

# WILDNEWS

Spring 2010 Issue 58



*"Grow Your Own"*

*Rehabilitation  
Health Management  
Issues*





# President's Report.

*Karen Scott*

**IT SEEMS THAT SPRING IS WELL AND TRULY HERE.** Most of our active carers are already at capacity especially our bird carers, who are inundated with baby birds.

This is usually the time of year when administrative tasks slow down somewhat. As most of you are aware, all members of the Wildcare Management Committee are active rescuers/carers and everyone's priority is the animals. Please be patient if some administrative tasks aren't completed as quickly as expected.

To all of our wonderful, dedicated carers, I would urge you not only, of course, to look after the animals in your care, but please don't forget to look after YOURSELF as well during this busy season. I see too frequently carers burning themselves out. Unfortunately, the reality is that we cannot

save every animal and we are only human – please remember this. I know that the pressure of rehabilitating wildlife can take its toll on all of us, not only physically but emotionally. Please be kind to yourself and schedule some "me time" – you are of no use to the animals in your care if you fall in a crumpled mess on the floor!

Please also remember that if you have not received a Rehabilitation Permit Endorsement, you are not covered to care for wildlife under Wildcare's group permit. I estimate that there are at least 100 members out there who haven't submitted an application for a Permit. Please make sure that you do this as a matter of urgency.

Please look after yourselves this season ... and look after each other as well.

## *A Warm Welcome to Our New Members*

*Wildcare Australia welcomes the following new members:*

Amber Bishop, Advancetown; Georgia Marler, Annerley; Georgia Monckton, Ashgrove; Arthur Sharp & Shirley Hicks, Beechmont; Christopher Hanna, Beerwah; Ken Blessing, Marilyn & Peter Buckley, Bonogin; Alisa Edwards & Bevan Hughes, Brighton; Richard Lindley, Burleigh Waters; Rachel Mebberson, Clagiraba; Patricia Gilmour, Clayfield; Janine Marino, Closeburn; Rhonda Robinson, Coorparoo; Gabriela Reilly & Vassiliki Ellul, Currumbin Valley; Vikki Quaresmini, Currumbin Waters; Suzanne & Jack March, Doolandella; Linda Dubberley, Eagle Heights; Jayne Azzopardi, East Brisbane; Claire McCarthy, Enoggera; Maree & Christopher Green, Ferny Grove; Jessica George, Forest Lake; Emma Bradshaw, Guanaba; Erin Pendell, Holland Park; Elizabeth & Brett Mawby, Indooroopilly; Lace Malloch, Warwick Ostenfeld, Labrador; Gay Carseldine, Lowood; Kerry Turner, Maidenwell; Melanie & Janice

Gibson, Manly West; Dorothy Underwood, Marsden; Valerie & Natalie Richardson, Maryborough; Matteo Grilli, Moorooka; Douglas Gee, Morayfield; Nicola O'Hagan, Robyn Rutherford, Mudgeraba; Ashleigh Paroz, New Farm; Kirsty Hall, Ocean View; Alisa Edwards & Bevan Hughes, Ormeau Hills; Stephanie Payne, Paddington; Bonnie Nolan & Steven Clarke, Parrearra; Zoe Turner & Recce Geleijn, Robina; Michelle Lauder, Rocksberg; Mark Paget, Samford; Heather Sansom, Samsonvale; Angelique Collins, Sheldon; Christine & Alicia Nunn, Southport; Phoebe Greer, Springfield; Sonnie Flores & Jamie Cadoo, Stafford Heights; Madelaine Wood, Surfers Paradise; Tanya Roggenkamp, Underwood; Carley Duvenage, Varsity Lakes; Louise Zerafa, Wights Mountain; Chris & Colin Newton, Wolfdene; Dionne Evans, Worongary.

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, call our office and I'm sure we will be able to help you.

# 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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Cover photo: Ringtail Possum

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#### "Grow Your Own."



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

# Record Keeper's Rap.

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## Latest Records Reports

The records received so far for the first half of 2010 have been collated, and several reports using these have already been sent off, including road trauma data and road kill sightings, to Qld Main Roads & Transport who are looking at signage in 'hot spot' areas, and outcomes of CWH animals to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. In addition to this, our accumulation of records from previous years is still being used, including our 2009 records data being given to the urban wildlife lecturer at University of Sunshine Coast, for students to learn how to manage wildlife data, echidna records for grant application, rescue records for North Gold Coast suburbs for a local environment consultancy group, and road trauma records for two terrible road trauma locations in Tallebudgera to DERM and Main Roads, again for signage and potential road improvements. Please note that, for privacy reasons, all personal aspects (like names and details of carers and callers) are removed prior to this information being given out.

## Latest Records Forms

The latest versions of the Excel and Word Records forms are available on the Wildcare website [www.wildcare.org.au](http://www.wildcare.org.au) under 'Carer Resources' (Excel is the preferred form). The form is continually updated, so I will also transfer your records over to the latest

form each time you submit them if there has been an update, and will email this file back to you.

## Records for permits

Could all members applying for renewal of rehabilitation endorsement permits under Wildcare Australia Inc. please submit all their 2010 rescue and rehabilitation records so far for 2010?

This will avoid the need for a conditional permit, based on records completion. Please contact me if you are having trouble doing your records – there are several ways you can submit them so we can work out which way is easiest for you.

## Records Workshops

A couple of workshops have been scheduled, both in October. If you wished to attend but are unable to make it to a workshop, then the Records Guidelines are available in your Volunteer Manual's CD Rom, and there is also information in the Excel file. However, as above, if you are still having trouble, then please contact me for assistance.

Kiersten Jones  
Email: [records@wildcare.org.au](mailto:records@wildcare.org.au)

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## Volunteers Needed!

### CAN YOU HELP?

As all of our carers are snowed under, especially at this time of year, any offers of assistance would be most gratefully received.

Perhaps you have media contacts, have a flair for public speaking, have a gift for writing grants, or a beautiful phone manner. Perhaps you love gardening and could grow food for wildlife or could take responsibility for overseeing the distribution and collection of donation boxes. Perhaps you could take on a caring role, but just haven't got around to letting us know. Perhaps you are skilled with a particular species and would be available to act as a mentor to new carers.

There are so many ways in which you could help, please give us a call now and help lighten the burden for our overworked wildlife carers.

## Media & Publicity 2011

We would like to thank Liz Meffan, who has been a very active and highly successful Media Coordinator, for the wonderful work she has done in promoting Wildcare Australia to the general public through the many different media outlets. Liz is taking a very well earned break and we now welcome Simone Smith as the new Media Coordinator. Thank you, Simone, for so kindly offering to fill this role.

Simone has asked for your ideas for media stories, or your suggestions for issues you would like raised in the media relating to wildlife. If you have any stories about your animals in care which you would like to share and which would be of interest to the public please email them to Simone: [simonesmith\\_82@hotmail.com](mailto:simonesmith_82@hotmail.com) (please note the underscore, \_, in the email address).

Eleanor Hanger

## Geographic Limit for Permit Endorsements

Wildcare Australia has recently introduced a policy that Permit Endorsements will not be issued to members who live outside the South-east Queensland region. This area extends from the NSW border to the northern side of Gympie, west of Gympie and to the Darling Downs area.

