

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION WILDLIFE REHABILITATION RESEARCH

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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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Quote of the Month.....

“When our sense of what is sacred excludes the natural world, we diminish our capacity to imagine remedies for what we have done to that world.”

Tom Hayden
The Lost Gospel of the Earth, 1996



THANK YOU



Kylie, Kiersten and Kathryn for your wonderful contribution to Wildcare Australia in your roles of secretary, record keeper and telephone coordinator respectively. Your dedication and commitment, your patience and reliability have been greatly appreciated.

CONFUSED?

We apologize for any confusion which may have arisen as a result of the President’s report in the January edition of Wildnews. The generous assistance given to the people and wildlife of the Tsunami devastated Aceh Province came from the Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation not from Wildcare Australia. Gail has informed me that she never intended to suggest that any of Wildcare’s funds were involved in this project. There was certainly no intention to mislead the readers.

Eleanor Hanger

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone,

For the last six weeks I have been extremely busy trying to put together a draft comment on the "Nature Conservation (Koala) Plan 2005 and Management Program 2005-2015". In fact I feel as if I have lived and breathed nothing but legislation for the past three months, with the South East Queensland Regional Plan preceding the koala one, and it also taking up a major amount of time.

Giving due consideration to both plans involved lengthy discussions with local councils and state government bodies and also with other groups that have environmental interests outside wildlife. This enabled me to have a broader understanding of what both these documents mean, and to prepare my comments in the allowed time.

Over the past few weeks Dr Jon Hanger and I have done presentations on the Sunshine Coast, in the Brisbane area and in a number of other different shires to some wonderful environmentally concerned people, local councillors, developers and also unfortunately to a number, who would rather not think about it.

It has been a very enlightening experience. One of the more interesting nights was a presentation we did with Leslie Sheriffs in the Redlands Shire. Firstly I was surprised by the poor attendance in an area that is known as the koala corridor, secondly, by the antagonistic behaviour and comments directed to Leslie from both koala supporters and developers.

Some of the comments frequently expressed were, "There are far more vulnerable species out there than koalas at the moment." (They are right.) "This is a lot of money to spend on one species," (Yes it is.) and "It is a lousy piece of attempted legislation that means nothing anyway." (And yes, in some ways that is also correct.)

But I for one applaud the EPA for drawing up this Plan. Yes, there are other species that need protecting

more than the koala, but if we protect koala habitat, we are protecting habitat for so many other species.

Yes, it was a lot of money that went into this Plan, but what a start! If we can bring forth more conservation plans like this for other species maybe people will actually start to think about the world in which they live, and the habitat we destroy on a daily basis. Let's face it, unless it directly affects people's lives, we tend not to think about it.

Yes, in many ways it is a document that lacks spine in a lot of areas, as it can be easily overturned by both local, state and federal law and it gives no protection to koalas in urban areas. The point of the Draft Plan is to get people to make a comment. Out of constructive criticism will come the backbone needed to protect all wildlife and habitat.



The people preparing the Draft Plan will read every submission that comes in and will look closely at every comment made. Hopefully a lot of what people write will be adopted, and the Plan itself, when it reaches parliament, will be passed.

Jon and I are doing a presentation to government in April so keep your fingers crossed and hope that they will like what they see enough to support the suggestions.

This month I would like to thank the wonderful Kylie Patrick, Kiersten Jones and Kathryn Biber for all the work they have put in on Wildcare's behalf. Firstly Kylie who, after many years as secretary, has had to reduce some of her duties with us, as she has now become so busy at work. Kylie will still be conducting courses which is wonderful. Secondly Kiersten who has had the huge job of collating all the animal records over the past few years. Kiersten again has advanced in her job but will still be involved with Wildcare in other ways, including acting as an assistant to the new Record Keeper, Kerry Chadwick. Finally Kathryn who took on the role of phone co-ordinator, which, next to record keeping, would have to be the most difficult job we have. It has never been a role that is sought after, as

filling the phone shifts takes bribery, corruption or the threat of death by chocolate to get people to help out (so don't forget if you can spare a few hours you are desperately needed). Fortunately we won't be saying 'goodbye' to Kylie, Kathryn or Kiersten. We will still enjoy their company in other roles. Thank you again to all of you from all of us at Wildcare Australia.

A big welcome to Trish Hales who has manned the Wildcare office for a long time now and rules it with an iron fist. She has taken on the role of secretary. Kerry Chadwick, another dedicated office volunteer, has begun the role of record keeper and last but not least...he is far too tall - Mark Alexander has taken on the role as phone coordinator. A sincere thank you from all of us.

Yesterday I had the most wonderful experience that reminded me again of why I love working with wildlife. I received a call from a lady in Burpengary who had found a flying fox entangled in fishing line at a nearby park. "Can you come and get it?"

Off I went and an hour later I was back at the hospital

with this gorgeous little grey headed flying fox wrapped up like a mummy in masses of fishing line, with the hook imbedded in her wing. Laying her down, I spent the next three quarters of an hour untangling her and carefully removing the hooks. Luckily she only ended up with two very tiny holes in her left wing and no other damage. She must have been found very quickly as she was not dehydrated, and passed plenty of faeces as she waited patiently to be untangled.

