

WildNews



ISSUE 75 - WINTER 2015

Education
Dehydration

News & Activities
**Mt Gravatt
Challenge**

Discover...

All News & Events

+ The Final Instalment of Grandad & Wattle



President's Report



By Karen Scott

Welcome to another edition of WildNews! I hope everyone managed to get a little bit of 'down time' during winter.

Sadly though it seems that Spring has come a little early with baby birds already coming into care. I fear that the coming warmer months will once again be worse than previous years and will keep our volunteers over-worked.

Thank you to those who attended the Wildcare AGM in June. It was great to see so many faces in a more social setting. This year we had Martin Fingland from Geckoes Wildlife Presentations as our guest speaker and I am sure that everyone who attended enjoyed Martin's stories of how some of his animals came to be with him and his experiences in the wildlife industry. A huge thank you to Jasmine, Lilly and Jack Rasmussen along with Nigel and Cathy Cope, who organized and conducted the junior activities, whilst the AGM was in progress.

A special thank you also to the wonderful staff at the RSPCA who catered for AGM for us.

This year sees a slight change in the Wildcare Management Committee with Fiona Davy joining us and

bringing with her a vast range of experience. We have already put Fiona's skills in the media area to work. Welcome aboard Fiona!

It seems as though wildlife, both in Australia and overseas, continue to face persecution from many people. Sadly, not everyone believes wildlife has an intrinsic value, that it is precious and worth saving. Recent events, such as the hunting of Cecil the lion and the kangaroo cull at Sanctuary Cove, only serve to highlight this fact. I would strongly urge all of our members to continue to fight hard for the rights of our wildlife. By simply signing a petition, or sending an email to those in power, you are making a tremendous contribution. You alone, may not win the fight, but collectively, we have a better chance.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for your ongoing hard work. I know it is never-ending and very tiring, but I believe that we do make a difference!

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OUR MISSION

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

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MAIN COMMITTEE

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Secretary Danni Bettridge
Treasurer Tracy Paroz
Committee Members Samantha Longman, Fiona Davy

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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



Help Needed!

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If anyone is keen to get involved with the operations of Wildcare, we need more people to take on administrative roles within the organization. If you are proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel and/or good at researching various wildlife topics, we would love to hear from you.

Some of the things that we need help with include entry of hand-written rescue records into Excel, proof reading documents and developing more Easy Reference Sheets. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please email Karen at karen@wildcare.org.au

A Warm Welcome to our New Members

.....

Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members in April, May and June:

Emma Gillam; Claire Broekman; Andrew Folling; Letitia Cristobal Lopez & Javier Medem Segheri; Amanda Baxter; Louise Delaney; Lolita Hopkins; Renee Lowery; Christine Beetham; Electra Navarone; Jacqueline Areson; Suzan Corbett; Lucy Sanders; Sheila Collecott; Maria Sieters & Michael Sieters; Erin Bradbury; Kelly Brandt; Amy Hamilton; Kathryn Mephram; Joanna Tondel; Karen Ellyand & Peter Ellyand; Amber Malkinson; Jade Zinnack; Graham Henry; Thomas Pyke; Ronald Yock & Kathryn Yock; Sharon Butter, Ruby, Charlie & Jake; Sean Miller; Carolyn Varley, Bruce Connell, Maginnis & Sidonie; Piera Forde; Robbie Black & Daniel Black; Jamieson Best; Lachlan Gordon; Shannon Satherley; Skylar Sadkowsky & Nicole Sadlowsky; Liam Flanagan; Timothy Sullivan; Phil Sattler; Ross McGibbon; Hailey Ward & Nathan Deans; Rivke Deecke-Jones; Peter Brady & Helen Brady; Shannon Jackwitz; Veronika Blaszczyński; Casey Foster; Lani Anthony; Ellienne Young.

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

Spring - Issue 76: 20th September

Summer - Issue 77: 20th December

Autumn - Issue 78: 20th March

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

Is this your Niche?

One of the core objectives of Wildcare is to help educate the public in a number of key areas including:

- the diversity of our unique local wildlife;
- the wonderful work of our volunteers;
- ways in which they can live more harmoniously with wildlife; and
- ways in which the public can help when they find an animal in need.

