

A close-up photograph of a koala sleeping peacefully on a tree branch. The koala's eyes are closed, and its large, dark nose is prominent. Its fur is a mix of grey and brown, and its claws are visible as it grips the bark. The background is a soft-focus view of a blue sky and green foliage.

Wild News

ISSUE 70 - AUTUMN 2014

New Spotting
Greater Gliders

Hi from Wildcare
Straddie

Discover...

All Upcoming Events

 Compassionate Kids Section



President's Report



By Karen Scott

I hope most of our carer members are enjoying a little bit of down time at the moment as we get fewer animals into care. Unfortunately the 'fewer' animals still end up being quite a few, as many of our local species enjoy breeding all year round.

Sadly the past few weeks have seen a number of cruelty cases being reported to Wildcare and networking groups, which has been devastating for those volunteers involved in their attempted rescue.

Wildcare was recently involved in a very sad incident, where a young kangaroo was shot through her back with an arrow. Although her story was very distressing, the public outcry and support for that little kangaroo was extraordinary. Many residents, along with a number of Wildcare volunteers, walked through the Coombabah Reserve each day (in the rain and mud) looking for her. It was the diligence of those looking, who found her again, so she was able to receive veterinary attention.

Although her outcome was sad, it was uplifting to know that most people are kind-hearted and care about our local wildlife. I felt very honoured to work alongside an amazing group of members and residents, who felt deeply for the little roo's plight.

I hope to see many of you at the Wildcare Annual General Meeting which is fast approaching. It will be held on Saturday, 28th June. Please note the date in your diary. The AGM this year will be held at Nerang and further details will be posted to everyone in the coming weeks.

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OUR MISSION

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

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Submissions can be sent to
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cover photo: D. Bianchetto



A Warm Welcome to our New Members

Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members in January, February & March

Storm Mackenzie; Charlane & Glenn Hodge; Ellyn Turner; Jen Buskey; Bonnie Abbott , Angus Mclaughlan & Caden; Penny Chenoweth; Craig, Leigh, Dylan & Ryan Abbott; Shelly Trevaskis & Chris Hutton; Melinda Brennan; Kara Styman; Christine Talbot; Charlotte Clark; Amanda Joy Miller; Jessica Feakes; Ada Wong& Chris Fu; Marissa Kirby; Noela Tillema; Angela Jeppesen; Robin Wright; Leisa Cashel; Zoe Hallam; Angela Bell; Terri Taylor & Family; Christina Perlenheim; Annabel Elliott & Kristin Elliott; Mari-Lize Meyer; Emmie Elliott; Stewart Mackay; Hayley Dwyer; Jan Pilgrim; Pauline Liew & Michael Black; Helen Quirk; Laura McCallion; Jenna Aubrey & Rhys Davies; Alannah Gill; Ruth Hamdorf; Amanda Lawson; Mike Shaw; Leanne Grills; Alison Vizard & Judy Connelly; Anthea, Michael & James Leggett; Gabriell Urquhart; Emma & Veronica Pattison; Regina Kidd; Melissa & Ian Parsons; Shea Hine; Catherine Russo & Sarah Furlonger; Jeremy Rohde; David Burns; Kara Reading; Alana Bulgarelli; Taneela Perry; Jim & Kathy Campbell; Jessica Gould; Mary Zweers; Stephane Paula; Richard Thew; Daniel Colborne; Laura Blechner; Rosalind Edwards; Katelyn Gibson; Jill Zimmermann; Rhonda Gilbert; Tania & Azria Park; Jennifer Lang; Cristina Romero & Chris Morris; Fumie Tokonami; Kiri Greenhill & Natasha Jackson; Kylie Tsangaris; Kaylee Willloughby; David Zammit; Michele, Dean, Molly & Lucy Morgan; Sandra Frost; Lisa Ruane; Louise Mander; Sophie & Sandra Matterson; Letita Sabburg; Casey Greenhalgh; John van Osta; Daniele Rossetto.

By joining Wildcare Australia you are demonstrating your commitment to the welfare of Australia's native animals. Please don't hesitate to get involved in this, your organization. if you are unsure of where your personal niche may be, contact us and I'm sure we will be able to help you. We hope you have a long and happy association with Wildcare Australia.

Thank you to all those members who have renewed their Wildcare membership subscription for another year. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

NEXT ISSUES SUBMISSIONS DATES

Winter - Issue 71: 25th June

Spring - Issue 72: 25th September

Summer - Issue 73: 20th December

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

Telephone Hotline

By Karen Scott

Thankfully the last month or two has seen a much-welcome reduction in the number of incoming calls to the Wildcare hotline.

Thank you to those members who took the time to attend our hotline training courses in January and March. We have welcomed eight new members to our little team of dedicated volunteers and they have settled right in. We now have a total of 27 members who volunteer on the hotline however that is still a very low number considering that we have 800 members in total. Having said that, the quality of those volunteers is exceptional.

We are happy to provide training on a one-on-one basis for anyone who missed out on attending the training. Support is always available to you for those curly questions that seem to come along now and then. We have a wonderful network of volunteers who are a joy to work with along with a new closed Facebook page for the hotline volunteers to share amusing hotline stories and share their experiences.

A special thank you to Tammy Allison who has recently taken on the role of Hotline Coordinator. As a seasoned hotline volunteer, she settled in quickly to her new role and like her predecessor Christine, is a tremendous support to her team. Many thanks Tammy!

Education Report

By Karen Scott

Our training workshops thus far for 2014 have received a great attendance with some workshops again reaching capacity.

