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WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

RESCUE

Autumn 2008, Issue 48

WILDNEWS

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



This newsletter is proudly sponsored by
BRETT RAGUSE MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE



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SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in submitting an article or photograph for inclusion in the next newsletter, please submit to news@wildcare.org.au before

20th June 2008

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of WILDCARE AUSTRALIA or of the editors.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone,

I hope you all had a safe and happy Easter and enjoyed lots of chocolate!

The rain over the past few months has been wonderful but I think the birds have gotten confused; we have a pair of Magpie-larks that nest in one of the gums outside and have done so for the past few years. This year they are now on their third lot of chicks for this season, and every time I see mum I get an over whelming sense of weariness.

The birds suffered enormously this year; in the past we have had the seemingly endless drought then the rain came quickly followed by the storms. Cattle Egrets and Herons suffered horrendously with over 53 chicks being brought in to the hospital in two days. Most were found hanging by a leg from nests and trees or immersed in water. All had not yet fledged and there were a variety of ages from no feathers to feathers and fluff, very cute but at the same time very sad. A lot of

babies of all species came in with very brittle or soft bones; a marked increase on last year where we had seen the odd one.

Hopefully, they will have a better winter and a more productive and positive breeding season.

We have such a diverse and amazing amount of birds in this country and over the past few years I have been reminded once again of how individual, playful, and sometimes destructive they can be. If you haven't thought about caring for these amazing creatures think again, they can teach and give you an enormous amount of pleasure and knowledge. As Claude, our new Canadian vet, said the other day "I know to you it's just a kookaburra but to me it's like "oh wow, it's a Kookaburra." I hope that never changes.

If you have some one in your life that is unable to care for animals but would like to help, the office is always looking for volunteers. The "girls and boys" that man the office do a fantastic job in an often stressful situation but they also assure me it is a great place to be. If you are interested or know someone who is, contact the office and speak to Trish she will be glad to hear from you.

Gail

Quote of the Month

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it marvelling at its big pool's of water, its little pools and the water flowing between. People would marvel at the bumps on it and the holes in it. They would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in it. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball and at the creatures in the water.

The people would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it and defend it with their lives because somehow they would know that their lives could be nothing without it.

If only the Earth were a few feet in diameter.

Joe Miller

THE VALUE OF A HABITAT TREE

The Noosa Shire Council recently looked at removing a large tree that contained 22 hollows.

Council officers contacted Alan Franks from Hollow Log Homes and asked him to quote on how much it would cost to replace the 22 hollows with artificial nest boxes.

Firstly there was the cost of the nest boxes. Then he calculated the cost of maintenance of the nest boxes (every 5 yrs) as well as replacement (every 10yrs) and multiplied that by the estimated life expectancy of the tree (200-300 yrs).

The cost was \$2.2 million.

The tree was not removed!

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

I wanted to share two little stories with you...

Recently I had the most wonderful experience of being able to care for a baby platypus overnight on its way to the Australian Wildlife Hospital. Very exciting! It was very cute but it was a very sleepless night for me, having been entrusted with this most remarkable little creature.

Anyway, the following day I was driving to the Hospital – with a car load of animals including a baby platypus, a cockatoo and a koala. I kept thinking, “How lucky are we?”. We get to share our homes and our days with WILD animals that are so unique and diverse.

I also just received an email from

the owners of a property where one of my first koala joeys was released – over 2 years ago. They see him periodically and often send me photos when they do see him. It is so nice to know that he is doing well.

I have met some truly wonderful people since I have been in Wildcare. Wildlife carers really understand what it is like to do what we do. I am sure that we have all found comfort in knowing that someone else knows what we are feeling because we know that they have experienced the same thing. You cannot explain that feeling to someone that has never loved and lost a special “wild” animal. And not just the sad times...but the joy of seeing a released animal return for frequent visits ...the joy of seeing them come back with their own “babies”. No-

body else understands how exciting that is...but wildlife carers do.

Honestly, I think that we, as wildlife carers, are some of the luckiest people in the world even though sometimes it is heartbreaking. I wouldn't give it up for the world.

I also feel privileged to be a part of an organization like Wildcare. It is a wonderful “vehicle” for all of us to achieve our ambitions of helping wildlife. I encourage everyone to become more involved in the organization – after all, it is YOUR organization. Wildcare will only be as good or as strong as the effort that is put into it by its members.

Karen Scott

RSPCA WILDLIFE HEROES

**1 300 ANIMAL
(1 300 264625)**

The huge success of Channel 7's “*RSPCA Animal Rescue*” proves that Australians love animals and stories about them. The show rated highly across the country and was consistently number one in South East Queensland. Viewers were a fly on the wall as ambulance officers and inspectors rescued animals. Armed with a better understanding of animal rescue, Queenslanders are now more aware than ever of what constitutes animal cruelty and neglect and whom to call when an animal – wild or domestic-needs help.

This awareness has resulted in a staggering increase in the number of calls to the Customer Call Centre. By the end of the series, RSPCA staff and volunteer operators were answering 20,000 calls per month (over 600 calls per day!), compared with 12,000 in the same period last year.

The **1 300 ANIMAL** concept was conceived from numerous reports of the difficulty with and time involved in finding help for injured animals. As Wildcare telephone operators well know, members of the public often have to contact several agencies before finding someone who can assist.

The RSPCA's **1 300 ANIMAL** number aims to abate this problem. Their aim is to have a comprehensive database of wildlife rehabilitators and rescuers, council agencies and other animal organisations state wide. By calling a centralised phone number manned by RSPCA staff, callers will receive quick assistance for injured and orphaned wildlife. The species and location can then be used to locate a suitable rescuer in the local area.

The RSPCA now aims to recruit carers and rescuers. Last year, the RSPCA provided care for over 5000 wildlife. They included animals that had been hit by cars, dog and cat attack victims, and others suffering disease caused by a lack of immunity. Impaired immunity leaves animals weak and even more vulnerable. Still more wildlife has suffered horrible injuries after being caught on barbed wire fencing or tree netting. To help cope with the ever increasing number of victims in an ever decreasing habitat, they need your help. The RSPCA, Wildcare Australia and other wildlife groups cannot do it alone. It is a community responsibility.

To find out if you can help please check out the RSPCA website www.rspcaqld.org.au or call the RSPCA Wildlife Office: 3426 9900.

FROM THE OFFICE

NEW OFFICE VOLIES!

The last three months have been extremely busy in the office. The phones rang constantly and with the strange weather the birds were confused along with the rest of us. We are hoping things will quiet down now as we head into Autumn.

Thank you to those who responded for help in the office, especially to Roy and Kim who covered for me in January when my daughter gave birth to my Grandson (Jack Peter). Nanny was busy looking after his big sister (20 month-old Grace Ann); not half proud of my little pinkies.

Also thank you to Carla Harp, Kylie Hough, Toby Clinch, Linda Ray and Claudia Rumph; your help was very much appreciated. Julie continues to help on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Suzanne McDermott has been helping me on Tuesdays. Both of these ladies are extremely talented on the computer and have been teaching this old girl new tricks. Thank you both so much.

It is always a pleasure to come into the Wildcare Office as I meet and work with the most beautiful people, our Wildcare Members.

Once again, we have been invited to participate at the Mudgeeraba Show on the 5th and 6th of July. This year they are celebrating their 80th year and I feel we should make an extra effort. So I am asking for your help for new ideas to make our exhibit stand out. It would also be nice to have an entry for the Grand Parade. Please contact Trish in the office on Tuesdays or Fridays between 8am and 4pm.