After she had had some blended mango and a little ribena, I took her off to the park. Then lit only by my headlights I opened the cage. Sitting there stunned for a few minutes she finally climbed to the top of the cage. Gently removing her, I hooked her feet over the highest branches I could reach, of the tree where she was found. A few minutes later she took off. She flew up then came back, coming in so low over my head I could feel the breeze her wings created, then she was gone, off into the night. I still think she flew back to say 'thanks'it was a really good night.

Gail Gipp

QUEENSLAND / NEW SOUTH WALES BORDER PROTOCOLS

Living so close to the Queensland-New South Wales border, there are a number of issues of which carers should be aware

Wildcare receives numerous calls through our emergency service for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife that are found over the border. In addition to this members of the public often find animals in New South Wales and bring them back to their homes in Queensland.

Wildcare Australia's Rehabilitation Permit as issued by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, restricts our carers to caring for native wildlife that are found in Queensland. Therefore if you are called to rescue an animal over the Queensland-New South Wales border, the rescue should be referred to a NSW wildlife group, such as the Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers which has carers in northern NSW who are experi-

enced with all types of species.

If you do happen to collect an animal and then establish that it was actually found over the NSW border, you should contact Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers to arrange for its transfer to an appropriate carer in that group. Alternatively contact the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.

There are exceptional circumstances whereby both NSW and Qld Parks & Wildlife Services will allow a native animal to be transferred over the border. However permission must be sought and obtained from both Parks & Wildlife Services PRIOR to the animal being moved. These circumstances are usually restricted to "specialised" animals such as the platypus, koala and raptor.

Karen Scott

CHANGES TO REHABILITATION PERMIT

Wildcare is currently working towards introducing a system whereby carers will need to have their copy of our umbrella Rehabilitation Permit endorsed with the species of animals for which they are permitted to care. In determining which species your permit will be endorsed with, consideration will be given to what workshops you have attended and what prior experience you have with such species, together with what facilities you have available.

You will find with this mail out, a sheet that you are asked to complete and return to Wildcare so that your endorsed permit can be issued to you. On this sheet you are able to list the species and the quantity which you feel that you can adequately care for.

This will then be considered by the Management Committee and appropriate Animal Coordinators and your permit issued and endorsed as appropriate. Please bear in mind that you must have appropriate facilities and training in order to have your permit endorsed.

It is important that all active carers complete this sheet and return it as soon as possible. The quicker you return the sheet, the quicker it can be assessed, endorsed and issued back to you.

If you have any queries as to how this endorsement works please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Management Committee.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A reminder that it is that time of the year again when your membership renewals are due. Membership Renewal Applications will be sent to all current members under separate cover.

Why renew your membership?

Here are some good reasons why...

High quality professional educational workshops – FREE...

Comprehensive workshop notes – FREE (when you attend the workshop)

Voluntary Workers Insurance cover as part of your membership fees

Public Liability Insurance cover as part of your membership fees

For those members who have joined the organization since January of this year, your membership is current until June 2006 and there is no need for you to renew your membership. If you do receive renewal documents in the post, please disregard them.

For everyone else though – your continued support of Wildcare is much appreciated (and needed).

WILDCARE – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mark your calendar now – the 26th June 2005 is Wildcare's AGM.

Along with all of the usual formalities that come with an AGM, this is a great opportunity to get together and honour those members who have made a special contribution to the organization in the past year.

It is also when the current Management Committee steps down and a new Committee is elected by the members.

Nomination forms for positions on the Management Committee are being forwarded to all members under separate cover. If you cannot attend the AGM – please still make sure that your voice is heard. Included in the mail out will be proxy forms, which will enable you to register your vote.

WILDCARE EMERGENCY PHONE SERVICE

Dear Members,

- Do you have a strong desire to help our native wildlife when they are at their most vulnerable?
- Do you have a telephone?
- Do you have three or more hours spare in a month?
- Then perhaps YOU can help!!!!!!

As you know Wildcare runs its own 24 hours, 7 day a week emergency telephone service manned entirely by volunteers. In order to do this we operate the phone from the office from 8 am to 4 pm each weekday, but after hours and on the weekends the phone is covered in 3-hour shifts by various carers and members.

We are now in the process of compiling the phone rosters for April, May and June. At this stage we have a few of our regular phone operators away on a long deserved holiday and need to fill a few spots.

Shifts that currently need to be covered are:

Wednesday or Friday 4pm – 7pm every second week. This shift is extremely important as the phone operator before (the office) has been on the phones since 8 am and needs to leave the office to get home to feed the animals (and selves).

Friday morning 7am –8am (this is so the overnight phone shift person can at least get a shower before work.)

Various 3-hour shifts through out the weekends. Extremely important as many other agencies do not have a weekend or after hours service.

If you could possibly help with any phone shifts over the next three months then please contact the phone coordinator, Mark Alexander immediately either by return email or phone on 3805 1815.

If you require training in phone operation as you are new to it, or a little rusty, we can provide that on a one to one basis in your own home, or at the office anytime this week or weekend.

Please take this opportunity to help. Without your help we may have to undivert the phones and allow them to go to a recorded message. This could result in extra suffering for an animal, or even death .



P.S. By doing only one phone shift in the month you are in the draw for a \$20 voucher for the Wildcare Shop. Each extra shift gives you another chance.

