

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION WILDLIFE REHABILITATION RESEARCH

April 2004, Issue 33

P.O. BOX 2379, NERANG MAIL CENTRE Q. 4211

WILDNEWS

The Newsletter of the Australian Koala Hospital Association Inc. - WILDCARE AUSTRALIA



This newsletter is proudly sponsored by
KAY ELSON MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE



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*Tell me and I will listen
Show me and I will see
Let me do it and I will understand*



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past eleven months I have had the great honour to be part of a fantastic steering committee that was developed to implement the planning stage for the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. This was a direct result of the input that carers had when the Wildlife Review was held a couple of years ago. This group will in the very near future change the face of caring for wildlife. It is the first of its kind in Australia and next month will see the initial steering committee become the new "Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council" or QWRC as its founders have called it.

What is QWRC and why should we as Wildcare Australia become a member?

To put it simply it is the voice of the carers in Queensland. Each and everyone of the people who form the QWRC committee will take what you have to say, present it and then the best possible solution will be put in place. It will have the opportunity to recommend changes to the legislation regarding the care of wildlife in Queensland. It will be the overarching body for wildlife care and rehabilitation and will advise the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the minister on these matters. While we all come from different organizations across Queensland we do not represent our individual groups, but rather every registered carer in Queensland. Nor are we told what to do or how to run by the EPA. We are a truly independent body with power of our own.

The first two projects that we are undertaking are the new Code Of Practice and insurance for carers. Our aim this year is to offer free insurance to the carer groups and independent carers who become members of QWRC and we will have plenty more to offer as we proceed with this fantastic committee for which you, the carers of Queensland, have asked.

While writing the above, it occurred to me that many of you would have no idea what I do behind the scenes for Wildcare so I thought I should give you an update. And yes I have had an adjustment period since I have begun working at Australia Zoo but all has settled now and things are falling back into

place.....animals coming out my ears....but that's another story.

I represent Wildcare on the following committees: The Environmental Advisory Committee for the Gold Coast, The Koala Action Group, Indigescape, KICK the Gold Coast koala group, Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, University of Queensland Animal Ethics Committee, The Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation, Advisory Committee for the Wildlife Review and of course Wildcare Australia. Each of these committees meet once a week or monthly.

I also deal with numerous phone calls and emails each day about wildlife from people all over the world including Australia on matters relating to wildlife - everything from what to feed to asking for help with different issues.

I also teach numerous workshops not just for Wildcare but for other groups in Queensland and New South Wales. This raises funds for Wildcare. Am I busy? Yes...Do I love it? You bet I do.

The other day someone said to me, "How do you find time to have a life?" My answer was, "You are joking. This is my life. I have my dream job. I get to help wildlife and carers all over the world. What else would I want to do? Absolutely nothing!!!"

I would like to say a big "thank you" to Sharon Griffiths, who with her partner Mike have taken time out to study for the next seven years to become wildlife vets. No words can say how much we thank her for her fantastic contribution to Wildcare and the support she and Mike have given us over the years. So Shaza work hard and may all your dreams come true from all of us in Wildcare.

I would also like to give a big thanks to the Wildcare committee who have supported me in the past couple of months with my big life change. Thanks guys, I really appreciate it, and no Karen you cannot have my gavel!!!!.

Bye for now,
Gail

COMING EVENTS

The **Wildcare Australia Education and Training Programme for July 2004 to June 2005** is included in this newsletter.

To confirm the date and venue of any workshop or course the **Brisbane** community should contact Kim Alexander or the Wildcare office. The **Gympie** community should contact Paula Rowlands or the Wildcare office, and people from all other areas should contact the Wildcare office.

Costs

Please note that all Wildcare workshops are free to members. There is a fee for courses and workshops run by other persons or groups.

Lunch Please bring your own lunch to workshops and courses. Only coffee, tea and biscuits are available.

April	23	Brisbane Trivia Night
April	24	Trainer Training
May	14	Gold Coast Trivia Night at 'Narrowleaf'

TRAINER TRAINING

Sharon Griffiths has confirmed that she will be facilitating the Trainer Training on Saturday 24th April at the Wildcare Office. It will start at 9am and finish around 4pm.

It is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn how to better prepare and present your workshops, learn a few tricks of the trade and feel more at ease with it all. I completed the full training through TAFE at a cost of nearly \$1900, and you guys get it for free!! So I would recommend you all make the effort to attend.

Please RSVP to Karen Scott, or myself, ASAP. Sharon needs to know how many people to prepare the session for, so please advise if you intend to go or not.

Kylie Patrick

COMMUNITY ART UNION

Yes, it's on again....the Community Art Union Raffle! The raffle is an excellent opportunity for Wildcare to easily raise vital funds needed to ensure the pursuit of its mission of education, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and research. Without the efforts of the members and carers in raising these funds, Wildcare would cease to operate.

I encourage members and carers to make a commitment to selling at least one book of raffle tickets....that's only ten tickets! We all know 10 people that can spare \$2 for the chance of a winning superb prize (\$25,000.00 SPENDING SPREE AT HARVEY NORMAN!!! - home theatre here I come!!) as well as the opportunity of helping our diminishing wildlife.

As a further incentive, the person from the Gold Coast and the person from Brisbane who sell the most tickets received 2 x two for one passes to any Birch Carroll & Coyle cinema in Queensland!

To take up this fantastic opportunity, please contact either Ken Bridge (Gold Coast members & carers) or Karen Ney (Brisbane members & carers) and we will mail your book (s) of tickets to you lickety-split! Their contact details are:-

Ken Bridge
Ph: Hm 07 5534 1444
email: qailf@iprimus.com.au

Karen Ney
Ph Wk (weekdays): 07 3407 2555
Ph Hm (weekends and nights): 07 3882 3171
email: sesc@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Please also find attached to this email a handy hints sheet for selling raffle tickets. Happy Raffling!