Trish Hales

NEW AND IMPROVED CARER RECORDS

It has been a very busy quarter for the record keeping team as we have been working to understand how carers are using and/or misusing the current record forms in hopes of improving upon these forms and our current process.

In February, we completed revised versions of our Excel and handwritten/Word carer record forms and sent them out to more than a dozen carers to test them and provide us with feedback. We had a very good response and the feedback was GREAT. We have modified the forms based on this feedback as well as the needs of the record keepers (who reconcile over 3000 record entries each year) to make the new forms as user friendly as possible.

A big THANK YOU to all the carers who participated in testing our new forms! We could not have done it without you!

The new forms as well as a "helpful hints" sheet will be posted to the website during the first week of May and will be posted to carers who do not have access to the internet.

Renée, Kiersten and Amy

NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONFERENCE 2008

It's that time of the year again!

Wildcare will, once more, be offering members the ability to apply for funding to attend this year's Conference. Funding is generally provided for 6 to 8 people and covers the conference registration fees. Accommodation and traveling fees will still be at your own expense.

If you would like to apply for sponsorship to this year's Conference, please send your details via email to enquiries@wildcare.org.au.

Applications will close on 30th April 2008 so please get your applications in quickly. Preference will be given to members who are able to disseminate information gained at the conference in various ways to other Wildcare members.

IMPORTANT!

If anyone would like Wildcare shirts or clothing for the conference, be sure to contact the Wildcare office and place your orders by the end of April as we will probably not place another order with the embroider until after the conference.

GARAGE SALE/CAR BOOT SALE

Raising Money for Wildcare

Do you have bits and pieces around the house/yard you will never use?
Do your family and friends have things they can donate?

Over the next few months I was hoping we could organise a garage sale/car boot sale at Gold Coast, Brisbane and Sunshine Coast. We can advertise in the newsletter, local paper and radio.

Please, if you have unwanted goods, or a great location to hold a
Garage sale/Car boot sale, please email me:
tonyaehoward@hotmail.com or call 5530 5953.

Any goods that don't sell will be donated to the
AWL and RSPCA shops.



SHOP NEWS

Email: shop@wildcare.org.au

Hi Everyone,



My name is Tracy Paroz and together with Roy Webster and Renay Robb, we are now providing a new service to improve how Wildcare provides you with the books, food supplements and miscellaneous items you need. In addition to the Currumbin office, the Brisbane shop has now opened and we also have a mail order system.

The new Shop Price List/Order Form is available for download from the Wildcare website. You are now able to place your orders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by emailing shop@wildcare.org.au or faxing your order to me on (07) 3318 7678 for processing.

We have information sheets on the website about the books, food supplements and miscellaneous items we currently stock in the shop as well as the Festive Animal Christmas decorations and the Ashedene "Australiana" catalogue. You can place orders for any of these items via email to shop@wildcare.org.au.

I am happy to take suggestions from carers if there are particular items you wish to see stocked in the shop. We look forward to helping you and will endeavour to meet all of your orders and requests in a timely manner.

Tracy, Roy & Renay

NEW BOOKS available from the shop

- Australian Mammals: Biology and Captive Management (\$140.00)
- Mammals of Australia (\$125.00)
- Bettongs, Potoroos and the Musky Rat Kangaroo (\$40.00)
- Native Mice and Rats (\$40.00)
- Platypus (\$40.00)
- Cockatoos (\$40.00)
- Shorebirds of Australia (\$50.00)
- Tawny Frogmouth (\$40.00)
- Fluid Therapy for Veterinary Nurses and Technicians (\$31.00)
- Dosage Calculations for Veterinary Nurses and Technicians (\$26.00)

FORTHCOMING TITLE

- Medicine of Australian Mammals (May/June 2008) \$195.00

WILDCARE SHIRTS / CLOTHING

Orders for the new Wildcare Shirts, Jackets, Vests and Hats can be placed using the order form on the Wildcare website and either emailing it to shop@wildcare.org.au or faxing it to (07) 3318 7678. We need a minimum of 10 orders before we can have them produced by the embroiderer.

BRISBANE Shop

The NEW Brisbane shop is now open and supplies are available for purchase. Please contact Renay Robb on 0408 748 082 to arrange a suitable time to purchase your items.

CURRUMBIN Shop

The Currumbin shop is currently open 8am to 4pm Tuesday through Friday and will also be open one Saturday a month on a trial basis from 9am to 2pm on 10th May, 7th June and 5th July for members unable to get to the shop during work hours.

SUNSHINE COAST Shop

The Sunshine Coast shop is open and supplies are available for purchase. Please contact Rachel Lyons 0417 078 432 to arrange a time to purchase your items.

MAIL ORDERS

A Mail Order service is available to members unable to get to either shop. Orders can be placed via email to shop@wildcare.org.au. Payment can be made by Direct Deposit or Credit Card.

Express Mail Postage Rates:

- \$5 (500g and less)
- \$9 (500g to 3kg)

Special order items will incur freight charges which will be advised at the time of placing the order.

FREE BIOLAC

The Wildcare Office has small 500gm containers of Biolac that are either just out of date or about to expire to give to carers who use Biolac. Contact Roy at the Wildcare Office.

WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE

WILDCARE'S 24-HOUR EMERGENCY WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE

WE NEED YOU BECAUSE...

- Where else can you be part of organising a rescue for a BILBY????
- A penguin has been found – can you help to care for it????
- A crocodile needs rescuing off of a roof. Can you help????
- Something with “SKIN” but is not a lizard or a snake needs collecting. What is it???

- Find out only with Wildcare what has legs like a wallaby but looks like a possum and jumps into the hedges to get to its nest!!!!

These questions will be answered along with many more. All you need to do is give up 3 hours a month – yes only 3 hours a month!!!

Become a phone volunteer with Wildcare Australia today.

We are anxious for more volunteers. We can guarantee you will not be bored and you will be part of a very professional and necessary service within the community.

Please contact Liz at lizmf@bigpond.com, or call the Wildcare office on 5527 2444. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Liz Meffan

Wildcare Telephone Coordinator

GOOD “LUCK” FRIDAY

9am on Good Friday, the phone is ringing and as Mark is already on his way to rescue I answer. Kate from the RSPCA's 1300ANIMAL has another caller on the line that needs some advice and asks if she can she put it through to me. I take the call.

Shauna is on her way to rescue a macropod joey of unknown species from a property 3-hours west of Mackay. Her mobile phone drops out numerous times but I manage to ascertain that she has never done anything like this before, that she has no equipment or provisions for the joey, that she has made numerous calls to everyone from the local police to WIRES and I am the first person she has talked to that hasn't given her another number to ring....Damn, I was going to give her a number to call in Mackay.....

I ask her how long before she will arrive at the joey. She pauses for a bit and then says “about 4 hours, will the joey need anything before then?” Presuming that the mother was probably killed early morning and that she will not get there before mid afternoon I suggest that who ever has the joey now will need to try to get some fluids into it, and keep the animal warm, dark and quite. I talk her through what is needed now and what supplies she will need to pick up on the way, bearing in mind that it is Good Friday and that nothing is open except a few service stations. I tell her to ring me when she gets to the joey and I will help her to do an assessment over the phone. She thanks me and hangs up to continue her drive. I begin looking up numbers for local care groups, print off a Macropod assessment sheet and make myself a coffee.

So why am I writing this???

Because once again this shows the importance of belonging to a group like Wildcare. Because in Wildcare we know that we have training available to deal with just this sort of situation. That we need only make one phone call and we will be given all the support we need. That even other organisations realize the high standards we set and direct people to Wildcare as the “experts” in the field.