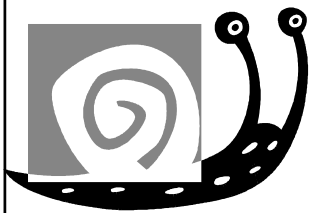
Kim Alexander

NEW EDUCATION CALENDAR

The education calendar for July to December 2005 has now been finalised and is included in your mail out this month.

Due to a number of difficulties that we faced last year with devising the calendar for a full 12 months, we have elected now to complete the calendar 6 months at a time. If there is a workshop that is not mentioned for this period, don't despair - it is likely that it will be offered in the January to June 2006 calendar which will be distributed to members later this year.

A reminder that you must register for the workshops you wish to attend. You can do this by telephoning the Wildcare Office during business hours on 07 5527 2444.



TRIVIA NIGHT

16th April 2005

at "Narrowleaf"

118 Narrowleaf Road, Advancetown

Come and Enjoy the fun

Dinner will be served at 6pm,



Trivia Contest starts at 6.45pm

Please ring Karen Scott to book on
07 5533 8125 (home) or 0400 165 462

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE 2005



3rd National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference is to be held
on the Gold Coast, Queensland from 31 August-2 September 2005

Theme R.E.L.E.A.S.E. Research/ Educate/ Liaise/ Enthuse/
Advance/ Share/ Evolve.

CONTACT DETAILS (Please see copy of the brochure with registration form included with this newsletter)

For further information, please visit the conference website: www.nwrc.com.au where there are contact details for queries relating to different aspects of the conference.

For registration enquiries: registration@nwrc.com.au

For venue enquiries: venue@nwrc.com.au

For speaker enquiries: speakers@nwrc.com.au

All general enquiries: enquiries@nwrc.com.au

Contact the organising committee after hours on **0437 838 293**.



RECORD KEEPER'S RAP

Change of Record Keeper

Congratulations to Kerry Chadwick who was the successful applicant of the advertised Record Keeper position! We welcome Kerry with open arms. Please support her in this role by continuing to send in your records on time and giving her lots of pats on the back. Some of you would have heard from her already as she has been ringing carers who have yet to submit their outstanding carer records. Yes, this new Record Keeper has already proven she is pretty tough when it comes to collecting records, with no excuses accepted, so watch out!!

I will still be playing a role with records, thereby becoming Kerry's assistant! All the emailed records will still be received by me, so no change there for those of you who currently email me your Excel or Word carer records. There is also a backlog of carer records and annual summary reports for the last 2 records years to be completed. Kerry and I are working on this together to bring them up to speed, so that they may be used as more recent statistics for grant submissions and general data requests.

Telephone Records

For those of you who are Telephone Volunteers, there has been a change to submitting phone records. We are converting the phone records database (rescue database) back into Excel to enable any phone people, who are able, to submit their phone records via email again. The office volunteers are really too busy to enter everyone else's phone records onto the database, and there are currently huge piles of phone records still sitting in the office waiting to be entered onto the computer. So, this should reduce their workload a little. Feedback has also indicated that this is an easier way for some to submit their phone and carer records anyway. And hey, anything to save a few more trees....

End of Records Year

Yes, it is that time again!! **The reporting year ends on 31st March 2005**, so please get your March records in ASAP. If you have many animals in care at a time, and for this reason don't usually state each month on your records what is still in care at the end of the month, then please make an exception this

month. It is really important that we have a clear idea of animals being carried over onto the new 2005-6 records year, as there are often records where outcomes occurred but were forgotten to be included on records (hence are incorrectly assumed to be still in care).

Also, could all carers please send in any outstanding records you have yet to submit for the past 12 months (*you know who you are.....*). If any of you are having difficulty with this task, please contact me and I will make time to visit you and help you put your records together.

So just to clarify, the Records Submission Contacts are:

Handwritten Records (carer & phone):

Post to: Record Keeper (Kerry Chadwick),
Wildcare Australia, PO Box 2379, Nerang Mail
Centre, Nerang, Qld, 4211.

Emailed Records (carer & phone, MS Excel & MS Word): Email to kierstenj@bigpond.com

Obtaining the Excel, Word & Handwritten records forms (carer & phone):

Via Internet: www.wildcare.org.au

Via Phone call request: Ring the Wildcare number during office hours: **(07) 5527 2444**

Via Email request to kierstenj@bigpond.com

Desperately seeking help with assembling carer records. Months and months of outstanding records, don't know where to begin, records currently exist as loads of scrap paper by the phone... – Sound like you? Then contact:

Via Email: kierstenj@bigpond.com

Via Phone: Kiersten Jones on **(07) 5576 3625**.

General Records-related Enquiries:

Via Email: kerrychadwick@optusnet.com.au or
kierstenj@bigpond.com

Via Phone: Kerry Chadwick on **(07) 5596 1570**.

Kerry will be taking on this Record Keeper's Rap column in future, so it's a big, warm cheerio from me.....

Kiersten Jones

Now Assistant Record Keeper – Wildcare Australia

FROM THE NEW RECORD KEEPER

WILDCARE RAFFLE WINNER

Could all carers who hand write their carer records please record the sex of possums and macropods found or rescued. This information is important and in fact the more information you can give the better. What seems to be lacking in hand written records is: Rescuer, caller and caller details, and specific place of release. Please give as much information as you can.