Karen Ney & Ken Bridge
on behalf of Wildcare Fundraising Committee

PAULS MILK BOTTLE TOPS

Please start saving the yellow "collect-a-cap" milk bottle tops from Pauls milk for WILDCARE

The fundraising committee will arrange a drop off box for these at the office.



BRISBANE WORKSHOP VENUE

For those of you who were finding it difficult to get to the workshops on the Gold Coast, we can announce that we have a Brisbane workshop venue.

Thanks to a generous offer from Jackie Symes and her husband Mike, we now have access to the training room at their company building at Murarrie.

Located in the Filtronic Building 43 Metroplex Ave, this wonderful venue is situated just off the Gateway Motorway and within the shadows of the bridge so it should also be accessible to the Sunshine Coast and Gympie members.

We will endeavor to hold at least 2 workshops a month at this venue, more if the numbers warrant it.

All workshops listed, as Brisbane will now be held at this venue.

Please continue to book through the office for these workshops.

BRISBANE COMMITTEE AND CO-ORDINATORS

As listed elsewhere in this newsletter, Brisbane branch now has its own committee and some species coordinators.

This is a huge step forward for Brisbane and hopefully we will continue to grow.

We will be soon be advertising in the Brisbane Yellow pages and expect to receive a greater volume of calls both for wildlife emergencies and membership enquiries.

The Committee meets monthly at the Logan Hyperdome Library, to discuss issues and plan up coming events.

If you would like to attend, please call either Kim Alexander or Terri Eather to check the date and time of the next meeting.

TRIVIA NIGHTS

Brisbane 23 April 2004

Gold Coast 14 May 2004

Why not come to both?

Bring the family and join a great bunch of people for an evening of entertainment and fun

WILDCARE SHOP PRICES

You will find in this edition of WILDNEWS a copy of our latest Shop Price List. You will notice a few changes, some prices have unfortunately increased slightly, however some have decreased and we have increased the range of items that include the 25% discount to carers. If there are items that we are not currently stocking and that you use regularly, please feel free to let Roy Webster, our Shop Coordinator, know, so that we can see about ordering it in for you.

Also a reminder for pet owners, Wildcare is able to purchase some over-the-counter products through our wholesaler eg tick/flea products such as Frontline at a reduced cost for volunteer carers. If you would like to enquire as to the cost and availability please contact Roy Webster. Pre-payment will be required for any of these type of items before an order can be placed however.

WANTED

Anyone who can help (man or woman) at a WILDCARE display at the
Mt Gravatt Show on Saturday 24th July or
Beaudesert Show on 4th September.

Any amount of time would be appreciated.

Please contact Kim Alexander on (07) 38051815 or email to thealexanders@austarnet.com.au



VETERINARY TREATMENTS, DRUG DOSING AND TREATMENT COMPLIANCE

By Jon Hanger

Part II

Metabolic scaling

Many of the native animals we treat are small to very small, sometimes as small as a few grams. As a general rule, the smaller the mammal, the higher its metabolic rate. Smaller mammals require more food relative to their bodyweight and often, as a general principle they will require higher doses of drugs and/or more frequent administration than prescribed for domestic animals like dogs and cats. There are some complicated mathematical formulae for adjusting drug dose rates on the basis of size and expected metabolic rate, but generally the use of many drugs and specific dose rates in native animals are anecdotal or empirical (based on experience of what works).

Administering drugs to tiny animals

Whilst tiny animals may require relatively higher dose rates of drugs because of their higher metabolic rate, often the dose that they require is far too small to be accurately measured in a syringe. The smallest doses that can be measured with any reasonable degree of accuracy is 0.02-0.05 ml (2-5 tiny graduations on a one ml syringe). For example, lets say we are going to treat a 6 gm joey sugar glider with amoxicillin at a dose rate of 30mg/kg. The drug concentration of our oral amoxicillin (Moxylan) is 50mg/ml.

Hence our formula for our drug dose is:

Bodyweight (kg) X Dose rate (mg/kg)

Drug concentration (mg/ml)

$$\frac{0.006 \text{ kg} \times 30\text{mg/kg}}{50\text{mg/ml}} = 0.0036\text{ml}$$

This is far too small to measure in a syringe, so we would make a 1 in 10 dilution with sterile water (mix 1 ml of drug with 9 ml of water), then give 0.036 ml of the diluted drug (realistically give 0.04 ml).

The importance of giving the full course of antibiotics.

Antibiotics should not be prescribed lightly because overuse and misuse of antibiotics results in the evolution of resistant bugs. Bacteria and other microbes are developing drug resistance faster than science can develop new antibiotics, and some bacteria have such broad antibiotic resistance that they are termed “superbugs”. We are relatively lucky in wildlife medicine that most of the common bacteria involved in wildlife diseases are still relatively susceptible to the older generation (and generally cheaper) antibiotics. However, over time even these bacteria will probably develop resistance, making effective treatment just a little more difficult. There are certain guidelines that we can use to delay the development of resistant bugs:

1. Only use antibiotics when they have been prescribed by a veterinarian (this is a legal requirement of their use).
2. Only use antibiotics when there is a clear indication for their use, based upon a thorough clinical examination.
3. Use appropriately chosen antibiotics based on culture and sensitivity results or experience of common pathogens associated with the condition being treated.
4. Use effective dose rates and courses. Ineffectively low doses and inappropriately short courses lead to rapid development of resistance as a general principle.
5. Discard unused antibiotics at the end of each course, or store the remainder as recommended by the veterinarian. Inappropriately stored drugs or those past expiry dates may lose efficacy and promote development of resistance.
6. Don't fall into the trap of self-diagnosing new cases because they look like old cases that you have treated before – that is something you assist your veterinarian with.

WILDCARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Workshop Pre-Requisites – Important Notice

You may recall that with your membership renewal last year (or for new carers with your orientation pack) you received a Training Matrix. This Matrix listed all workshops and courses offered by Wildcare and provided details of any pre-requisites for the workshops.