As I wait for Shauna to call back I hope that her 8-hour round trip won't be in vain. But whether or not Shauna's joey makes it, I think she is already a potential carer and with the right training and support she will probably make a great carer. I hope that she finds a group close by to support her but if not I feel sure she will keep in contact with Wildcare and may become one of our remote carers.

So Wildcare Rehabilitators take stock of what you have to do this job. Not just the physical supplies, but the emotional support, training and expertise that you have at your fingertips and feel proud that you have chosen to be a part of this team of people. Remember a team is only as good as the people in it and Wildcare has a lot of #@*# good people doing a thankless job for no pay and very little kudos. So hold your head up high next time you tell someone you are a Wildcare Wildlife Rehabilitator and show your pride in what you do because you are a key player on the best team in this game.

Kim Alexander

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Bats

We had another busy flying fox season this year with approximately 50 babies coming into care. They were predominantly Greys and, interestingly, almost all were males. We had about a dozen premies (less than 50g) this year, all survived and are now in crèche with their release scheduled for later this year around September. In addition to all the orphans, we also had many adults come in with the usual injuries, mostly from fruit netting.

We currently seem to be experiencing quite an unusual occurrence of late flying fox babies. As late as the first week of March, we had babies coming in that were newborn to 2 weeks old. It has also been noted that a number of mums have been flying out of camps with young under their wings; indicating babies as young as 3 to 6 weeks of age.

March was a very exciting and rewarding month. We had 4 successful releases over the first 2 weeks totalling more than 100 flying foxes; numbers of each release were 15, 32, 56 and 12. At least 70% have permanently left the soft-release site with the remaining 30% still eating copious amounts of fruit! Unfortunately, we continue to have more and more bats coming into care...most are adults with injuries, predominantly fruit netting but also barbed wire as well as road trauma.

Although the Grey and Black babies have been released, it's not over yet as the Little Red mums are now full-term and are already starting to give birth!

While not as numerous, the micro-bats have kept us busy as well. More than 30 have already been released, the 5 Beccari babies are now flying, "Molly" the White-striped Free-tailed bat is now off her bottle and is self-feeding, the 2 Greater Broad-nosed bats have recovered

from injuries and, along with the Beccaris and 6 Forest bats, are ready for release.

The Subadult/Adult Flying Fox workshop had a great turn out, thank you to everyone for your participation. With the interest shown for a deeper understanding of bats and wound management, we are considering holding an Intensive Bat Wound Management workshop which will concentrate on the importance of appropriate care from day 1 in order to improve rehabilitation and facilitate successful release.

Trish Wimberley

Birds - Gold Coast

We need to thank our long serving bird coordinators for the Gold Coast and Brisbane areas, Dianna Smith, Karen and Cheryl Barney. These bird coordinators have decided to resign and continue to care on a smaller scale.

Special thanks and recognition need to go to Karen Barney who has done and continues to do amazing things with our native birds. She has been a wonderful source of information on all our bird life as well as a committed carer.

If anyone is interested in taking on the role of bird coordinator for the Gold Coast and/or Brisbane areas, please contact the office.

Dianna Smith

Birds - Sunshine Coast

Just a reminder to all carers who might have any migratory birds in care; if the birds are not ready for release by the end of March it is advisable to hold them over.

We have had quite a few birds coming into care suffering from thrush (*Candida sp.*). This is easily treatable, but if you don't feel confident in your diagnosis, a quick visit to the

vet is recommended. As the weather has been dry for so long, most of us have forgotten the problems associated with humid conditions, so check the bird's throat on arrival into care, as a severe case can actually stop the bird from swallowing properly.

With the days starting to shorten as winter approaches, be aware of wildlife returning home for the night. During the long summer months, most workers are off the road well before dark so this is not a major problem, but with the days drawing in, both humans and birds are sharing the roadways as we and they make our way home.

Ailsa Watson

Echidnas

We are now approaching the time of the year when young echidnas may venture from their nursery burrow before they are ready and get into trouble. Reports of small echidnas should be referred to a licensed echidna carer to ascertain whether they are of independent age or need to come into care.

Attached is a photo of "Katie" that recently arrived into my care after becoming lost from her mother. She was found dehydrated and underweight but is now eating well and on the fast-track for release in the coming months.



Continued on next page

Winter will also bring with it more echidnas that are foraging for food during daylight and warmer hours. This will mean that they are more likely to be hit by cars and attacked by dogs also. Believe it or not, dogs are often silly enough to bite echidnas which can cause a lot of damage. Any dog attack echidna (or suspected dog attack) must receive veterinary attention.

Echidnas hit by cars often suffer fractured bones, particularly in the beak. All echidnas that are hit by cars need extensive x-rays to ensure that there are no fractures. Even a small fracture to an echidna's beak can render it unable to feed and it may slowly starve to death if not brought into care and treated. Please contact a licensed echidna carer if you have any queries regarding echidnas that may require attention.

Karen Scott

Koalas

The approach of winter will no doubt bring with it an increase in the number of koalas that are hit by cars or attacked by dogs.

Please remember that all koala calls should be reported to a licensed koala carer or experienced koala rescuer. Dog attack koala victims often display no signs of injury but they MUST receive URGENT veterinary attention if they are to have any chance of survival.

The Wildcare telephone operators maintain a list of experienced koala rescuers and carers.

Karen Scott

Macropods

The shorter days are starting to result in more macropods being hit by cars. The winter months I am sure will bring with it the usual increase in macropod joeys requiring fostering. I hope that all of our macropod carers have had a break over the summer months and are ready for the influx in joeys.

A huge thank you to Roy Webster who has volunteered to help me place macropod joeys with Gold Coast and Brisbane carers. My work and study commitments (and an unreliable mobile phone) have often meant that I have not been easily contactable. Thank you Roy!

Karen Scott

Possums

Firstly, to Brisbane North possum carers - THANK YOU!!

Secondly, I've been in this role for over 6 months now and have only been in contact with a few of you. It would be fantastic (and extremely helpful) if you could all contact me regarding your availability, expertise and facilities, and possum intake so that I can keep informed on who has what and who wants what. You can best keep me updated via email which is bungletheowl@bigpond.com, but by phone is also good.

Brisbane North is down on numbers of carers at the moment so those of you who are new or ready to return to caring, I'd love to hear from you. We now have two possum traps available for difficult rescues so just ring me if one is needed.

Caroline Oertel

Small Mammals

Where have all the bandicoots come from? We have recently had the usual annual influx in bandicoot joeys coming into care. It still surprises me that they can survive in their mother's pouch following impact from a car.

This little bandicoot and his 2 siblings were found in their mothers pouch on a busy Mudgeeraba road by two of our own volunteers. The mother had been dead for at least a few hours laying in the middle of the road on the hot bitumen with her 3 healthy little joeys in her pouch. They were very lucky. They are currently in care and will be released in the coming weeks.



We have also had several adults coming into care that have been found in swimming pools. These have been treated with antibiotics and successfully released within a short period of time.

Karen Scott

Reptiles

The last 3 months have been very busy; we've had over 80 animals come into care!

Unfortunately, we have had only 1 reptile carer contact us since the workshop, so we've been unable to contact appropriate carers to help with the rescue or rehabilitation of these animals. We would really like to hear from you and could use your help, so please contact us at kremmert@bigpond.com.

Kristie Remmert

Organic Body Butter For Your Pinkies

I have been using this beautiful body butter on my pinkies now for approximately 12 months and have never had a problem with peeling or dry skin. Prior to this, it was a constant battle so I decided to put something together myself.

The ingredients are Shea Butter, jojoba oil and distilled water. This combination rehydrates the skin in no time at all.

A 100gm container is \$12 and 200gm is \$20 and only a tiny bit is needed.

