

WildNews



ISSUE 76 - SPRING 2015

Education
**Where Can They
Be Released?**

Compassionate Kids
Get Active!

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All News & Events

+ Species Coordinators' Reports



President's Report



By Karen Scott

Welcome to another edition of WildNews.

I hope that I am not the only one struggling to understand where 2015 went. It seems that this year has flown by more quickly than previous ones and we are already in the midst of another very busy season for our wildlife.

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I know that many of our key volunteers are already at, and even over, their capacity with the numbers of wildlife in care. The next few months will be a struggle for our dedicated carers as they try to keep up with the demands being placed upon them by the community, who have a high expectation that there is always "someone" to care for our local wildlife when they need it.

We have thankfully seen quite a few new members take the plunge and undertake their training to become active wildlife rescuers and/or carers. No matter what your contribution, whether it be just one or two animals a month, or ten or twenty, every contribution is significant and meaningful – particularly for each individual animal.

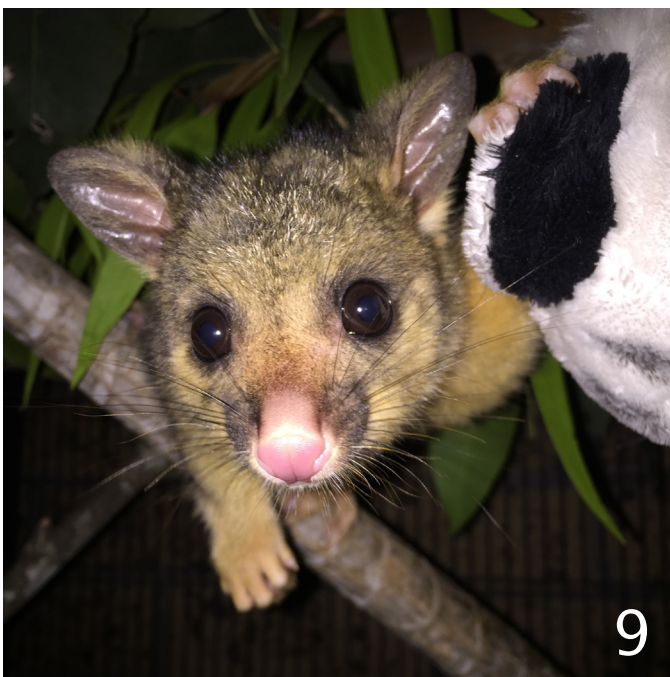
The numbers of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife that volunteers deal with each year can certainly be overwhelming and it is easy to wonder whether we are in fact making a difference. Whilst wildlife volunteers may not end up saving the world, or even saving a species from local extinction, it is still so very important that we continue to help as many in-

dividual animals as possible. I recently came across a quote by Sydney Smith – "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little – do what you can". If all you can do is a little – whether that be the odd wildlife rescue, or rehab case, or a shift on the Hotline once a month – your "little bit", along with everyone else's – is what makes a difference.

On a lighter note, I also found another quote recently that has stayed in my mind – "Keep fighting for animal rights – you may lose your mind but you will definitely find your soul".

To our busy volunteers, Hotline operators, wildlife hospital staff and volunteers, take care of yourself this season – I fear it is going to be one of the worst that we have had. For those less busy, if you can spare a few hours now and then to help out a fellow volunteer – cutting browse, transporting wildlife, cleaning cages – please let us know.

We wish you all a safe and happy New Year.



9



12

NEWS & ACTIVITIES

President's Report	02
An Invitation	04
A Warm Welcome to our New Members	04
Education Report	05
Wildcare Permits	05
Safety Tips	06
Ash's Story	07

REHABILITATION

Species Coordinators' Reports	08
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EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

Where Can They Be Released?	09
Where Our Rubbish Ends Up	09
Grouping Ringtail Possum Joeys	10
Heat Can Kill	10
First Things	13
Frogs in Your Backyard	12
Observations of Nature	14
The 'Five Freedoms'	14

COMPASSIONATE KIDS

Get Active!	15
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And also...

AWRC 2016	17
Australian Pelican Post	17
Grants	18
Advertising & Supporters	19
Thank you	20

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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An Invitation

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If you know of anyone with a flair for writing or photography, who would like to contribute to our newsletter, please invite them to send in a submission. The work must be original or, if not, must be accompanied by written permission for its publication from the author/photographer together with contact details.

A Warm Welcome to our New Members

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Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members in July, August and September:

Melinda Dowling: Jenny Abbott and Greg Berry; Shane Blackwell, Tracy Hampson, Maya Blackwell and Dominique Hampson; Bianca Aiono Robertson; Ashleigh Shaw; Stephanie Delany; Michael Vella; Lyndsey Kershaw; Jason Egbars; Marti Koskinen; Tracy Bourne and Andrew Bray; Catherine Rice; Michael Clacy; Stephen Jones and Alison Jones; Caitlain Eyears; Anthony Berks and Sue Macginnis; Gemma Heggie and Simon Hodgson; Tahlie Page; Stephanie Campbell; Tara Fritz; Madeline Campbell; Louise cook; Willow Goodwin; Katie Harris; Jessica Walsh; William Roach; Katie Mead; Diane Robinson; Katrina Astill; Cheryl Horrocks and Steve Foster; Rebecca Abbott; Julie Wilkinson; Sarah Jennings.