Being a volunteer organization, our resources are limited and we do not feel that we are able to offer the necessary support and networking to members outside this area. We encourage members outside the South-east Queensland region to join a wildlife care group in the vicinity in which they are located so that they can receive the support that they require.

Karen Scott

## Grants Keeping the Office Running

Over the past few months Wildcare has been successful in obtaining several grants for which we are most appreciative.

### Logan City Council - \$5,000

Funding was received to help cover costs associated with training and printing posters and brochures.

### Community Benefit Gaming Fund - \$6,000

Funding was received to purchase a membership card printer, two new computers for the Wildcare office, a laser printer and printing costs associated with our Volunteer Manual.

### Gold Coast City Council - \$4,000

Funding was received towards the cost of the Wildcare emergency telephone. The costs associated with running our emergency hotline amount to \$10,000 each year, so this will help considerably in keeping this hotline open.



Gambling

**Community Benefit Fund**

Queensland Government

Proudly supported by



Gold Coast City Council

## *New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball!*

Come along to our New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball to celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Bat!

Let's support the **Australian Bat Clinic and Wildlife Trauma Centre** as well as **Kids with Cancer** and celebrate in style:

*Included in the price is:*

Pre Dinner drinks  
Fabulous 3 course Banquet  
Drinks until 11.00 PM  
Bubbly at Midnight to toast  
Lucky Door prizes  
A fantastic Auction  
Live music with a 5 piece Band and Guest Entertainers

This function will take place in the Marquis ballroom downstairs of the **RACV Royal Pines Resort**. Ticket prize is \$195.00 per person.

Dress up in your finest and help us celebrate. Bring as many friends and loved ones as you can and try and fill your own table (table holds 10 people).

Your support is greatly appreciated and this function is for everyone who wants to have a good time!!!

Book your tickets now by either emailing: [brittaaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:brittaaustralia@hotmail.com) or phoning: Queensland Administration Services 0755 960499.

Discount for bookings of 10 or more

# Telephone Coordinator's Report

I CANNOT SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH TO OUR DEDICATED SMALL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO KEEP OUR 24-HOUR EMERGENCY PHONE LINE OPEN. If every member in Wildcare would give up three hours a month we would be able to help every single animal for which we received a phone call. I am so grateful to the dedicated bunch we have at present, however it still saddens me to note that there are still too many shifts left open whereby our message service is on and callers with injured animals cannot get the help they need immediately.



Our current phone volunteers all work and care for animals, but somehow still manage to give up their time to commit to regular three hourly shifts. Some do more than this which is outstanding! If you really care for our native wildlife, want to help and have three hours to spare then we need you now!!!

We are extremely grateful to our busy office volunteers who keep the Wildcare Office open Tuesdays to Fridays 8.00am – 4.00pm. If it wasn't for Trish, Roy, Toni and Katherine, we would be well and truly stuck!! These guys are awesome, so please acknowledge their help next time you get to the office.

The weekend shifts is where we still struggle and need extra help! Earlier this year we completed two phone training workshops. Thanks to those who attended and took on shifts we were able to lighten the load on the few that seemed to be stuck with several shifts throughout the week.

We intend to run more phone training workshops in the future which will enable anyone who is prepared to help to continue to receive the necessary and correct training. We also endeavour to hold refresher phone training for existing operators. We all get a little stale from time to time and get set in our ways with certain advice, so we need to make sure we are all on track with our information.

Please note that while you are on the phones for Wildcare you are reimbursed so all we ask for is your time - 3 hours a month!

AND.... I am still singing the same song with this report..... it is still extremely frustrating how once again so few carry so many!

Please call me on 0419 684461 and we will find a time slot that suits your lifestyle.

Liz Meffan  
Telephone Coordinator

## One Stormy Night

It was a cold and stormy night. She was so tiny only weighing 44gms with a forearm of 55mm. As she lay very cold and wet under a palm tree clutching onto a palm nut, she called and called for her mother, but alas the storm intensified, and she, so cold, wet and exhausted, just didn't have enough strength to climb back to her mother. The will to survive was strong, however, within this little bat and she managed to hang on until Trish kindly rescued her, wrapped her in a nice warm rug, popped a dummy in her mouth and quietly said, "Don't worry little one you are safe now. We will find you another mummy to look after you". With that she closed her eyes and for the first time in many hours felt warm and safe..



For the last five years our first orphan has arrived on the 10th of October. It was very late last night that this little girl lost her mother and so kept up the tradition. We also have eight mums that have given birth to healthy bubs, which is great as we don't have to do the late night feeds.

Trish Wimberley

# My First Rescue: "One for the Newbies"

Everyone who begins with Wildcare has reservations about whether they can do the job. "Will I be able to catch the animal?" "Will I be able to care for that bird?" "What if I make a mistake and the creature dies?" There's just so much to learn!!

Don't worry. Everyone feels that way when they begin. Remember, you're not alone. There are dozens of very experienced people in Wildcare and help is just a phone call away.

When I was faced with my first wild bird capture, I was totally freaked out. It was an Australian Brush-turkey with fishing line around its foot. The bird was in pain and limping badly. You'd think that someone with a long history of fishing, shooting and spear fishing would not be fazed by catching a Brush-turkey, but believe me I was. With those bad old days behind me, my attitude to all creatures had changed. I did not want to injure the bird while I was catching it and I didn't want to get injured myself.

At the time I was camped in the Town of 1770 near Bundaberg. The turkey came around every morning at about 6:00 am before the other campers were awake. I was determined to help it. One day, I gathered a few of the locals and we found the bird resting near the campground and cornered it. We tried the old 'throw the cast net over the bird' trick. That was really successful ... not. It promptly flew up into the nearest tree. Brush-turkeys may look silly but all birds move like greased lightning when someone attempts to throw a net over them. Clearly, a more sophisticated approach was needed.

So, it was off to Bunning's with a list of items to purchase. Three meters of netting, several meters of cord, a length of electrical conduit, some wire and of course bait...in this case, mince. Luckily, I already had tools and equipment.

Now, if you're thinking this all sounds a little involved and complicated, you'd be absolutely right! A NASA space shuttle launch would have been easier. In fact, if I knew then what I know now, I could have caught that bird, treated it and released it all in less than two minutes and at no cost. I spent the next several hours designing, building and testing my new net trap.

The idea was to get up early and be ready at first light when the turkey arrived. Then I'd just throw food in front of the trap, pull on the cord and the net would swing over the bird...at least that was the plan.

At 5.30 am the next morning, the campground was dead quiet...my trap was set and I was ready. All I needed was

the bird. I wasn't sure how this was going to go. I was even less sure about what to do when (if) I got it. A male Brush-turkey looked like a powerful creature to me with a strong beak and long powerful claws. Did they squawk loudly? I didn't know but figured if they did, I'd almost certainly be lynched by my fellow campers who were all sound asleep.

This could get ugly.

The creature arrived. It responded to the bait and moved close to the front of the trap. A step closer and I heaved on the cord. The trap sprung shut and all hell broke loose! I dived on the bird. Shoot!! What do I do now?