In order to achieve this objective, we rely on volunteers to deliver these important messages by representing Wildcare at environmental festivals, community and school events and talks.

With the help of a small team of dedicated and enthusiastic members we have now formed an Events Committee which is taking on the challenge of forming an army of Wildcare volunteers to help with Wildcare's presence at these events.

If you are interested in volunteering in this area, we are asking that you contact the Events Committee and provide your details so that you can be included in their database of event volunteers. You will then be kept up to date with what events are coming up and if any are in your local area, hopefully you will be keen to help out.

You don't need to be a great public speaker to help out at these events and you don't even have to have extensive knowledge of wildlife. There are many ways that you can assist including:

- helping coordinate local events (e.g. liaising with event coordinators, coordinating fellow volunteers)
- setting up the Wildcare display
- handing out brochures
- answering questions from the public about Wildcare and becoming a wildlife carer (we can train you on how to answer these types of questions)
- helping sell Wildcare merchandise to raise funds

Some of you may feel more confident and be happy to deliver short talks at various places including:

- libraries
- community groups (e.g. Rotary, Lions, Probus)
- school groups (both primary and secondary)
- AVA PetPep talks at schools

This is a great way for members to be involved with Wildcare and to provide a significant contribution towards educating the public.

If you would like to sign up for the Events Committee please email events@wildcare.org.au.

WildNews

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

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



Mount Gravatt Challenge

By Jill Fechner

The Mount Gravatt Challenge was hosted by the Rotary Club of Mt Gravatt, Lions Club of Greater Mt Gravatt/Mansfield, and the Southside Chamber of Commerce.

It was a fun event giving people an opportunity to challenge themselves against the mountain while at the same time raising money for charity. The proceeds of the challenge went to the local community to support The Hope Foundation, as the principal beneficiary, and Wildcare Australia.

The course started at the base of the Mountain on Shire Road, Mt Gravatt, and climbed 132 metres over a distance of 1.5 kilometres through beautiful bushland scenery. On reaching the summit you were rewarded with a fantastic vista of Brisbane city looking north to the Glasshouse Mountains, lots of entertainment, prizes and a variety of refreshments.

Teams entered including some from schools and companies, while others chose to walk with friends and colleagues. Families entered as a group, sharing quality time away from their busy lifestyles and they didn't forget the family dog. This was a fun event with something for everyone.

Our volunteers helped with health and safety and registration at the base of the mountain and we had a display and items for sale at the top. It was a very chilly 7 degrees at Sunrise without the wind chill, which made for perfect walking conditions and spectacular views from the top. Thanks to Kim from Pet City who kept us going with snacks and hot drinks to ward off the chill. We met a lot of lovely people and spread the word about what Wildcare does for our native animals. We received a cheque for \$3,000 that will be put to very good use.

A word from Annette Bird:

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the hand-full of volunteers who tirelessly helped Jill and myself at the public events recently. We all had a great time and talked to a lot of interested people about what we do. Although, I must say, the Mt Gravatt Challenge was a bit much for me! I think I finally thawed out as we were packing the van to come home. It was a very early start (we were there by 0545 hrs) and the biting wind on top of the hill took its toll on me. There was not enough warmth in the sun to even make a small dent in how cold I was (I think I'm part reptile). So, I went home and basked in front of my fire!"



Co-Presidents Sue Walker and Geoff Brady and Treasurer John Bettenay present cheques to Ann-Marie from The Hope Foundation and Jill from Wildcare Australia. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for Mt Gravatt Rotary to network with local businesses and the community, to thank the Mt Gravatt Challenge sponsors and supporters and to congratulate prize winners.

Tamborine Mountain Lions Club & Wildcare Join Forces

By Sherryn & Bruce

Local snake catcher and former Deputy Mayor, Ms. Vanessa Bull OAM, enlisted the support of the local Lions Club to assist Wildcare Australia by encouraging local residents to help out, or train as carers.

A fund was set up to provide ongoing financial support for members' costs directly related to caring. Vanessa placed an article in the local paper calling for carers and naturally, we responded.