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

Summer - Issue 77: 20th December

Autumn - Issue 78: 20th March

Winter - Issue 79: 20th June

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

Education Report

The Wildcare 2015 education year is drawing to a close with only a few workshops remaining for the year. Typically December and January are when our volunteer trainers take a well deserved break for the Christmas and New Year period and also when most of them are inundated with wildlife in care, which makes preparing for training workshops more difficult.

We are currently finalizing our January to June 2016 education calendar and are pleased to be able to offer several new workshops, particularly suited to experienced carers. This is an area where we have been working hard to improve, after feedback from our experienced and long-standing carers, who are always looking to further their skills and knowledge. We have been fortunate this past year to have the assistance of Dr Robyn Stenner who has developed several advanced workshops in koala and macropod rehabilitation. We are currently working with Dr Robyn so that we can offer both an advanced possum and an advanced first aid course. Details of these workshops will be included in the education calendar to be published shortly.

A reminder that if you wish to register for a workshop, we recommend that you book well in advance to secure a place, as we are finding more and more workshops are reaching capacity, even in the larger venues. Sadly though, we do still find that some members are not turning up for workshops, nor sending an apology. We do understand that unexpected situations arise, but we ask that you please pay our volunteer trainers the courtesy of sending an apology before the workshop.

Finally a big thank you is due to all of our workshop attendees, who have happily accepted the new method of providing training resources via a download link. This new system has not only helped to save our volunteers a tremendous amount of time in collating and burning CDs, but has also reduced our training expenses.

Wildcare Asset Register

Just a reminder that if you have any Wildcare equipment on loan, please ensure that the equipment is not transferred to any other member without contacting the Committee first. It is important that we maintain our Asset Register accurately and that any transfers are recorded.

Wildcare Permits

With the 2016 Education Calendar nearly ready to be distributed, this is the time to look closely at what workshops you have completed recently. All Wildcare Permit Endorsements run in line with our membership year (i.e. 1 July to 30 June).

To obtain a renewal of your Permit Endorsement, you must have completed at least one relevant workshop for EACH species listed on your Permit. If you have a Permit for four species, this means that you must attend at least four workshops a year.

We recommend that you consider this by early 2016 so that you can plan your calendar to ensure that you satisfy these requirements BEFORE your Permit expires.

If you are unsure as to which workshops you should attend, please feel free to contact either Karen (Karen@wildcare.org.au) or Lewis (lewis@wildcare.org.au).

Also a reminder that if your Rescue/Carer Records are outstanding, you will not be issued with a Permit. We encourage all members to find an accurate and reliable system to record their wildlife rescues (such as the Wildcare Rescue Record Form book). Please do not leave this until the last moment and be reliant on your own memory, or records kept by other carers or wildlife hospitals.



Safety Tips

By Karen Scott

As wildlife volunteers, it is essential that you are aware of basic safety precautions when working on or near roads. Whilst you may be a safe driver and take safety seriously, there are many motorists who do not.

As Trauma Carers will tell you, many motorists ignore the flashing lights of emergency vehicles. Your life may be in the hands of someone who is not paying enough attention to their surroundings.

This is not an area that is limited to experienced rescuers who may be attending to critically injured animals but one that is applicable to anyone that stops to check road kill.

Some basic safety precautions for anyone who rescues or checks wildlife on or near a road include:-

- All rescues on a major road (e.g. motorway or highway) must be reported to Qld Transport & Main Roads (TMR). If necessary, they will attend to provide you with safe access to the animal.
- Wear high visibility clothing – not only does this make you more visible but it makes you look more professional and easily recognizable as wildlife personnel.
- Always stand well off the shoulder of the road
- When parking on the side of the road, ensure that there is sufficient room to open your car door and for you to remain behind the white line.
- Never stand directly in front of a vehicle that is parked on the side of the road. If the vehicle is hit from behind, it may be pushed forward thereby hitting you.
- When walking along a roadway, always walk behind a traffic barrier where there is one.
- When walking on or near a road always face the oncoming traffic, do not walk with your back to the traffic.
- Do not stand on or near a road to complete a task if you do not need to – complete it in a safe area away from the road.
- As soon as an animal is secured, move your vehicle to a safer location and finish tending to the animal there.
- Do not become distracted – pay attention to your surroundings at all times.
- Most importantly – your safety and that of everyone around you, is the most important thing!

Wildcare Facebook Transport Page

Thank you to all of our members who have joined the closed Facebook group to help facilitate the transport of wildlife to and from wildlife hospitals and carers. This has been a tremendous help to our busy carers and has worked well, often saving someone a special trip when someone else is already making the journey. We now have over 150 members signed up to this Group.