The local wildlife carer was supposed to turn up at 6:00 am to help me but I didn't know she had timing issues and wouldn't arrive for another hour. So I lay there on top of the bird, not daring to move. Time went by. Ten minutes, then twenty. This was ridiculous. Thirty minutes and I heard a noise behind me. I looked up and saw one of my fellow campers walking towards the loo. He was a crusty old fisherman. It was clear from the look on his face that he was more than a little disturbed to find a bloke prostrate on the ground next to a large puddle and spread-eagle over an undulating net. I looked up meekly and said 'can you help me Mate; I've got a turkey?' His response was predictably cautious.

After explaining my bazaar behavior, he jumped in and helped me and together we wrangled the bird into a submissive position. Right

about then, the wildlife carer turned up and took it home for treatment. What a relief that was.

This was an elaborate and rather expensive capture that could have been handled in less than two minutes if I'd known what I was doing. But that was five years ago, and I didn't. I know stuff now. No doubt that will be very welcome news to all Brush-turkeys.

Rowley Goonan



PHOTO // R GOONAN

Australian Brush-turkey

# Grow Your Own...



With the growing number of animals we all have in care at this especially busy season and with the inevitable rises in costs of supplementary

foods, I thought a partial solution might be to "grow your own".

Now I am sure most of us know about planting natives, as a definite start, and also meal worm farms for those who care for any insectivorous animals, but there must be other ways we can cut our costs and provide nutritious foods. I for one will try my hand at a cricket farm, as I have some very voracious eaters in my curlews and plovers. For those who need greens, what about planting some lettuces, or silver beet?

"Yes," I can hear you saying, "and where am I going to find time for that?"

What about asking friends or family to help out here? What about enlisting the help of some local retirees with time on their hands? They might love the opportunity to help in some way and keep themselves busy at the same time.

I have also had some unexpected luck with growing seeds. When cleaning cages I always tip the seeds out in the garden with a little attached fertilizer and 'Voila!' more bird seed – especially after the rain we have been having.

A lot of birds do not recognize commercial bird seed and much prefer seed presented on a nice green stalk with the added benefit of more protein in green seeds than in dried. You could even throw a handful of seeds in your aviary, when there are no birds in there, for future benefits. Beware of leaving seeds in aviaries with birds in this damp weather, as the seeds can become mouldy and therefore a danger to the birds.

Anyway, I hope you can all come up with some ideas for growing your own. If anything works especially well for you, let us know in a future newsletter, as we are all here to help each other.

Dianna Smith

## GROW YOUR OWN - THE EASY WAY

Take a polystyrene box or two or more. Punch some holes in the bottom for drainage.

Take:

- One bag of Potting Mix,
- One bag of Cow Manure
- One cup of Dynamic Lifter or Blood and Bone

Mix well and put into polystyrene box. This is a good all round mix which will grow greens, such as silver beet, spinach, lettuce and Chinese green vegetables.

Plant seedlings and watch them grow. When the plants are ready, remove the outer leaves for your animals. 'Cut and come again'. The plants will keep growing and you will have a lovely supply of fresh greens.

or

Sew seeds in shallow furrows, cover with thin layer of fine soil, water and keep moist, and a week or two later when seeds sprout, mulch around the seedlings to retain moisture in the soil and watch them grow.

Alternately, sprinkle bird seed mix or seeds of crops suitable for the animals you have in care, such as wheat or any grain (obtain these from your local produce store) on the soil. The sprouts can be used or you may prefer to wait until the crop has gone to seed.

A sunny position and adequate water will ensure a quick crop. Fertilizer, such as sea weed liquid, will encourage growth. Liquid fertilizer from your worm farm is excellent, use 1 part worm liquid to 10 parts water.

Many vegetables, such as cabbage and other leafy greens, attract insects, such as moths and grasshoppers. These will help provide the insect component of the diet and if the moths lay eggs on your vegetables, you may get a supply of caterpillars too.

Another idea, to add to those of Dianna, is to contact your children's school and see if any of the classes would be interested in growing food for wildlife. The nearest retirement village or Senior Citizens Club might help out too. The possibilities are endless!

Eleanor Hanger

## Grow Your Own *continued...*



Mulch to retain moisture in the soil.



Sunny position. Adequate water. Remove leaves as required.



Liquid fertilizer from worm farm. Prevent small animals drowning by putting sticks in bucket to provide an escape route.

## Do You Need Vegetation *To Feed Animals In Care?*

A permit to forage has been requested of a number of Councils in this region. The responses, so far, are as follows:

- Scenic Rim will consider each person's request and will make arrangements for collecting on Council property on an individual basis. Please direct enquiries to Keith McCosh.
- Logan City Council have fodder farms where browse may be collected, so Logan carers should direct their enquiries to the Logan City Council.
- The Redlands City Council have fodder farms, where browse may be collected by members of carer groups. Would carers in the Redlands area please read the information below?
- Redlands City Council – Fodder (browse) Collection for Wildlife

### Important Information for Wildlife Carers in the Redlands area:

The Redland City Council has recently forwarded correspondence to all wildlife care groups in South-east Queensland (including Wildcare) regarding the collection of fodder/browse for wildlife.

It has been reported that wildlife carers are harvesting browse from Council's street and parkland trees. Areas where this has reportedly occurred includes:-

- Sturgeon Street, Ormiston
- Ziegenfusz Park (Fitzroy Street), Cleveland – Koala community planting
- Birkdale Road, Birkdale (opposite Aquatic Paradise)
- Northern Arterial Road, Cleveland (near

- the Casey Jackson Homes)
- School Road, Capalaba (near the high school)
- Belford Drive, Wellington Point (opposite number 61)
- Avalon Road, Sheldon

Unfortunately, the harvesting of trees for fodder – in particular saplings – causes irreversible damage to the long-term structural integrity of a tree. This means that the trees affected have to be removed and replaced, which is a disappointing and frustrating experience for the staff involved in tree planting programs.

It is also important to note that under Council's Local Laws 6, 15 and 211 it is illegal to harm or remove any Council vegetation. Seek written approval from Council first before any material is pruned from Council's road, park or conservation trees (other than from designated fodder farms).

The Redland City Council has acknowledged and appreciates the dedicated work of all wildlife carers in the City however they have respectfully requested that street or parkland trees are not used as a source of fodder. Instead the Council has provided a fodder farm at Victoria Point (Link Road Fodder Farm, USB Map 226 H1) that can be harvested by all wildlife carers in the community, without having to go through permit approval. This fodder farm was initially planted with koala food trees, but now has a variety of other native flora species and is managed to provide blossoms and tip for all our native wildlife. Please contact Neil Kesur on 3829 8641 for more information.

# Rehabilitation Health Management Issues

Karen Scott and Gail Gipp

We are extremely fortunate as wildlife rehabilitators in South-east Queensland to have access to good quality veterinary care including several wildlife-specific facilities such as Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. There are also hundreds of local small practice veterinarians who devote many hours every week to treating sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. Volunteer wildlife rehabilitators rely heavily on these veterinarians and without their assistance, the quality of care that we would be able to provide wildlife would be extremely limited.

Wildlife rehabilitators ask a lot of veterinarians, many of whom provide their services free of charge or at reduced rates; many only ask for a nominal reimbursement of their expenses.