We will start to enforce the pre-requisite requirements this year so please ensure that you have your Matrix handy so that you can refer to this. This simply means that if you cannot fulfil the specific pre-requisite requirements for a workshop you may not be allowed to attend.

This system has been introduced to ensure that attendees at workshops have a basic degree of knowledge on the topic so that other carers attending the workshop are not hindered in their learning by inexperienced carers with no basic knowledge. This should hopefully ensure that everyone attending the workshop gets the most out of their learning experience.

The Matrix has also been included in the “Carers Resources” section of the Wildcare website (www.wildcare.org.au) or you can request a copy by telephoning the Wildcare office during business hours.

Food at Workshops

Just a reminder that there are
no lunch facilities

at the Wildcare Office or at the Brisbane venue,
Filtronics.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided as refreshments however for full day workshops you will need to bring your own lunch. There are however chocolates and cold drinks for sale at the Office!

Workshop Etiquette

As a matter of courtesy to your fellow volunteer carers when attending workshops, could you please bear these things in mind:

Please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the workshop commencement time.

This will enable you sufficient time to get a cup of tea or coffee and find a seat. This also ensures that the training can get underway on time. Bearing in mind that a number of carers travel from Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast for workshops, as a matter of courtesy to them we try to finish workshops on time. We have had instances where carers have arrived up to an hour late for workshops, this can be very disruptive to both the trainer and your fellow volunteers.

Please ensure that you register for workshops. You can do this by ringing the Wildcare office on (07) 5527 2444 between Monday and Friday (8am to 4pm). If you are not registered we cannot let you know if a workshop venue is changed, workshop times are altered or if for some unforeseen reason the workshop needs to be cancelled or postponed. This also allows for the trainer to have a sufficient number of workshop notes available.

If you have registered for a workshop and then discover that you cannot attend, please telephone the Wildcare Office to let them know. If you do not realise until the weekend that you cannot attend, then please let the trainer know directly that you are unable to make it. Often workshops are held up while the trainer waits for the remaining volunteers who have registered to arrive and often they could be waiting for people who are not coming.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation in this matter..

EDUCATION CALENDAR JULY—DECEMBER 2004

DATE	VENUE	WORKSHOP
Saturday, 3 July 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 4 July 2004	Gold Coast	Basic Baby Birds
Saturday 10 July 2004	Gold Coast	Orientaion Day 2
Saturday 18 July 2004	Brisbane	Basic Baby Birds
Sunday 1 August 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 8 August 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Saturday 14 August 2003	Brisbane	Macropods—pinkie to furred 9am—noon
Sunday 15 August 2004	Gold Coast	Native Ducks Water Birds
Sunday 22 August 2004	Gold Coast	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals
Sunday 29 August 2004	Brisbane	Native Ducks Water Birds
Saturday 4 September 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 5 September 2004	Gold Coast	Practical Bird Nocturnal Migratory
Saturday 11 September 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Sunday 19 September 2004	Brisbane	Practical Bird Nocturnal Migratory
Sunday 3 October 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Saturday 9 October 2004	Gold Coast	Possums of SEQ
Sunday 10 October 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Sunday 17 October 2004	Gold Coast	Nectivores Frugivores Granivores
Saturday 23 October 2004	Brisbane	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals
Sunday 24 October 2004	Brisbane	Possums of SEQ
Saturday 30 October 2004	Brisbane	Macropod—furred to pre release 9am-noon
Sunday 31 October 2004	Brisbane	Nectivores Frugivores Granivores
Saturday 6 November 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Saturday 13 November 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Sunday 5 December 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Saturday 11 December 2004	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2

Brisbane Workshops will usually be held at Filtronic, Metropolex Avenue, Murarrie, in the shadow of the Gateway Bridge.

Gold Coast Workshops will usually be held at 'Narrowleaf' at Advancetown just south of Nerang.

Please phone the Wildcare Office on 07 5527 2444 to register for any workshop or course.

EDUCATION CALENDAR JANUARY—JUNE 2005

DATE	VENUE	WORKSHOP
Saturday 8 January 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Saturday 15 January 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Sunday 6 February 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 13 February 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Sunday 20 February 2005	Gold Coast	Birds—Anatomy, Physiology, Disease and Injury
Saturday 26 February 2005	Brisbane	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals
Sunday 27 February 2005	Brisbane	Birds—Anatomy, Physiology, Disease and Injury
Saturday 5 March 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 6 March 2005	Gold Coast	Ringtail Possum and Greater Glider
Saturday 12 March 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Sunday 13 March 2005	Gold Coast	Practical Birds
Sunday 20 March 2005	Gold Coast	Koalas Orphans and Adults
Sunday 3 April 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 10 April 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Saturday 16 April 2005	Gold Coast	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals
Sunday 24 April 2005	Gold Coast	Frogs and Turtles
Saturday 30 April 2005	Gold Coast	Gliders—Feathertail, Sugar, Squirrel
Saturday 7 May 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 8 May 2005	Gold Coast	Carnivores, Small Insectivores
Saturday 14 May 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Sunday 22 May 2005	Gold Coast	Macropod—all stages
Sunday 5 June 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 1
Sunday 12 June 2005	Gold Coast	Orientation Day 2
Saturday 18 June 2005	Brisbane	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals

FUNDRAISING

TRIVIA NIGHTS

RAFFLE

CHOCOLATES

Support our fundraising and help Wildcare help wildlife.
Phone the Wildcare Office 07 5527 2444

WILDCARE SHOP SUBSIDY

With the end of the financial year upon us (31 March 2004 for charities), I thought it would be a good idea to give members an update of the Wildcare subsidy.

By way of background.

When Wildcare Education and Training was running paid courses each term, the profit earned from these training courses was retained and this amount (\$7,500) was set aside to provide the subsidy to carers. In addition to this there was \$2,000 received by way of donations that was specifically set aside for the subsidy. This gave us a total of \$9,500.00

In the 2002-2003 financial year shop products purchased by carers were subsidized to the amount of \$4,596.16. In this past financial year (2003-2004) a total of \$3,479.56 was used. Unfortunately this leaves us with a balance of only \$1,335.90. I anticipate that this would be sufficient to last only another few months.