The page can be found by searching “Wildcare – Wildlife Transport”.

Ash's Story

By Karen Scott

Ash was an adult female koala that was reported as being “lost” by employees on a large development site that was recently cleared at the northern Gold Coast. These images were taken by our volunteer who went to the site to rescue her.

Sadly Ash was not lost at all – she knew where she was – it just wasn't her habitat any longer. This was a very disturbing sight and the images, on the public Wildcare Facebook page, prompted outrage by the community, that this type of mass clearing could be permitted. The post reached over 70,000 people and Ash's story made local, national and international news with many US, UK and Canadian news outlets picking up the story.

Unfortunately Ash's story is not an isolated one and she is just one of the thousands of animals that would have been impacted by the mass clearing. Many animals, such as macropods, koalas and birds, may have been able to escape the clearing process, however would then have had no home to return to. Many, many more animals, such as gliders, baby birds, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals, would not have been able to escape the destruction and would have perished in the clearing process.

This is something that is occurring throughout most urban areas of Australia and sadly wildlife volunteers are dealing with the aftermath on a daily basis.

Ash's story is the face of the environmental disaster that is occurring and it is difficult to remain positive when, as this tragedy is unfolding, the Mayor announces the ‘win, win, situation for the koalas, the people of the Gold Coast and for the Glossy Black Cockatoos’. The people get a new development and the koalas get 90,000 Eucalypt trees planted for them and the Glossy Black Cockatoos.

Well, one may ask, what are the koalas and all the other creatures that may have survived the destruction of their habitat going to do for food and shelter for the next five, ten, twenty to 120 years, while they wait for the trees to mature sufficiently to provide habitat. This includes hollows, which can take from 120 to 400 years to form, for the many species (over 300 in Australia) that depend on hollows for shelter and breeding? How will a Eucalypt plantation help the Glossy Black Cockatoos apart from providing perches, and nesting hollows in a couple of hundred years? They also need food and only eat the seeds of *Allocasuarina spp.* How can one replace the loss of thousands of species of flora and fauna (both vertebrate and invertebrate) in plantations?

What can we do to minimize the damage before it is too late?

Contact your local Councillor and your local member of state parliament by phone, email or whatever method suits you best, remembering at all times to be polite and to use well supported arguments so that you cannot be easily dismissed. Ask your friends and family members to do the same – many voices will carry more weight.

Start a petition – see [Change.org](https://www.change.org)

Contact your local media and voice your concerns and encourage others to do the same.

The approach to the problem needs to be on a broad scale, looking at the landscape, looking at the ecosystems that need to be conserved, incorporating these in the town plan and providing funding to ensure the efficient management of them. This is an enormous and complex topic, but something needs to be done and quickly.



Photo – Ashley Fraser

Coordinator Reports

POSSUMS

By Tammy Allison, Possum Placements Brisbane/Logan

Well, what a busy season we are having! Busy with adults and babies alike. Wildcare ran an extra workshop to help us out. Thank you.

Welcome to all our carers, especially our new carers. Please feel free to call Helen Bradley our Mentor for all your possum queries. When you're set up and ready to start caring, please feel free to give me a call. Generally I will be in touch with you the same day, if I don't answer straight away.

We are having our last Possum Support Group get together on Sunday 6th December at my home. I am looking forward to catching up with fellow Wildcare members/Possum Carers again.

Thank you again to all our wonderful carers, for their support and care of our little possums. We love them and I'm lucky to be working with a great bunch of people.



Photo – Tayla Jenkins

POSSUMS

By Nat Rasmussen

From as far back as I can recall, we have never had such a busy season with orphaned joeys. I'm unsure if it is due to the amount of land clearing that is currently going ahead on the Gold Coast, or to having fewer carers than normal, but for whatever reason, it has been a very difficult time for our carers and possums.

I have to say I would have been lost without each and every one of you - from rescuers to phone operators, from the vets and vet nurses to all of our precious carers. Everyone has given of their very best. So thank you.

After several years of incredible help from Robyn Branniff (for which I will be forever grateful) Alice Roser has now stepped into the position of Ringtail Possum Coordinator. Alice is very knowledgeable and has taken on this position with nothing but a positive attitude I hope those of you who are interested in caring for Ringtail Possums will contact her. I'm sure she will appreciate any help you can offer, as well as the opportunity to share her knowledge with you.

For those of you who may not have kept up to date with the relevant workshops, please try to attend them at least once a year. Changes are being made continually, as we

learn more and more and when you listen to the reasons behind them, you will see that they make a lot of sense. The changes will also reduce stress levels for carers and possums.

Please contact your coordinators regularly, even just to touch base and let us know what you have in care. It makes our job easier and keeps everyone in the loop.

Finally, I'm going to keep stressing that even when we have naughty little possums that are impossible to feed, it is essential that you persist with their milk and vegetation. These two major food/fluid groups are so important for growth and mental development. I have heard some very 'way out' ideas about what to feed possums lately, so if it sounds a little unusual, best contact the coordinator to make sure you are on the right track.

