

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

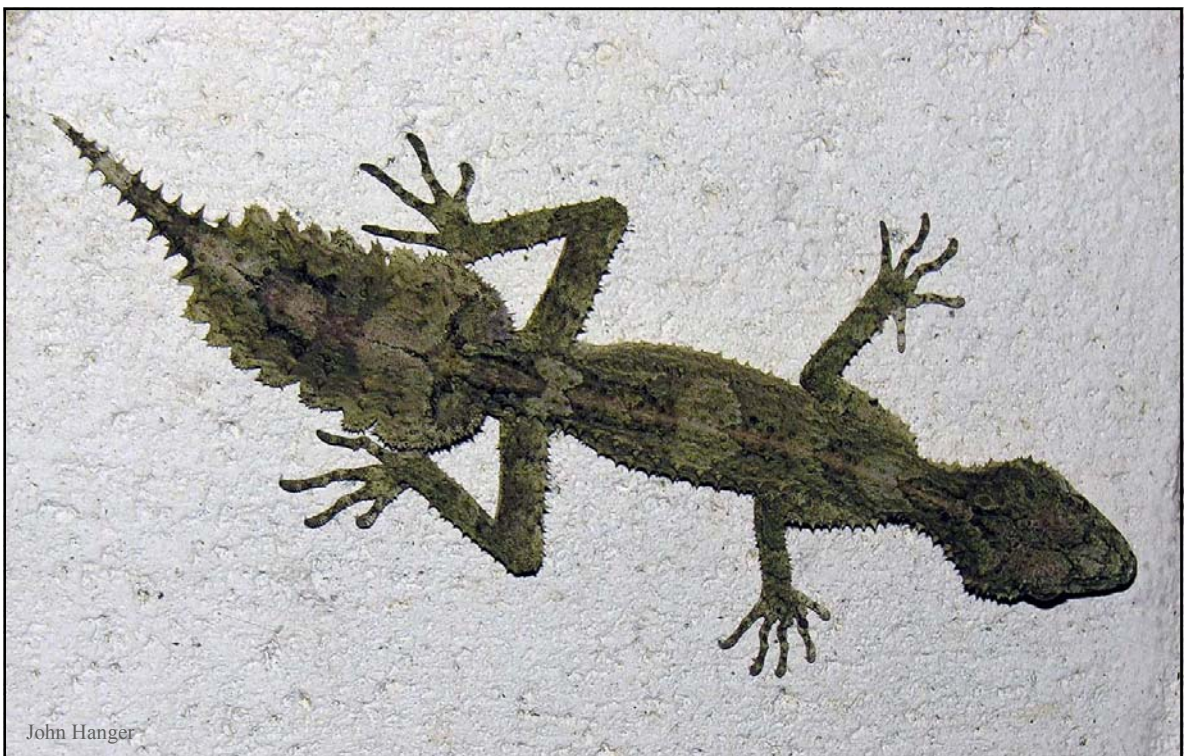
EDUCATION WILDLIFE REHABILITATION RESEARCH

April 2006, Issue 40

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

"All around us is this amazing richness and diversity of native plant and animal life crying out for attention and care. Ignorance of the complex workings of the natural world is the main source of humankind's failures: increasing knowledge of and respect for them is the main hope for the future."

'Going native: living in the Australian environment' Archer & Beale (2004)

**The Annual General Meeting of
WILDCARE AUSTRALIA**
will be held at
Narrowleaf
on the Gold Coast
on Saturday, 24th June, 2006.

More information and the necessary documents are included with your newsletter, if you receive it by mail. For those who receive their newsletter by email the AGM documents will be posted to you.

**RECOGNITION
OF YOUR FELLOW VOLUNTEERS**

Each year at the Wildcare Annual General Meeting, we acknowledge some of those members who have contributed to the organization in a number of ways.

This year we thought we would do something a little different!

Instead of the nominations coming only from the Wildcare Management Committee, we would like YOU to nominate some of your fellow volunteers to be recognised for their contribution. You can nominate as many volunteers as you like!

There is a Nomination Form enclosed with this edition of WildNews for you to complete and post to the Wildcare Secretary.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone!

I hope you all had a happy and safe Easter with not too many wildlife calls!

Well, once again the AGM has come around quickly and I would like to take the time to thank everyone on the man-

agement committee for all the hard work, time and effort that they have put into Wildcare Australia. We have faced many challenges this year and also some exciting things such as the annual National Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference, and our win over a certain Gold Coast Councillor. I would like to urge you all to please have your say at the AGM, and vote for the person you want to fill each position, or stand for a position on the management committee yourself for 2006/2007. After all this is "your" group and adding new faces and new ideas are what will see us succeed into the future.

Over the past couple of months I have received so many emails about animal and conservation related issues not just from Australia but from all around the world. The majority are both extremely interesting and incredibly sad. Others are infuriating and make me so angry I am now known for my daily explosions as I rant and rave about how cruel, incompetent and idiotic some people and governments are.

Take, for example, the email I received on Tuesday from a lovely gentleman, who explained to me in great detail how he goes about shooting kangaroos. He even gave intricate details about his methods for the disposal of joeys. He offered to supply me with meat, free of charge, to feed the animals as he had heard we were a charity! The staff here keeps reminding me it's the thought that counts.

This made me rethink my reply to the lady who emailed me from Western Australia on Monday, asking if I would give a home to her male, 65kg red kangaroo. It still lies on her lounge, sleeps in her bed and has three bottles a day. It must have six slices of peanut butter toast to eat each morning for breakfast, and she offered to send along the special nappies she had made for him when he was inside. For those of you who have attended a macropod class, you can imagine how I felt about this one!

Then came Wednesday, when I received a three page letter explaining why bleeding hearts like me should never be let loose. Didn't I know that snakes were the devil's creations, and that Wedge-tailed eagles, magpies and crows destroyed the natural environment and were dangerous to kittens and puppies. Why, she asked, was I not putting my time and energy into preserving habitat and saving animals that didn't kill other things?

This was followed shortly by an email asking me to support the Canadian government in its support for the killing of seals in the face of international outrage at this annual slaughter. I have now signed about ten petitions supporting the fight to stop the seal cull. I think this one must have come by mistake. So you can begin to get a picture of what a portion of each day is like, and why I am ageing rapidly.

Overall I think more people are taking an interest in the environment and conservation which gives me some hope for the future especially when I receive calls from someone like the lady in Chile. She rang to find out the natural diet for sugar gliders, because she had found two in a pet shop over there and they had had the same bowl of fruit in their cage for three days. Their cage was the size of a small shoe box and even though the bowl was small, it took up a third of the space. They also had no cover and nowhere to hide. All was not lost though, because on the fourth day she could stand it no longer, asked her brother for a loan and paid six hundred Australian dollars each for the two gliders. She bought an aviary and is now trying to give them the best life possible..... Good on her!