FREE DELIVERY for Wildcare members.

People at work call me Naturenanna, but my name is Nalda. Call and leave a message: 5445 7771 or 0419 257418.

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE!

Education Highlights

WILDCARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education Report

Thank you to everyone for being patient over the Christmas and New Year period while our trainers had a well earned break. Although, considering that this time period also coincides with the busy season for most species, I don't think that anyone actually really had a break as such!

Our 2008 education program has kicked off with a great response from members. We have also in recent months extended an invitation to staff and volunteers of the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and RSPCA to attend our training free of charge. I am glad to see that many of them have availed themselves of this opportunity and we hope to see more of them attending our courses.

We have received a huge increase in enquiries to teach workshops for other wildlife organizations and also for staff training for veterinary surgeries. Kathryn Biber recently taught our First Aid for Native Wildlife course to a wildlife group at Airlie Beach.

We are currently trialing a new method of sending a reminder to those who have registered for workshops by sending an SMS to your mobile telephone number. It would be a great help if everyone could please provide their mobile number when registering for a workshop.

We are desperately short of people to help with teaching our Orientation Program to new members. If anyone is particularly interested in helping teach this program, please contact Kim Alexander or Karen Scott to discuss what is involved.

Phone Training Workshops

Thank you to those people who attended the Phone Training earlier this year at Currumbin. Especially to Julie, who not only has taken on regular phone shifts but has now become one of our office volunteers. Apologies to those people who were booked in to attend the Brisbane phone-training workshop in February, which was cancelled due to the extreme weather situation. Could those people and anyone else interested in helping with the phones for even one or two sessions a month, please contact Liz via email to arrange another training date; lizmf@bigpond.com.

Anatomy & Physiology Workshop

We are pleased to be able to once again offer this workshop to members. Some of you that have been around for a while might recall that we offered this course as an 8-week (one evening a week) course which was originally devised and taught by Dr Jon Hanger.

The course has been revamped and will be offered initially as a basic one-day anatomy and physiology course. Please refer to the registration form on the next page for more information on this course. Due to the nature of this course, there will be limited space available so bookings are essential.

Education Team

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Pet City Seminar

Come and join us for a great day of information, fun and a fantastic lunch! Pet City is offering some great discounts for Wildcare members right now and every cent over cost raised from the seminar will be donated to Wildcare! There will be some fantastic offers available on the day.

WHEN: Friday, 9th May 2008

WHERE: Mansfield Tavern, 181 Wecker Road, Mansfield, QLD

ARRIVE: 9:00am for a 9:30 start

LUNCH: a good old Aussie Roast

FINISH: 4:00pm

COST: \$39.90 per person (fully inclusive with an information pack and lucky door prizes)

Gordon from Wombaroo has kindly agreed to come and talk with us about Wombaroo products. We will also have speakers from Wildlife Warriors, Wildcare Australia, Pet City, and Australian Koala Foundation, just to name a few.

If you would like more information, please call Kim at Pet City on 3349 2086 or Daneile on 0409 067 384. BeAware@wildcare.org.au.

**ALL REGISTRATIONS NEED TO
BE IN BY 1ST MAY 2008.**

For further information or to register, please contact Kim at Pet City.

Phone: (07) 3349 2086

Fax: (07) 3849 4631

E-mail: kim@petcity.com.au

Daneile Holmes



Basic Anatomy & Physiology

Presented by:

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

PO Box 2379 Nerang Mail Centre Q 4211

Telephone: 07 5527 2444

Facsimile: 07 5534 2617

Email – education@wildcare.org.au

Date

Saturday 23rd August 2008 **or**
Sunday 19th October 2008

Time

9.00am to 4.30pm

Venue

Australian Wildlife Hospital,
Steve Irwin Way, Beerwah

Cost

\$45 per person.

Cost includes training notes and consumables associated with the practical section of the workshop.

Training Material

Training material will be posted to you prior to the workshop to enable you to review it prior to the workshop.

What to Bring

Notebook
Pen, pencil, highlighter
Lunch and drink

Lecturer

Dr Tania Bishop BVSc (hons) MACVSc (Avian Health). Dr Bishop has 9 years experience as a wildlife veterinarian and has been a wildlife carer for the last 15 years. Dr Bishop has worked at Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and Australian Wildlife Hospital.

Workshop Format

The **Morning Session** will consist of theory covering the basic physiology and anatomy of all the major body systems with reference to major species differences. Session will also include conditions you are likely to encounter as a wildlife carer and will cover the relevant physiology behind these to give a greater understanding of the mechanisms behind them – eg pain, shock etc.

The **Afternoon Session** will consist of a practical component including a post mortem session to reinforce the morning theory session. We will aim to give an understanding of what is normal and also emphasise the difference between post mortem changes and true pathology. The session should give you an idea on how to conduct a basic post mortem and to be able to identify some of the most common causes of death that wildlife carers will be confronted with.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please note that registrations will be limited to 20 people per workshop.

Registrations will not be accepted without payment.

Name: _____

Postal Address: _____
_____ Post Code _____

Telephone – Home: _____ Mobile _____

Email: _____

Preferred Workshop Date: (please tick) ☐ 23rd August 2008 ☐ 19th October 2008

Payment:

- ☐ Cheque/money order enclosed.
- ☐ Please debit my Visa / Mastercard Card No. _____
Expiry Date ____ / ____ Cardholders Name: _____

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Business/Corporation

- Wildcare Australia will display a trade table at the NWRC in Canberra July 2008. Interest in attending has been received from several members.
- Veterinary surgeries in SEQ will be offered an email copy of the newsletter in lieu of a hard copy.

Education/Workshops - External

- Wildcare has been asked to attend and set up a display at the Wildlife Expo 23/24 May in Beaudesert.
- The display boards need updating. Committee members will also review the storage and loan arrangements to make the displays more easily accessible.

Education/Workshops - Wildcare

- One of the recent Carers meetings was cancelled due to inclement weather and the second due to cancellations by attendees.
- There has been a notable increase in workshop enquiries. The committee discussed procedures needed to streamline workshop registrations.
- The Anatomy and Physiology Workshops have been scheduled for August and October 2008. More details will follow.

Equipment

- Committee endorsed the purchase of a new binding machine and a kettle for the office.

Members/Memberships

- All new membership applications were approved.

- The Volunteer Manual is being updated and will soon be available. It will be invaluable as a means of improving communications with new members prior to their attending the Orientation Program.

Office

- The Information Brochure has been approved and is in printing. It will be available to members of the public who are seeking more detailed information about Wildcare Australia and caring for native wildlife.
- A Garage Sale is being planned. There will be more information and a call for help soon.
- Tracey Paroz and Renay Robb have offered to take on some of the duties for the Wildcare shops at Currumbin and in Brisbane, respectively.

Permits/Agreements

- Gail Gipp is waiting on a reply from the EPA in relation to the specifics of Wildcare's amended Rehabilitation Permit so that updated Permit Endorsements can be provided to Carers.

Record Keepers Report

- All Excel and handwritten carer records from 2003-2007 have been compiled into a single Excel document and exported into a database; 2007 Carer records have been compiled and summarised.
- Carer record templates have been revised and have been tested by several members prior to implementation.
- The committee recognises the outstanding contributions of Renee Rivard and Amy Whitman

in compiling, entering and managing the records.

Telephone Voucher

- The committee has sent volunteer vouchers to the telephone operators who contributed extraordinarily during spring 2007. Their contributions are very much appreciated.

Vacant Positions

- Bird Coordinators for Brisbane and Gold Coast.