Stress is a major factor when any wildlife comes into care. A poor feeder may be due to several different problems. The more we talk to each other, the quicker we can come to a positive outcome for our little critters in care.

I'll finish with some beautiful words, I once read.... 'Keep rescuing animals, you may lose your mind but you will surely find your soul'.

Where Can They Be Released?

By Heather Frankcom

Have you ever wondered what happens to the displaced wildlife after the bulldozers moved in and flattened everything?

This is a sad story of three fledgling butcherbirds who were plucked from their home tree, away from their mum and dad by a spotter catcher in a cherry picker, or harness and ropes. They were put in a dark container and transported in a noisy vibrating vehicle to the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital where they were checked by vet staff to see if they were healthy. After this they were put in a box-like cage and had stuff that they did not recognise as food shoved into the back of their mouths, so they had no choice but to swallow it. Then they were put in a dark container and back into a noisy, vibrating vehicle and transported to a wildlife carer. By this time they were so traumatised that she could not get them to beg or self-feed, so for a week she had to force feed them. When I came to visit, the carer was just about having a nervous breakdown, so I took them, back in a dark box, into a noisy vibrating vehicle to my place. On the way, one had his eye punctured by one of his siblings' claws, so he had to go to a vet and be put out of his pain and suffering.

If these little butcherbirds don't die of stress, then once they are finally self-feeding the question is, where can they be released? Their home range is no longer there and the parents have had to find another territory which means fighting with other butcherbirds and maybe getting killed. The same applies to the two remaining siblings; wherever they are released they will have to fend for themselves. They have not had parents to teach them how to hunt, or hide from predators. They will be chased by other butcherbirds, magpies and currawongs. Statistics suggest that 80% of young birds do not make it through their first year and for hand-reared birds the odds are even higher.

This is just one story. There are many, many animals and birds displaced through human development. It would be kinder to just euthanase them and save them the trauma. I know we cannot stop progress but surely we can stop the clearing of more and more wildlife habitat. One solution would be to go up, not out. Build more high rise buildings in areas that are already degraded, or in areas of high density urban development rather than eating away at what little remains of habitat that could support our wildlife into the future.

Where Our Rubbish Ends Up

By Eleanor Hanger

Many years ago I read an article by Ian Hutton on the devastating effects on a seabird colony of ingesting plastics.

The story and accompanying photographs (one of which showed tiny pieces of plastic, which covered a one metre square sheet of paper, removed from one dead seabird) left an indelible impression on my mind and filled me with a determination to remove rubbish from the beaches and other public places, when the opportunity arose. Hence wherever I travel much time is spent picking up rubbish – a pointless exercise you might say, but I work on the basis that if I save just one bird, turtle or other creature it has been worthwhile.

Interestingly in travels this year I have been agreeably surprised to find many beaches and public spaces remarkably clean. Imagine my horror and dismay, however, when I found myself on a beach in north Queensland facing an impossible task - kilometres and kilometres of rubbish, a tiny portion of which is captured in the photo on the right.

Rubbish travels extraordinary distances in the ocean and possibly this accumulation is the result of prevailing winds and currents. It does not augur well for the wildlife.



Photo – Eleanor Hanger

Grouping Ringtail Possum Joeys

By Eleanor Hanger

Never introduce a sick or injured joey to a group until it has fully recovered.

Please remember that the weights given are guides only. Each individual must be assessed before being grouped.

With young ringtail joeys < 100g, place each in its own pouch, side by side within a larger sheepskin or feather pouch. Usually they will climb in together without too much, if any, fuss.

When introducing one joey to another of between about 100g and 200g, place each in its own pouch and hang side by side, preferably in a freshly cleaned cage, so that neither has taken ownership. Keep a very close eye on them. If trouble occurs, place in adjoining cages and try again next day.

When introducing one joey to an established group in the 100g to 200g age/weight range, great care needs to be taken, particularly with the older ones. Place the newcomer in a cage beside the established group for a few days, so that they can get to know each other. It is preferable then to put the established group with their own housing and the newcomer with its own housing into a new inside cage or aviary. In this way no one has territorial claims, however a close watch must still be kept to ensure there is no aggressive behaviour. Should any problems arise the newcomer will have to be removed for its safety.

Introducing a single ringtail joey to an established group of joeys (that are over 200g in weight) can result in the death of that joey, so must be approached very cautiously. Proceed as above. Place the newcomer in a cage beside

the established group for a few days, so that they can get to know each other. It is preferable then to put the established group with their own housing and the newcomer with its own housing into a new inside cage or aviary. In this way no one has territorial claims, however a close watch must still be kept to ensure there is no aggressive behaviour. Should any problems arise the newcomer will have to be removed for its safety. After about the 250g mark it is preferable to avoid introducing new ones to an established group.

Older juveniles > 300 g and adults do not need to be grouped. Adults in care for rehabilitation should be returned to their place of origin (their home) as soon as possible, similarly with older juveniles > 350g – 400g. If the place of origin is not known the animal will need preparation for release (to ensure it is eating the vegetation well) at a new site. Please consult your coordinator.

