o Removing wildlife from inappropriate areas (such as removing microbats or gliders from telecommunication boxes to allow work to be conducted);
 - o Conducting fauna and flora surveys on sites which will be subject to clearing.

If you are ever in doubt as to what activities you are permitted to undertake under your Permit, you should seek

clarification from either Wildcare (for Rehabilitation Permits) or EHP directly (for other permits). The EHP is active in ensuring compliance with all licences and permits, and you should ensure that you are aware of the limitations of the Permit held by you.

For more information, visit the EHP website at www.ehp.qld.gov.au

References:

Information Sheet – *Recreational wildlife licence (EHP)*

Guideline – *Rehabilitating sick, injured and orphaned protected animals – Conditions and restrictions – Taking and keeping protected animals (EHP)*

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website

Coordinator Reports

BIRDS

By Ailsa Watson

Could someone please tell the birds that breeding season is over?

In the past fortnight I have received a baby coucal, a baby koel, three tiny finches (you know, the toothpick feeds) and my first ever baby white-headed pigeon. This is not to mention the usual varieties that by this time of year should have retired from breeding, including my butcher birds which are sitting and my peewees that are building a new nest.

I have had a lot of problems with carpet snakes this season, averaging one a week. Some are only about 1 metre long, but one was about 4 metres. It could be because we have had our share of rats, as I live within easy reach of the wetlands. I think most of rats come from there. One of them was a native species, so I was glad that I had used live trapping methods.

We have installed a birdbath at the information centre in the Wetlands and the number of birds visiting is astounding. We knew we had a lot, but even the whip birds and pittas are using it. Some of us, who man the centre on weekends, put in and purchased a motion camera and it has been giving us a lot of pleasure. As soon as someone figures out how to put it on DVD we are going to set it up on video and see what we get. It should be interesting.

Coordinator Reports

REPTILES

By Annette Bird

It's been a quieter season so far on the reptile front. This is good for our carers but better for the reptiles. I've been inundated with hatchlings though, with many species hatched and released.

Of these the primary species have been Eastern Bearded and Eastern Water Dragons. A big thank you to Jill, who has tirelessly run around releasing everything I've been hatching. I know it was hard to keep up, as there were new arrivals just about daily for six weeks.

There have been more than a few venomous snakes come into care so far this season with Red-bellied Black, Eastern Brown, Brown Tree, Yellow-faced Whip and Small-eyed snakes represented. All were successfully rehabilitated and safely released. When I say successfully, I mean everyone survived! Luckily, most were very well mannered. There was one memorable individual; a whip snake that did not like to play nicely at all. Luckily I was warned, as he didn't play nicely with the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital staff either – so I can say at least it wasn't me!

This snake was attacked by a very brave (or stupid) cat and luckily had only minor injuries but still required a course of both antibiotics and pain relief by injection. Once completed though, he was released very smartly I can tell you. He liked to hide under his paper and being a smallish, thin snake we could not easily see where he was hiding. He had a tendency to explode straight at us, which made for an interesting time. All of the Eastern Browns were impeccably mannered.

Upcoming Events:

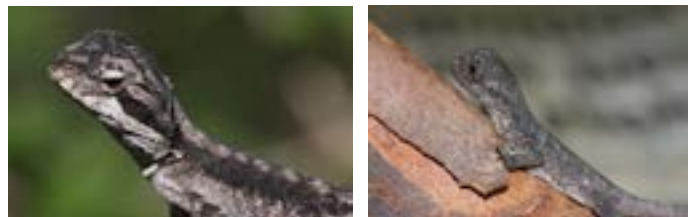
Just a reminder that the Logan Eco Festival (LEAF) is on again and we are looking for volunteers to assist on the day. It is on the 31st May so hopefully we will see a few people helping. It's a very busy but very rewarding day. There is always plenty to see and do and the networking opportunities are very worthwhile. Don't worry if you are new to Wildcare, come along and enjoy the day with us.

Don't forget to check out the education calendar and see the great learning opportunities that are available as well.

Workshops: I'm doing the Incubation Workshop (Saturday 20th June) again for those of you who are interested in hatching reptiles or birds. It's been very busy on this front too with a few members hatching both. Whilst reptile hatching is very successful, we are gathering more information all the time on birds. The more we do both

successfully and unsuccessfully, the more we learn. We've revised the bird section of the workshop to accommodate the information gained from valued bird carers and this section is now as strong as the reptile component. Also, the photography workshop is ever popular.

I would recommend the snake workshop for all members, even if you don't particularly like snakes. I cover identification which I think is valuable for everyone rescuing or going out cutting browse for other species. Also I cover basic handling and how to read body language with snakes: all invaluable if you inadvertently come into contact with a snake whilst doing other things or find a snake on your bird or possum enclosures. You'll at least get some basic information to assist in these situations. Book early so you don't miss out.