Important Reminder for Bat Carers

If you wish to rescue or care for bats under Wildcare's Rehabilitation Permit then you must execute a Bat Agreement and this must be produced to Wildcare before being able to rescue or care for bats.

This agreement simply states that you agree to ensure that you have had the appropriate course of vaccination and will ensure that your titre levels are above 1.5 IU/ml.

It also states that Wildcare will not be held responsible for any illness, disease or condition that you may contract should you not comply with the Agreement.

If you have not executed a Bat Agreement, then you must contact Laura Reeder or Karen Scott to have a copy provided to you.

Further information can be obtained from Queensland Health at www.health.qld.gov.au.



SPECIAL REPORT

Australian Wildlife Hospital

a ground-breaking, environmentally sustainable development

The Australian Wildlife Hospital presently operates from the very modest confines of a small, converted avocado packing shed located next to Australia Zoo at Beerwah. As a result, the team of 20 (veterinary, nursing and administration staff) and a host of volunteers are accustomed to working in very close quarters, with every square inch of available space having a function.

The Hospital opened in March 2004 in memory of Lyn Irwin (Steve's mother). For Steve Irwin, this facility was the first step towards establishing the world's largest wildlife hospital to honour Lyn, a pioneer in wildlife care in Queensland.

Fast track to April 2008 and Steve's dream will be realized with the completion of a brand new hospital. Its impressive size, 1,300 square metres, will cement its "world's largest" status. However it is the building's environmentally-friendly construction that will set it apart from other medical facilities, with the Wildlife Warrior team having gone to great lengths to remain faithful to the organisation's conservation ethos.

At the outset, the Wildlife Warrior team approached Andrew Webb of WD Architects at Cooran, recognizing that he had the right "green" design credentials to bring their vision to life. The end result of their collaboration is an aesthetically pleasing, functional design that reflects the principles and practices of Wildlife Warriors. Andrew describes the design as "modest and subordinate to the ecosystem and cultural context – we also wanted to ensure that the structure and form were kept simple so that resource and material use were kept low."

Some of the significant features of the new Hospital include:

- The building is oriented to the north for effective sun shading in warm months and sun penetration into the building in cooler months. Openings on the east and west of the building are minimized to avoid excessive heat gain and glare.
- It has a high thermal mass internal structure coupled with a highly insulating building envelope to regulate and maintain comfortable internal temperatures and maximize efficiency of mechanical systems.
- There is extensive use of operable windows for natural ventilation to limit the time periods that mechanical ventilation is required.
- Use of natural, low-embodied en

ergy, low-toxicity, renewable and/or readily recyclable materials wherever practical. This includes straw bale and rammed earth walls, low toxicity paints and floor finishes, low toxicity cabinetry boards and ceiling linings.

- Extensive referral to Ecospecifier to evaluate product choices.
- No use of timber from rainforests or other sensitive ecosystems. Timber use is limited to plantation pine and engineered structural timber, FSC-certified, CBFT and local farm forestry sources.
- Timber doors and windows for energy-efficiency and low-embodied energy.
- Materials, fixtures and finishes selected and detailed for longevity.
- Rainwater harvesting. The roof area is 1535 m² - it will collect 1535 litres for every 1 mm of rain.
- Water efficient plumbing fixtures and fittings.
- Design for universal accessibility.
- Day-lighting of major use areas to limit the need for electric lighting.
- Use of energy-efficient luminaries.
- Use of 25% fly-ash concrete.
- Use of local and Australian products and services where possible to limit greenhouse gases / embodied energy of transport.
- The building is designed for 'constructability' to limit waste and material use.

Continued on next page

The \$5M project is of international significance and will greatly expand the surgical, rehabilitation, research and training capabilities of the Hospital. Steve's dream already provides a lifeline for nature's innocent victims – providing sick, injured and orphaned wildlife with leading-edge treatment and rehabilitation before eventual release back to the wild.

Belying its small size, it is presently Australia's busiest wildlife treatment facility, receiving over 5,500 patients annually. The demand for the Hospital's charitable services is ever-increasing and the new facility will have the scope to double patient numbers to approximately 10,000 annually.

The Australian Wildlife Hospital has strong links with a number of universities and wildlife organizations and is committed to passing on its extensive knowledge of native animals and best care practices to veterinary students and wildlife trainees who undertake practical work experience and course work at the Hospital. This sharing of knowledge will also be expanded with the completion of the new Hospital. Furthermore, the Hospital has been designed and will be operated to educate the general public in environmentally sustainable development principles and practices.

The Australian Government generously contributed \$2.5M towards this project, with the surplus cost

met by a small number of sponsors, including major sponsor, Australia



Zoo, and the results of the charity's fundraising efforts.

To find out more about the Australian Wildlife Hospital log on to www.wildlifewarriors.org.

Diary Notes: National Tree Day 2008

It's time to get organised for Planet Ark's National Tree Day 2008 on Sunday 27 July. Now in its 13th year, National Tree Day last year saw over 290,000 volunteers plant 1.2 million trees.

As the reality of climate change becomes increasingly prevalent, everyone is wanting to know how they can help. One solution is to join with other Australians in positive action for climate change - planting trees for Tree Day!

<p>25 July Schools Tree Day</p>	<p>Drop the books and get outside – it's tree-planting time! Schools Tree Day is a 'tree-mendous' opportunity for children to take an active role in helping protect the environment and combat climate change. The simple act of planting a tree helps inspire a love of nature and a determination to act on its behalf.</p> <p>In 2007, more than 220,000 budding environmentalists at 1,900 schools all over the country learnt how easy and fun it is to help the environment by planting trees on Schools Tree Day.</p> <p>All schools are encouraged to get on board with Planet Ark and help in 2008. For more information, simply call 1300 88 5000 or visit http://treeday.planetark.com.</p> <p>Schools Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in association with Toyota and AMP Foundation.</p>
<p>27 July National Tree Day</p>	<p>Grab your shovels, it's tree-planting time! National Tree Day is an opportunity for all Australians to take a positive and active role in helping protect our environment. By planting native trees and shrubs, we can help to combat climate change, provide food and shelter for our wildlife and beautify our surroundings.</p> <p>Last year, over 290,000 volunteers planted 1.2 million native trees and shrubs at 3,100 sites around the country.</p> <p>Everyone is encouraged to get on board with Planet Ark and help in 2008. For more information, simply call 1300 88 5000 or visit http://treeday.planetark.com.</p> <p>National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in association with Toyota and AMP Foundation.</p>

For media releases, images or to arrange an interview, contact:

Michelle Cook

PR & Media Officer, Planet Ark

p. 02 8484 7200 | f. 02 8484 7222 | m. 0414 702 697 | e. michelle@planetark.com

National Tree Day organiser:

National Tree Day is brought to you by:



WILD WORLD: Cameroon

World's Most Endangered Gorilla Fights Back

In the wake of a study that documented for the first time the use of weaponry by Cross River gorillas to ward off threats by humans, the Wildlife Conservation Society announced today new field surveys to better protect this most endangered great ape.

The study, published earlier in 2007 in the *Journal of Primatology*, found several instances of gorillas throwing sticks and clumps of grass when threatened by people. Gorillas usually flee and rarely charge when encountered by humans.



(Copyright: Wildlife Conservation Society)

The Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) is a unique subspecies of gorilla found only along the Cameroon-Nigeria border. Although originally discovered in the early 1900s, the Cross River gorilla was thought to be extinct until its recent "rediscovery" in the 1980s. With only 250 to 300 individuals remaining in the wild, the Cross River gorilla is one of Africa's most critically endangered primates. It is currently estimated that the remaining

gorillas are contained in 11 subgroups, dispersed amongst the highland areas of the Nigeria-Cameroon border. While this region is known for unusually high levels of biodiversity and endemism, pressure on forests and wildlife in this area is intense.