Opinions differ, but the maximum number for a crèche would be six. The mix of sexes is not as important as is the careful observation on the part of the carer to ensure that there is no bullying or aggressive behaviour. If there is, the victim must be removed. There should always be at least two dreys in the cage or aviary.



Photo: Alice Roser

Heat Can kill

By Eleanor Hanger

If you are feeling the heat as we move towards the summer solstice here in South-east Queensland, then think of our animals in care, particularly those in cages or aviaries where there is no possibility of escaping to a cooler spot.

Another potential death trap is a car, which can heat very quickly to the point where an animal will not survive. Be aware of the fact that even though you may have left your car in the shade, as the sun moves the car may be exposed to enough sun to overheat or cause the death of the occupants.

In Issue 69 of Wildnews, Suggestions and Ideas for Carers, on page 15 you will find some ideas for reducing heat in

aviaries and also in Issue 72, on page 13.

We would welcome any other ideas that you may have to share with carers, to make life more comfortable for the animals in care over summer.



A young female Eastern Bearded Dragon, *Pagona barbata*, had been attacked by a dog and suffered a nasty gash and fracture to her right hind leg.

A member of the public took her to Petbarn at Cleveland who promptly called the RSPCA Ambulance. At the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital she had a pin inserted into her leg to stabilise the fracture. Sadly she lost a clutch of eggs, having been shaken and crushed by the dog.

Barnese arrived into my care on October 11 weighing only 150g. She is the first reptile I have cared for with a break and surgical pin. She settled in and was soon comfortable, basking under her heat lamp. She was put on a regime of calcium syrup and insects well dusted in calcium powder to increase the supply required to knit the bone. Barnese improved in mental attitude each day, though the pin wept a little requiring attention with Betadine. At 14 days we returned to the Wildlife Hospital for an x-ray and assessment. It was a pleasure to meet her attending vet, Dr Joke Van Laere, and I learnt this was actually the first surgical pin she had placed. There was good new growth around the break, her sutures were removed and we left armed with a few antibiotic injections to fight any infection that lingered.

Eastern Bearded Dragons are quite prickly. Holding one firmly to administer an injection through tough scales is not comfortable for carer or patient and if you allow the tail to run through your fingers - imagine a serrated paper-cut. Barnese is particularly feisty when caught. She really wants to run away, understandably, and strike out with her tail. She wags it first, to show her displeasure, then whips it at you. A great defence mechanism and a sharp stinging blow if it connects.

I think it is important to include wild feed items in a rehabilitation diet. Thanks to an emergence of brown beetles over the last few weeks and a number of grasshoppers that thought my plants were a tasty banquet, Barnese increased in weight to 200g. She waits at the end of her enclosure each morning and greedily attacks the insects the minute I toss them in. Her hunting skills are fantastic.

One month in she had another x-ray, showing more bone growth and the pin was successfully removed. Another two weeks and her final x-ray shows a well healed fracture. She had no problem using her leg, was hunting with ease and had increased in weight to 238g.



Then the time came for release at a suitable spot, not far from where she was collected, in the Scribbly Gums Conservation Area. Release is always a sad parting. The animals you have cared for over weeks and usually months are now going back into the wild where they belong, but also where they came to harm. All we, as carers, can do is get them into the best physical condition, handle them as little as possible, give thanks and hope. Give thanks to the people who care enough to seek help for injured wildlife, give thanks to the skilled vets who treat them and give thanks to the quiet army of carers, of all native species, that get them to the point of release. Hope they have little contact in their future with cars, or dogs, or humans. Hope we never meet again under these circumstances.

Beautiful feisty Barnese, live long and prosper.

*X-ray photos:
Dr. Joke Van Laere
Wildlife Veterinarian
RSPCA Queensland*

Frogs in Your Backyard

By Annette Bird

The question is, why should we provide frog-friendly environments in our gardens? We all know that globally native frogs and toads are struggling and many species have become extinct, or are on the vulnerable or endangered lists.

Animals that use hollows for breeding and shelter have Significant declines have been observed worldwide in frog populations, related to pollution, loss of habitat, global warming, use of chemicals and the spread of disease, such as Chytrid fungus. Many of these species were once common, so, while we still may have some species around that are common, there is no guarantee that this will not change, or is not already changing, with distribution and abundances currently being affected by human development. Frogs are indeed valuable assets to our local habitat:

- They provide an important link in the food chain of ecosystems
- They play a part in insect population control
- They are an indicator of how healthy micro-systems are, due to their permeable skin and thus their sensitivity to change or chemicals
- Tadpoles can help control algae levels in ponds

So, creating or maintaining frog-friendly habitats in our backyards or schools is one way that we can contribute to maintaining the health of our environment and additionally protecting our local frog populations from further decline. Another advantage is the obvious aesthetic appeal to your garden.