As we were already Wildcare members assisting on the hotline and rescuing and caring for birds, Tamborine Mountain Lions Club along with a local business (Mountain House Realty) purchased an incubator for our use.

The funds from Lions are made up of direct donations (such as the funding for the incubator) and gifts from the public for snake relocations by Vanessa and other snake catchers on the Mountain.

The Lions Club is very keen to ensure their fund raising efforts are directed back to their immediate community and so we have commenced a recruiting drive with the help of Lions, the local newspaper and some local businesses.

Vanessa has been in touch with other Lions Clubs encouraging them to support our organization, Wildcare Australia, in a similar way, with recent conversations held in Logan.

We urge members to contact their local service clubs such as Lions to foster a relationship and grow the Wildcare support base.

The first of our information evenings will be held in the coming weeks and we hope to grow the membership on the Mountain. Having Lions behind us will certainly help get people on board and lessen the financial burden for those who may otherwise not have considered helping.

Our sincere thanks to Vanessa for facilitating this valued assistance and for her ongoing support and also to the Tamborine Mountain Lions Club and Mountain House Realty, whose generous support is gratefully acknowledged.

We will keep you posted on our progress.
Sherryn & Bruce, Tamborine Mountain

Calling all Wildlife Carers.....!

Have you ever driven past an animal hit by a car and felt sickened? Did you know that many times injured wildlife can be saved and certainly babies still in pouches can who just need special care until they are grown and released safely back into the wild?

Now Tamborine Mountain has it's own dedicated incubator for very young and very special little darlings but we need more carers to look after our many diverse native creatures under threat every day. Trained wildlife carers Bruce Rappitt and Sherryn Fraser are extending an invitation to local folk to join with them and train to be wildlife carers. See details below. But if you don't have space to house animals yourself (or you have too many domestic pets which would conflict) there is a real need for people to man the phone, direct emergency calls to the right person and help with the transport of injured wildlife to either Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for specialised veterinary care or to a designated local carer. Having a telephone and a car is enormously helpful and may well fit in with your lifestyle better. Every little thing helps!

Now state of the art husband and wife owned and operated modern far away young and small animals

If you think this could suit you specialised training is provided by Wildcare Australia for both new and experienced rescuers/carers for specific species. To become a registered wildlife rehabilitator with Wildcare Australia you must complete various workshops which are provided for in and around South East Queensland. The next series of workshops covering Rescue and First Aid, Rescue and Rescuing Baby Birds and Caring for Orphaned Marsupials are scheduled for July. To register for workshops email: education@wildcare.org.au

It might be the most rewarding thing you have ever done!

Mountain House Realty

wildcare

Seen here with Bruce and Sherryn is Andy Hall-Dixon of Mountaineer House Real Estate whose company funded the incubator and also provides financial support for wildlife carers and animals that who administers the fund via the Lions Club. Look! A precious little joey.



Mt Warning Climb

A special thank you to Elsie and Seth who recently raised funds for Wildcare, totaling \$242, by climbing Mt Warning. What a great effort – thank you!



“Trees Keep You Younger”

In a report “Trees Keep You Younger” in the *Australasian Science Volume 36 Number 7* magazine on page 49, Brent Jacobs of the Institute for Sustainable Futures, at the University of Technology Sydney said there is “very solid evidence that urban trees increase health and well-being”. He attributes this “to their measurable impacts on air quality and ambient temperatures”. “Natural vegetation also has intangible effects on our mental outlook”.

You may recall in Issue 72 of Wildnews mention of a study in Spain, that found buildings with walls covered in climbing plants were up to 15 degrees (F) cooler during summer than those without.

The message: Plant more trees.

Contact your local Council for free trees, your local Land for Wildlife officers, or news@wildcare.org.au for options for obtaining cheap, local provenance tube stock.

Coordinator Reports

REPTILES

By Annette Bird

Of note the past few months, I have had the pleasure of rehabilitating two tiny hatchling Robust Velvet Geckos that I found here at home.