Illegal hunting for bushmeat along with habitat loss threaten the future of the Cross River gorilla. Because gorillas are long-lived and give birth only once every 4-5 years they are particularly susceptible to even low levels of hunting. Deforestation has increased the pressure on these animals and their habitat due to logging and extensive agriculture which divide the forest into isolated blocks. Until recently, many of the gorilla subpopulations were located outside of protected areas.

The Wildlife Conservation Society, which has studied Cross River gorillas since 1999, will begin new field surveys in January 2008 in an attempt to catalogue all potential gorilla habitat. The surveys are being funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Earlier this year, the Wildlife Conservation Society released an action plan to safeguard Cross River gorillas that included creating additional protected areas and raising awareness of this little known great ape. The observations of weapon-use took place in the proposed Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary in Cameroon - one of the new protected areas recommended in the report.



In 2005 the Wildlife Conservation Society documented the first case of tool use among gorillas when researchers discovered individuals using sticks to check the depth of streams before crossing them.

Wildlife Conservation Society

IS THIS YOU?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content,
Your name is on list.

Do you attend your meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock.

Do you take an active part
And help the work along
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs

Do you push the cause along
And make things really tick
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the "clique"

Think it over members,
You know the right from wrong,
Are you an '**active member**',
Or do you '**Just belong**'.

AUTHOR: Unknown
SOURCE: Possum Tales, March
2000

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Frogs



2008 is

"Year of the Frog"

During 2008, Amphibian Ark (AArk) is leading zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums in a globally coordinated public awareness campaign "The Year of the Frog." The main goal of this campaign is to generate public awareness and understanding of the amphibian extinction crisis which represents the greatest species conservation challenge in the history of humanity.

The money raised from this global campaign will help fund initiatives such as training courses, technical guidance, taxon survival efforts, fostering partnerships, capacity building, and communication activities. All these activities will ensure sustainability of the survival assurance populations of amphibians by creating a cash fund for this conservation work that will extend for beyond 2008.

Each institution that is a member of World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) or any of the regional associations of zoos and aquariums is invited to participate in the campaign by organizing zoo activities and amphibian displays, and/or using websites, zoo graphics, education materials, and media releases.

See Amphibian Ark (www.amphibianark.org/yearofthefrog.htm) for more information. Several WAZA Association Members have also set up Year of the Frog section websites as well as the Wildlife Conservation Society (http://www.wcs.org/yearofthefrog/wcs_yearofthefrog).

Harlequin frog rediscovered in remote region of Colombia

With such flashy looks, this aptly named harlequin frog seems like it would be easy to spot. But scientists hadn't seen one of its kind for 14 years, until it was "rediscovered" [in February] in the mountain forests of Columbia.

The rare find, technically known as a Carrikeri harlequin frog, is some welcome good news for South America's amphibian species, which have been disappearing at an alarming rate, experts say.

"The rediscovery of [the Carrikeri] is great news, but we have spent hours trying to find other frogs, and all our efforts have been unfruitful," he said. The greatest threat to frogs is disease, Rueda explained, namely an infectious fungus that has decimated amphibian populations worldwide. "The [disease] is a real threat to biodiversity throughout the world," Ruena said.



(Copyright: National Geographic)

The rediscovery of the Carrikeri harlequin—high in Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountain range—may mark the last stand for this genus of frog against the advancing epidemic, he added.

are the most affected [by the disease] are those that live at 1,000 meters [3,280 feet] or higher in elevation," he explained. "We found this population at 4,000 meters [13,100 feet], which can have great importance, because it could be one of the last species of this type in the highlands of Colombia.

"We consider the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta one of the sanctuaries for [this genus of frog] where there possibly is no [disease]," he added.

National Geographic News

Terrific Toadlets

The Wyoming toad (*Bufo baxteri*) is one of the most endangered amphibians in the United States. Although once abundant in the wetlands and irrigated meadows of Wyoming's southeastern plains, the Wyoming toad was listed as extinct in the wild in 1994, meaning populations were no longer producing offspring that survived to adulthood in the wild.

Staff at the Detroit Zoo raised 40 juvenile Wyoming toadlets as part of a zoo breeding partnership, led by Central Park Zoo and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, and have successfully released more than 6,000 tadpoles, toadlets and toads in Wyoming since 1995. Recent good news indicates that the recovery efforts may be paying off: during the summer of 2007, conservationists discovered the first clutch of Wyoming toad eggs found in the wild in ten years.

This program is number one on the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) list of top 10 wildlife conservation success stories of 2007.

Detroit Zoo

"The species of amphibians that

RESCUE STORIES



Suzy's Story

We hear so many amazing stories about animals and their amazing ability to survive the most horrendous things, Suzy's story is one of those.

We became involved in her life when late one Saturday night we received a call about a tiny koala that had fallen from a tree at a soccer field. She had been picked up by a person at the field that day and then carried around and passed from person to person for another eight hours till help was sought; the temperature that day had been 40°C.

Finally, eleven hours after she was first picked up, she was bought to the hospital. She was a tiny 640gm, very quiet and dehydrated. She was given a thorough examination, fluids and allowed to sleep...no obvious injuries were found.

The rescuers thought they had seen her mum in the tree that she had fallen from so they returned to catch her and hopefully reunite mum and baby. The next morning "mum" and Suzy were reunited. Mum, "Melissa", was indifferent whilst Suzy climbed on her back and settled down to sleep. Everybody was happy.

After my return from a few days off, I was briefed on all the patients and I paid little attention to Melissa and Suzy as they were buried in leaf and I was assured all was well.

Late the same day as the leaf was being changed in the enclosures, I got my first full look at them, "That's not her joey", I informed the nurse. "But she's a lactating female and was

the only one in the tree", was the reply. A short while later Melissa and Suzy were brought out of their enclosure for a closer look and yes, she was a lactating mother. She did not, however, belong to Suzy. Melissa had lost her joey whilst it had been quite small; her pouch was tiny but she had a good milk supply indicating the loss had been quite recent.

I weighed Suzy and she had lost 23gms, a good indication she was not feeding. Koalas will often foster other joeys and with a bit of persuasion I was sure Melissa would foster Suzy. We put Melissa under anaesthetic and I opened her pouch and expressed some milk from a very enlarged mammary gland. I gently held Suzy's head near the teat and after a couple of seconds of nuzzling she found the teat and commenced to suck for nearly half an hour; she was a very hungry joey.

We placed them back in the enclosure and agreed we would weigh Suzy at the same time each day so we could be assured that she was feeding and if not, we could intervene. The following day Suzy had gained 3gms, it was looking good! The following day however disaster struck...Suzy was very dehydrated with a poor heart rate and pulse, she had lost another 20gms.

More x-rays, bloods and tests were carried out. She was fighting a raging infection and the decision was made to remove her from Melissa, a few seconds later Suzy's heart and breathing stopped.

I immediately started mouth to nose, giving her a breath every ten seconds. Adrenaline and fluids were administered and within a few moments her life was restored. There was a big sigh of relief around the table. She was placed on antibiotics and pain relief and was soon stable and sleeping comfortably. I fed her every four hours and by the next morning she weighed 729gms. Now, five days after the traumatic incident, she weighs 820gms and has started

playing and eating leaf. Suzy is well on the way to recovery.