Once again, I thank you for your contribution, no matter how big or how small, to Wildcare Australia and the native wildlife you efforts help. If you need advice or just want to talk, please feel free to contact me at any time on 07 5436 2097, or you can email me at gail@wildlifewarriors.org.au

Gail Gipp



Some of the feedback from the workshop included:-

"Great speaker, good notes and excellent hands-on sessions"
"Anne's enthusiasm and ability to get the point across in an easy to understand way. Practical session was excellent".
"Excellent having vet with hands-on experience"
"Very interesting – learnt a lot. More confident in looking after birds and identifying diseases"

We have invited Anne back later this year to run an Advanced Possum Workshop and a Reptile Workshop. More information on this will be in next newsletter and education calendar.

Workshop Certificates

In an effort to reduce waste and cost, from January 2006 Workshop Certificates will no longer be issued to attendees at Wildcare workshops. While we appreciate that there are some members who value these Certificates, there are over 1,000 Certificates at the Wildcare Office that have not been collected.

There will however be an option at the end of each year to request a Statement of workshops successfully completed by you for that year. More information on how you can obtain this Statement will be provided to you later in the year.

Just a reminder also, when you attend a Workshop and sign the Attendance Sheet please PRINT YOUR NAME CLEARLY. There have been numerous attendees who have not received credit for the training workshops completed because I have not been able to READ THEIR WRITING!

Intensive Bird Workshop with Dr Anne Fowler

Nearly 50 volunteer wildlife carers attended the Intensive Bird Workshop held on the 18th and 19th March at Narrowleaf. Members from numerous groups, including Wildcare and Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers, attended the workshop.

The workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and I am sure that everyone took away with them a clearer understanding of caring for our native birds.

Anne's experience as both a wildlife carer AND a vet enabled her to relate to those who attended and the information that was shared was invaluable to those who rescue and/or care for birds.

Venomous Snake Course

Wildcare will be running two intensive, three day snake handling courses in April. Both courses have now been fully booked.

Thank you to everyone who enquired about the course. I do currently have a list of people who missed out this time but I will be taking more names and hopefully we will be able to offer this course again either later in the year or early next year.

If you are interested, please let me know.

RELEASE OF CAPTIVE BIRDS

Did you know that it is an offence pursuant to the Section s415 of the Nature Conservation Regulation to release any animal into the wild that has either been bred or kept in captivity.

This would include releasing "pet" birds. Even if these birds have been "rehabilitated" they should not be released back into wild populations. They carry a risk of introducing captive diseases to wild populations and one has to really ponder how successfully a bird that has been bred and raised in captivity could survive in the wild.

Knowingly releasing any such animal carries a fine of \$375.00.

As most of our members did not know about the proposed funding from Newheath Pty Ltd, I thought it appropriate to fill you in.

Back in July or so last year, Wildcare was approached and offered an opportunity to submit a funding submission to a Gold Coast developer. The developer was proposing to provide a donation to a local Gold Coast non-profit organisation involved with environmental causes.

The submission was accepted by the developer for \$32,000.00 but was subject to the development application being approved by the Gold Coast City Council and several other conditions relating to the development coming to fruition.

The next we heard was in February when the Courier Mail approached the Management Committee asking for a response to the decision made by the Gold Coast City Council not to allow the donation to come to Wildcare. We won't go into the details of what happened over the following week, but it was finally resolved that the developer was free to make the donation to Wildcare.

The funds will hopefully be arriving from the developer in the near future and can then be put to good use!

The Management Committee believes that the best use of these funds is to distribute them as follows:-

- \$10,000 to be used to assist the Wildcare telephone operators cover the cost of phone calls whilst operating the after hours telephone service from home. Currently these volunteers are wearing these costs themselves and they can be quite substantial.
- \$12,000 to be used to upgrade our education and administration equipment. This will include an-

other laptop/projector so that workshops can be held simultaneously on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane.

- \$10,000 to be used to reintroduce the Carers shop subsidy so that those Carers registered with Wildcare can obtain the essential food and equipment items at reduced cost.

I hope that this sheds some light on the whole saga for everyone. Hopefully in the next newsletter we will be able to report that the funds have been received.

Donations

Many, many thanks to the following groups who have raised funds for Wildcare Australia:

The Warehouse Distribution Centre

We have recently received a generous donation of \$500 from the staff at The Warehouse Distribution Centre in Brisbane.

Each year they support local charities and this year they chose to support Wildcare Australia. These funds will be put towards a future shop subsidy for registered carers with Wildcare.

Mudgeeraba State Primary School

The students recently held a "Free Dress Day" where they raised \$533.50.

Arakan Martial Art

The group recently held a bush walk and raised \$119.70 towards helping injured wildlife on the Gold Coast.



Media Attention

In February many of you would have seen some of the media attention surrounding Wildcare Australia and the Gold Coast City Council. To cut a long story short, all has been resolved regarding the donation by the Gold Coast Developer.

The Management Committee would like to thank all of our members who lobbied by phone and email the Councillors urging them to support Wildcare in this matter.

The response from both our own members, the members of the public and the media was over-whelming.

Our particular thanks goes to Councillor Peter Young who once again showed tremendous support for our volunteer wildlife rehabilitators and our organization.

Thank you Peter!

Karen Scott
Treasurer

WILDCARE HELPS CYCLONE RAVAGED NORTH QUEENSLAND

Devastation caused by Cyclone Larry

The damage caused by recent Cyclone Larry in North Queensland has been totally devastating to the wildlife in that region.

Wildlife carers have been faced with tremendous difficulties coping with the animals already in their care, while dealing with the damage to their homes and property, damage to wildlife aviaries and enclosures not to mention such things as the lack of electricity. There has been a tremendous increase in the number of injured animals, of all species, coming into care. Like most wildlife carers, they have been tirelessly trying to do the best that they can to help all the animals in need. All of this coupled with the now lack of fruit in the area has been very stressful.

The Wildcare Management Committee recently made a decision to donate \$1,000 to the Far North Queensland Wildlife Rescue Association Inc to help towards the cost of treating and caring for the animals in the region.

On the same note, the Organizing Committee for the 2005 National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference has also donated \$1,000 to the same organization. This was part of funds left over from last years' wildlife conference held on the Gold Coast.