Quote for the day:

"Hell hath no fury like an under informed Record Keeper!!"

And another call.....

WC: Good morning, this is Wildcare

Caller: I've got a crow in my tree and it won't stop calling out. Ya know, with that call of theirs?

WC: Sir does the bird appear injured in any way?

Caller: No, the bloody thing just won't shut up. Can I kill it?

WC: Ahh, no sir, all Australian wildlife is protected including crows. You could receive a very heavy fine if you hurt the bird.

Caller: Well can I cut the tree down?

WC: Well sir, if you did that you would probably receive another fine and the bird would just fly to another tree.

Caller: This bird is driving me crazy. If I caught it would a vet operate and take out its voice box?

WC: (bashing her head on the desk) No sir, I doubt any vet in Australia would do that.

Caller: So what am I supposed to do?

WC: (with a headache) Sir, I suggest you buy some ear plugs, and have a great day.

Kerry Chadwick

Congratulations to Terry Bridge who was the lucky winner of the Wildcare Raffle! Terry won a bright yellow scooter.

Many thanks to all those who bought tickets in the raffle, and we wish you better luck next time...

WILDCARE OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

The Wildcare Office sadly farewelled one of our original Office Volunteers, John Mitchell. John was volunteering in the Wildcare Office for two days per week and more recently, one day per week for nearly two years. John has "retired" from office duties so that he can spend more time caring for animals and to have a much-needed break. Our sincerest thanks John for all of your hard work and effort. We all appreciate how stressful the Wildcare Office can be – enjoy your peace and quiet!

We have new additions to the Wildcare Office however – Kerry Chadwick has returned to help out one to two days per week. Kerry has volunteered in the office periodically and we are thrilled to have Kerry back on board. We also have a brand new office volunteer, Karen Hooke. Karen joined Wildcare in October 2004 with her partner Craig. Karen has become an active carer already and both she and Craig have become an important part of the organization.

GOING ON HOLIDAYS ?

If you are planning an interstate holiday, please be aware that you are not permitted to take any native wildlife with you. Wildlife found/cared for in Queensland cannot be transported over any state border without prior approval from both the appropriate parks & wildlife services. This goes for all species and there are no exceptions. Please contact your coordinator to arrange to have your animals "baby sat" while you are away.

THANK YOU LETTER AND MESSAGE FROM THE BIRD CO-ORDINATOR

I am sure some of you know we have moved house recently. With twenty aviaries and pens and over one hundred animals to move, it took about four weeks by the time we had everything cleaned up. I would like to thank the special people who not only helped on the day of the aviary move, but also helped with finding the house and with the transport of hundreds of boxes of birds.

Thank-you to Trixie and Les Benbrook from B.I.R.O. who organized the truck, and me, and for working out the positions for the aviaries to be moved to. Thank-you Paul for driving the truck that enabled us to move many of the aviaries without having to dismantle them. Although they have a very busy business and lots of animals in care, Jim and Greer McNeil helped with the use of their trailer, heavy lifting and who generously came back on the Sunday for more. Thank-you Kim, Mark, Luke and Sam Alexander for heavy lifting. Thank-you to Luke and Sam for helping catch and box some of the birds while I was at work. Thank-you to Pam and Ivan Elliott. Pam made numerous phone calls to help find this property, and help me transport many boxes of birds. Thank-you Ivan for all of your heavy lifting of aviaries and for coming back to help Ian lift all of the furniture (to save my back). Thank-you to my good friends Carole and Bruce from the Wildlife Preservation Society for erecting aviaries over two weekends so the birds didn't have to stay in boxes for too long, as it was a very hot weekend. And to the many helpers Trixie organized who I didn't have time to personally thank. And thank-you to my daughters Cheryl and Shenell. Shenell helped her father clean out the garage (a huge task) and catch and transport birds in boxes. Cheryl helped me catch and relocate birds until 12'o clock on the Friday after work.

We were living between the two properties for a couple of weeks, so I must apologise if I didn't return phone calls. Our new phone number is 07 55486614 which unfortunately is an STD call from the Gold Coast. If you only wish to report in a bird, you can contact Cheryl on 07 55611438.

Now with the move out of the way, it's time to or-

ganize bird workshops for new carers. We are planning to have three workshops each in Brisbane and the Gold Coast over the next four months. The first one will be Diseases & Injuries followed by Birds Pt 1 - Large Insectivores, Ducks, Waterbirds, Carnivores, Small Insectivores, followed lastly by Birds Pt 2 - Migratory, Nectivores, Granivores, Nocturnal, Frugivores. We will repeat these workshops if enough people are interested.

At last it looks like the breeding season is coming to an end, the weather has made it a strange year with some species breeding a lot later than usual. We would like to see as many new and old people at the next carers' meeting on the 24th April so we can meet you and discuss which species you are in a position to care for, so Cheryl can compile a list before the next breeding season. If you are unable to attend, please let either Karen Barney (07 5548 6614) or Cheryl Barney (07 5561 1438) know, and we will get the information from you via phone or email. Anyone who does not attend or let us know that they cannot, without a good reason, may find themselves with nothing to care for!!!!