In return, veterinarians should not be expected to treat animals that have become sick due to poor management practices on the part of wildlife rehabilitators. Unfortunately, however, this is seen all too frequently. Wildlife rehabilitators must maintain high standards of care to ensure that the animals in their care are able to be rehabilitated as quickly as possible so that they can be returned to the wild. Any relaxation in these standards can result in a wide variety of management-related issues, some of which may extend the animal's period in rehabilitation for a considerable time and at the worst, could result in its death.

When seeking advice from other rehabilitators, no matter how experienced they may be, always ask the question, "Is this advice right for this particular animal?" and follow your instinct. If you know the species and have read everything relating to both its life in the wild and its captive management, if you think the advice given does not make good sense to enable that animal to be successfully returned to the wild, then you will usually be right. Question the rehabilitator as to why they are offering that advice and let them know the reason you are questioning them. Sometimes in certain situations we act "outside" the square, but understanding *why* is the key to solving the problem.

Below are some of the management issues that are commonly seen in wildlife that have been in care for an extended period, and also a list of possible causes for these conditions.

## SKIN PROBLEMS

Causes:

- Fungal and bacterial skin infections caused from poor hygiene (such as not changing pouches frequently enough, or when soiled with faeces, urine or milk), or caused by the stress of inappropriate pouches, which includes size and material, or being forced to share with other animals)
- Not cleaning animals properly after feeding (e.g., not cleaning spilt milk from around their mouth and from their fur), or using

## Great News from Breeders Choice Seeds!

Breeders Choice have recently notified Wildcare Australia that they have increased their sponsorship to our members from 10% discount to 20% discount on all Breeders Choice Seeds and Vetafarm products which are picked up from their factory at Carrara. The products are packaged in 1kg, 2kg, 5kg, 10kg and 20kg bag lots. They have a large range of Vetafarm pellets, vitamins, and medications.

Some of their products that may assist our members are: Bird Seed Mixes, Lori Wet and Lori Dry, Egg & Biscuit, Tonic Mixes, Calcium Bells, G'pig Mix, Rabbit Mix, Rat & Mouse mix, Vetafarm Critta Care – herbivore, Vetafarm Critta Care – Avian, Vetafarm Soluvet, Vetafarm Coccivet, Vetafarm Wormout Gel, Vetafarm Triple C, Vetafarm Insect & Mite Spray, Vetafarm Pellets.

In order to receive the discount, members must present their current membership card. We would like to thank Breeders Choice sincerely for their wonderful and ongoing support. We cannot begin to tell you how much it is appreciated.

Breeders Choice Seeds can be found at 1/11 Ryecroft Street, Carrara, Qld 4211.  
Phone: 1800 637 039. Email: breederschoice@gmail.com

## *Rehabilitation continued...*

instant wipes that contain alcohol or other inappropriate chemicals

- Not keeping sick animals clean when they have limited movement and are unable to groom themselves effectively
- Allowing contact or interaction with domestic animals (which may facilitate the spread of ringworm or fleas)
- Not recognising milk-intolerance in milk-dependent young at an early stage (this often causes skin problems)
- Over-heating (particularly in unfurred joeys)
- Not isolating sick animals from healthy ones
- Fly-strike (not housing animals with wounds indoors or having inadequate bandaging which allows flies to lay eggs on the animal)
- Incorrect fluid administration (administering subcutaneous fluids without the necessary skills and knowledge, or in an unhygienic manner)
- Daily bathing of animals that do not bathe in the wild

### **FEATHER PROBLEMS**

Causes:

- Being housed inappropriately (e.g., in cages that are too small which can cause damage to tail and flight feathers resulting in extended rehabilitation times to enable the feathers to re-grow, or not providing appropriate perches)
- Transport cages being inappropriate for the species
- Inappropriate rescue and capture techniques
- Being housed next to, in with or within sight of a predatory species
- Not providing adequate soil and water containers for grooming and bathing
- Inappropriate diet

### **FEET PROBLEMS**

Causes:

- Being kept on inappropriate substrate (which causes bumblefoot in birds, ulcers/blisters on the feet)
- Not providing a range of perches with differing diameters and textures suitable for the bird in care Not having an accurate assessment made when an animal comes into care. This has led to wounds being left unattended.

### **METABOLIC DEFICIENCIES**

Causes:

- Not ensuring that animals have enough access to natural sunlight
- Not using or under-use of important supplements (i.e., calcium supplements in growing baby birds)
- Over-use of supplements (providing supplements when the animal does not require it or providing high doses)
- Not providing a natural diet
- Not allowing sufficient exercise at appropriate stages of development
- Inappropriate use of formula or the wrong formula being used for that animal or species
- Not feeding or providing appropriate amounts at times that are correct for the species
- Failure to understand or to listen to advice, or failure to keep up to date with information

### **DIARRHOEA**

Causes:

- Poor hygiene
- Stress (failure to recognise stress and remedying it)
- Not toileting orphaned joeys when they still require toileting, or over stimulating them
- Over use of supplementary additives (e.g., herbal and natural remedies, impact)
- Bacterial infections related to poor hygiene
- Inappropriate diet (e.g., feeding unsuitable foods such as bread, high-sugar fruits)
- Overfeeding and underfeeding
- Candida (thrush)
- Self-medicating animals with inappropriate drugs
- Incorrect making-up of milk replacers
- Reheating formula
- Leaving fruit, meat, fish, etc. exposed to the sun, or left unrefrigerated for too long
- Re-using uneaten food
- Dried fruit, formula and meat left on cages due to inadequate cleaning
- Ignoring the fact that there is a problem (It will be better by tomorrow)
- Not being honest with the vet

### **BLOAT**

Causes:

- Inappropriate diet (e.g., feeding fruit

## Rehabilitation continued...

to young ringtail possums, feeding human foods to wildlife)

- Poor feeding regime (not feeding regularly, not often enough or too often)
- Undiagnosed gastro-intestinal problems
- Foreign-body ingestion (allowing animals access to unnatural items that they may ingest and which then become impacted in the gastro-intestinal tract)
- Self medicating with inappropriate drugs
- Ignoring the fact that there is a problem (It will be better by tomorrow)
- Not being honest with the vet

### POOR WOUND HEALING

Causes:

- Not following the veterinarian's directions for treatment (including antibiotic treatment)
- Not following through with scheduled veterinary re-checks
- Not providing a good quality diet that will assist in skin regeneration
- Stress
- Inappropriate housing/ bedding etc
- Not understanding the consequences of not following instructions

It is imperative that all wildlife rehabilitators have a good understanding of the requirements of the animals in their care. It is simply not enough to know how to "get them through," we must aim to learn as much as we can about their history, biology and the ecological niche they fill, so that we provide them with the best possible care.

Some poor practices are simply due to lack of knowledge, but often poor management is due to having, too many animals, or not enough time, or inadequate finances to provide for so many animals. If you fit any of these criteria, learn to say, "NO". Remember that being a good rehabilitator is about providing for one animal to the best of your ability, it is not about how many animals you have in care.

Remember the saying, "First, do no harm". We should be ensuring that the animals in our care are not being harmed by poor standards and practices. It is always a good idea for all of us as wildlife rehabilitators (no matter how experienced) to take a step back and have an objective look at our standards to ensure that we are doing the very best that we can by these animals.



PHOTO // Compliments of Wikipedia

### A Happy Bunch of Little Gliders

Two days ago, I went to clean the cage floor and thought that the 6 little Sugar Gliders that Tonya brought to me for release were all in the box, then I felt the patter of tiny claws over my head and realized one had made a brave escape! My first thought – how will I tell Tonya!