Above: Eastern Bearded and Eastern Water Dragon hatchlings on release



Above: Yellow-faced Whip and Eastern Brown (in tube) Snakes

A Tale of Four Bettongs

By Penelope Hacker

Let me warn you at once, bettongs are crazy critters. They have extremely strong personalities to make up for their reduced stature. They are macropods, once called rat-kangaroos, because they do have a distinctly ratty appearance especially when young, but huge feet, even for a macropod.

The other problem is that most people have never heard of them, despite there being four species: the Northern which is endangered and is from a very restricted distribution around Mossman, Paluma and Atherton; the Southern which is vulnerable and confined to the eastern two thirds of Tasmania; the Burrowing now probably also extinct on mainland Australia and confined to four West Australian islands; and last but not least, the Rufous which is found from north of Newcastle to Cooktown in grassy coastal forests.

The first three I raised were described as pademelons, the first from Chinchilla (very odd for a paddy!), the second identified by a vet from Blackwater (even more so), and the third from the Beaudesert area.

In fact the first three probably didn't need to be "rescued". The mother carries dry grass in her prehensile tail like a Ringtail possum to make a nest of dry grass in a scrape on the ground, and leaves the juvenile in it while she forages. The baby, about 400g, gets "saved" by a well-meaning passer-by, as it is small and alone.

In the wild they eat a lot of fungi, having long foreclaws for digging, a superb sense of smell for sniffing them out, and a specially adapted foregut for processing them. In my experience they disdain cultivated mushrooms, though. Instead, sweet corn, sweet potato, carrot and guinea pig mix may be acceptable! They enjoy digging for roots in the ground too.

Pickles was 400g when she came from a watermelon paddock at Chinchilla and the owners definitely didn't want her back. She was my introduction to a very strong personality. She hated one pair of my sandals and would vigorously attack them whenever she saw them. She also liked to use her incisors to scrape the paint off the walls, and, when rebuked, would throw herself on her side, kick her heels and growl – a real tantie! I later learned that females do this when approached by an amorous male if they're not in the mood. She was released near Esk as this was in my pre-Wildcare days.

Minnie from Blackwater, about the same weight, was cared for by a kind local who sensibly contacted Australia Zoo hospital when she realised that things weren't going well. She went for release at a Wildcare member's property at Murgon.

Then there was Dottie who came from Kooralbyn some years later. She flourished, bossing my wallaby joeys around, and was released with them at Murgon too. She continued her bossy ways there, turning up to get some macropod pellets with the local adult Black-stripe and Red-necked wallabies, more than twice her size. She was followed by a local male bettong, respectfully a few hops behind. Dottie had grass in her tail for a nest but she wanted some of those pellets and wasn't about to put the grass down or be put off by those big wallies, so she chased them off! As can be seen below, she has been doing her best to add to the bettong population, producing a joey every year. Go Minnie!

Finally, on 12th March this year, it's a boy! Bertie came from Benarkin where his mum had been hit by a car and had a fractured spine. He is the only pouch baby I have had, weighing 210g, but fully furred. He was severely dehydrated and had thrush, as so many macropods do, so had to be on intra venous fluids for nearly a week. But he is thriving now, and growing too quickly for my liking. He has become a Facebook star, having made not one, but two "movies" on the RSPCA page (we are waiting for a call from David Attenborough) and heading Wildcare's Wild-mammals group.

If you would like to join his growing fan club, please contact me.



Minnie doing the typical bettong stretch



Bertie



*Minnie released – and yes, that is a joey in her pouch!
Photo: Marie Newson*

Compassionate

Kids



Intricate Ecosystems!

All of the amazing and diverse wildlife that lives in our wonderful country, Australia, has become accustomed to a particular habitat which provides a specific diet. It is necessary for our animals to get the right diet in order to survive well, grow and reproduce successfully. Animals work amongst each other, using relationships to survive in their ecosystem. For example, in an ecosystem such as a dry sclerophyll forest, goannas will feed on anything from insects and small mammals to other reptiles and some larger mammals, creating a predator-prey relationship. These relationships and interactions help to keep an ecosystem in balance.

An ecosystem is the interaction between biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors that affect the way in which each organism operates within an environment. The organisms involved are part of a food web, which dictates their lifestyle and food sources. For example, the leaves of a tree are eaten by a small beetle, which is preyed upon by a bird, which can be eaten by a snake, and this snake could become prey to a large predatory bird. Once deceased, these organisms are recycled back into the soil by decomposers and are available for plants to use. It can be a complicated arrangement involving a vast range and number of plant and animal species, and making a huge impact on an ecosystem. Even the tiniest of changes can affect nearly all species involved.