Frog Needs:

A place to hide

Frogs shelter in many places depending on whether they are terrestrial, that is ground-dwelling, or arboreal (tree climbing). About one third of Australia's frogs burrow to escape dry conditions, so providing adequate hiding and digging spots is critical. Frogs naturally prefer cooler, moist places to hide during the heat of the day and this can be achieved by the careful placement and partial burying of terracotta pots or ceramic pipes. Providing thick leaf lit-

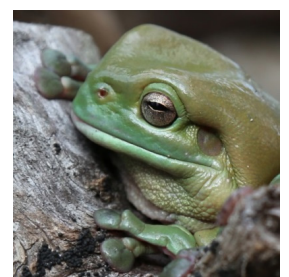
ter with rocks and logs to hide in are also good options for suitable frog shelter.

Food

Frogs are insect eaters and it is relatively easy to attract insects to your frog area. Placement of solar lights that will come on at dusk are a great idea as they will attract moths and other flying insects at the right time for the frogs. Good selection and density of plants will encourage insect life providing a variety of food options for your resident frogs.

A place to breed

To successfully breed, most frogs require a permanent source of moisture, such as a pond or river. So providing a source of clean water will, in turn, provide a stable breeding site. Different frog species have different breeding requirements in relation to the habitat provided, so read up about your local frogs and what their specific requirements may be. Also look around before you begin your project as you may be surprised by what you find and where. Particularly take notice of the natural lay of the land. You can use low-lying areas to your advantage. These make ideal hideaway spots for frogs that are enhanced by strategic positioning of logs, rocks and other suitable hides. Extend these into the water if possible. These are essential for frogs to take shelter from both predators and extremes in weather. Remember to check for the location of pipes before digging!! There are no single rules for constructing a frog suitable habitat and the adage of 'many roads to Rome' rings true.



Above: Clicking Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) and One the author's Green Tree Frogs (*Litoria caerulea*) 'Jada'



Some key suggestions/ considerations:

- Vary the depth of your pond/s
 1. a deep area will provide a cooler area in the warmer months
 2. shallow areas provide easier entry and exit for frogs
 3. varied depths also allow different species of tadpoles to select their preferred temperatures increasing likelihood of morphing into frogs
- Loose substrate can provide a healthy environment for aquatic invertebrates which will also provide another food source for frogs
- Change the density of your plants within the pond area
- If providing a ground-level pond, plant densely packed grasses around the edges to reduce the access to toads
- DO NOT put fish in the ponds as many species prey on tadpoles
- Avoid steep walls as small frogs may drown if they cannot exit easily
- Shade is important, particularly in hotter areas and positioning where the pond is 2/3 in shade is recommended. Whilst sunshine is needed for plants and to provide algae for tadpole food, too much is detrimental to water quality so you may need to consider providing more shade or a filtration system.
- An alternative is the strategic use of shade plants around the pond. Be careful with the planting of deciduous trees as they will lose their leaves every year, filling your pond, fouling the water and resulting in reduced oxygen levels.
- Place your pond away from sprinkler systems or other possible chemical contamination. An area where there is rain-water run-off is ideal. If using tap water, leave it in a bucket for 24 hours to dissipate the chlorine levels.
- Use local, native plants to conserve local gene pools
- Heavily planted shallows allow for tadpoles to seek refuge from birds or snakes and allows for basking areas to speed up development
- Avoid plants that shed toxic leaves such as pine or oleander
- Avoid floating plants (Duckweed and Azolla) as they will cover the water area depriving tadpoles of oxygen
- Check that the plants you are using are not registered weeds
- Encourage your neighbours to provide frog-friendly environments even if they don't want ponds. Remember that some frogs may move around a lot and places to seek refuge are critical.

A dedicated area that the author constructed housing a group of six captive Eastern Water Dragons. There is also a healthy frog population present, with at least four species represented.

If you do not have space for pond areas or the time to maintain them, then you can still provide frog-suitable refuges.

Further suggestions/ considerations:

- Locate a spot that stays cooler and wetter throughout the year
- Create a refuge by planting small shrubs, tussock forming grasses and ground covers
- Place rocks and logs throughout for shelter. The larger, the better as they will maintain cooler temperatures and moisture underneath.

A final note is that frogs or tadpoles **SHOULD NOT** be relocated from outside sources. If your frog-friendly area is well designed and provides everything that the frogs require, they will come on their own! Moving frogs is detrimental to their survival as many species have strong homing instincts and will attempt to return to their original habitat, placing them at great peril. It may also deplete other frog populations and is also against the law. Lastly, be patient...they will come! Sometimes, the plants need time to mature and insects need to move in too.



Observations of Nature

By Eleanor Hanger

In an *Acacia spp.* two king parrots were observed eating gall insects. They plucked the gall off with their beak and manipulated it in their mouth using beak and tongue to extract the larva before discarding the plant tissue.

Galls are commonly and easily seen on *Acacia spp.* and the larvae offer another food source for our animals in care.

Six Brown Cuckoo Doves were seen feasting on the fruit of the Tobacco bush and therein lies a dilemma, my recreated forest is now bearing fruit, but with the scale of clearing around the region should I remove that source of feral food and hence the spread of its seeds, or wait until its fruiting has finished.