The escapee climbed up the ironbark and sat on a branch just out of reach, looking at me. Lucky it was a grey afternoon and not hot. He (I'm assuming he because it was alone in the blue flower pot, the rest were in the box and I must have disturbed him) then went to sleep stretched out on the branch – did that look cute!

I kept an eye on him all afternoon until dark when he happily started climbing higher and leaping around from branch to branch. I made a corporate decision and let the others out that evening so he'd have company. They were having a ball, gliding, leaping, falling (one plopped out of the tree right at my feet, sat up, shook itself and launched at the spotted gum trunk). Interestingly, it could not get a grip on the spotted gum trunk because they have just peeled and the bark must have been hard. It kept launching and sliding. Then finally moved to the adjacent ironbark and shot upwards.

Next morning, I locked the cage and in the evening did a head count...6.

But, they were all crowded around the door and busting to get out again, so I let them. They were obviously ready, and at night I could see them gliding around down into the trees below.

Fun at the sanctuary!

Catherine Prentice

# Coordinator Reports

## Birds

As usual the season has started off being busy. With the weather deteriorating, resulting in high winds and constant rain, the baby season has become a little harsh for some. Many rescuers have been plucking birds, which have been blown off course, from creeks and puddles. Many babies unable to be reunited with parents have found themselves cold and hungry until somebody picks them up. Hence the most important thing for these little guys is heat! And lots of it! It still amazes me how people just want to feed something when they pick it up! This is a "no, no" for a cold bird (or any animal for that matter). Even adults that have come to grief with some sort of trauma and are cold must not be fed until they are warmed up and settled in to a dark and quiet environment.

For more information come and complete a Basic Bird Workshop.

The lorikeets have been keeping carers busy. We are not only getting babies, but also adults with spinal injuries that require medication. Fortunately these guys are pretty tough and recover fast and well. This is perfect, as the ideal period for anything in care is as short as possible, so the animals can get back out to where they should be and regain their status in their own community.

Not forgetting the black and whites which have been full on this season. The magpies bred early and the babies that came into care were already quite large. However with the season starting off so well we may experience another batch of babies early in the New Year.

The other species that seem to take a hammering are the water birds. Swans and geese have needed rescuing quite a lot of late, as well as ducks and cormorants. It is always good to put these guys back. We are currently desperate for more carers in the duckling department so if this is you, we would love to hear from you. Our awesome duck carer has had up to 49 babies at one time! And as we know all they do is eat and poo and eat and poo!

Also keep that advice out there for our plovers, "Leave the babies alone". The parents are never far away and do surprise you! With those spurs ready and armed they can become the real armed weapon in themselves!

The parrots have been manageable, however it is sad to see trees being cut at this time of year and babies being left in nests for tree loppers to deal with. I don't understand why tree lopping has to be carried out this time of the year. Some of the larger parrots tend to get themselves into trouble and require short term care. It is noticeable that rosellas, in particular, have been coming in with large ticks around their eyes. Once again short term care seems to be all that is required.

The migratory birds will be around when the next newsletter comes out, so hopefully those left behind last season can go with them this time around. Keep your ears open for those beautiful calls coming from within the trees.

The Scenic Rim Council is running educational programmes about the Glossy Black Cockatoo so check their website for more information if you are interested.

More from our feathered friends' diary next time.

Liz Meffan

### LORIKEETS

Well, we've hit peak season now with juveniles and babies galore coming into care. The most common causes of birds coming into care at this time of year are from car accidents (juveniles learning how to fly in high traffic areas), babies coming in due to land clearing and little ones becoming

separated from their parents. Land clearing and tree logging in spring is a hard one to deal with. Maybe one day we will be able to discuss alternatives with the Council and all these little guys won't need to come into care unnecessarily. It's at this time of year that we need all the help we can get as these guys require a little more attention.



**Nestling Rainbow Lorikeet comforting baby Scaly-breasted Lorikeet.**

PHOTO // S SMITH

## Coordinator Reports continued...

Please keep an eye out on your roads for injured birds and wildlife. Flowers have been in full bloom lately and the majority are planted within medium strips on major traffic highways including the M1, Benowa and Bermuda Drives. Frequently when a bird is hit by a car it is knocked unconscious, but not killed. It's only when it is left on the road and then gets run over that the bird dies.

Bird carers please be aware that snakes are more active at the moment. Please make sure your cages and aviaries are snake proof or your little friends will become lunch. If you need any advise on snake proofing your cages give me a call.

I would also like to urge all carers to try to attend the Wildcare courses related to the species for which you care, at least once a year no matter how experienced you are. There is always something new to learn and it's necessary to refresh our memories every now and then. It is very easy to become complacent especially at this time of year with so many animals coming into care. For bird people I would recommend the Native Bird and First Aid course regularly.

When rescuing, please remember once you get home, to use the observation form to thoroughly check over all parts of the animal for injuries. This is crucial in making sure the animal is not left suffering from something we may not noticed initially. Please also make sure you ring the coordinator of that species to let them know what you have, and to establish the course of care for that animal.

With the recent storms and rain expect more wildlife needing care. The heavy rain tends to wash the nectar from the flowers so we tend to see a lot of hungry and starving birds. With storm season about to arrive we will also get more injured animals coming into care.

This last month I have had over 80 lorikeets come into care, mostly juvenile. If you can help, please let me know. Even if you can only take two at a time that's a big help.

I would like to thank these people for being life savers over the last months and helping me out with the lorikeets. Thank you so much to Petra Derrington, Barb Van Lyun, Liz Meffan, Melanie Freshwater (who is now off getting married!), Dianna Smith, Elizabeth Cheetham, Angeline Anthony, Linda Hohpia & Patricia Van de Bert. Hopefully, I didn't miss anyone.

Simone Smith

### SUNSHINE COAST

The birds are starting to come around in increasing numbers. The Magpies seemed to start very early and my local butcherbirds are breeding for the second time even while their young from the first hatching are still around. My resident Kookaburras are courting, and our local Brush-turkeys have eggs coming on. We anticipate a lot of them this year.

On Thursday, I heard the first Koel calling and we now have at least three around. I wonder if they are my last year's babies. It is said they come back to the same area and I know the Currawong I had last year is back, but seems a bit lonely, even though I released him at a friend's place where a flock of them were hanging around.

Funny how you relate your childhood experiences to your adult years. When I was growing up in the country the arrival of the first, then called, storm birds heralded the beginning of summer and the storms. My mother always insisted the noise from the thunder was Santa working hard on his gifts and the more noise the more toys we could expect.

The Lilly Pillies look like they will be having a very good year if the flowers are anything to go by. My Bottlebrushes and Grevilleas have been flowering in profusion and the Lorikeets are very happy. I have even seen a couple of Scarlet Honeyeaters – very rare in this area – on a couple of them.

I will continue with my trial of food for the Figbirds. Last year they seemed to do very well on a complete diet of berries with a slurry of insectivore, vitamins and minerals, so I will continue to play with it this year. I have even considered blending up the berries, so I can syringe them for the really young little ones.