As for Melissa, all is not lost. On the same day Suzy was fighting for her life, we received a female koala that was dead on arrival, her pouch contained a tiny 48gm infant koala. Melissa was anaesthetised and I again expressed some milk and placed the joey's mouth in the puddle of milk, within seconds the tiny girl had latched onto Melissa's teat and was sucking hungrily. I gently placed the joey into Melissa's pouch. The next day they were placed out in Melissa's enclosure however, when Melissa climbed the tree the joey fell out of her pouch!!



Back to the drawing board. Melissa was placed under anaesthetic and again the joey was held near the teat until she had latched on and was sucking strongly. This time however, we placed a suture in the pouch to hold it closed. Over the next couple of days they were monitored closely and all appeared to be going well. On each pouch check the joey was pink and healthy and still attached to the teat.

Day five and I went out to do the early morning rounds, on the floor of Melissa's enclosure was the tiny joey, still alive and warm. I quickly scooped it up and placed it in my bra to keep it warm. I had a close look at Melissa and she had groomed the stitch out. Down she came again, the joey was again attached to the teat and this time we used a few more sutures. It's now all looking good.....keep your fingers crossed.

Gail Gipp

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



“OPERATION MAGPIE”

My First Rescue

We attended the orientation day which was presented by Kim Alexander (who did an excellent job), and duly noted all that we were told about equipment needed, catching the animals and all the other relevant bits and pieces. We left thinking surely there is no way you would need all that stuff. How wrong we were!

On Friday afternoon I received a call from Heather. She had taken a call from a woman only a couple of streets away from me about a magpie in her front yard with an injured wing. Being my first rescue I thought, “magpie, yes I will have a go at that one”.

We went to the house armed with a cage and what was essentially a net suitable for catching goldfish. On getting there, we discovered that the magpie was actually living across the road in a bottlebrush tree that was about 6 metres tall. The woman had been feeding him mince to entice him across the road. It was getting dark and apart from the injured wing the bird was in fine health and safe at the top of the tree. We decided that we would go back at 7.30 in the morning, the usual feeding time, and have another go. We figured that once in the woman’s front yard we would shut the gate and keep it in.

We arrived at 7.30 Saturday morn-

ing armed with a bigger net but there was a slight drizzle and Mr. Magpie decided that he wasn’t coming down for a feed, so I gave the people my phone number and suggested they call when he did decide to come down.

Fifteen minutes later I got the call and headed back (three minutes away), but by the time we got there the magpie had decided to climb a tree to escape their yard and head back to the bottlebrush tree across the road.

I returned home thinking “can’t let this +#@^&* magpie outsmart me” so I got my big fish landing net and taped it the longest extension pole I had and returned. With the net attached, I had a reach of probably 6 metres and as it turned out I was still about a metre short.

By this time we had started to draw a crowd and the pressure was on. Not only did I have the magpie laughing at me but he had support from the onlookers. Again I thought “can’t let that +#@^&* magpie outsmart me”, so I decided that I would climb the tree and by hell or high water I would catch this thing.

So there I am half way up a tree wearing my thongs and the higher I went the higher the magpie climbed. I nearly had the net over him when he decided that he was getting down and gently glided back across the road.

Now I’m stuck up a tree wearing thongs with onlookers shouting, “hurry up, hurry up, he is on the ground”, (like I didn’t know). I tried in vain to get down as quickly as I could but the net kept getting caught so it took me a little time. Meanwhile the onlookers, all trying to do the right thing with towels at the ready, had chased the magpie across 3 yards. I eventually got him cornered in long grass in

someone’s yard well down the street and managed to safely catch him and get him to the vet.

The moral of the story – always be prepared.

For those of you reading this who do this all the time, you will probably see it as the usual story but being my first time, IT WAS GREAT!

Mick and Christel

RESCUE OF THE WEEK

Greer gets a call for a flying fox at Broadbeach. The hour is around 2.30AM. The biggest, hairiest, roughest and scariest kind of bloke is there to greet her. Turned out he was the biggest ‘softie’ who not only kept a watch on the bat until she arrived but went into the local Night Owl store and bought a banana to feed the bat while he waited. Nice one Greer!!! He could be joining us anyday!!

DONATIONS & RESCUES

Any donations you may receive on a rescue are very much appreciated – so TAKE THEM!!!! (and forward onto Trish in the office). We recently received a \$100 donation from the Grande Golf Course at Gilston where Trish Wimberley and Jai were called out to attend to a large roo (around 80kgs!!).

Management were very impressed and have also created a large environmentally friendly area for koalas. Good to see there are people out there doing the right thing! We need to acknowledge this kind of activity more so please send us your stories.

Liz Meffan

PJ's Wildcare for KIDS



Hi Everyone!

Have to tell you about our night at the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre to celebrate the International Day of the Frog. Some people came in costume (as some sort of frog, of course), or wore homemade frog masks. There were live frogs there, too and lots of frog-friendly plants were given away, we were lucky enough to get one, mum says it's Swamp Banksia.

You can't imagine how many different kinds of frogs there are in Queensland! There are about 120 different kinds of frog species. But that is the same number of amphibian species that already have disappeared from our planet in recent years!

Actually, zoos, aquariums, animal sanctuaries and conservation groups all over the world have decided that 2008 is the Year of the Frog. The reason they did this was to let everyone know that frogs are in trouble. In our lifetime, huge numbers could become extinct and disappear like the dinosaurs!

While we humans cause problems like climate change, pollution, and destroying the places where frogs live, the biggest problem for frogs is a disease caused by a fungus. This deadly disease, which keeps frogs from breathing and drinking through their skin, has spread across the whole world.

The plan is to try to find a cure or treatment for this fungus and to also tell people about how to help frogs. For those frogs that cannot survive in the wild, the plan is to rescue them before they are all gone and protect them in zoos (for safekeeping) until we can make better places for them to live again in the wild.

Frogs are important! Aside from being fun and beautiful to listen to and watch, they eat insects that spread diseases to people and to crops, and their skin contains materials that could cure many other human diseases.

How can we help save them?

Easy! Create a frog-friendly garden! Learn more about frog-friendly gardens from the Queensland Museum (www.qm.qld.gov.au/features/frogs/attracting.asp) or the Queensland Frog Society (www.qldfrogs.asn.au).

Til next time, PJ



"TIDDALIK" the BIGGEST frog

When I was about 3 years old (about 5 years ago), my mum read me an Aboriginal Dreaming Story about a gigantic frog named Tiddalik. He was a really thoughtless, greedy bloke who caused a drought when he became really thirsty and drank the water from all the lakes, billabongs, and rivers in the world. And, he kept it all inside his body and refused to let any of it go.

As you can imagine, all the animals were angry. There was no sign of rain, and the trees, plants and some animals began to die, but Tiddalik would not give up any of the water. All the animals got together to try to think of a way to get Tiddalik to open his mouth. Finally one of the animals, I think it was Owl but it could have been Wombat, suggested we try to make him laugh. Then he would have to open his mouth and the water would come out.

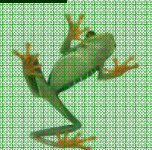
So they went to where he was resting...actually he was so big he couldn't move! Kookaburra told jokes, Wombat and Kangaroo played leapfrog, and Frill Neck Lizard stuck his frill out and in and out, but Tiddalik was really grumpy and it was hard to make him laugh; he just sat there looking bored.

Then Eel slithered over, tied himself in a knot, then made himself into a hoop and did a heap of other tricks. As he watched Eel, Tiddalik grinned. Then he started to laugh. He laughed so hard he had to hold his sides. His mouth opened wide and the water gushed out like a river, and spread all over the world.

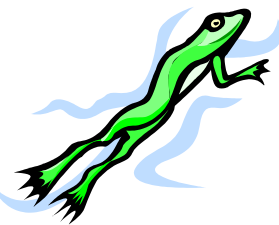
The story of Tiddalik is well-known throughout Australia and many other countries. There is even a statue of him in the town of Warwick.