Other observations: A Buff-banded Rail wandering along the driveway feeding; Regent Bowerbirds flying into my first attempt at creating a forest out of pasture; a bower under construction, the maker of which sounds like a Satin Bowerbird, but so far manages to elude me; a pair of Red-bellied Black snakes mating and a Saw-shelled turtle basking on its preferred rock in the creek.

Life in the valley continues to enthrall.

“The Five Freedoms”

“The Five Freedoms” is a core concept in animal welfare that originated in a UK government report in 1965.

1. **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. **Freedom from Discomfort** – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.
5. **Freedom from Fear and Distress** – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Compassionate Kids

Get Active!



Monthly Mission:




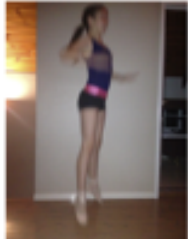
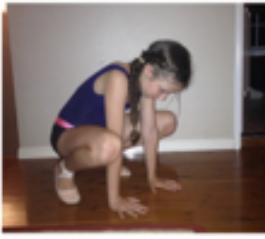

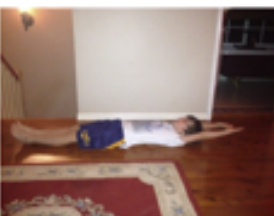
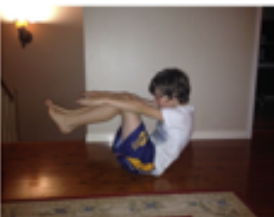
Fill in your summer 2015/16 fauna fighter bucket list and accomplish at least one of the goals you have written down.

As Fauna Fighters, it is so important that we utilise our power by taking action to improve our environment and the welfare of our Australian Animals. The concept of taking action doesn't have to involve extravagant plans and large sums of money! More often than not, the real difference is made when the little things you do go unnoticed. Currently, 1.9 billion tons of litter ends up in oceans every year, dangerously threatening our marine species of plants and wildlife.

Deforestation and the lack of native vegetation is one of the main reasons that Australian wildlife is in need of care, so when you plant native trees in your backyard you are making a huge contribution! As the voices of the animals for the coming generations, it is so important that you speak up and express your opinion, and the perfect way to fight for our fauna is to let others know what you think. By writing letters to call on the action of figures such as politicians, companies or even members of your school can help to make big changes to current issues that may be happening in your local area. With the help of someone else, you can have a say in what can be done for your local wildlife.

There are countless ways that you can make a change, and it's up to you to get active!

Each day I am inspired by the wonderful people surrounding me who are using their fighting power to care for something else, and these selfless acts are what makes all the difference. Be inspiring, get active, and remember, 'from little things, big things grow'.

Bonus Extra Activity! A twist on getting active about our wildlife			
Lace monitor:	Green tree frog:	Kangaroo hop:	Echidna Curls:
 	 	 	 
In the plank position, walk your hands forwards while dragging your feet and engaging your core.	Lower into a squat position before jumping up like a frog.	From a squat position with your hands on the ground, jump your feet out to a pushup - down position.	Lie flat on your back and curl up into a scrunched up position and lay back down again.

Summer 2015/16 Fauna fighter bucket List!

Sentence Starters:

I will. . .

- 🐾 plant a tree
- 🐾 write to my local MP about an animal issue in this area
- 🐾 make my friends at school aware of this issue and the importance of protecting our Aussie wildlife
- 🐾 pick up 10 pieces of rubbish from my street/ school/park/ etc.
- 🐾 donate some of my pocket money to a wildlife organisation
- 🐾 participate in fundraisers and awareness/activity days that help wildlife in Australia

Write your own bucket list of goals here:



FAUNA
FIGHTER

2016 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

The Victorian Wildlife Council is hosting the 10th Anniversary Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Melbourne in 2016. The event will be held at Central Pier, Docklands, from the 1st to the 4th August 2016. The theme for this conference is *Connecting to Country*.

The Australia-wide wildlife rehabilitation sector which consists of thousands of individuals and hundreds of groups, is unfunded and relies on sporadic grants and donations. Since its inception in 2003 in Melbourne at Werribee, wildlife conferences have been hosted in a different state every year for the first six, then every two years since. These have increased knowledge, and fostered contact networks across Australia. For wildlife rehabilitators, these conferences have become an important source of support, information and learning, reaffirming the important growing worldwide movement of conservation.

The conferences feature a broad range of speakers both Australian and international with differing areas of expertise generally related to the animal welfare industry. A glance at any of the previous conference programs will give an insight into the wide range of topics. Papers from past conferences are available to download from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference website. Click on 'Past Conferences – papers'.

For more information [visit the 2016 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference website](#).

Australian Pelican Post

By Greg Grimmert

Dear Zac,

Australia Pelican Post apologizes for the tardiness and condition of this post.

Both damage and delay occurred as a result of an unfortunate incident involving one "Postal officer (First Class) Percival Algernon Pelican" one of our most experienced and dedicated officers.