We are continuing to explore avenues to apply for grants and/or sponsorship in the hope that we can continue to offer this subsidy once the remaining \$1,335.90 is used. However those members (as few as they are) that sit on the Fundraising Committee, know all too well that there are very few grants available that accommodate this type of funding proposal.

The Management Committee have elected to allocate all funds raised from the Gold Coast Community Fund raffle towards the shop subsidy. This means for every \$2 raffle ticket sold, the \$1 profit that Wildcare makes will go towards the shop subsidy. This should be a great incentive for all members to make a conscious effort to sell as many raffle tickets as they can as the proceeds will directly benefit ALL carers.

Karen Scott
Wildcare Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA welcomes the following new members:

Michael and Michelle Thornton, Nerang: Sue Randall, Nerang: Gill and David Dunkerley, Maleny: Karen Ney, Cashmere: Helen Kilby, Camira.: Christina Lochore, Bonogin: Belinda Morrissey, Benowa Waters: Shirley Saunders, Nerang: Pamela Quemby, Mount Nathan: Debbie Fogg, Robina: Jennifer Williamson and Ken Thomas, New Farm: Leisa Fisher, Gatton: Carrie Symons, Hope Island: Sue Wahlheim, Arundal Hills: Tania Potts, Andrews: Narelle Mercier, Thornside: Raine and Bill Zeller, Sheldon: Frances Munro, Tamborine: Val Bonner-Burroes, Oxley: Diane Cartmill, Guanaba: Michael and Dianne Cecil, Canungra: Elise Arnaudon, Paddington: Anita Bell, Kingston: Susan and Ross Evans, Tallebudgera: Linda Galvin, Tamborine: Yolande and Tersia Venter, Reedy Creek: Louise Gardner, Tandur: Jill Christensen, Wynnum: Greg Duncan, Bulimba: Fiona Vantowsey, Keperra: Louise Johnson, Nerang: C. Greer-McNee, Mt. Tamborine S.S. Classes 4 & 5 G: M. Berkhout, Springwood: Susan Fitchat, Cannon Hill: Anna Benakich, Cleveland: Pam Carson, Wynnum: Michelle Wagner, Kingston: Trish Leehong, Murphy's Creek: Kirsty Suthers, Raceview: Belinda Williams, Underwood: Rod and Susan Parker, Birkdale: Pam and Sylvia Amerstorfer, Tallai: Pamela Elliot, Mundoolun: Andrew Wells, Amamoor: Jodie Harris, Gilston: Joy Carbines, Currumbin.: Hilda Boeg, Banora Point: Kerrie Lock, Alexandra Hills: Sandy Szymanski, Ashmore: Ruth and David Walker Redland Bay: Jenny and Jason Deane, Cornubia:
We hope you have a long and happy association with WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

GOLD COAST PET EXPO

Late last year the Gold Coast City Council hosted the inaugural Gold Coast Pet Expo at Robina and Wildcare was invited to have a stall. It was a very successful weekend with over 60 stallholders attending the event. Our main aim in attending was to promote responsible pet ownership to the public and hopefully we managed to educate a few people.

Many thanks to the following people who gave up their time (and some who missed out on the Wildcare Christmas party).

Sharon Griffiths, Linda Ray, Shane Ho, Kylie Patrick, Karen Scott, Trish Hales, Rose Marie Zalewski, Dianna Clark, Margaret Christison, Lee Anne Burgess, Eileen Lucre, Trish Wimberley, Julia Harris and Kim, Mark, Luke and Sam Alexander.

TELEPHONE SHIFTS Select a shift or two or more and be in the running for a **\$30.00** voucher each month!!!

MAY 2004

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31 7pm-7am					1 12noon – 4pm 4pm – 7pm 7pm-7am	2 1-7pm
3 7pm-7am	4 7pm-7am	5 7pm-7am	6 7pm-7am	7 4 – 7pm	8 7-12noon 4pm – 7pm 7pm-7am	9 7-12noon 12noon – 7pm
10 7pm-7am	11 7pm-7am	12 7pm-7am	13 7pm-7am	14	15 4pm – 7pm 7pm-7am	16
17 7pm-7am	18 7pm-7am	19 7pm-7am	20 7pm-7am	21 4-7pm	22 7-12noon 12-4pm 4pm – 7pm 7pm-7am	23 10- 1pm 1-7pm
24 7pm-7am	25 7pm-7am	26 7pm-7am	27 7pm-7am	28	29 7-12noon 12-4pm 4pm – 7pm 7pm-7am	30 10 - 1pm 1 - 7pm

JUNE 2004

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 7pm-7am	2 7pm-7am	3 7pm-7am	4 4 pm- 7pm 7pm-7am	5 12noon – 4pm 7pm-7am	6 1 - 7pm
7 7pm-7am	8 7pm-7am	9 7pm-7am	10 7pm-7am	11	12 7 - 12noon 7pm-7am	13 10 - 1pm
14 7pm-7am	15 7pm-7am	16 7pm-7am	17 7pm-7am	18 4 - 7pm	19 7pm-7am	20 10 - 3pm
21 7pm-7am	22 7pm-7am	23 7pm-7am	24 7pm-7am	25	26 7 - 12noon 12noon - 4pm 7pm-7am	27 10 -1pm 1 - 7pm
28 7pm-7am	29 7pm-7am	30 7pm-7am				

WILDCARE TELEPHONE ROSTER

The following shifts still need to be filled on a regular basis:

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur and Sat 7pm-7am
Sat 4-7pm

Currently these shifts are being filled by the same few people each week. If you can assist by taking on one of these shifts either on a weekly basis or once per month please let me know. Assistance with other shifts would also be greatly appreciated.

WEEKENDS

We still require many more volunteers who can assist with filling weekend shifts between 7am and 7pm. Shifts are generally about 4 hours in length and would only need to be done once per month.