If anyone is able to help the wildlife carers in the northern areas, please feel free to contact Karen Scott who can provide to you contact details as to where donations can be made.

Rehabilitation Permits

By now most of you should have received your Rehabilitation Permit signed by Gail Gipp, as President, listing the species that you are permitted to care for under Wildcare's umbrella permit.

If you have not received a Permit, please contact me IMMEDIATELY on 07 5533 8125 (evenings or weekends only please).

Website

Have you ever had an animal in care that has truly touched your heart?

Let's be honest, we have all had our "favourites" in care. Why not share their story with others?

The Wildcare website has a section to put photos and a story about animals that have come into care. I would love to receive some more photos and stories from members. It doesn't matter what species of native wildlife it is, we would love to share their story. Please either post or email them to me, Karen Scott.

New Wildcare Brochure

We have now finalised and are in the process of having printed, our new and exciting Wildcare information brochure.

Brochures will be available for collection from the Wildcare Office or from Brisbane workshop venues.

We encourage members to hand the brochures to members of the public when attending a rescue so that they can learn what Wildcare is all about.

Our sincerest thanks go to Statesman Press of Burleigh Heads who so kindly (and patiently...) did the artwork for the brochure and who are printing the brochure at cost price.

Our sincerest thanks also to Chateau Beachside Resort at Surfers Paradise who has so generously sponsored the printing of the brochure.

Plastic Picnic Baskets - They're Back.....

We have been able to order a quantity of the plastic picnic baskets that everyone seems to love for rescues. I have ordered 100 of them.

If you would like any please be sure to notify the office as soon as possible. They will go VERY QUICKLY.

We will only be able to hold them for a short period of time so they will need to be collected promptly.

They will cost \$10 each.



Karen Scott



Thank You

Last June our Fundraising Co-ordinator Rochelle Manners resigned. The Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Rochelle for her outstanding efforts. Rochelle and Andrew are expecting their first baby and we would like to extend to you both our congratulations and wish you well in the future.

Kirsty Bassetto took over the roll of Co-ordinator but unfortunately was unable to continue due to moving interstate. Thank you Kirsty your enthusiasm and your wonderful contribution to Wildcare

Eileen Lucre stepped into the breach to help but is now unable to continue due to family commitments. Thank you, Eileen for your tremendous assistance. It was greatly appreciated.

Community Raffle

Over the past two years Wildcare has taken part in the Harvey Norman Community Raffle. Wildcare received \$1 for every \$2 ticket sold. The first year Ken Bridge did a magnificent job which was overwhelming so we decided the next year to have several people work on it. We thought we were doing well until it came time to collect the ticket stubs and money. Oh, what a mess! Repeated telephone calls and still several of us ended up travelling many kilometres to retrieve ticket stubs and money. A sincere thank you to Kim and Mark Alexander.

Now we ask ourselves is it worth it?

The answer is 'NO'. With so much of our time spent rescuing and caring it is too much of a burden and it is always left to the few.

So what is the answer? How do we raise much needed funds?

The answer is so simple. If every Member would make a donation of \$20 or more to Wildcare it would benefit both Wildcare and themselves. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and it is fast approaching Tax Return Time.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Help is required for a sausage sizzle on the 16th July 2006 at Bunnings, Southport. Please contact the office if you can help. Come on New Members this is your chance to meet the old and worn out Members. Please lend a hand.

MUDGEERABA SHOW

This is usually held the first week in July. It is held over two days and many helpers are required in the setting up and manning of the exhibit. You will also have the opportunity to experience what is a truly fantastic show. Please contact the office or undersigned for more information.

Help !

We desperately need
a Fundraising Co-Ordinator & Committee.
All Members please consider.

Hi everyone,

Firstly I want to say a very big **THANK YOU** to all those great carers who responded so well to my plea for backdated records in the last Newsletter. Kiersten and I were delighted and we do understand how time consuming it can be for you. Don't forget - a little bit each week makes it easier at the end of the month. **PLEASE KEEP IT UP.**

From the carers' records I have nothing to complain about which is rare. Kiersten and I are still working our underpaid fingers to the bone trying to get up to date.

For those of you still using the very old record forms, please contact me and I will post the new forms to you. The new forms ask for more specific information eg. SPECIFIC place of rescue.

TELEPHONE RECORDS

Now quite a few changes have been happening in this area. It's not as if I enjoy getting you to work harder but it is all for the common good of Wildcare.

For those who email me their phone records, you should have received the new Excel template by now. Please continue to email me your phone records and if you have not received the template please contact me. You will notice by the headings of the columns I have asked you to gather more information.

CALLER REFERRED BY: Quite often a caller will already tell you that he/she has called many numbers before reaching us. I ask that you record whom the caller has called before reaching us. We have found that a caller

has called "funded" or government organisations only to be referred to us, an unfunded and volunteer organisation. The purpose of this collected data will help us apply for various grants and maybe more.

CALL: Yes you may wonder about this but it is quite significant. I would like you to number how many calls you receive during your shift, whether it be after hours or as an office volunteer. I think we might all be surprised at just how many calls we receive in a given period. Once again we hope this information will help with our grant applications.

DOG/CAT ATTACKS: This one is quite obvious but very important. A lot of callers will say "My cat just brought in....." or "My dog has bitten". I am hoping if we get enough ammunition to present to various law making bodies of just how much of our wildlife is lost to irresponsible pet owners, then maybe some new laws can be introduced to help protect our wildlife.

So I hope you can see the reasoning behind what I have done and how much Wildcare is now relying on your help and input.

For those who hand write your phone records, that's fine but if you could maybe squash in somewhere the new requirements, that would be great. When I return from holidays I plan to design a new form for you.

Before you all tell me to shut up I have one more little subject to talk about.

PHONE OPERATOR UPDATES

By the time you read this all phone operators should have received the latest phone manual. Please let the office know if you have not received one.

As I'm sure you can imagine there is a heck of a lot of work and expense involved in presenting an updated phone manual and you can bet your socks as soon as it comes out, something changes - hence, weekly updates.

ALL phone operators should be receiving weekly updates either via email or post. If not, once again please contact the office or me directly. One of the reasons for this of course is to prevent those manning the phones making unnecessary phone calls. Other reasons include, avoid sending animals to carers who are no longer caring or not caring for that species any longer.

As a phone operator I'm sure you could think of a dozen reasons why this is a good idea. I simply ask that as you do your phone shifts, either after hours or at the office, you make a note of ANY changes a carer/rescuer tells you. Please let the office know of any changes in circumstances from our carers/rescuers. This is designed to help YOU so please help us help you.