Karen Barney



John Hanger

ATTENTION BIRD CARERS



The dates for the bird workshops:

May 1 - Diseases, Injuries, Anatomy and Physiology (Gold Coast)

June 19- Diseases, Injuries, Anatomy and Physiology (Brisbane)

July 3 - Large Insectivores, Ducks, Waterbirds, Carnivores, Small Insectivores (Brisbane)

July 17 - Large Insectivores, Ducks, Waterbirds, Carnivores, Small Insectivores (Gold Coast)

August 14 - Migratory, Nectivores, Granivores, Nocturnal, Frugivores (Gold Coast)

August 28 - Migratory, Nectivores, Granivores, Nocturnal, Frugivores (Brisbane)

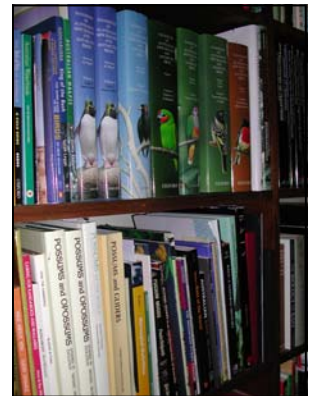
It is now compulsory for all bird carers to complete the diseases and injuries workshop as well as the species workshop that is relevant to the species that you wish to care for.

ADVANCED BIRD WORKSHOP

An advanced bird workshop is being given by
Dr Anne Fowler for the Tweed Valley
Wildlife Carers
on
Sunday, 14th May 2005
at
Banora Point Community Centre
cnr Leisure and Woodlands Drive, Banora Point
8.30am
Full day workshop—places limited
Contact Helen on 02 6677 1224 to register
Free to members of TVWC
Visitors—\$15

URGENT - LIBRARY BOOKS

Would those who
have borrowed
books or magazines
from the Wildcare library
please
return them
as soon as possible.
Thank you.



2005 FFICN CONFERENCE

The Flying Fox Information & Conservation Network (FFICN) is a group of 100+ members from both the caring and scientific communities across the 3 Eastern States. The Network shares information on all issues relating to flying foxes via a YAHOO newsgroup. Membership of FFICN is free with the only criteria being that members are actively involved in research or care of bats. Bat carers from Wildcare are welcome to attend the 2005 FFICN Conference which will be held on 6th and 7th August 2005 at Valla Beach, Nambucca Heads, NSW. Further information on joining FFICN and conference registration can be obtained from Jenny James, ph: (07) 5538 1132 or 0417 976 711, email robjenj@bigpond.net.au.



GOLDEN SWAMP WALLABY

You may recall in the October 2004 my story about Curly, a Golden Swamp Wallaby that was orphaned at Elanora. Photos of Curly when he first came into care and as he grew are on the Wildcare website (if you've never seen a photo of a Golden Swamp Wallaby before).

Curly progressed really well until 2 weeks before Christmas when he became deathly sick with a twisted bowel. An urgent trip to Pet Accident and Emergency, Robina at 2am followed, where Dr Dave kindly donated his time and expertise to stabilise Curly. A very early morning trip to the Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation wildlife hospital at Beerwah followed where Dr Jon Hanger kindly took time from his day off to perform emergency surgery on him. His chances weren't great but within 24 hours he was up on his feet and within 3 days you wouldn't have known that he had not long before had a major operation (except for the big scar on his belly of course!!). He went from strength to strength and has grown into a big healthy fellow (although somewhat cheeky...) and is now residing at Eleanor's for pre-release.

Interestingly enough, I received an email from a resident at Elanora late last year with some photos of another "unusual little fellow" that had been visiting their garden for sometime. When I opened the photos I couldn't believe my eyes. The wallaby in the photo looked like he could have been Curly's identical twin brother! I then learned that the resident had seen him as a pouch young and his mother was a normal coloured swamp wallaby (as was Curly's mother). I then starting surmising that there must have been a male in the area that was "creating" all of these little boys.

Then on New Year's Eve I received an urgent call from the Wildcare Office that an adult wallaby had been hit by a car at Elanora and was badly injured. When I arrived at the rescue site, I walked towards the people and looked over their shoulders at the wallaby on the ground. My heart sank to the souls of my feet. There lying on the ground, as still as could be, was an adult male Golden Swamp Wallaby. He had died only minutes before I had arrived. He was

one of the most magnificent adult wallabies that I have ever seen. He looked exactly like Curly, including the flecks of black fur on his face, feet and tail and the pink pads on his hands and feet. As upset as I was, I managed to keep my composure and carefully bundled him up into my car and started on the way home. A distraught phone call to Gail Gipp followed though – "Curly's dad is dead!!".

As he lay on our laundry floor, I pondered what to do with him. He was such a magnificent animal and it seemed a waste to simply bury him. He died from head and internal injuries and to look at him from the outside he was perfect. I made enquiries of the Queensland Museum to see if they would be interested in taking him for either display or research purposes. The staff at the Museum were thrilled to accept him. Special mention must be made of Heather Janetzki from the Museum who arranged for him to be collected by a local staff member who transported him to the Museum. Heather went out of her way to help coordinate his transport.

There is so little information available on Golden Swamp Wallabies. I am glad that he will be put to some use by the Museum and perhaps in time the information learnt from him will go towards helping to preserve the species. They are truly a remarkable animal.