One was found in an upturned bucket very dehydrated and unable to get out and the other I nearly stood on in the hallway; again very cold and dehydrated. Most likely they were siblings that were late hatchlings and did not do well with the cooler weather. Why they are so special is that previously this place has been over-run by Asian House Geckos (like most houses these days). I have been slowly controlling their population and last year, I saw the benefits of all this work: I saw a pair of adult Robust Velvet Geckos who make regular appearances on the walls inside my house. So, I went to some effort to re-hydrate and then release their babies behind various pictures on the walls inside the house. The exciting thing is I saw one about a week ago chasing a moth (the house is toasty warm due to my nightly fire!). It is growing nicely and hopefully will go on the breed even more.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all reptile carers to check their UVB lights. Remember, they are only good for six months and after this time need to be replaced. They will still likely be working, but the UVB output drops significantly after six months. A tip is, to have a laminated card attached to EVERY enclosure with the date that the light needs to be replaced written with a whiteboard marker. I simply adjust the date once I have replaced the light. Also remember that the light needs to be no more than 30 cm from your animal to be of benefit. You can add climbing or basking items under the light to elevate the animal (depending on condition) closer to the light as required. Fresh UVB globes/ tubes, correct enclosure temperatures and calcium supplementation will go a long way to avoiding the totally preventable condition of Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD).

Don't forget to check out the latest Wildcare Education calendar and book into the great array of workshops coming up in the next few months. You will find these on the website and hopefully, we'll see a few new members booking into these. A few months ago, I held a photography workshop and we had an awesome day. Below, are some of the great shots taken on the day. All of the lizards and snakes were very well behaved but the frogs proved challenging! All in all though; great shots were captured by all.



Above: Central Beardie 'Abbi' | Shingleback 'Denzel' | Frillies: Roxi & Ruben



Above: Central Beardie 'Maynard' | Magnificent Tree Frog 'Rymer' & Green Tree Frog 'Tren'



Above: Baby Geckos prior to release

Dehydration is simply a state in which there is not sufficient water in the body. This may occur from a variety of causes resulting in either inadequate water intake, or excessive water loss, or a combination of both, and may vary in degree from mild to life-threatening.

Causes include inadequate intake of food or water, diarrhoea, vomiting and kidney failure. In orphaned wildlife the most common causes are inadequate intake (as might occur after orphaning) and diarrhoea. Electrolyte disturbances and other things may complicate dehydration: when caused by diarrhoea, dehydration may be associated with significant electrolyte loss, and therefore reduced blood levels of electrolytes; when caused by starvation (for example, in orphaned joeys), it may be associated with concentration of the blood and high blood electrolyte levels. The maintenance of water and electrolytes in the correct ranges is called homeostasis. When homeostasis is not maintained, cell processes begin to fail leading to organ failure and damage, and eventually death of the animal.

Consequences of dehydration:

Aside from the electrolyte imbalance mentioned above, dehydration eventually leads to significant loss of blood volume, and often concentration of the blood. Low blood volume means that there is less blood to perfuse the organs and tissues. Water starts to be drawn from the tissues into the blood vessels in an attempt to restore volume, the kidneys start to concentrate urine to their maximum capability, and secretion of fluid and enzymes into the gastrointestinal tract particularly, slows and eventually stops. Other sections, such as saliva and tear production slow, then stop. Inadequate perfusion of organs and tissues leads to poor oxygen delivery, leading to cell reliance on anaerobic metabolism, which is inefficient, energy intensive and leads to lactic acid production. Cell waste products are not efficiently removed from the tissues and as the perfusion of the kidneys reduces, their ability to excrete waste products also reduces, and eventually ceases. Thickening and increased viscosity of the blood caused by concentration leads to sludging of blood in the smaller vessels, and increased strain on the heart. Of course this also diminishes the supply of oxygen and nutrients to cells and organs and removal of wastes. Eventually, untreated dehydration leads to cell death, organ failure then death. Some organs have good ability to regenerate after severe episodes of dehydration, but others do not. Brain and kidney have only a very limited regenerative capacity, liver and gastro-intestinal tract have better regenerative properties.