Cheers to all,

Kerry Chadwick
Record Keeper

F.A.U.N.A.
(Fostercare of Australia's Unique Native Animals) Association Inc.
Presents:
WILDLIFE AWARENESS DAY
Venue: The Lyceum Hall,
Highland Street, ESK.
Date: Saturday 24th June, 2006
Commencing at 10a.m.

MEET THE MEMBERS

Interview with Trish Paterson-Wimberley

Why did you decide to become a wildlife rehabilitator?

About 25 years ago I had a problem with a magpie and I contacted WIRES (I was living in NSW at the time). A WIRES member came out and seemed genuinely interested in doing something to help the magpie. I then decided to get involved with WIRES and predominantly did rescues. Running my own business however prevented me from continuing with wildlife rehabilitation. About four and a half years ago though Terry and I joined Wildcare and became involved in wildlife rehabilitation again.

What is your favourite Australian native animal (besides bats...)?

Whatever is in my hands

What is your favourite non-Australian animal?

Maltese Terrier

If you were to be stranded on a desert-island with just one person, who would it be?

An animal

What is your favourite food?

Hot chips

What did you do before Wildcare took over your home and your life?

I used to run my own businesses – one a landscaping maintenance business and then a ticket writing and calligraphy business



If you won \$100 million in lotto, what would you do with it?

Build a big bat flight aviary;
Invest some money so that the interest can pay for the bat's fruit bill;
Give my children some money to buy a house each
Donate an office to Wildcare (probably the only way to get rid of them....)



WILDLIFE CONFERENCE 2006

After the success of the **2005 National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference** on the Gold Coast in August, preparations are well under way for the 2006 conference to be held in Darwin.

The conference will be held from August 28th to September 1st. One of the highlights of the conference will be a trip to a wildlife park as well there will be guest speakers from all over Australia. Further details are available on the website at www.nwrc.com.au

So start saving your pennies for a trip to Darwin.

Papers from the 2005 conference are still available to website.

EMHanger download from the



BURLEIGH HEADS JOEY SCOUTS HELP WILDCARE AUSTRALIA



***Congratulations and Thank You
from the ringtail possums and their carers***

Nineteen Joey Scouts and ten parent helpers assembled nine ringtail possum dreys for Wildcare Australia.

Two or three dreys will be used in each pre-release aviary and on release of the possums, one of the dreys will be moved to a suitable tree outside the aviary to ease the transition from captivity to the wild.

Trish Hales and Eleanor Hanger went to Burleigh to receive the dreys and to thank Regina Kidd, the Joey Scout Leader, the children and their parents for their wonderful gift to the ringtail possums of our area. You did a fine job.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Wildcare Australia welcomes the following new members:

Colin Corfield, Bundaberg; Robert & Cathryn Vaughan, Pomona; Susan Oberthur, Burpengary; Richard Kretschmer, Numinbah Valley; Melanie Freshwater, Edens Landing; Jacqueline De Vond, Burpengary; Janis Clogon, Arundel; Andrew Wells, Amamoor; Kristy & Nicholas Hunter, Mango Hill; Lyn Ladow, Gympie; Ann Noe, Nanango; Jenny Dever, Nanango; Brooke Watson, Everton Park; Jacqueline Conway & Howard Sims, Flying Fox; Jessica Rosewell, Carrara; Arian Cranna, McDowall; Michelle Kaiser, Loganholme; Nichole Lechner, Springwood; Dana Masters, Paddington; Philip McDonald, East Ipswich; Henry & Irena Olszowy, Rochedale; Sue Snowdan, Darlington; Marcia Taylor, Robina; Beth Schutz, Woolloongabba; Amber Cameron, Springbrook; Elizabeth Cheetham, Sorrento; Kylene Whalley, Banyo; Ainslie Caldwell, Paddington; Roslyn Lane, Palm Beach; Samantha Lawrence, Mudgeeraba; Scott Mawson, Russell Island; Pamela Ciszewski, Sherwood; Jodie Alderton, Highland Park; Amanda Yates, Flagstone; Sarah Young & Spencer Slasberg, Sheldon; Trish Wood, Worongary; Kelly Smith, Tugun; Sharon Gibson, Kandanga; Carolin Pantelitsch, Holland Park; Sheree Picken, Helensvale; Pete Fugelli, Point Lookout; Glenda Pickersgill, Kandanga; Alison Crocker & Wayne Matthews, Redland Bay; Prue Cooper-White, Kenmore; Robyn Fuller, Gaven.

By joining Wildcare Australia you are demonstrating your commitment to the welfare of Australia's native animals. Please don't hesitate to get involved in this, your organization. If you are unsure of where your personal niche may be, call Trish Hales, our secretary, and I'm sure she will be able to help you. Trish is in the office from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm on Monday and Friday.

We hope you have a long and happy association with Wildcare Australia.

A new word arrived on the environmental and wildlife scene a few years ago.

“Sustainability”

Our federal Department of Environment and Heritage defines sustainable development like this:

'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

Australia's [National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development](#) 1992 (NSED) defines ecologically sustainable development (ESD) as

'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'.

And then:

“Three principles that are necessary to understanding sustainable development are intergenerational equity, the precautionary approach and biodiversity conservation.”

What a wonderful and useful word it is for us environmentally concerned people. It encapsulates the essence of what we've been fighting for: a fair go for the environment, so that it will still be intact and functional for future generations.

Sadly the word has been used as an adjective for less wonderful pursuits, such as the “harvesting” of native wildlife. Even the use of the word “harvest” has a slightly more wholesome tone than “hunt” or “slaughter”. So “sustainable harvest” of wildlife doesn't sound anyway near as objectionable as “wildlife slaughter for commercial gain”.

For example: the federal DEH recently granted an “exceptional circumstances” export permit to skin trader Slinkskins P/L to export thousands of brushtail possum skins from Tasmania. One of the considerations was that, “In previous management plans the harvest quota was set at 250,000 possums per annum, which was a *sustainable* level.” There's that word again, “sustainable”, which makes it acceptable. Like our sustainable “harvest” of millions of kangaroos every year – the largest govern-

ment-endorsed slaughter of terrestrial wildlife anywhere in the world.

Whatever happened to ethics, morals and compassion? They fell victim to the power of the concept of *sustainability*. Which means that if there's lots of them, we can kill lots of them, and there will still be lots left. So it's a wonderful sustainable industry, and governments like that. (Hey, remember the passenger pigeon? There were lots of them once (and I mean *lots*) – They're extinct now.)

But back in the old days (1800-1900s) the conservation movement was based on compassion for other living things, and a sense of loss, immorality and selfishness at their destruction.