As you would know (although I am told the North Pole is serviced by R.R. Reindeer and Associates) the off shore islands of Queensland are serviced by Australia Pelican Post.

Unfortunately in recent months our islands have been experiencing a series of extreme weather events which caused havoc with our schedules. In an attempt to re-establish regular deliveries P.O. Percival Pelican took the unheard of step of ignoring Plover Air Control and attempted a near suicidal take off in gale force winds to ensure the mail got through.

After his preflight check at Dunwich airport P.O. Percival galloped down the sandbank at break neck speed before lifting off with a heavy payload of letters (yours included) and having just cleared the oyster beds at the end of the bank straining every sinew climbed slowly into the low overcast sky and gale force winds.

A veteran of more than 1,000 water over-flights, P.O. Percival shaped a course to the north and disappeared from view into the zero visibility rain squalls buffeted by the violent gusts and streaming rain.

As ever Constable Amelia "Red" Brahminy Kite was on duty that afternoon at the One Mile eagle roost lookout. She observed P.O. Percival rise slowly and just as he was disappearing into the gloowering overcast and blinding rain squalls she observed the mail bag foul P.O. Percival's undercarriage and tail feathers throwing our intrepid operative into an uncontrolled descent into the sea just south of Horse Shoe Bay. She immediately raised the alarm with Stradbroke Volunteer Marine Dolphin Rescue who soon had their best paramedics equipped and ready for the swim of their lives.

No one had ever seen the Bay like this before. The swells were huge, the wind gale-force, the sea surface swept by clouds of white foam and spin-drift. Out there only the super strong and brave could hope to survive let alone effect a successful rescue.

Luckily Stradbroke Volunteer Marine Dolphin Rescue had just such members willing and ready to try.

"Dol" and "Fin" had been training all their lives for just such a call out. With them went "Flipper" for inter-service communications.

The terrific trio roared through the channel entrance out into the heaving windswept Caniopa Passage and was immediately pummeled by rollers the like of which they had never experienced in training. Onwards they swam porpoising higher and higher above the tumult in an attempt to get a clear breath and gain strength for the further struggle. Even though their blow holes were usually 150mm above water level now, in this maelstrom, they had to leap over two metres into the air just to gain a breath clear of stinging salt spray and spume.

Slowly they made progress having ultra-sounded Flipper that no Mayday was to be issued if they should disappear from his sight. At the very limit of their strength they finally sighted P.O. Percival: just a slightly whiter patch on the darkening foam covered sea. As the evening light finally faded, Dol gently nosed P.O. Percival onto her back while Fin took control of the mail pouch that P.O. Percival had been struggling to keep afloat. Having signaled a successful rescue to Constable Amelia "Red" Brahminy Kite through a series of high speed broadband vocal squeaks, volunteer Flipper pleaded fin trouble and returned to base.

Through the dark of night Dol and Fin mothered their precious survivor (and his mail) back to shore. As they arrived Dr Sandy Curlew checked out P.O. Percival and bound up his sprained metacarpals (his only injuries) and called in Sea Eagle Heavy Airlift Services to carry P.O. Percival to SeaWorld for a period of rest and recuperation.

The letters in the satchel were badly water damaged as you can see. We sent them to Ms Mabel Hen (of Clucky Hen Incubation and Hatching Services for busy mothers –Motto-"You have-em We hatch-em") who undertook to dry out the letters and pluck out those that appeared decipherable so that they could continue their onward journey.

Again I apologize for the tardiness of delivery and the damage to your letter. Be assured it was due to exceptional circumstances beyond the control of management.

Yours truly,

Red Knee Pied Oyster Catcher, Officer in Chief, Australia Pelican Post

PS: A fund has been set up to assist P.O. Percival in his recovery. Fish of small denominations can be left at any branch of the Amity Bank.

Grants

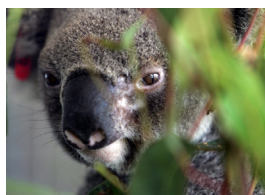
As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the generous support of the community as well as the funding opportunities provided by local councils and private businesses and corporations. Wildcare kindly acknowledges the following councils, businesses and individuals who have provided essential support 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 has been successful in obtaining funding from the Gold Coast Council through their 2015 Community Grant's Program. The funding will offset some of the expenses incurred when attending to trauma calls, in operating the emergency telephone hotline, as well as purchasing rescue and safety equipment.



QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION - We have just received word that our application through the 2014-2015 Koala Rescue and Rehabilitation Grant program has been successful. This will enable additional rescue equipment to be purchased.



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.



RIVER CITY SEWING MACHINE CENTRE - Thank you to the lovely Monday ladies at the River City Sewing Machine Centre at Wynnum for sewing a huge bag of cotton pouches for orphaned joeys. They have already been put to good use, with one of our volunteers having to use one for a rescue on the way home from a workshop, where some had been given to carers. Many thanks!

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.



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Thank you!



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 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.