Karen Scott
Macropod Coordinator



MACROPOD REPORT

Well March 2005 has proven to be a busy month. We have already seen an increase in the number of adult macropods hit by cars which sadly has resulted in their death.

One recent rescue though had a happy ending which was nice for a change. Kim and Mark Alexander were called for a rescue of a wallaby that had been hit by a car. He turned out to be a young adult (about 6-7kg) and was suffering from some head trauma. Allen Cornick Vet Surgery kindly gave him a once over and returned him back to Kim and Mark's care. Some TLC later, he was up and about and was placed in a pre-release facility to get back to being 100% without the threat of being predated upon. He will shortly be released back to where he came from. It is nice, after seeing so much tragedy on our roads, to occasionally be able to save one.

There has also been an increase in the number of orphaned joeys (4 in twelve hours at one point). Thankfully they have all been placed easily however some macropod carers are now at their limits. It seems as though however there are a few macropod carers "taking a break" at present. Although a little guilt trip and some gentle persuasion may put an early end to that "break". It doesn't take much – the sad little face of an orphaned joey that has just lost its mum usually brings them around!!

Sadly though, we have seen an increase in the past 6 months of orphaned kangaroo joeys that have been surrendered by members of the public after they have rescued and cared for them for several months. A lot of these joeys are presented undernourished and suffering from a wide variety of conditions including stress myopathy.

One not so lucky this week, was a 5kg Eastern Grey kangaroo that was severely malnourished and was surrendered by its "owner" when it got sick. Sadly, despite the best efforts of one of our most experienced carers, the animal died within several hours.

Then there was the report from a member of the public early one morning in early January of an adult wallaby that "jumped out of the bushes and followed us home". The animal proceeded to make itself at

home and was reported to be quite happily accepting pats and cuddles. The "adult wallaby" turned out to be a 3.5kg Red Kangaroo joey. He was extremely humanised and was certainly too young to be out on his own (not to mention he was in the wrong region!!). Despite the animal being reported to numerous organizations around the Gold Coast, no one stepped forward and claimed him. I can only assume that he was raised and was released when he became a bit too big (or a bit too messy). Jarrah, as he was called, came to live at my house with another male Red Kangaroo joey who was the same age who had also been surrendered by a member of the public. Jarrah has some severe physiological problems associated with being too humanised but he is slowing coming around and becoming less and less humanised.

There was also the story of a little female Eastern Grey that was surrendered after being cared for for several months by a member of the public. She was quite malnourished and very small for her age. She has since thrived though in the care of Roy Webster with a proper diet and appropriate care (and no doubt lots of cuddles...)

There are many more like these, but thankfully with a lot of patience and good caring some of these joeys have been able to come through and stand a good chance of being able to be rehabilitated and returned to the wild.

Karen Scott



John Hanger



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**Phone Wildcare Australia on
07 5527 2444 to order your supplies**

Wildcare is again participating in the Gold Coast community fund Raffle. We need people from Wildcare to sell these raffle tickets as a fundraiser for Wildcare. Specifically the funds from the raffle will go in to supporting a subsidy for carers at the Wildcare shop.

As many members know we have previously had a subsidy, which discounted the price of the food for carers. The money from the raffles, should we make enough, would ideally start this up again, and if we continue to do well, keep it going.

If everyone could sell just 10 raffle tickets (1 book) between April and July this year we would easily reach our target. If you can sell more that would be even better!

Fundraising with raffles does not take the need away from fundraising with chocolates and other methods, as both have different purposes and are in need.

To sell a book of tickets, collect your book from Rochelle Manners in Brisbane or Trish Hales at the office. If you have trouble arranging this, contact Rochelle on 3879 2367 or rochellemanners@yahoo.com.au and we will work something out!

SHOWS AND FESTIVALS IN 2005

Wildcare has had great success fundraising and advertising through the use of community shows and festivals in the past years. This year Wildcare intends on attending the following shows:

Boohnah Show (21st May)

Mudgereaba Show (9-10 July)

Mt Gravatt Show (30 – 31 July)

Beaudesert Show (10-11 September)

Springtime on the Mountain Festival (Tamborine Mountain) (30 September – 2 October)

As part of wildcare, it would be very helpful if you could come along to one or more of these shows for a day or part of a day. If everyone came along we would only need to have small shifts each. This is an important part of fundraising and keeping the animals safe and is important to do. We have previously had a number of calls from people who got our number through a show and even had some animals left with us at the show. Without those shows some of those animals may have missed out on their chance.

If you can be a part of any shows let someone in the fundraising committee know through the office 07 5527 2444 or email rochellemanners@yahoo.com.au.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Just a reminder that you can now get your edition of WILDNEWS directly off the Wildcare website each quarter. Each quarter you will be advised by email that the newsletter is ready to be downloaded. The advantages (and savings) in getting the newsletter this way include:-

1. Financial saving to Wildcare for postage cost;
 2. Less work for our few tireless volunteers who photocopy, fold, staple, sticky tape and sort the newsletter each quarter;
 3. Reduction in the use of paper, which in turn saves the forests where our wildlife live;
 4. You get to enjoy the newsletter earlier than other members who get theirs by snail mail;
- You will get to enjoy colour photos in the newsletter

We currently have nearly 70 members who have offered to get their newsletter by this method – many thanks to you all!!