The following passage is an excerpt from Ellis Troughton's *Furred Animals of Australia* (1954). It demonstrates the concern that existed early last century about the destruction of native fauna and forests. It is deeply saddening to think that little has changed in terms of effective conservation in the sixty years since the first edition of that text was published.

A Creed for Nature Lovers

That, because the Australian continent fostered all the fascinating furred animals, birds, and flowers that awaited the coming of civilization, our land must remain their everlasting sanctuary. That, because the forests and trees supply food and shelter for the birds, and unique marsupials like the Koala, such forests should not be destroyed without adequate reason and due replacement.

That wild flowers should be gathered only with that appreciative care due to living things of exquisite scent and beauty.

That the nests of birds, built with such patient devotion, should never be destroyed in thoughtless curiosity ; that their eggs should be left to bring forth lovely feathered songsters ; that the rifling of their homes is no less a crime than is theft from our own.

That enjoyment of the living plants and animals will provide a more lasting and universal source of pleasure and education than collecting their remains, save in the cause of science, and for ex-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

hibitions which increase knowledge and the love of nature.

That we should not destroy living things that are harmless to us, as we hope to avoid harmful things ourselves ; that even harmful creatures should be controlled with due regard for their zoological heritage and right to survive.

That any wholesale sacrificing of native animals for monetary gain, in a country so rich in resources of grain, stock, and minerals, is a confession of incompetence and wasteful greed, unworthy of the Australian Commonwealth.

That because ancient Australian isolation evolved the gentlest and least harmful host of furred animals the world can ever know, they must be conserved with benevolent care and receive adequate sanctuary for their future survival, subject only to the vital economic needs of man.

Prompted by the evidences of the appalling waste of fauna and flora during the brief period of civilized settlement of Australia, this was written for the Australian Museum Magazine in 1936, two years before the 150th Anniversary of colonization. It is reprinted to epitomize the urgent need for a sympathetic, unselfish, and constructive approach to the problem of providing adequate protection, sanctuaries, and national parks to avert the approaching extinction of many more of the ancient inhabitants of our adopted land.

Ellis Troughton.

Why is it, that now, 70 years on, (when we should have made great moral and environmental progress), we seem to be going backwards in terms of our wildlife ethics?

I think part of the answer is the fault of those zoologists, conservationists and environment department bureaucrats touting the importance of conservation “at the landscape and species level”. These people are often pompously dismissive of the efforts of people and organisations that care for individual animals and animal welfare (such as wildlife rehabilitators). I have many times heard it said that these efforts are a waste of resources and time, and contribute nothing to conservation. Such people fail to realize that the simple emotions of compassion, respect and altruism that motivate people to care for animals, are the emotions and motivations that are critical in the success of any conservation effort. Take that away and you have nothing but cold science, and that has never saved a species yet.

And on the back of that cold science and absence of ethics rides the entrepreneurs ready to take advantage of a “sustainable” resource.

The slaughter of possums in Tasmania for their skins, the massive commercial harvest of kangaroos, proposals for slaughter of wallabies and pademelons for their skins, and the proposal to allow trophy hunting of native wildlife, should be cause for us, as a compassionate society to just take a step back and re-examine our ethics.

I cannot help but repeat a line from the above Creed:

“That any wholesale sacrificing of native animals for monetary gain, in a country so rich in resources of grain, stock, and minerals is a confession of incompetence and wasteful greed, unworthy of the Australian Commonwealth.”

So let’s bring some ethics and morality back into the wildlife utilization and conservation debate. Let’s never be dismissive of compassion and altruism when it’s directed at helping animals. Species and landscapes are important, but species are made up of living, breathing, feeling individuals, just like us, so let’s conserve and care for them, as well as their landscapes. And sustainability is a fine word and a good concept, but not if it’s attached to an exploitative industry to mask an absence of ethics.

Troughton, Ellis, *Furred Animals of Australia*. Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1954.

Ed’s note: The passenger pigeon was hunted to extinction during the 19th century in North America. It is reported that billions of these migratory birds darkened the skies for days until the annual slaughter of millions, for sale in city markets, sent their numbers plummeting. The last representative of the species died in a Cincinnati zoo in 1914. A monument in Wisconsin reads, “This species became extinct through the avarice and thoughtlessness of man.”



For those of you who DON'T live on acreage or couldn't afford to build huge aviaries for possums or gliders, but would still like to raise something other than birds, consider the merits of a bandicoot.

Bandicoots, or their smaller counterparts the antechinus, are brilliant for those of you who have space as a premium. I am currently raising four to release stage in nothing much larger than a large crate on my verandah. Here's their story...

On the final day of my holidays, I received a phone call from a lady to tell me she had found what she believed was a bandicoot in her garden. Believing it to be too small to be on its own, (its eyes were still closed) she phoned everyone she could, to find a carer. Eventually coming back to the Gold Coast number she had been given earlier, she was put on to me. I had just sat down to my posh lunch (a rare treat for me) and she assured me that she had the animal safe and secure so I arranged to pick it up in an hour or so. Luckily I said that as by the time I arrived she had two more and was still hunting around on the ground in her garden.

And so it was that the first three bandicoots came in to care. Ennie, Meanie and Mini, two males and a female weighing between 50 and 57 grams. I set them up in a large plastic crate with a blanket and pouch and proceeded to get them rehydrated. Mini had been a possible cat attack so after ringing the coordinator I had her put on a course of antibiotics.

Four days later they were beginning to look more like bandicoots as their guard hairs were coming through, their eyes were open, they were self feeding and the had gained between 8 and 10 grams. That's when Delyth phoned me to get Mo. Mo was only 50 grams (another male, poor Mini) and had come in as a result of a car hit mum. Luckily a tow truck driver had stopped and picked him up. The rescuer had had him for three days but had been doing a good job with him.

By now I had Ennie, Meanie and Mini in the crate with dirt, leaves and their pouch in one end, so Mo went into a separate basket until I got him self-feeding and his

eyes opened. As with everything with bandicoots that was only a matter of days.

Within a week of their arrival Ennie, Meanie, Mini and the new brother, Mo, were scampering around the crate, eating all the soft vegetable and fruit I could give them (including my avocados), guzzling their milk, chasing, catching and devouring all the bugs, cockroaches, worms, crickets and mealworms I could give them.

As I write this, Ennie and Mini weigh 90gms, Meanie (he's boss) weighs 105 gms and little Mo weighs 70gms. By tomorrow there will be a noticeable increase in their weight and within a couple of weeks they will be going out for release. Females are able to breed at three months and having only a 12 ½ day gestation period, are mothers at a very early age. They usually have between four and six babies, but I have had one mother with eight babies in her pouch.