CAN YOU HELP???

I'm asking that all members please consider volunteering just once per month on the phones. Just 4 hours per month. The reality at the moment is that some volunteers are doing up to three shifts per week.

Could all members not currently on the roster please contact me over the next few weeks and let me know what hours you can do (eg. 3-7pm on the first Sunday of the month). If you require training please contact myself or Karen Scott and we will make arrangements.

My contact details are

Home: 3879 7376

Mobile: 0411 643 557

E-mail: katbiber@yahoo.com.au

Kathryn Biber

Record Keeper's Rap

End of Reporting Year

The reporting year ends on 31st March 2004, so could all carers please send me any outstanding records you have yet to submit for the past 12 months.

If any of you are having difficulty with this task, please contact me and I will try to make time to visit you and help you put your records together. I have already received all the year's records from some carers, and you are much appreciated!!

Excel Record Submitters

Those carers who send me their records in Excel will receive their annual records report back from me after they submit their March 2004 records. Any items highlighted in red need to be corrected so please make sure there are no red sections when you receive this email.

Still in Care Lists

Could all carers please make sure they mention on their March'04 records what animals they still have in their care?

Not everyone tells me what they still have in care each month. Usually this occurs when the carer has many animals in care. I very much accept this, but I find a lot of animals are incorrectly assumed to be still in care at the end of the reporting year, and these records are then inappropriately carried over into the new reporting year. So, if you are one of these carers, please make an exception on your March record.

A Big Thank You

Thanks so much to the carers who have so diligently sent me their records with little reminder for the entire year or for the time that they have been caring.

From the number of records received, it is certainly clear that many of you have been incredibly busy with caring, and your efforts to also complete the records are immensely appreciated.

Just a reminder that it really helps if your records are:

1. Clear & concise – legible; and no long stories in the 'comments' column, please.
2. Correct – no gaps, outcomes provided for each animal rescued or entering your care. Excel records typed in the standard format, as shown in the sample records.
3. Submitted in a timely manner – ie. at the end of each calendar month.
4. It is also desirable, but not essential, to submit your records using Excel.

Contacting the Record Keeper:

Just a reminder that my email is kierstenj@bigpond.com. As always, please contact me by phone or email if you have any queries regarding records.

Kiersten Jones
Record Keeper, Wildcare
PH: (07) 5576 3625.

BIRD BEST PRACTICE

I would like to take you through a few points on the importance of reporting animals you have in care.

Unfortunately both new and old carers are not always reporting in. As co-ordinators we are responsible for the health and well being of the animals in your care. All carers are required as part of their obligation to Wildcare to report all animals that come into their care as soon as possible. In the case of birds they will not automatically be removed from new carers unless it is for one of the following reasons.

1. The species co-ordinator does not feel the carer has the correct facilities to house that species or the time it will take to care for it. eg. (the bird may need feeding every hour and the carer works full time or their aviary is too small for the size of the bird).
2. The carer does not have the experience to properly care for that species e.g. the carer has not attended a workshop on a particular species which may have special requirements.
3. The carer is not listening to advice given to them by the co-ordinator.
4. The bird is not being fed the correct diet or fed at the correct times. (We have had cases where baby magpies which require feeding every hour have been fed twice a day).
5. The bird is sick or injured and has not been vet checked e.g. the case of a bird with a badly broken wing being left three weeks without seeing a vet, when it should have been euthanased immediately on rescue.
6. The bird has been kept in too small a cage and has feather damage. (Feather damage can lead to the bird being kept in care much longer than necessary, so should be avoided at all costs.
7. The bird is of a species that needs to be grouped together. This applies to most species of baby birds. It is not always necessary for adults, but babies of most species do better if raised together.
8. Migratory species. Black faced cuckoo shrikes and pheasant coucals **MUST** go into a good sized aviary (the smallest being 12 – 15 ft long) as soon as they can perch. These birds can fly at a very young age and damage feathers or can break

bones, or cut the skin at the top of their beak if kept in incorrect facilities. If you do not have these facilities contact me immediately.

9. Birds in your care are being exposed to domestic pets, excessive noise, such as television, radios, mowers, children screaming, or handling by children.
10. You do not contact your co-ordinator prior to release of hand raised birds, to check they are self sufficient and to ensure a suitable release site.
11. Animals are becoming imprinted by being allowed to fly around the house instead of being housed in an aviary.

Any information or advice about a bird in your care should be coming from the species co-ordinator for that group of birds, NOT from other carers. Too much conflicting advice is spread around if you don't get your information from the correct source. Your species co-ordinators are experienced in the diseases and dietary problems birds in the group under their supervision have.

Some veterinary surgeons don't have training in bird diseases and injuries, so do not automatically assume the bird is fine if coming from a Vet surgery or animal refuge. Observe the bird yourself and if you are not sure of the vet's diagnosis, ring your co-ordinator or take the animal to another vet. Don't wait as once a bird is showing signs of illness it usually dies quickly if not treated. Broken wings start healing in two to three days so urgent treatment is necessary.

In the near future we will have a list of species and their housing requirements for you to look through and decide which species you think you would like to care for. We don't encourage new carers to take on too many different species at once. I would like new carers to contact the co-ordinator of this species and spend a few hours with them learning how to set up aviaries and cages and to go through diets. Inspections of facilities will be carried out to assist all carers new and old to ensure birds are being housed correctly.