From a practical point of view the signs and effects of dehydration on animals are as follows:

1. Drying of the mouth and other mucous membranes, including the eyes – this can lead to corneal ulceration due to inadequate tear film production;
2. Tackiness and stiffness of the skin – when pinched up, it will “tent” and be slow to return to its place;
3. Inability to secrete digestive enzymes and gastro-intestinal fluids, leading to inability to properly digest and absorb food;
4. Transfer of water from the tissues into the blood vessels, leading to tacky, stiff skin and reduced muscle mass;
5. Concentration of the urine, then cessation of urine production leading to “pre-renal” kidney failure;
6. Dehydration of ingesta and faeces (when the dehydration is not caused by gastro-intestinal disease).
7. Predisposed to development of myopathy due to lactic acidosis and poor circulation in muscle.

Understandably, severe, untreated dehydration has profound effects on the cells and organ systems, the end result of which is failure and death. Severe dehydration may also lead to permanent organ damage in an animal that has received treatment and recovers from the acute phase of dehydration. These are:

1. Kidney damage leading to renal insufficiency – kidney tissue has very limited regenerative ability, so serious damage is permanent. Chronic kidney damage may manifest as chronic illthrift, inability to cope with normal variation in fluid intake, propensity to development of myopathy, chronic gastro-intestinal issues, and anaemia.
2. Brain damage – leading to subtle or not-so-subtle neurological signs, such as impaired vision, incoordination and altered mentation.
3. Poor growth or growth deformities when dehydration has occurred in young animals.
4. Corneal scarring leading to impaired vision.

Continued on page 11

Treatment of Dehydration:

Severe dehydration (10-15% dehydration) is a medical emergency, and needs to be corrected promptly by a veterinarian. It is helpful to have some idea of the cause of the dehydration, because this may influence the choice of fluids used to rehydrate. For example: dehydration caused by diarrhoea is likely to lead to electrolyte loss as well as water loss, hence treatment fluids must contain electrolytes (such as Hartmann's solution). Dehydration associated with orphaning and starvation is likely to be mainly water deficiency, so fluids with lower electrolytes and glucose are appropriate (such as 0.45% NaCl + 2.5% glucose, or 5% glucose). Dehydration associated with protein loss or other causes of hypoproteinaemia (low blood protein) must be treated very carefully because excessive fluid dilution of the blood may lead to fluid build-up in the lungs, which can be fatal.

A general rule of thumb for rehydration of small animals (<2kg) is to rehydrate with 10% of their body weight per day PLUS the degree of dehydration corrected over two days. For example: if a 1 kg kangaroo joey is orphaned and judged to be 10% dehydrated, it would need 100ml fluid daily (10% of bodyweight) PLUS and additional 50 ml (10% corrected over two days) – so a total of 150 ml of fluid per day, for at least two days.

Less severe dehydration may be corrected by oral, subcutaneous or intraperitoneal fluids administered by a trained person. Glucose-containing solutions should be avoided for subcutaneous use if possible, because the glucose can promote bacterial growth, leading to abscesses or septicaemia.

Other conditions caused by or associated with dehydration may need to be treated, such as:

1. Corneal ulceration treated with appropriate topical eye drops or even surgical procedures;
2. Microbial causes of diarrhoea treated with appropriate antimicrobials, such as Nilstat®
3. Change of diet, when associated with milk or other dietary intolerance.

Possum & Bird Carers – Another Great Idea for your Aviaries *By E. Hanger*

This Eucalypt is shedding its bark in strips like streamers. As the strips dry, they curl and make good hiding places for invertebrates. I have seen birds hanging precariously on the streamers feeding and have found them a useful addition to the possum (this includes the gliding possums) aviaries for enrichment and also as a source of food. You can just hang them over a branch.

At a recent glider workshop one of our carers told me her gliders love them, they actually chew up and eat the bark. So there may be more benefits than we at first thought.

A few months ago I watched a juvenile brushtail possum jump on to one in the aviary and fall to the ground. I thought it was a lesson well learnt, as far better to fall a meter in captivity than five meters in the bush, where help may not be at hand.



A Home in a Hollow

By Eleanor Hanger

Have you ever looked for hollows as you drive around the town or take a trip to the country? If so, how many did you see?

In most places probably none, and yet over 300 species of our wildlife need tree hollows for shelter and/or breeding. It can take up to four hundred years for suitable hollows for the larger species of tree-dwelling mammals to form and even small hollows, suitable for occupancy, can take in excess of 120 years.