Bandicoots, like many of our small mammals, are very independent very quickly and it is so amazing watching these mini versions racing around catching their own food, building little nests and generally acting like the full size animal, but all within a crate on my verandah.

These are relatively short term and inex-

pensive animals to raise. You do need access to clean garden soil and leaf litter, but this can be gathered from out side of your yard so long as you are sure there have been no cats in contact with it. I always try to feed as much natural feed hence I NEVER spray bugs around the house (that's my excuse anyway) and feed all manner of creepy crawlies including mealworms and worms, which we raise ourselves. The relatively small amount of milk that they will need during their time in care would probably be less than \$20 worth so they must be one of the cheapest animals to raise.

So now it is up to you.....come along to the Introduction to Mammals and the Small Mammals workshops, buy your self a worm farm (usually going cheap in the Weekend Shopper) and ring up your coordinator to let her know that you too wish to care for these unique little creatures.

Footnote: Prior to the release of Ennie, Meanie, Mini and Mo, I received Thorpe (found in a swimming pool), so on release five fat, healthy 'bandicutes' were returned to the wilds of Tanah Merah.



Kim Alexander

BIRD WORKSHOP

Wildcare Australia was privileged to have Dr Anne Fowler present a weekend workshop on the husbandry, disease and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned native birds.

Dr Fowler is not only an avian veterinarian, she is also a skilled teacher and active rehabilitator of wildlife and as such can relate to the day to day challenges wildlife rehabilitators experience. She is also the only lecturer I have heard make boring statistics so intensely funny!

So we laughed and we learned, absorbing new material and reinforcing old. We were challenged by ethical questions. We practised assessment and the stabilizing of injuries, crop feeding and giving injections. We looked at trauma and diseases, nutritional problems and toxicities, housing and husbandry, rescue and first aid.

One message that Dr Fowler emphasizes above all others at her workshops is the absolutely critical importance of warmth and fluids, something so often forgotten by people when dealing with birds.

Thank you, Anne, for a wonderfully informative weekend from all who attended and from the many creatures whose lives will be touched by us and will be made so much more comfortable by our improved knowledge and skills.



HAVE YOUR SAY !

*We invite members and other readers
to voice their opinions on any subject that concerns wildlife
be it caring, rescues, record keeping, phone shifts, workshops
or maybe giving us some good ideas for fundraising.*

Look forward to hearing from you!

CAGES - AVIARIES - CAGES - AVIARIES - CAGES



Hi All - Well it is a pretty quiet time now for us bird carers. Most of the babies have taken off and only a few injuries, accidents and illnesses are coming in.

This is a great time to look after the maintenance of our cages and aviaries - a thorough clean, replace the leaf litter on the bottom, change the perches, plant some new natives inside - the list goes on.

While attending to your cages and aviaries, why not evaluate whether you need what you have or if you could use

some more. The cage/aviary *library* is still in operation and doing quite well. We have recently been sharing pictures over the internet of available cages/aviaries.

If you have something you would like to donate, try taking a picture and sending it to Cerri-Lee or Dianna. We have a list of people looking for enclosures and we will forward your information on to them. You can then organize the transfer between yourselves. We really don't have a place to store items until needed, so we think this will work best.

For those of you who still need things please let us know and inform us of your email addresses so we can share the information easily and quickly.

Dianna Smith
55307340
0409223062
dianna@milroy.com.au

Cerri-Lee Vanbuuren
55307998
0403265575
cerri_lee@optusnet.com.au

IDENTIFICATION

Not by finger print nor by DNA, but by shape of beak, feet, legs, size, outline, shape of wing, colour, flight pattern, call, habitat, range, time of year.

Correct identification is critical to the well being of animals in care. Incorrect identification can lead to stress, illness, suffering and death.

Listed below are four good field guides for birds to help you with your identification. They are regularly re-printed and periodically revised. Each has its particular strengths, Pizzey, for example, gives brief comments on behaviour which can be of great assistance in confirming an identification. A couple of them are also published in a more compact edition—a little lighter for the bushwalker/birdwatcher.

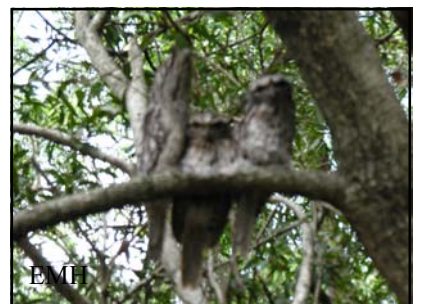
- *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* by Ken Simpson and Nicolas Day. Viking O'Neil
- *The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* by Graham Pizzey & Frank Knight. Angus & Robertson.
- *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds* by Peter Slater, Pat Slater & Raoul Slater. Weldon Publishing.
- *Field Guide to Australian Birds* by Michael Morcombe. Steve Parrish Publishing.



Spotted pardalote - not a good place to be!



Rainbow lorikeet at breakfast in the Quondong (*Eliocarpus grandis*)



Tawny frogmouths—one pretending not to be there and the other two checking out the photographer!

If you have ever wondered why I don't seem to achieve very much, in spite of the long hours at the computer or in the kitchen, it's my secret other life. Washing and sterilizing six bottles and teats can take as long as thirty-nine (my maximum) when you have to keep taking the gloves off, rushing for the binoculars and straining the neck muscles to catch a glimpse of that elusive flight of feathers, or the unrecognized call. Even at the computer I am not safe, as the table is placed against a two metre window which frames the mid levels (it used to be the canopy) of my magnificent forest. Such a perfect observation spot!

So, what have I seen and heard in these last few months?

January started quietly with a Wompoo Pigeon calling from the remnant rainforest along the creek, Kookaburras disturbing the peace, Satin Bower birds imitating kookaburras—that was quite something, two King Parrots feeding on the fruit of the ginger, Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Brown Thornbills feeding on insects in the Quandong and secretive Whipbirds advertising their presence with the whip crack and the immaculately timed 'choo, choo'.

February saw some additions to my list with a pair of Wonga pigeons feeding along the driveway (very natural—nothing manicured about this one), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos screeching their way across the sky, a male Variegated Fairy wren attacking his perceived competitor in the kitchen window, four Magpies, a Butcher bird and a Currawong and two Red-browed Firetails (one collecting nesting material).

Apart from the Rainbow Lorikeets feeding in the Quandong, observations recorded for March were nil. There was however the Stephen's Banded snake which got into the snake proof yard through a hole I inadvertently made, when trying to rid the area of a host of jumping ants, and the koala that's been around for months—well years actually!