If you are able to help by getting your newsletter delivered in this way, please send an email to wildcare@goldlink.aunz.com to advise.

Previous editions of WILDNEWS from 2004 are also available on the website.

DONATION BOXES

Wildcare Australia has timber donation boxes that are available to members to place in businesses that may be able to assist us with fundraising.

While the donation boxes are not our main source of income – as the saying goes “every penny counts”. We greatly appreciate the businesses that contribute to our fundraising efforts in this way.

The funds raised in the past financial year by donation boxes:



Crystals Australia	\$149.35
Café 5	\$51.05
Natural Arch Café Restaurant	\$54.40
Homestead Springbrook	\$24.00
Michael Higgins Veterinary Surgery	\$47.55
Valley View Café	\$78.80
Oxenford Mind & Body	\$21.90
Glassies Fishing World	\$35.50
Couran Cove	\$100.40
City Links Snackbar	\$124.65
Cat Vet Mudgeeraba	\$23.50
Mt Tamborine Wildlife Sanctuary	\$152.00
Ashmore Palms	\$75.75
Eagleby Post Office	\$26.00
Beech Mountain General Store	\$56.30
Binna Burra Tea House	\$125.35

A RARE TREASURE ON SPRINGBROOK MOUNTAIN

A friend knocked on Rosemary Tunks' door and handed her a tiny fully furred 8 gram baby. "I think it is some kind of possum," she said. It looked up with large, gentle eyes. "I found it in a flower pot," she went on, 'It must have been blown from a shrub in these strong winds."

A quick trip to the vet revealed bruising but no other injury. But what was it. She phoned Eleanor and described it. "I think it is an Eastern Pigmy – possum, (*Cercartetus nannus*)," she said. "I'll come up straight away."

Rosemary took it to her mother, Anne Asquith for R and R until the strong winds died down. Anne's sculptor partner, George, made it a beautiful box–cage with a cosy little drey in the corner. The tiny pigmy possum was fed on sprays of native flowers heavy with nectar, pollen and insects.

When the strong winds abated the pigmy possums' box was attached to a log leaning against a big wattle tree. A possum drey could be seen further up the trunk. If deserted, the *Cercartetus* may make her home there. We wish for peace and safety for this rare treasure and for protection of her remaining habitat.



Once *Cercartetus nannus* was plentiful from the coastal Banksia heathlands through the eucalypt forests and in the dense rainforests. Now, most of these habitats have been replaced with buildings, road, cars, and cats and a tiny male cannot locate a female as they live a quiet solitary existence. If you have cat please make sure it is locked inside at night. You may save the life of one of our rarest treasures.

Sonia Laws



QUEENSLAND MUSEUM WILDLIFE WORKSHOPS 2005

- Field Identification of Raptors (3 in April)
- Getting a Buzz from Insects (3 in May)
- Introduction to Spiders (3 in June)
- Giving a Hoot for Owls (3 in July)
- Legless Lizards and Snakes of the Great South East (3 in August)
- Small Mammals of the Great South East (3 in Sept)

For prices and dates see website:
www.qm.qld.gov.au

THE DESPERATION OF A WILDLIFE CARER

After trying everything possible (including tests and cultures) to cure two macropod joeys of diarrhoea over numerous weeks. The desperate carer now only has one "pouch" baby to collect poo for "Poo Milk". But she is lucky enough to have an "outside" baby that used to perform on command. The minute this baby was allowed inside he would hop up onto his foster Mother's bed and the inevitable happened.

So in desperation the carer brought the "outside" baby inside and sure enough, straight over to Mum's bed, hopped up and left a huge amount there. Enough was donated for a full day's supply for bottles for the other two babies.

Ain't LOVE grand!!!!

Apologies to the author of "Fishing", Greer McNeill. (Wildnews January 2005) Unfortunately her name fell off and disappeared into the great unknown. The error was noticed and remedied but not until one hundred copies had already been printed.



IT HAD TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS!

Today I was hoping against hope that I would get no calls. I only had my hubby's old work car to drive. The engine is on the verge of falling out. The gear box has been fixed several times. The gear stick has broken off and had to be welded on. There is no speedo and it puffs at 60ks if you can imagine that.

I had two calls today, one for a bird which I fielded off to someone else and one for a bat. The vet assistant didn't know what sort of bat it was. Being the only vaccinated carer in the district, I felt I had to go.

Not having driven a car with a manual gear for a long time I was really hoping for an easy drive. I was nearly there and starting to breathe easy when on the hill leading into the vet's turnoff was a council truck and a back hoe clearing stones from the road. They hadn't seen me.

First and reverse gear are almost in the same place and can only be measured in fractions of a millimetre. So far I had only had to come down to second gear, but now I had to stop. The council men cleared their truck out of the way for me and beckoned me on.

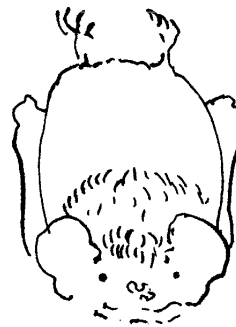
Hill start, no gears soon found me in trouble. Engine doesn't keep going in first gear. Reverse is all right. Several minutes later I made it round the corner receiving a few well-meaning smiles indicating woman driver.