You will also find a list of Workshops that will be offered over the coming year in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. We would encourage all carers to attend as we are going to try and make them as interesting and informative as we can. Anyone attending the first two workshops in May, please be aware we will be working with bodies, if you intend to bring children.

cont. on page 14

WILDCARE BIRD WORKSHOPS

Date	Venue	Workshop	Time
Sunday 16 May 2004	Gold Coast	Native Birds - Anatomy, Physiology, Diseases and Injuries	10am – 3pm
Sunday 23 May 2004	Brisbane	Native Birds- Anatomy, Physiology, Diseases and Injuries	10am – 3pm
Sunday 13 June 2004	Gold Coast	Carnivores Small Insectivores	9am – 12.30pm 1pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 20 June 2004	Brisbane	Carnivores Small Insectivores	9am – 12.30pm 1pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 4 July 2004	Gold Coast	Native Ducks Waterbirds	9am – 12.30pm 1pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 18 July 2004	Brisbane	Native Ducks Waterbirds	9am – 12.30pm 1pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 15 August 2004	Gold Coast	Basic Baby Bird	9am – 4.30pm
Sunday 29 August 2004	Brisbane	Basic Baby Bird	9am – 4.30pm
Sunday 5 September 2004	Gold Coast	Introduction to Caring for Native Birds Nocturnal Migratory	9am – 11am 11.30am – 1.30pm 2pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 19 September 2004	Brisbane	Introduction to Caring for Native Birds Nocturnal Migratory	9am – 11am 11.30am – 1.30pm 2pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 17 October 2004	Gold Coast	Nectivores Frugivores Granivores	9am – 11.30am 12am – 1pm 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 31 October 2004	Brisbane	Nectivores Frugivores Granivores	9am – 11.30am 12am – 1pm 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Sunday 20 February 2005	Gold Coast	Native Birds - Anatomy, Physiology, Diseases and Injuries	10am – 3pm
Sunday 27 February 2005	Brisbane	Native Birds - Anatomy, Physiology, Diseases and Injuries	10am – 3pm
Sunday 13 March 2005	Gold Coast	Introduction to Caring for Native Birds	12pm – 3pm
Sunday 8 May 2005	Gold Coast	Carnivore Small Insectivore	9am – 12.30pm 1pm – 4.30pm

cont. from page 13

I must apologise to anyone whose call I have not returned as my darling husband thinks I spend half my life on the phone and deletes some of my messages before I hear them.

Please everyone be aware I work all day Wednesday and Saturday and Friday as from the 16th of April. If you leave an urgent message for me I won't get it until I come home at 7.30 pm that night. I had one case where a baby Magpie lark was left on the back verandah in a box on quite a hot day. We also had a storm that afternoon. There is no shade on that side of the house and the box was soaking from the storm. Unfortunately that poor little bird died that night.

In an EMERGENCY you can contact me at work on

Wednesday and Saturday on 55466205 or Friday on 55806205. We can be quite busy at work so please understand if I say, "Could you please ring me back in a few minutes." Please try to use the number for Wednesday and Saturday for important matters only, Friday is OK.

Please don't think any of the co-ordinators are too busy to speak to you. We would prefer you ring us than do something that could harm the animal. If you can't contact the co-ordinator you need, ring one of the other BIRD co-ordinators and they may be able to help you.

I look forward to hearing from you or seeing all the new faces at the workshops.

Karen Barney
Bird co-ordinator.

WILDCARE WEBSITE

If you haven't logged onto our website for a while, you will notice a few changes next time you are there. We have two new sections, one called "Wildcare Noticeboard" where we will be regularly posting information regarding workshops, fundraising, special events and interesting information for carers. Please check the Noticeboard regularly to make sure that you don't miss anything new.

The other new section called "Wildcare Nursery" where we are posting photos and stories of animals that have come into care. If you would like to include a picture of any of your charges please feel free to either email a copy of the photo (wildcare@goldlink.aunz.com) or post it to PO Box 2379, Nerang Mail Centre Qld 4211. Please include a few lines about the animal ie why it came into care, its outcome etc. Any photos will be returned to you.

We would also like to use this section as a means of helping with identification of animals, so if you have photos of baby birds or mammals that you would like to include to help carers in regional areas with identification please also send those in.

NEW PROGRESS CHARTS

For those diligent carers who utilise the Wildcare Animal Progress Chart for keeping records of your animals progress you might be interested to know that we have improved these record forms. We have now devised individual progress charts for individual species (birds, possums, orphaned macropods, small mammals, lizards, turtles, frogs). We have also incorporated the basic items of the Wildlife Rescue and Examination Record form into the Animal Progress Chart to assist carers with the assessment and examination of animals.

This new "Rescue Examination Record and Progress Chart" will be available on the Wildcare Website shortly under the 'Carers Resources' tab. It will be available in both Word and Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format. It will also be available at the Wildcare office if you do not have access to the internet.

Karen Scott

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

If you know of businesses or persons who have supported Wildcare and you would like them acknowledged, we have a Certificate of Appreciation that we can forward to them. If you would like to have this attended to please contact either Karen Scott or Kylie Patrick and we will organise to have this done.

ELECTRIC HEAT PADS & ANIWARM2

We have ordered a quantity of Breville Electric Heat Pads and these should be in stock in the Wildcare Office by early April. They will retail for \$55.00. If you would like one please let the Office know as soon as possible as there will only be a limited quantity.

We have also placed another order for the Aniwarm2 thermostat units. These retail for \$125.00 (expensive but worth every cent!!). We will only have a limited number of these available for sale, so please let the office know as soon as possible if you would like one.

VOLUNTEERING GOLD COAST

Recently Eleanor Hanger, Trish Hales and myself attended a two day seminar at Volunteering Gold Coast at Southport on "Managing Volunteer Programs" on behalf of Wildcare. It was a very interesting seminar and we walked away with a huge "To Do" list!

Volunteering Gold Coast run regular workshops and seminars on a variety of topics relating to volunteering and non-profit organizations. If anyone is interested in attending, the courses are very affordable (most half day courses are only \$11) and very informative. You can have a look at the training courses that they offer at www.volunteeringgc.com.au or alternatively, let me know and I can provide you with a copy of their latest training calendar.