That is why human interaction can have such a devastating effect on our environment. By taking away a habitat, whole ecosystems are destroyed. Decreasing the number of just one species can cause a great imbalance. The living organisms within our environment have evolved and adapted to a lifestyle, which is necessary for their survival. Many of us love animals and are intrigued by them. Often, many children want to catch or feed animals in order to interact with them. It is so lovely to be so close to these wonderful animals and keep them as pets, but have you ever wondered about the affect it could have on their ecosystem? Giving the wrong food can compromise the health of animals leading to disease. Disease can spread and many animals in a species can die, decreasing the population. This then impacts the animals that would eat them, and also the

other plants or animals that they would have eaten.

It is indeed wonderful to share some time with our native wildlife, but it is more wonderful to see them thriving in their natural habitat, contributing to the food web as part of a functioning ecosystem. We, as children, can watch and observe them eating the food that is suitable for them. It is important that we do not keep any small native wildlife such as skinks, tadpoles or frogs as pets and it is equally important that we do not feed any native wildlife the wrong food, such as a diet suitable for a human or domestic pet.



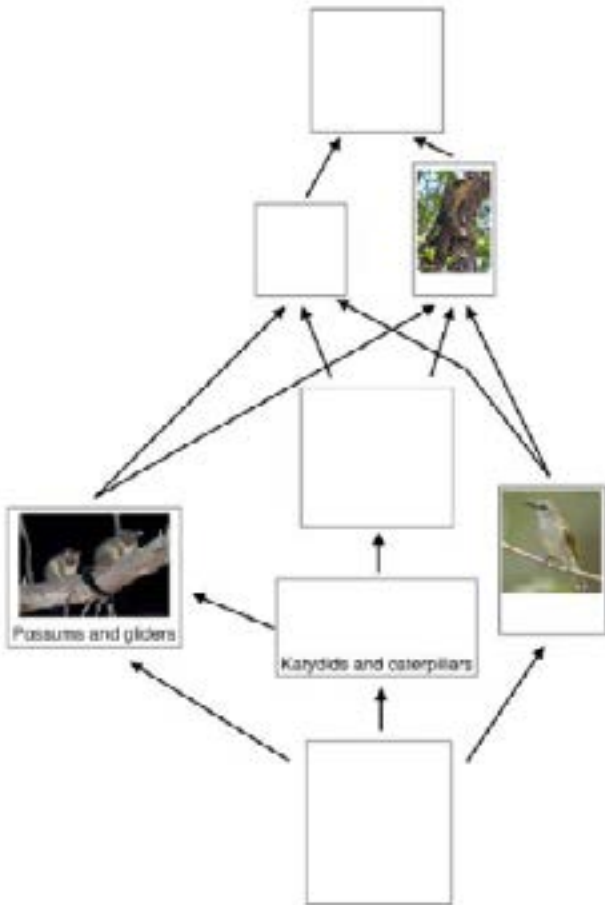
Intricate Ecosystems!

Continued



Monthly Mission: By Jasmine, Lilly and Jack Rasmussen

Research the following questions and see how much you can learn about ecosystems. Also remember to keep the animals around your house in their natural habitat and eating the right foods!



Choose from the names, pictures or labeled organisms to fill in the blank spaces!

- Small insects such as Lich Pili
- Hawks and eagles
- Bats, herons and insect eating birds
- Pythons
- Monkeys
- Gourmas

Q1) What are 3 different types of ecosystems in Australia?

- a.
- b.
- c.

Q2) Describe the relationships found between animals: (Look it up)

- a. Predator prey relationship
- b. Parasite host relationship
- c. Commensalism
- d. Mutualism

Q3) What are adaptations? (Look it up)

Q4) What affect can humans have on ecosystems?

Q5) Think about the transfer of energy throughout the organisms. (Look it up). Write down your notes:

Q6) Give four examples of biotic factors in an ecosystem: (Living things) (Hint: animals, plants)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

Q7) Give four example of abiotic factors in an ecosystem: (Non-living things) (Hint: seasons, weather, etc)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

Grants

As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the generous support of the community as well as the funding opportunities provided by local councils and private businesses and corporations. Wildcare kindly acknowledges the following councils, businesses and individuals who have provided essential support for our volunteer work. .



REDLAND CITY COUNCIL - In 2014, Redland City Council provided funding totaling \$9,970 through their Community Grants Program to help the wildlife on North Stradbroke Island. This funding allowed the purchase of rescue equipment, such as rescue cages for mammals and birds, reptile rescue equipment, koala rescue equipment, safety equipment such as nets, torches and safety vests, binoculars, as well as veterinary equipment and consumables to enable wildlife to be triaged, assessed and treated on the Island.