The vet was out and had already examined the bat. There was no name or contact number or place where found. I headed back home.

Turning out of the vets, the council men saw me coming and cleared a way for me and were ushering me around the corner well before I had got there. Alas, by the time I made it to the corner, there was a car coming along the main road and I had to hit first gear again. Similar smiles came from their faces, but after a few false starts we were off again and we arrived home without further incident.

I took the box with the bat in it down to my wildlife room and went and made up some glucose water and electrolytes. I opened the box to find a healthy common bent-wing bat on a lovely clean tea towel with a lovely little piece of watermelon for it to eat.

Cathy Goggin.



NEW MEMBERS

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA welcomes the following new members:

Scott Prenzler, Beenleigh: Frances Anne Morris, Tingalpa: Mary-Anne Messer, Nudgee: Janelle Boyd, Chermside: Joan & Bernard Hussey, South Maclean: Lee Morrison, Tallebudgera: Holly Bryant, Kallangur: Timothy Thomas, Helensvale: Candice Valenzuela, Inala: Bronwyn Daniel, Helensvale: Tamara Drysdale, Eagle Heights: Emily John, Browns Plains: Marika Richter, Highgate Hill: Rowan Eisher, West End: Adrian & Luke Reavley, Redland Bay: Robyn Millington, Bundaberg: Christine Anderson, Sharon: Brian & Susan Vernon, Royal Brisbane Hospital: Kirstie Bassetto, Nerang: Suzanne Jackson, Cleveland: Adam Redman, Taringa: Alastair Laggan, Hillcrest: Ivor & Cindy Laggan, Mulgowie: Ane Marte Bjornerem, Nerang: Barbara Thompson, Murwillumbah: Jennifer Meehan, Mudgeeraba: Lynda Lyons, Burleigh Heads: John Curtis, Paradise Point: Leah Nicholas, Currumbin: Anthony Rogers, Nerang: Jasmine Schober, Eumundi: Amaira Robinson, Cooran: Stephanie Clark Nanango: Angelique West, Nanango: Margaret Snowden, Bongaree: Lynette O'Hara, Cooroy: Catherine Thorne, Glenwood.

We hope you have a long and happy association with WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

UNWELCOME GUESTS—EXOTIC PESTS

Australia plays host to a number of rather unwelcome guests among which are the red-eared slider turtle, the yellow crazy ant and the fire ant.

Wildlife carers, who are possibly more observant of creatures in the environment than many members of the population, have a role to play, by alerting the appropriate authorities to their presence.

These exotic pests have the potential to devastate large areas and they pose a serious threat to the biodiversity of a region if they are not dealt with swiftly.

Public assistance is needed to identify their presence in an area so that the relevant bodies may initiate control programmes.

The following information on the red-eared slider turtle was presented by Nicole Blackett of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to the Queensland Naturalists' Club and is taken from the QNC Newsletter with kind permission.

“Red-eared slider turtles originated in the lower Mississippi basin, USA and have become a pest over much of the world. They have been spread as pets although this is illegal.

They are freshwater turtles, are attractive when small, but as adults have a nasty bite, can cause damage to the environment, can out-compete native

turtles and may carry new diseases.

Their distinguishing features are long, sharp claws, a distinctive red stripe behind each eye, a head which retracts straight back into the shell (native turtles retract to the side). They have a domed shell with numerous narrow stripes and the undersurface is yellow with brown markings. They are 20-30cm when fully grown, can live to 50 years. The female can lay up to 70 fertile eggs per year for up to four years after a single mating. They will eat anything, and can walk up to 1.5km in a night.

They prefer stationary water bodies, such as farm dams, and have been found in these in the Pine River Shire in south east Queensland, where an eradication programme is now in progress.

The contact for turtle sightings is 1800 999 367 or Scott O'Keefe, 32248951.

Web:

www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests

The Yellow Crazy Ant is distinguished by its pale yellow body colour, unusually long legs and antennae and its frenetic movement. The ants form multi-queened, super colonies and occur in very high densities.

They have been found in the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales and pose a significant threat to biodiversity as they have the potential to displace and destroy native

fauna and cause damage and death to some native plant species. Thus their activities can cause major alteration and damage to established ecosystems.

References:

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npwe.nsf/Content/yel-low_crazy_ant_ktp_preliminary Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage www.deh.gov.au/parks/christmas/fauna/crazy.html

The fire ant looks more like a house or garden ant. It ranges in size from 2mm to 6mm. The head and body are a coppery-brown in colour and the abdomen is darker. Their nests can appear as dome shaped mounds, up to 40cm high, and have no obvious entry or exit holes on top of them. They are extremely aggressive and can inflict a very nasty bite, which in some individuals may cause a severe acute allergic reaction.

Fire ants are a declared notifiable pest under the Plant Protection Act of 1989 so there is a legal obligation to report them.

It is recommended that you stay well clear and report them to DPI&F on 13 25 23 or [e-mail DPI&F](mailto:fireants@dpi.qld.gov.au).

Reference:

Queensland Government www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fireants/

Eleanor Hanger

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OUR CARERS ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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DEADLINE for articles for the next newsletter
28 June 2005

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