Karen Scott

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

A reminder for those carers who joined Wildcare before we had the two day Orientation Program up and running, that you are welcome to come along and complete the orientation program. We have some great sessions now in the program including:-

- . An introduction to Wildcare, its history, rules and regulations etc
- . Record keeping
- . Native vs. Introduced – an insight into why Wildcare deals only with native animals (this is a very interesting session compiled and taught by Kylie Patrick, our Ecologist).
- . Telephone Training – an interesting insight into how the Wildcare emergency telephone service operates (even for those who cannot help with the telephone service to understand what is involved)
- . Animal Welfare and Wildlife Care – A thought provoking session on why we care for sick and injured wildlife, an insight into animal welfare and how it relates to volunteer wildlife carers, the role of euthanasia and of course “the debate” which seems to get people all fired up.
- . Basic Rescue and 24 Hour Care – this is an excellent session run by Greer McNeill. Greer and her husband Jim, probably do more rescues than anyone in Wildcare and

Greer has a very entertaining way of teaching carers various rescue skills and techniques. An absolute MUST for anyone not confident with rescues for a variety of species.

The response that we have received from new members completing the two day orientation program has been very encouraging. Our goal is to give new members the confidence to attend rescues and to ensure that they are prepared for the commitment of being a volunteer wildlife carer. We believe that the two day orientation program achieves this.

The orientation program however would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of the few volunteers who give up one weekend every month to run the orientation program. Many thanks go to Sharon Griffiths, Kiersten Jones, Greer McNeill, Kylie Patrick, Karen Scott for giving up their time to help new members. Also thank you to the office volunteers who often prepare the training area and help with getting the orientation organised.

Anyone wishing to attend the orientation program, please contact the Wildcare Office during business hours to book in. Upon completion of the program you will also receive the latest up-to-date

Animals at Workshops

We often get comments on the Workshop Evaluation Forms that members would like to see more live animals at workshops. Unfortunately this is not possible for a number of reasons. First and foremost, we must remember that the native animals in our care are there because they are either sick, injured or orphaned. Subjecting them to the stress of handling them in front of a group of people is not a standard that Wildcare encourages. The second reason, is that we are not permitted by law to display sick or injured native animals without approval from the EPA.

Thank you Ian

A special thank you to Ian from Invicta Framing
in Nerang for his tremendous support and
beautiful framing.
We really appreciate it.

WILDTRAVELS

One of the highlights of my holiday in Vietnam was visiting Cuc Phuong National Park. Situated in North-Central Vietnam, 70 k from the coast and covers an area about 70 k in length and 11k in width with an elevation of 648m at its highest peak. To get there we travelled 90 k by bus from Hanoi and 65 k by private car. The combined return trip cost around \$20 each

Ho Chi Min personally took time off from the war in 1963 to dedicate this, Vietnam's first National Park. Part of his dedication speech reads – "Forest is gold, if we know how to conserve it well, it will be very precious. Destruction of the forest will lead to serious effect on both life and productivity".

At its lowest level the park is subtropical. The stone tools of pre-historic humans were found in a cave in the park's many grottoes. After the madness and chaos of Hanoi it was wonderful to relax in our little bamboo hut (\$20 per night, double). My husband remarked he thought he had gone deaf as he couldn't hear a thing. There are many beautiful walks available, amazingly along concrete paths covering several kilometres and hundreds of concrete steps. The accommodation centre is quite large – the dining room would seat at least 150. There were three of us. We had our own cook and the food was very good but much too much.

My main reason for visiting the park was to see the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre. This Centre was established in 1995 with just a handful of animals and presently has around 150. These consist of several types of Langurs – longtailed tree dwelling monkey, Gibbons – long-armed fruit eating apes, and Pygmy Lorises – small nocturnal primates. Hunters, who sell them over the border to China for medicines, and habitat destruction constantly threaten these animals, therefore they can never be returned to the wild. A few have been taken from individuals who have tried to keep them as pets. Unfortunately many do not survive. Langurs eat leaves exclusively; their digestive system will not tolerate anything else.

The animals are living and breeding quite well in excellently constructed enclosures. The cage mesh is 50 mm wide, enough for Gibbons to reach outside and grasp things outside the cage. They measure around 23 metres by 51/2 by 31/2 high. There are three levels of bamboo scaffolding and ropes and a sleeping box and several fixed platforms. There are several of these enclosures housing families who are breeding quite well. We saw three 20 day old Gibbons, cute as can be.

It was hard to get specific information as the guide's English was limited but as I understood it the animals could live up to two years in these enclosure and then if it was thought they were ready, they could be moved to semi-wild areas. These areas are in the vicinity of the rescue centre and cover an area around four hectares of forest and natural limestone cliffs and saddles. They are surrounded by electric fence. There are two cages within the areas where the animals are initially encouraged to return at night by offering them food, which is tapered off when it is felt they have settled in. Then they are almost self sufficient. Of course they are observed in case they need assistance but seem to be living quite independently. I thought this was a similar system to our soft release but not the same end result. It is sad that they can never be truly free but such is the demand for these animals, they can fetch up to a thousand dollars each.

The Centre is mainly funded by sponsorship from overseas countries. The resident veterinarian is a German lady, Ulrike Streicher, who told us that none of the entrance money to the park went to the centre. There is usually at least one other vet, but it is hard to get them to stay for six months as the conditions are primitive. We were not allowed to take photographs but it was a delight to wander through the centre. The animals took no notice of us at all and it was great to see them inter-acting together. Several were reclining in hammocks. The hygiene and care given were of the highest standard. Some of the Langurs quarters are heated in the winter which is more than their carers get.

It was a wonderful experience and I would love to return.

Happy caring
Gloria Litchfield.

ANIMALS ASIA

Many Wildcarers have supported the work of Animals Asia and Jill Robinson MBE and so I thought a little update would be in order and also those who haven't known previously of her work might like to hear a little about her.

Jill, following her horrific discovery of bear bile farming in 1993, has worked in China non stop building relationships and negotiating with government departments to bring an end to this cruel practice.

In July 2000 Jill signed a historic agreement, sanctioned by the Central Government Dept. of Beijing, pledging to free 500 Moon Bears in Sichuan and to work towards the total elimination of bear farming.