CITY OF GOLD COAST - Wildcare was successful in its 2014 application for funding from the Council's Community Grants Program to the value of \$5,000. The funding helped with the ongoing expenses relating to our emergency hotline, and the ever increasing costs associated with responding to critically injured wildlife.



QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION - Funding has been approved for \$4,450 for the purchase of koala rehabilitation equipment and another koala trap for the Logan, Brisbane and Redland regions.



LOGAN CITY COUNCIL - Funding of \$5,000 was received through Council's EnviroGrant Program to develop and print our new wildlife series of brochures on such topics as Wildlife and Pets, Homes for Wildlife, Feeding Wildlife and Helping Native Baby Birds. Funding was also used to print light-weight display banners for use at displays and expos.



NOOSA CITY COUNCIL - Wildcare was successful in obtaining funding to the extent of \$710 through Council's Community Grants Program. These funds were used to assist with the high costs associated with providing a trauma response service to critically injured wildlife that require euthanasing.



STOCKLAND - Wildcare was successful in obtaining funding of \$1,000 through the Stockland Residential Community Grant program. These funds are to be used to print more of our wildlife series of brochures which will be distributed throughout the Gold Coast region.



PET CITY MT GRAVATT - 2014 REPTECON - The staff at Pet City has supported the work of the Wildcare volunteers for many years now, through their store at Mt Gravatt and as the beneficiary of proceeds from the Reptecon events. Their continued support is much appreciated.

JOEY POUCHES - Several months ago, we put out a call to the community asking for cotton pouches for orphaned joeys. We have received beautifully sewn pouches from a number of people over recent months and these have been distributed to some of our volunteers. On behalf of our volunteers (and our little joeys), we would like to thank you for taking the time to create a warm and loving place into which our little ones can snuggle.

Support Wildcare's Members & Supporters



Our sincerest thanks to Greenleaf Images for the use of several of their beautiful photographs in our promotional material. The quality of the material would not be what it is, without the use of these professional images.



www.possumman.com.au



www.johnwilliamson.com.au



Thank you!



TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

- Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors
- Australian Bat Clinic
- Beech Mountain Store
- Binna Burra Tea House
- Bradley Trevor Greive
- Breeders Choice Seeds
- Brisbane City Council
- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- Daisy Hill Koala Centre
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Donortec
- Dorratt Design
- Fleays Wildlife Park
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- GECKO
- Geckos Wildlife Presentations
- City of Gold Coast
- Gold Coast Post Forming
- Greenleaf Images
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Ipswich City Council
- John Williamson
- Logan City Council
- Margie Spies
- Mazda Foundation
- The Mouse's House
- Natural Arch Café Restaurant
- Noosa Council
- Pet City Mt Gravatt
- Peter the original Possum and Bird Man
- Point Lookout BushCare
- Print by Design
- Redland City Council
- RSPCA Queensland
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Stockland
- Stradbroke Ferries
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Tamborine Mountain Natural History Assoc.
- The Pines Shopping Centre

TO THE FOLLOWING VETS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND TREATMENT OF OUR WILDLIFE

- ALBERT STREET VET CLINIC
Beaudesert 5541 1233
- ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE
St Lucia 3365 2110
- ANIMAL EMERGENCY SERVICE
Carrara 5559 1599
Underwood 3841 7011
- AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL
Beerwah 5436 2097
- CURRUMBIN VALLEY VET SERVICES
PETER WILSON
Currumbin 5533 0381
- CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL
Currumbin 5534 0813
- DR. BRIAN PERRERS
Southport 5591 2246
- ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE
Varsity Lakes 5593 4544
- GREENCROSS
Burleigh Waters 5520 6820
Helensvale 5573 3355
Mudgeeraba 5530 5555
Nerang 5596 4899
Oxenford 5573 2670
Robina 5593 0300
Southport 5531 2573
- GYMPIE & DISTRICT VETERINARY SERVICES
Gympie 5482 2488
Tin Can Bay 5486 4666
- KENILWORTH VET CLINIC
Kenilworth 5472 3085
- MANLY ROAD VET HOSPITAL
Manly 3396 9733
- MT. TAMBORINE VET SURGERY
5545 2422
- NOOSA VETERINARY SURGERY
Tewantin 5449 7522
- TOOWONG FAMILY VET
Toowong 3613 9644
- TUGUN VETERINARY SURGERY
Tugun 5534 1928
- VETCALL
Burleigh 5593 5557
Mudgeeraba 5530 2204
- WEST CHERMSIDE VET CLINIC
Stafford Heights 3359 0777

Note: UQ Small Animal Clinic St. Lucia has now moved to the UQ Gatton Campus.