Ailsa Watson



*Immature Pied Butcherbird.*

PHOTO // R RIVARD

## Coordinator Reports continued...

### *Echidnas and Small Mammals*

THE PAST MONTHS HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRAUMA-RELATED INJURIES in echidnas. Please remember that all echidnas that have been hit by a car, must come into care and receive a full veterinary assessment, including radiographs. Many of these animals, even though they can still walk off the road, sustain fractured beaks which will render them unable to feed. Although we have had a number of echidnas that have not been able to be saved, we have been able to successfully rehabilitate and release several individuals back to their original habitat.

Echidnas are currently in full breeding mode at the moment, so all road kill echidnas should be checked for "puggles". The surrounding area should also be checked carefully as the puggle can often be thrown from the mum. Just look around for a big blob of "blu-tak" – seriously, that's what they look like!

We have started to see a few orphaned bandicoots coming into care, although most have arrived with injuries and we have had little success with their rehabilitation. Shortly we will see our usual annual influx of Antechinus young as well, so we will be bracing ourselves for that. Last year we had quite a few litters coming into care, one litter had ten young! Considering that these young ones need to be fed every three hours to start with, ten hungry little mouths take a lot of patience and time.

Karen Scott

### *Koalas*

OUR BUSY "TRAUMA SEASON" STARTED OFF A LITTLE LATE THIS YEAR and unfortunately we have had quite a few very sad cases of koalas sustaining horrific injuries and not being able to be saved. It is very depressing for our rescuers and for the veterinary staff involved with their treatment and many of these animals have broken our hearts.

One such case, was a female koala called "Helen" who was found in the front garden of a house on Discovery Drive at Helensvale. The resident thought that she was dead but noticed that she had a joey clinging to her back. The mother was in fact still alive, although barely. She had been hit by a car at sometime during the night and had crawled off the road into the garden. There she sat for many hours until she was found and reported to Wildcare. Helen sustained multiple injuries including a fractured pelvis and although she fought long and hard, she was unable to be saved. Little "Troy", her joey was uninjured and is doing well in care with one of our licensed koala carers. Perhaps Helen's outcome may have been different if the person who hit her had stopped and reported her straight away.

Another sad case, was "Kung Fu Matt". Amber, Clare and myself rescued this cranky little man late one night from Elanora several months ago after he was knocked by a car. Although he didn't prove to be a very good patient (he had some great kung-fu moves),

he was successfully rehabilitated and released a few weeks later back to where he came from. About seven weeks after his release, I received a call at about 8am about a koala that had been attacked by a dog at Elanora and he was reported to have had an ear-tag (which meant that he had already been in care). My worst fears were realised when I recognised him straight away, laying on the ground covered in puncture wounds. He was rushed to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, where Dr Erina worked for hours to save him but unfortunately his injuries were too severe.

Unfortunately, Helen and Matt are only two of the many sad stories that we have had over recent months.

On a brighter note, we have had some successes with several koalas being released following their treatment. Simpsonette, Simpson, Simonee (all came from Simpsons Road Elanora), Elly and Danny were all released again. I hope that they all stay safe.

Many thanks also to the Gold Coast City Council Koala Conservation Team who have assisted us several times with difficult rescues. Without their assistance, we would not have been able to retrieve several koalas.

Karen Scott

## Coordinator Reports continued...

### Macropods

OUR EUTHANASIA CARERS HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY, BEEN KEPT VERY BUSY RECENTLY with road trauma victims. Our urban macropods are not fairing very well in suburban areas. More and more of them are becoming more isolated from surrounding habitat due to roads and development.

Our macropod carers are all mostly at capacity at the moment hand-raising the orphans from these unfortunate victims. Many thanks to those carers who often spend twelve to sixteen months caring for these remarkable animals.

As an interesting side-note, one of our members recently reported a dead Golden Swamp Wallaby at Tallebudgera. This species has been seen periodically around the Tallebudgera and Elanora area, but I haven't heard of any sightings for some years now. It was interesting to know that they are still there but sad to see a young male killed on the road.

The photo is of "Curly" an orphaned Golden Swamp Wallaby that came into care about six years ago and was released.



PHOTO // JM HANGER

"Curly", Golden Swamp Wallaby

Karen Scott

### Possums

POSSUM CARERS ON THE GOLD COAST HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED in recent months with the number of possums needing care. Brushtails have been falling victim to cars, which has led to many orphans and dermatitis is an ongoing problem.

There have been many fewer ringtails than brushtails in care, as populations of ringtails are restricted to fewer areas on the Gold Coast. Their problems are more often caused by cars and domestic animals such as cats and dogs. Please make sure that your domestic animals are not allowed to roam, day or night, as the number of wildlife killed or severely injured by roaming cats and dogs is quite appalling.

Gliders often find themselves in care as a result of land clearing, sometimes find themselves caught on barbed wire and also fall victim to cats, so cat attack should be suspected for any glider (or young ringtail) found on the ground for no apparent reason, even if there are no external signs.

Cat attack victims require antibiotics to be administered very quickly if they are to survive. Please note, however, that antibiotics can only be prescribed by a veterinarian and must be used in accordance with the veterinarian's instructions. Please also note that certain drugs are short lived. Under no condition

should carers, who are not veterinarians, be diagnosing and administering drugs.

Loss of habitat is directly or indirectly causing enormous problems for our wildlife on the Gold Coast. Loss of habitat is not only caused by large and small scale clearing (even the loss of one large old Eucalypt tree can impact heavily on a local animal population), but also by rampant weed growth (introduced pasture plants and garden escapees) choking and killing the native vegetation on which our wildlife depend for their survival.

As you will see from the above, the possums that come into care have usually been directly (loss of food resources and shelter) or indirectly impacted by loss of habitat, caused by increasing human population, increasing domestic animal population and predation, the spread of serious weed species, the use of barbed wire and loose fruit netting, the increasing number of cars on our roads and the list goes on. Add to this the natural events to which they have always been subject such as extreme weather conditions, fires, predation by owls and snakes, competition for territory, and we realize life for our possums is extremely difficult. All we can do is use our education programmes, community talks and other events to inform members of the public and encourage them to consider ways of minimizing their

## Coordinator Reports continued...

negative impact on the environment.

We are always in need of possum carers, so if you are willing and able to take on caring for possums please notify either Natalie, Tonya or myself. We will be delighted to hear from you.

To those wonderful people who are already carrying the burden of caring for our possums, thank you so much from the coordinators and the animals who are being given a second chance. You are greatly appreciated.

We are very sorry to have lost two excellent possum carers, Carla Harp, who will be moving to Byron Bay and Clare Boyd, who is now caring for Tasmania's needy wildlife. We thank them for their commitment to Wildcare, in Carla's case as coordinator, rescuer and carer, and in Clare's case as rescuer and carer. Each of these women acquitted themselves with the utmost professionalism and sensitivity. On behalf of the animals who passed through your hands, a heartfelt thank you, and from all of us, our very best wishes and sincere thanks.