Considering the time needed, the problems become apparent. Increasing human population leads to more urban development, more infrastructure, more commercial and industrial development, which in turn leads to the loss and fragmentation of whole ecosystems through land clearing. Add to this our insatiable need for timber, which, if not obtained from plantations, is taken from forests. The targeted trees are the mature ones, the very ones which will have hollows.

How are tree hollows formed?

Briefly, hollows may be formed in a number of ways, but one thing you will notice is that the trees with hollows are quite mature. You may also notice that young trees, those under about fifty years of age, usually do not show any signs of hollows developing. So once the tree has reached maturity, somewhere between about fifty and one hundred years, a hollow may start to form where a limb, or part of a limb, has been lost. The resultant damaged tissue is then further damaged by fungi or termites. Sometimes the tree's tissues will start to repair around the edges of the damage, so that the hollow that is forming has a smooth edge. This type of entrance is evidently preferred by some species of animals.

Hollows are also formed in dead trees and this can happen as a result of fire, insect damage or fungi, or a combination of all three. Dead trees are a wonderful resource for our wildlife and yet often they are removed because they are considered unsightly or dangerous, or their timber is required for firewood. The removal of dead trees not only impacts the wildlife that would have used them, but also deprives the soils of the nutrients that would have been returned to them had the tree been left to decay in situ. If you read "The Immeasurable Value of a Tree" in a recent edition of Wildnews you will be familiar with some of the many resources a tree has to offer.



Are all hollows equal?

Animals that use hollows for breeding and shelter have very specific requirements as you will notice if you observe them. Larger species, such as cockatoos, large owls and the larger arboreal mammals will seek out hollows that have a suitable sized entrance, sufficient depth, their preferred height above the ground and probably aspect, as this may affect the temperature inside and also may make it uninhabitable if it faces into the prevailing winds or rain. Sometimes animals may have to make a few alterations to achieve the desired effect and this is where the strong beaks of the cockatoos and the sharp lower incisors of the possums become useful tools. Some animals add nesting materials, such as leaves, feathers and mosses to increase the comfort

Smaller mammals, such as feathertail gliders, will seek out hollows with an entrance just large enough for them, but which will hopefully exclude others.

Hollows, like prime real estate, are at a premium, for unlike most of the human population who have a single residence, hollow dwelling marsupials use a number of hollows within their territory – up to eighteen or so for those with large territories, like the Greater Glider. Even smaller mammals, such as sugar gliders use multiple hollows. This adds to the pressure on our hollow using species.

Another problem for our native hollow-dependent wildlife is the aggressive behaviour of some hollow using introduced species, for example, Indian Mynas. I have observed a pair of Crimson Rosellas evicted from their hollow by In

dian Mynas and have noticed an increase in the numbers of these birds over recent years.

European Honey bees, that have gone feral, will also take over hollows thereby depleting the number of hollows available for our native species.

The loss of hollow-bearing trees will inevitably lead to the loss of hollow- dependent wildlife. The scale of the problem is enormous and requires governments to heed their environmental scientists, to totally protect old growth forests and woodlands, to better manage fire regimes, to maintain or create connectivity between isolated patches of forest, to control invasive weed species. Many weed species can out-compete the native species and eventually kill trees and smother their seedlings. Feral pigs, for example, can completely destroy the ecological values of a forest by churning up the soil and destroying the complex web of life both in the soil and above it.

Much forest occurs on private property, so individuals can play their part by protecting trees on their own properties, allowing for the recruitment of the next generation, planting a diversity of species endemic to the area to enhance its value to wildlife, educating others about the value and importance of the forests to the future of our wildlife and lobbying governments to provide protection for our irreplaceable assets, the unique flora and fauna which has evolved in this country.



This is Poppy, who was in care for a fungal infection in her claws which prevented her from climbing. After a lengthy period of treatment her claws recovered, and she went into a pre-release enclosure with tall trees to regain her climbing skills. She was finally taken back to her home territory and released, only to be killed by a dog a week later.

R.I.P. Poppy. Sadly, you have joined a growing number of koalas who have been killed by dogs in the South-east Queensland area.