The China Bear Rescue is going from strength to strength with support coming from around the world and from within China itself. The Rescue Centre in Sichuan now houses 139 Moon Bears and is preparing for dozens more caged victims this year.

Jill recently accompanied two rescued farmed bears on a 2000 kilometre truck drive across China back to her moon bear rescue centre in Chengdu.

Here in her own words written early am on her lap top en route:

"Right now, I'm so proud. The truck in front with "China Bear Rescue" emblazoned on banners is all I need to see to know that our work is making a difference in China and getting the job done. Over the last few days, in cold, wet, windy conditions, our team worked like clockwork and used a combination of longstanding friendship and unfailing sense of humour (although I use that word loosely as it's quite pathetic sometimes) to get us through.

At the bear farm, our Vet team, comprising Gail and Claire, slickly and professionally dealt with a frightening, and potentially dangerous situation. Moon bears can be angry and astonishingly aggressive, but cannot possibly compare with the rage of a 350 kg monster of a brown bear and a similarly sized black/brown hybrid. When I saw them previously in a recce they had been angrily "huffing", slashing paws through the bars, and bouncing furiously in their rusty cages and it was then that I realized we had quite a job on our hands.

When Gail stood there on Saturday with her "jab stick", I was sick with nerves that a sharp injection of anaesthetic into the muscle would see them bouncing through the rust with rage. However, what took us by

complete surprise was the sight of them both, magically calm and, as Annie said, as if their subconscious now understood that their new lives had begun.

Both bears slipped into a deep sleep and, in front of Government officials, the local community and Chinese film crews and journalists, they were given a quick health check. Gasps of horror filled the air as Gail unlocked the padlock on their disgusting metal vests and showed the world, through the media's cameras, the dirty latex catheters and "bile bag" which had collected the fluid from the bears' gall bladders over the past nine years. Like something out of medieval times, the metal jackets and canvass straps have horrified even the most hardened of officials' hearts in Tianjin and, in these few days on the journey home, they are calling constantly to check if we, and the bears, are OK.

Leaving on Sunday, and driving behind the truck containing our two new family members, Caesar and Emma, we were joined by the lovely journalist from Shanghai who had first exposed their plight and had raised enough funds from a Shanghai businessman to compensate the farmer. Over the next few hours she did an in depth interview on our work and aspirations, and left about six hours later pledging all she could do to help us end bear farming in China.

I now know every word of the Chinese CD which has played constantly since we set off and, even more worryingly, am enjoying it! Like us, Caesar and Emma probably want to get off the road and out into the fresh air, but have explained that they'll need to be patient for a few hours longer - and behave when they meet the officials at the other end.

As Boris just said "this is what it's all about - get 'em back safely - and we all go home to sleep".

Jill."

Find out more about the historic China Bear Rescue by visiting the Animals Asia Foundation website at: <http://www.animalsasia> or phone

Bev Hellyer (Gold Coast contact)

07 - 55332888.

THE SURVIVOR....

On the 25 August 2003 I received a call to pick up a brushtail possum. He was in the gutter. The people walking by thought he was dead but then they saw his tail move. He was 275 grams, pumpkin coloured and fluffy so we named him Teddy.

Teddy was released on the 18 November 2003 but returned to his box for eleven out of fourteen nights before feeling comfortable about making it on his own.

On 17 January 2004 at about 10.00am (we had just had two days of heavy rain and sweltering heat) my husband, Don, was mowing when our neighbour, Darren, yelled out and pointed to a possum. The possum looked as if he had just got out of an oil slick and he was staggering. Don went to get it and it started up a tree. So Don ripped off his shirt, threw it over the possum, bundled it up, started the mower and drove quickly home, noise, bumps and all. The possum didn't flinch. When I saw him I said, "he's an old one". Don said, "no, he's been in Darren's wheelie bin submerged in water up to his neck for at least a day and a night. Darren is a car enthusiast and his bin has old car bits and oily rags etc. in it. The possum was black and greasy and absolutely stunk of petroleum. I immediately got on the phone to ask someone what to clean him with, but Don said, "don't worry, he's dead". Then we discovered he was alive (just like in the gutter).

We filled the sink with warm water and baby shampoo and immersed him. I offered him a piece of corn and he took it and lay back in Don's hold as I washed him (how we wished a third person could have been there to take a photo).

It was then that we realized by his placid nature that he must have been someone's release.

The baby shampoo didn't seem to work so we tried some non-toxic, non-caustic oil and grease remover and that worked.

We cuddled him until he was almost dry and then put him into a small cage with a heat pad, water, leaves and fruit. The only liquid he would take from me was V-Plenish fruit juice. Every couple of hours he had about 5-7 ml.

He survived the night so we transferred him to a small aviary with a detachable box. His poo was just like black ink but smelt like a mechanic's workshop. We brushed him often so he would ingest less from his fur.

On the second night he came out of the box and ate some flowers and leaves. I was still giving him V-Plenish (he loved it). The next morning his diarrhoea had thickened up but was still black and smelly.

On the third night he was telling us to let him out. His poo was nearly back to normal. It was then that we recognized that it was Teddy as his markings and colour were back to normal.

On the fourth night Don removed the box with Teddy inside and put it outside on the aviary roof (where we release from). When it got dark he climbed down the tree and took off into the bush.

On the fifth night we released Enya (a female brushtail).

On the sixth night I saw a possum in the aviary and was curious about whom it was and yes, it was Teddy having a drink of milk. It made us so happy. We wish Teddy's tortures in life are over and that he can enjoy a possum's life. I think little Teddy is now **Big Ted** and is a survivor.

Also I now have a packet of Glucodin in the pantry as I have been advised this is the best way to hydrate and give energy to any rescued possums.

A BIG thankyou to Eleanor Hanger for her time and advice. Thank you to John Hanger. No John, I didn't have any LOC and would like some Trizyme too please.

Denise Davidson

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26 JUNE 2004

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OUR CARERS ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR
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