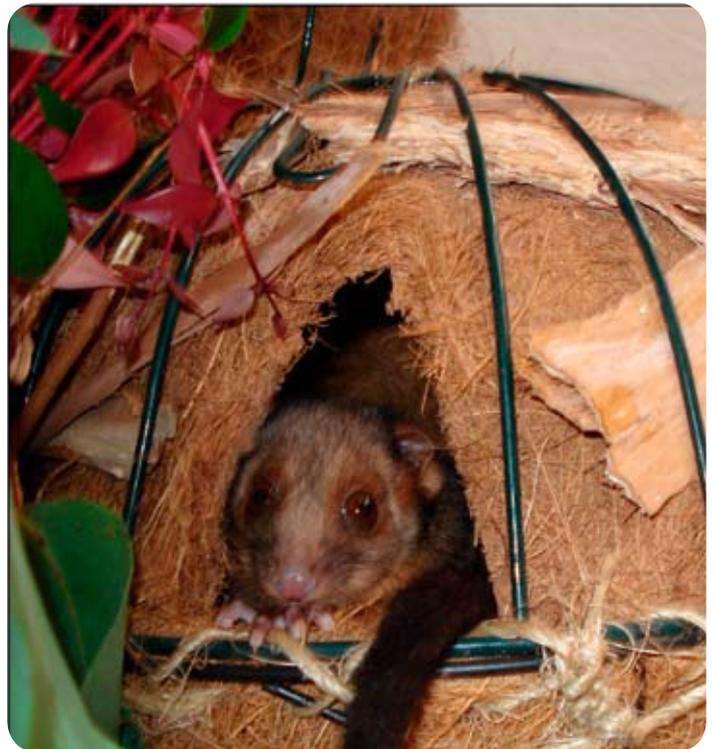


PHOTO // A ASQUITH

*Ringtail Possum in home-made drey.*

Eleanor Hanger

## The Wisdom of an Elder.

I recently had the opportunity of hearing the eminent scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster, Dr David Suzuki speaking at Bangalow, NSW, and what a privilege and an inspiration it was. He speaks with such passion and from a lifetime's experience and what he has to say makes so much sense, one wonders how anyone could ignore his call for immediate action.

"The greatest environmentalist of our age", said Dr Tim Flannery describing Dr David Suzuki, who is currently travelling around Australia promoting his latest book *The Legacy: An Elder's Vision for the Future*. The book is based on the Legacy Lecture he delivered at the University of British Columbia where he had been a professor for thirty-nine years. It looks at how we arrived at where we are today, and presents his vision for a better future.

To quote from his introduction: "Only by confronting the enormity and unsustainability of our impact on the biosphere will we take the search for alternative ways to live as seriously as we must. As an elder, I am impelled by a sense of urgency that comes from the recognition that my generation has induced change and created problems that we bequeath to my children and grandchildren and all generations to come. That is not right, but I believe that it is not too late to take another path."

Dr Suzuki is inspirational, the more so in that he conveys humanity's amazing intellectual capacity which has brought us to the predicament in which we find ourselves, but sees that same capability leading us to find ways to live in balance and harmony with nature and to look forward to a "future rich in opportunity, beauty, wonder, and companionship with the rest of Creation".

Eleanor Hanger

## Notes from an Enthusiastic Naturalist

**EARLIER IN THE YEAR, THE FLOWERING QUONDONG** provided an endless source of pleasure as the nectar attracted a variety of birds, including Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Scarlet, Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills.

In recent months, to our great excitement, the enormous old Strangler Fig, which stands just ten metres from the house, has become the daily residence of six Wompoo Fruit-doves. These magnificent birds arrived early from their forest home nearby and spent the day feeding and resting before returning to the forest at dusk. They did not advertise their presence, although the occasional soft 'glomp' reminded us that they were there.

The tree was also visited by Currawongs, who, on occasions, seemed determined to intimidate the Wompoos by landing very close to them, that is within centimetres. The Wompoos, however, ignored this unseemly behaviour.

Other guests included Figbirds, Lewin's Honeyeaters and six Regent Bower Birds, two spectacular black and yellow males and four rather more demurely coloured, mottled brown females. At night, our tree plays host to flying foxes.

This particular fig tree (*Ficus watkinsiana*) is extremely old - there is no sign of the host tree - and is a very prolific bearer. It is such a joy to be able to experience animals engaged in their daily activities without using artificial means or disturbing them in any way.



PHOTO // A ASQUITH

**Wompoo Fruit-dove**

Eleanor Hanger

PHOTOS // D BITTNER



## Great Heights For Wildlife

Some of our members will go to great heights for the conservation of wildlife.

Renée Rivard, who moved back to the U.S. in 2009, is now working as a Wildlife Biologist with the Wildlife Research Institute (WRI) in Ramona, California, specialising in the conservation of Golden Eagles.

Although renewable energy is an exciting and growing industry, it can have a significant negative impact on wildlife, including Golden Eagles. These eagles' numbers are decreasing and they have recently become a species of special concern. WRI bands and tracks (via satellite transmitters) eagles in proposed project areas. They work with companies to advise them about how the eagles are using the habitat. This, in turn, will promote optimal placement of wind turbines, solar panels, transmission towers, etc., thereby reducing the impact on the remaining eagle population.

To learn more, visit [www.wildlife-research.org](http://www.wildlife-research.org).

**Renée banding nestling Golden Eagles outside Reno, Nevada.**

# Education Report

**WE HAVE HAD A GOOD RESPONSE TO THE TRAINING WORKSHOPS** offered this quarter and it is good to see so many new faces at the introductory courses.

Please remember to book for workshops as early as you can, as we are now having to reinforce Wildcare's policy that registrations made fewer than two days in advance will NOT be accepted. Many of the workshops fill quickly, so please make sure that you register early.

Please also remember that all of positions held within Wildcare are voluntary. There is a lot of time and effort put into running the organization, including organizing workshops and processing workshop registrations. We have had a number of instances where

members are ringing or emailing the night before a workshop (and in some cases on the morning of the workshop) to see if they can attend. Please make sure that you book early otherwise you will not be able to attend.

Please also note that children under 16 years of age are not able to attend training workshops. The content of some workshops is not suitable for young children.

We are currently looking at updating several of our training programs and looking into new ideas to making this information more accessible.

Karen Scott

## Bob Irwin *Click and Save Tin Can Bay*

"G'day Everyone, I need your help. I need to show the world the amazing biodiversity and beauty of the Great Sandy Strait and what we'll be losing, should the [proposed] marina go ahead: the mangroves and the sea grass beds and the dolphins, dugong and turtles will be all gone.

Enough is Enough! This is no longer a local issue. These seagrass beds are the food source of the endangered dugongs and green turtles. The Great Sandy Strait has among the world's highest density of dugong, but their populations are dwindling worldwide; they are already extinct in the Maldives, Mauritius, and Taiwan. We need to make a stand and save some critical habitat for them now.

I will fight as long and as hard as necessary to preserve this pristine environment for our future generations - BUT - I can't do it alone. I'd like to present the opinions of one million people (who also feel that the building of this proposed marina will wreck the biodiversity of the magnificent environment forever), to our State and Federal governments. This is the nursery for the Great Barrier Reef and the Pacific Ocean. This is where life begins, where it all gets started. We shouldn't be interfering with it at all. Please join me in protecting this marine wilderness on behalf of the many varieties of wildlife that call this area 'home'.



**Seagrass beds at Teebar Creek, a feeding ground for the endangered Dugong and a variety of seabirds.**

Thank you for your support."