April's records look healthier. There were a pair of Grey fantails, a Rufous fantail, a Red-browed Firetail and two White-browed Scrub Wrens. The Bar-shouldered Doves have been calling, as have the Striated and Spotted Pardalotes, the Whipbirds and the Lewin's Honey-eater. A pair of Satin Bowerbirds were feeding on the fruit of an unidentified tree, unusually quiet for them. I suppose

they had their mouths full! An Eastern Yellow Robin and a female Golden Whistler were together in a Poison Peach. It didn't take long to find the spectacular male Golden Whistler about fifteen metres up a eucalypt. The Brown Thornbills continued to work over the Quandong and I noticed a few fruit forming, the first time for this tree. The Magpies are still around as are the Kookaburras and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. A Tawny Frogmouth, intent on dinner, was reluctant to move off the driveway the other night and I noticed a Boobook calling softly from over the valley. One very exciting observation made on the Beechmont Road recently - a Wedge-tailed Eagle flying low over the road - quite breathtaking, and I almost forgot - the beautiful Brahminy Kite.



JMHanger

A BIG THANK YOU



EMHanger

I think a big thank you should go out to Helen Furlonger for all the pre-release babies she has taken of late. Last time I was there to drop off two of my babies she had a very full pen. I don't know how she managed with so many – and I hate to think what her milk bill would have been.

THANKYOU, HELEN, FOR TAKING ALL OF OUR BABIES
AND TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF THEM.

I think we should all bear in mind what the pre-release people have to deal with, when we hand our babies over. Let's not give them problems that are not necessary. We should have the babies standing up to drink their milk. We should have our paperwork up to date, and we should pass on any information that is relevant to the animal. If we have had a problem with it let the pre-release person know, so that they can be aware of the possibility of it arising again or treat it if necessary. As responsible carers we don't need to not feel we have failed by admitting we have had a problem with an animal. Letting the new carer know about the problem could save the new carer and the animal a lot of grief.

Also we should be supplying the pre-release person with milk powder when we hand the joeys over. Let's look after our pre-release carers. Thank you, Helen.

Karen Hooke



Stevie, a Red necked wallaby, was orphaned on the 22 November 2004 when his mother was hit and killed by a car near Roma. Even though he weighed only 1004 grams, he was found standing near his dam and was badly scratched and bruised. He was taken first to a vet in Roma, and then to the University of Queensland Veterinary Clinic as his rescuer was a vet student. Stevie came into my care when I collected him after receiving a call from the clinic at 2 am the following morning.

By 6 am Stevie was showing the first signs of myopathy and as this is a very serious condition for macropods. I rushed him to my local vet. After a thorough examination, she recommended that Stevie's best hope for recovery was to be treated by the experienced wildlife staff at Australia Zoo.

About 3 hours later, Stevie was being examined by the dedicated zoo staff. His treatment included a wide variety of medications and specific care instructions which I was to follow in the next few days. He even had an intravenous drip line into the base of his tail.

Later that evening, Stevie well and truly crashed, being completely unresponsive and in a death like

state. I felt at that time that he had been through enough and put him to bed with a kiss and a soft good-bye, fully expecting him to be dead in a few hours. Well, Stevie had other plans and at 5 am was making quiet sucking noises so I offered drops of fluid which he managed to swallow, bit by bit. A half hour later and he was blinking. And so it went; slowly, slowly he came around. Over the next three days he gained strength. He took his first hops around his bedroom and you have never seen a more relieved and amazed "mum" than I was at that moment.

Stevie continued to improve and so was on course to release back into the wild. On 12 April, I returned him to Australia Zoo for a pre-release check up as I was concerned with his breathing. It was a sad moment when I was told that Stevie had Dilated Cardiomyopathy, probably as a result of his early traumas. This condition occurs when the heart is much bigger than it should be and the walls of the heart are thinner than normal. Essentially, his heart could not pump blood as efficiently as a normal heart. With that diagnosis, we returned home so that he could live out what would likely be a short life with us.

Stevie was a joy to have around. He ruled the paddock with an iron paw and certainly gave the other joeys a great role model. By July Stevie was becoming quite aggressive as the call of the wild "yelled" at him. But before I could take any action, Stevie took matters into his own paws and escaped. There was a major panic as I searched everywhere for him. Having placed no-

tices and pictures on nearby poles and mailboxes, I received many concerned and helpful telephone calls from people on my street and nearby.

Stevie has not been seen or at least identified since, and while I feel sad at my loss, I am rather pleased that he decided his own fate and will maybe have a few months or even a few years of freedom.

I was touched by all the people who called, stopped by, or just watched out for him in the days that followed. Their care and concern gave me hope that animals like Stevie have a chance to live side by side with us. Each and every time we take a moment from our busy lives to be concerned and to actively help our precious and unique wildlife, we are making ourselves and our world better, bit by bit.



My sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dr Mandy Finemore, and to the Steve Irwin Foundation and staff at Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital.



Wivenhoe Dam - Copyright Jenni Pyz

Thanks Jenny for allowing us to enjoy your wonderful photo.

GILBERTIAN?

One afternoon, a very competent carer with numerous macropods, had an appointment with an eye specialist to check the progress of a macropod's eye, post operation.

The morning had been hectic, taking three eastern greys to pre-release and then rushing home to feed babies, shower and head off to the specialist. The pouch that belonged to "the patient" (only bottom sticking out) was quickly grabbed, and off I headed on the half hour trip.

The Specialist examined the eye of "the patient" and then commented on how well it had healed, it was no longer blood shot and that there was no sign of scar tissue. The carer then said "I didn't think it was going very well." The specialist then showed the carer that the eye was totally clear.....

At home prior to leaving for the specialist, two babies "swapped pouches". The baby, (who up until then had refused to 'try out' anyone else's pouch) that had had eye surgery, had been left at home in her sister's pouch.

So the carer had to make the trip to the specialist again the following morning!

Name withheld by request.

WILDTRAVELS

Dianna Smith

I was recently on holidays in Tasmania and the last night we were there, we stayed on the southern end of Bruny Island. To my wonderful surprise I woke up early to find these lovely albino wallabies grazing outside my door. (The rest of the people sharing the cabin didn't seem to share my excitement at 4.00am!!!) They were interspersed with normal coloured wallabies and I even saw one with its head in the pouch of a normal coloured animal. There were quite a number of them and they were reasonably used to humans.



D. Smith

WILD MOVES

Kerry Johnson has moved to the wilds of Rathdowney and instead of heavy metal passing her door, this is what she sees! Poor Kerry, what a hard life!