Christmas in July

By Ailsa Watson

Those of us who have spent many years saving our native animals would have a personal fit if invited to a friend's place and the following was laid out for Christmas dinner, as it might have been in the early days of Queensland. The fines would be horrendous.

Victuals were in very short supply in those days and Dan, who had only one eye and had served his time as a convict, invited his friend Edgar Forman to partake of Christmas dinner with him.

He arrived at the hut shortly before dinner time and was there to see the spread laid out on the table. What do you think it was?

The menu consisted of roast bandicoot, boiled rat-kangaroo, roasted hedgehog (echidna) and a large carpet snake (also roasted), plum pudding, damper and billy tea. Old Dan was so proud of that spread and he did ample justice to it, which was more than Edgar was able to do, which did not please Dan. Edgar has never forgotten that feed, nor hankered for a similar one.

His old friend often entertained with stories of his convict days. He tells that when working on clearing the virgin scrub from what is now the Botanic Gardens, should a prisoner offend, his punishment was to kneel near a tree stump without either shirt or hat, hands folded in the attitude of prayer and to remain in that position for hours. Edgar believed the old chap, for he showed him his bare back one day. It was just like tanned leather.

Considering the number of native animals eaten in the late 1880s and early 1900s it is surprising that wildlife carers have anything to help back into the wild.

The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld : 1872 – 1947) Wednesday 15th December 1926 Page 9.

Clean, Green Power – Thargomindah 1899

By Eleanor Hanger

On a recent trip to Thargomindah I was amazed to find that it was the first town in Australia and the third in the world to produce hydro-electric power for street lighting (and also the first to have reticulated water). How did this come about?

The story begins in 1891 with the drilling of a bore to supply the town with water. In 1893 a good supply of water was struck at 808m. The pressure from this flow was used to power generators and by 1899 the electricity produced was powering Thargomindah's homes and streets, albeit for only five hours a day.

This method of electricity generation was continued until 1951 at which time the Shire Council acquiesced with the residents call for a continuous power supply and installed diesel generators. Interestingly an engineer with whom I spoke recently said that in the 1950s technology existed which would have allowed a continuous source of power for the town using pressure from the Artesian flow. What a pity they chose to convert to diesel.

As the Queensland Government's Environment and Resource Management states in its brochure, "Thargomindah's Hydro Power Plant", from which I have drawn the above information, "The old method of power generation was reasonably efficient, environmentally friendly, very low in maintenance, had minimal moving parts and ran quietly".



The source of the water was the Great Artesian Basin, which underlies large areas of the arid and semi-arid regions of the eastern part of the continent. It allowed the survival of indigenous Australians and many species of our wildlife in those incredibly harsh environments, as it welled to the surface in mound springs or seeped out of the rocks. The development of pastoral and agricultural industries in the last 150 years has been made possible by this reliable source of water.



Grandad and Wattle

By Greg Grimmett

The final instalment of the story of What What the lost wattle bird that was taken into care by Stradbroke Island Rescue.

That is not A Toy – Do not play with it!

I have heard Grandad say that to you many times.
I thought he was a bit mean when he said that to you. You seemed to be enjoying yourself so much.
One day I was bored!
I had eaten well and had had my midday nap.
What to do now?
Your Grandad had just finished talking on the telephone so I thought I'd play with that.

I pecked at its buttons and licked it here and there.
TWAKK TWAKK the telephone bit my tongue. It was tingling and burning.
I had given myself an electric shock.
Would my tongue ever stop burning? Would my head ever stop spinning?
Grandad laughed at first but not when he found out I had "burnt it out" and he had to buy another one.

Ta Ta for Now

I have to stop writing now for its time for my afternoon nap and grandad says he's tired of typing too.
I wanted to write to you about food, metabolism and lots of good stuff but Grandad said, "That's enough for now bird." "If the children like this story you can always write them another one."
When I wake up I'm going to decorate your book with fairy stickers before Grandad and I post it.

Your friend

What What

Apologies dear What What for omitting the final instalment of your story in the last edition. It must have disappeared into the ether, and as I was away for a couple of months the omission went un-noticed. Ed.



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.



Thank you!



TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

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

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

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

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