Bob Irwin, November 2010

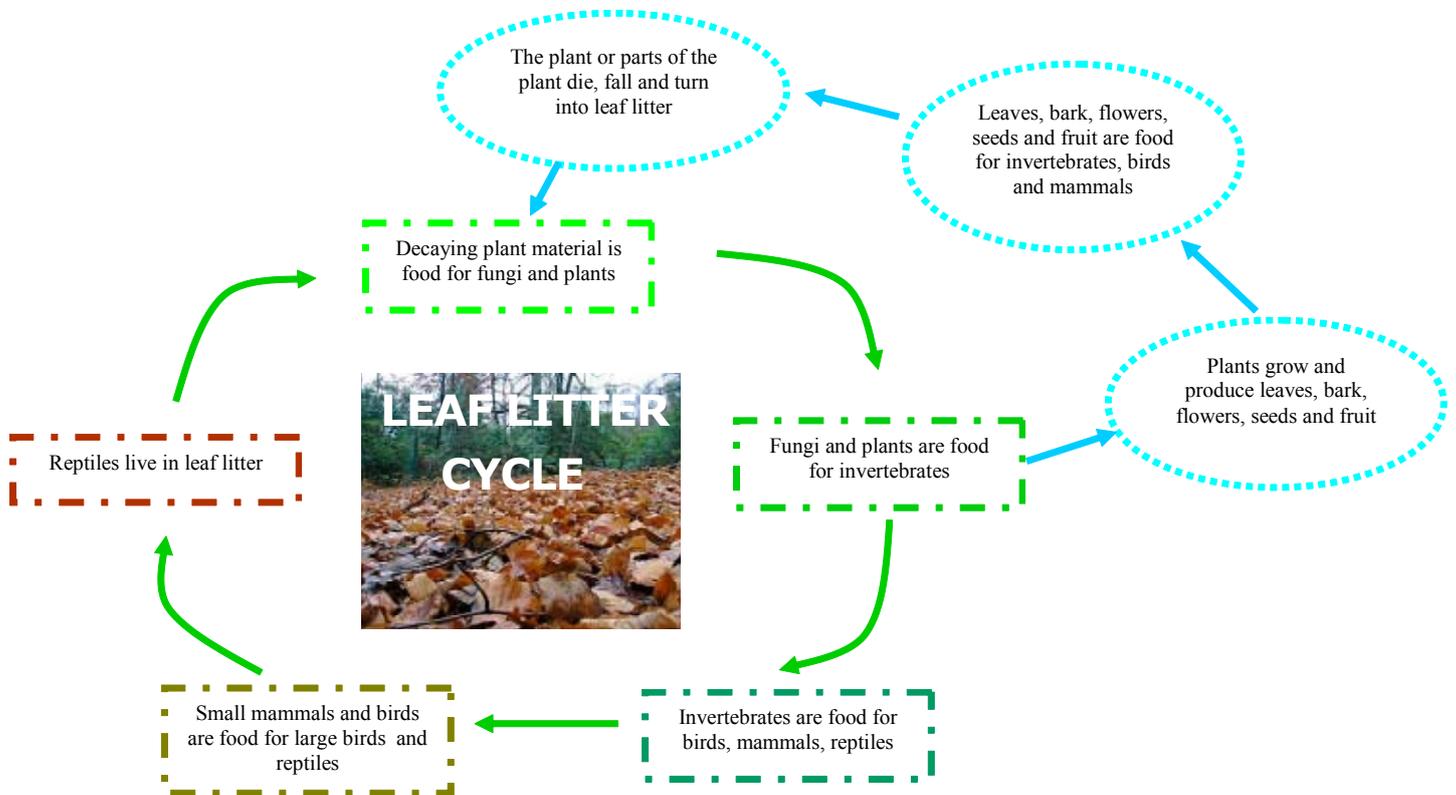
'Click and Save' Tin Can Bay (in 3 seconds)  
[www.marina.tincanbaydolphins.com.au/](http://www.marina.tincanbaydolphins.com.au/)

Hi, my name is Jasmine Rasmussen. I'm the daughter of Natalie, one of Wildcare's possum carers and Blake, the leaf picker and cage maker. I am nine years old and have been a part of Wildcare since I was five. My sister Lilly (6) and brother Jack (4) are also very dedicated to Wildcare and all of the beautiful native animals that live in this amazing country. In this newsletter, I'll be giving you a little information on leaf litter and how important it is to our earth's existence.

Leaf litter consists of dead plant material such as bark, twigs and leaves that have fallen to the ground. When this dead plant material decomposes (breaks down), all the yummy nutrients are released into the earth's environment.

Leaf litter provides homes for many animals and insects such as amphibians, reptiles, mammals, arachnids, and invertebrates such as arthropods. It is a damp and dark environment, perfect for these creatures to build their needs for survival. It is also an essential food source for plants and fungi.

I sometime wonder if we realise how important this material on the ground is to life's cycle.



Now you can see that even a tiny bit of destruction to leaf litter can cause a devastating effect on all life forms, including ours.

- Plants grow - leaves, flowers, seeds and fruits fall - form leaf litter layer
- Shelter for invertebrates, reptiles mammals
- Nesting material for mammals and birds
- Food for invertebrates
- Invertebrates are food for birds, mammals and reptiles
- Small birds mammals and reptiles are food for larger birds, mammals and reptiles
- All animals die, decay and return nutrients to the soil
- Plants grow
- Leaves, flowers, seeds and fruits fall
- Leaf litter decays and returns nutrients to the soil
- Seeds germinate
- Plants grow

# Kids' Wildlife Puzzle



A	V	Q	P	T	A	Z	L	Q	M	N	O	B	D	S	G
S	C	P	T	R	R	W	V	K	F	U	N	G	I	T	L
J	W	G	I	N	V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A	T	E	S
X	I	B	W	I	L	D	C	A	R	E	E	V	N	I	Y
A	U	M	W	C	L	O	O	D	H	P	I	G	K	Z	F
R	P	T	X	D	A	E	G	D	J	U	S	W	O	I	L
V	L	O	P	T	M	I	A	F	O	O	B	M	S	T	R
D	A	K	I	T	M	E	F	F	X	J	I	D	O	N	T
A	N	C	J	R	A	B	E	I	L	W	R	M	O	A	T
O	T	H	A	Y	M	K	A	L	T	I	Y	Y	B	E	E
O	S	W	I	A	W	H	F	N	B	L	T	K	X	U	R
N	D	T	O	V	I	U	Z	C	P	L	E	T	U	C	M
B	O	G	M	U	S	S	O	P	I	J	T	A	E	W	R
A	N	Y	O	X	P	U	R	T	S	A	Y	K	O	R	N
O	R	R	E	P	T	I	L	E	S	X	M	O	A	R	S
K	I	U	E	O	S	S	X	Z	Z	O	N	K	W	X	E
O	M	O	T	H	E	R	A	N	D	B	A	B	Y	V	O
A	T	I	S	N	A	M	P	H	I	B	I	A	N	S	S
W	I	O	V	J	K	L	F	J	I	G	H	P	R	Q	A



**FUNGI**

**PLANTS**

**INVERTEBRATES**

**MAMMAL**

**LEAF LITTER**

**AMPHIBIANS**

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**REPTILES**

**POSSUM**

**MOTHER AND BABY**

**WILD CARE**



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