K. Johnson

Last December I was luckily enough entrusted with the care of a little pinkie that I picked up from Helen Furlonger. He turned out to be a 120 gram Swamp Wallaby. Being my partner's turn to name – he got called Muddy, which I quite often lengthen into Mud Puddle, as one does.

I thought he was the cutest thing in the whole world even though his eyes were closed, his ears were still stuck down on his head and he was totally without any colouring except for his sooty little nose. He was adorable and I would sit and look at him in amazement every time I fed him. My partner however could not understand this as to him he looked like an alien from another planet, and he could not see anything cute about him at all (must be a girl thing).

And so the three hourly routine of feeding commenced and I loved every minute of it – crawling out of bed twice during the night to feed him was always rewarded by the cute little body snuggled up in his bag that was always so glad to know I was there with some milk – he needed me.

I remember the day his eyes finally fully opened and I wondered what he must have thought of his strange looking mum. His ears however took quite awhile. They slowly uncurled from his head over a period of time and for awhile he looked really funny with them curled up on top of his head. He would try to shake them out straight but had trouble keeping them there and they would curl back.



K. Hooke



K.Hooke

Finally we went on to four hourly feeds after a couple of months and things became a bit easier – his fur was coming through and he was becoming very aware of the things around him – now my partner thought he was cute.

The day came when he decided he would venture out of his pouch for the first time, we heard this plop on the floor and this little crying noise that sounded like an insect – and lo and behold he was out standing near his basket looking at us so proud that he had finally done it. His first steps were quite awkward to say the least and he fell down more times than his ego would have liked but he was on the road to adventure, no looking back from here.

My little Mud Puddle is 900 grams now and I still look at him in amazement – I have had him four months and he is getting quite good on his little legs. He is curious about everything and everything seems to go in his mouth. He is full of mischief and I love him dearly. If only he would stop growing so fast as every day is one day closer to him leaving me for the big wide world.

I am so thankful for the experience of raising him, as someone quoted to me, if everyone had the experience of raising one they would never ever get shot or killed as they would appreciate so much more the amazement of what a loving creature they are.

I feel sorry for the people who will never experience the fulfilment of caring for one of these beautiful creatures and making a difference even if small to the world. We are truly blessed to be given the opportunity to do so.



K. Hooke

My Funniest Phone Call This Month

A guy rang me recently in the office to say that he had a lizard come into his house. He had rung RSPCA and they had told him that we would come and pick it up. I asked him if it was injured. He said, "No it's just scaring me. It keeps turning up all over the house and it makes a noise and I am nervous of it". I asked what type of lizard it was, imagining it must be a goanna or water dragon or something that had somehow gotten in the house. He said it was one of those little, pale lizards that climb up the walls. "Oh," I said, "a GECKO." He said, "Yes, I think it is." I informed him that not only was it not a native anyway, but as it was not injured and it was not dangerous, we would not be able to come and remove it. He was very distressed by this and asked, whom he could ring. I asked if he could remove it from the house himself and he said, "Oh no, I am too scared to touch it." He also said it was following him around and would sit there staring at him.

Good grief, what a wimp! The gecko obviously was not the only one in the house. Perhaps they are ganging up on him and getting ready to take over – "BEWARE EVERYONE THE GECKOS ARE COMING".

My Most Upsetting Phone Call This Month

I had a phone call that made me very angry last week from a guy who owned a plumbing company. One of his guys was under a house trying to remove a hot water system. He said there was a possum under there, half the size of his employee and the possum was scared of the employee and the employee was scared of the possum. "Can we come and get it?" I asked if it was injured. He said, "No, we just need it removed and we are not paying for it."

At this point I realized he was going to be difficult. I told him we did not have a license to relocate animals and we could only pick up animals that were injured. He replied, "Well I can injure it." (The steam started to come out of my ears) I said, "Well, that would not be fair to the possum. I can give you phone numbers for people who can remove it for you, but there will be a cost. Perhaps they can give you some free advice and I proceeded to explain that the possum would be dopey during the day and would probably not bother them anyway. He abruptly announced he would ring back when he had injured it, for us to pick it up and hung up.

My Saddest Rescue This Month

I was recently called out to a rescue near Jimboomba for a Kangaroo / Wallaby in someone's yard. It had been injured by their dog.

On arriving I was surprised to find that the guy actually had a seven foot high cyclone mesh fence around his two acre prop-

erty that he specifically put up to keep the Wallabies out and his dog in. He had a very big Bull Mastiff.

The Wallaby, as it turned out, was out in the back yard in a large canvas laundry bag and his dog was locked in the house. The guy was distressed that it had been injured, as he felt he done the right thing by putting up the fence, and somehow it had got in.

I peeked in the bag long enough to identify it as a female red-neck wallaby and she had blood coming from her head and was extremely stressed.

I put her in my car – he told me I could keep the laundry bag (only good thing about this story) and rang Karen Scott. She was going to need to be sedated before we could examine her. Luckily Gail Gipp was home and as she lived just up the road from me that was where I headed.

Gail sedated her but by this time she seemed pretty much out of it anyway. She had a very large bite mark on her chest where the dog had grabbed her. The guy had said she had hit the fence a few times before he had got the dog inside and she had hit a tree a couple of times pretty hard during his attempt to catch her and put her in the bag. Unfortunately Gail said the blood coming from her eyes was actually brain matter. How sad.

Gail euthanized her, of course, and although I have seen a few animals euthanatized now, this one just got to me, I guess because she was only a young adult that had not even had a baby yet. She had managed to get this far in her short life and then to be killed in this way to hit something so hard you squash your brains out through your eyes – well – I found that hard to deal with.

Most Amazing Sight This Month

We have been in the process of making a very large pond in our back yard over the past few months and now that it is finished and has water in it, we were really pleased to see numerous ducks move in and take up residence. But we were so amazed one morning when one duck couple came in to the pond from the neighbour's overgrown paddock with 21 babies. THAT'S RIGHT, 21.

We were also amazed at how obedient they were. Mum decided to go for a swim while dad watched the kids on the bank. He must have then decided she was taking too long as he called them all in to a big huddle and obviously told them to stay where they were. He then got into the water to swim with mum and the babies did not move an inch. They all stayed in a tight little huddle like a mound of fluff till mum and dad got back out and told them they could move. Then they all dispersed into a big mass and took the long trek back into the paddock, babies running everywhere – what a nightmare!

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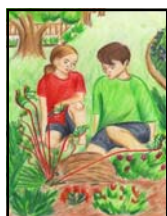
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Marny finds an Echidna

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25 JUNE, 2006

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