5 frogs you are likely to find in our area:

Graceful Tree Frog
Green Tree Frog
Eastern Sedge Frog
Striped Marsh Frog
Emerald-spotted Tree Frog



Jumping Frog



You Will Need: a 75mm X 125mm piece of stiff paper (or file card material) and a felt tip pen to decorate your frog with eyes and black markings when finished. You can use coloured paper; the common frog varies in colour from grey to olive green and yellow to various shades of brown. They can also lighten and darken their skin to match their environment.

Note: Dotted lines indicate creased lines or folds.

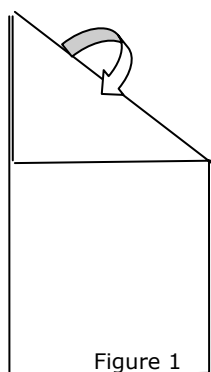


Figure 1

Fold top right-hand corner down to opposite side to create a creased line. Unfold, and do the same with the left-hand corner.

Unfold to show Figure 3.

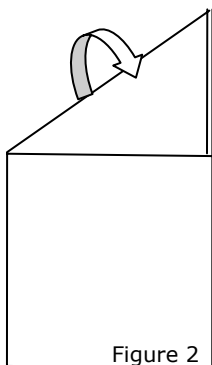


Figure 2

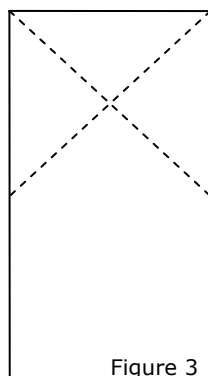


Figure 3

Fold top edge down to bottom of creased corners as in Figure 4. Then unfold to show Figure 5.

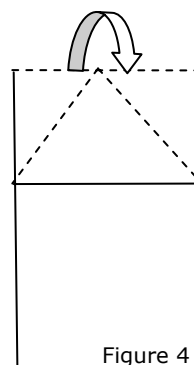


Figure 4

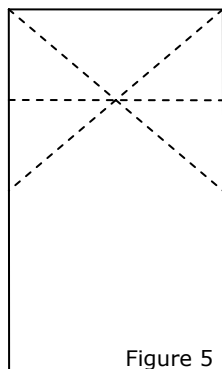


Figure 5

This is a bit tricky!

Put the paper flat on the table. Pull the edges together and upward towards the centre of the fold till they touch (see arrows in Figure 6).

A triangle will form above your fingers. Press the triangle flat as in Figure 7.

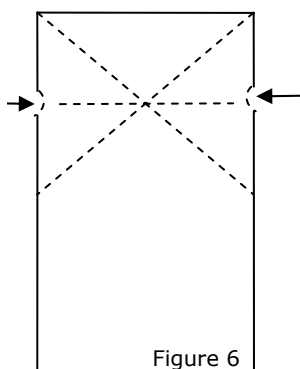


Figure 6

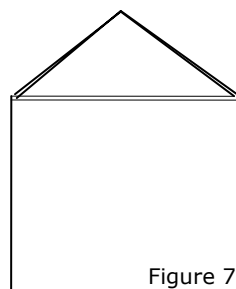


Figure 7

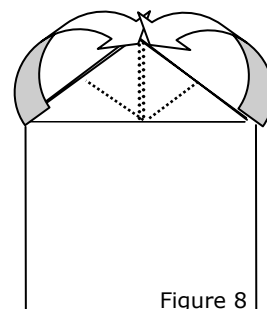


Figure 8

Move the corner of the left flap up to touch the point at the top. Crease the fold with your fingernail. Do the same with the right flap. They will be the front legs.

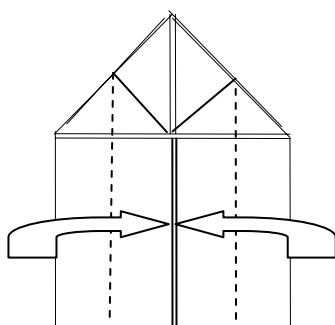


Figure 9

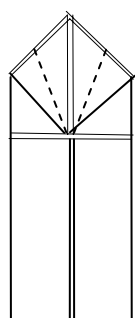


Figure 10

Fold sides to meet in the centre as shown in Figure 9. Crease folds with fingernail. Fold top flaps (the front legs) in half - downward & outward as shown in Figure 10. Note legs out to the side in Figure 11.

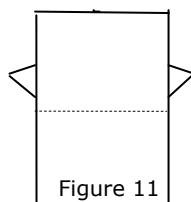
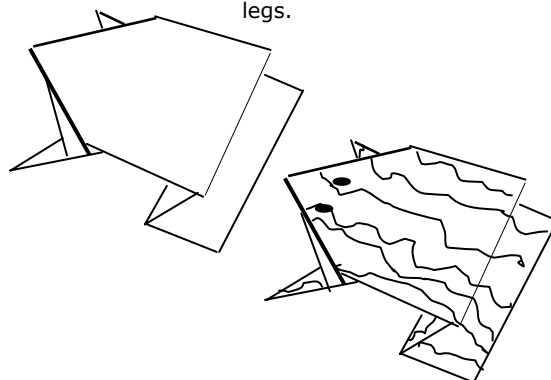


Figure 11

Fold bottom edge up to point at top (tip of frog's nose). Crease with fingernail.

Fold backward in half. Crease.



To make frog jump, push down on back edges until finger slips off.

How is your identification of our
wildlife coming on?

Check your score in the next issue.

Photo Gallery

1



Have a bit of an itch!

2



3



4



5



6



8



7



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Wildcare Australia welcomes the following new members:

Sonya Scott, *Albany Creek*; Natalie Fraser, *Bardon*; Leanne Nelson, *Bardon*; Ivan Southan, *Beenleigh*; Rebecca Ryan, *Brookfield*; Irena & Ronald Zanelli, *Burleigh Waters*; Christopher Jeffery, *Capalaba*; Peter & Tania Bishop, *Cashmere*; Christina Lovell, *Chevron Island*; Aleysha Campbell-Hogg, *Clagiraba*; Kerry Schilling, *Coombabah*; Charlie & Suzanne McDermott, *Coomera*; Jody Swader, *Eagleby*; Tere Scullin, *Highland Park*; Nicholas Heard, *Highland Park*; Janelle Smith, *Landsborough*; Natalie-May Sheppard, *Maleny*; Shelley & Brett Besford, *Maleny*; Dawn Smith, *Manly*; Kathryn Guidotti, *Mermaid Waters*; Nana Satake, *Moggill*; Wendy Nash, *Molendinar*; John Davies, *Moodlu*; Lee Pirini, *Morayfield*; Janine Barr, *Mudgeeraba*; Carla & Jan Harp, *Nerang*; Sally Murray, *Ocean View*; Brendan Riggs, *Oxenford*; Janine Gallagher, *Palm Beach*; Kelly Dixon, *Palm Beach*; Anne Romanus, *Palm Beach*; Ann Hunziker, *Rathdowney*; Leah and Paul Hobbs, *Robina*; George Tanner, *Rocklea*; Bill Brown, *Runaway Bay*; Emily Anderson, *Springbrook*; Felicity Lawler, *Springbrook*; Geoffrey "Andrew" Grant, *Tamborine*; Sharyn & John Vamvakaris, *Tarragindi*; Eddie Duffell, *Tingalpa*; Lyndel Held, *Tingalpa*; Geoff de Smidt, *Upper Coomera*; Julie Wilson, *Warana*; Gabrielle Bryden, *Woodgate*.

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