A reminder, please make sure that you book early to avoid missing out. Also be mindful that if your circumstances change and you find that you cannot attend a scheduled workshop, please let us know as soon as possible, so that your place can be offered to someone else. This is simply a matter of courtesy to your fellow members.

A special thank you to Phoenix Fire Solutions for sponsoring the workshop with Gisela Kaplan. Gisela is a very entertaining presenter who shared with us some of her incredible knowledge of our native birds, focusing especially on magpies and tawny frogmouths. We hope to have Gisela back in the future to present again.

And finally we will now be offering members the opportunity to get some training manuals printed in full colour at a great price. Thanks to the City of Gold Coast Community Grant, we have been able to purchase a colour photocopier which is much more economical and will allow colour printing at a reduced cost, compared with printing outlets.

Just a reminder of other links:

Education Calendar for 2014 - **Education Calendar**

Uniform/Merchandise Order Form - **Merchandise Order Form**

Last Wildcare Newsletter - **WildNews Summer 2014**

Code of Practice for volunteer wildlife carers - **Code of Practice**

Coming Soon...

Junior Members Activity Day - 11th May 2014

Please note the special Junior Activity Day that we have planned for the 11th May 2014 with Geckoes Wildlife Presentations. This event is open to the children of Wildcare members and is being offered as a special thank you to our 'junior' members for supporting our 'senior' members in undertaking their role as wildlife rescuers and carers.

Wildcare Annual General Meeting - 28th June 2014

The AGM will be held on Saturday 28th June at Nerang (Gold Coast).

This year we will have a guest speaker workshop in the morning followed by some lunch-time refreshments. The AGM will commence after lunch. Final arrangements and details will be posted to all members in the coming weeks.

Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

Hobart - 27th - 30th May 2014

The theme of this year's conference is New Directions: Accommodating Change

The conference is to be held at **The Hotel Grand Chancellor** in the heart of Hobart.

The Australia-wide wildlife rehabilitation sector consists of thousands of individuals and groups, is unfunded and relies on sporadic grants, donations from rescuers and grass roots funding. The last 8 conferences have increased our knowledge base and fostered networking that is part of a significant growing worldwide movement.

The conference is now being organised by a team of skilled and motivated rehabilitators from across Tasmania. The conference program includes some of the most notable and respected researchers, veterinarians, scientists and wildlife practitioners in Australia. The Program is now available on the Hobart website

www.awrchobart2014.org



Reptecon

Once again Pet City at Mount Gravatt is holding their popular Reptecon Reptile Education Convention. It will be held on **Saturday 21 June from 9.00am to 4.30pm**. The event will be held at the Mansfield Tavern, 181 Wecker Road, Mansfield.

This event gives you a chance to hear from six of the most experienced scientists and breeders in the herpetological industry. All day tea/coffee and lunch is provided as part of your entry fee. There are also lucky door prizes and free goody bags.

All profits from the day are donated to Wildcare. Spaces are limited so don't delay!

For more information about Reptecon please **[click here](#)**.



Pouches for Wildlife

By Karen Scott

We recently put out a call to the general community via ABC Radio and Facebook for pouches for our orphaned joeys as we come into winter.

A special thank you to Mrs Anderson of Tallebudgera and Roz Young of Surfers Paradise who made some beautiful cotton pouches for our orphaned possums and gliders.

Our sincere appreciation to Christine and Dot from Island Quilters Bribie Island and the team at Boomerang Bags who made dozens of pouches for our orphaned wallabies and possums.

Please take the time to check out the amazing work that Boomerang Bags are doing in the community – www.boomerangbags.org

Thank you for your wonderful support.

Next edition, I am sure we will be featuring photos of some joeys in their new bags!

Draft City Plan 2015

The Draft City Plan 2015 is the proposed new planning scheme for the Gold Coast, which will be coming up for public consultation soon.

“The City is required to review the City Plan every 10 years. The plan helps us to continuously manage growth and change, setting our direction and reflecting community aspirations.

The plan identifies areas for building more homes, is a catalyst for new jobs, provides for good transport connections and protects the environment from urban sprawl.”

The significance of this is, that with the expected increase in population of about 200,000 in the next 10 years and the consequent need for housing and infrastructure, our local flora and fauna with the ecosystems that support them will be under further pressure. Please give careful consideration to the proposal and put in a submission addressing your concerns during the consultation period.

It is anticipated that the draft City Plan 2015 will be available for public consultation from **May to July**

Daisy Hill Koala Family Fun Day

By Brigitte Blakeway

Wildcare joined in the Daisy Hill Koala Family Fun Day on 19 January 2014.

The event attracted 800 visitors and was a great opportunity to get Wildcare's hotline number out to the public. A lot of people mentioned that they didn't know whom to call for injured wildlife and so, not only did we hand out the Wildcare stickers but we also encouraged people to join and help our small group of dedicated and hardworking phone operators.

It was a great day and hopefully the excited visitors, who joined in the fun, went home with a little more understanding of the dedicated work the Wildcare "family" undertakes.

We had a little stand and raised just over \$100. Thank you to Kota , (Annette's bearded dragon) who did a beautiful job of drawing people in and he helped Annette and Tegan as they did talks in the auditorium.

Thank you to all those who helped on the day and to the many Wildcare members who offered to help, or came by to visit. It was greatly appreciated and I do appreciate the over whelming response to the call for help.

If you have never visited the Daisy Hill Koala Centre, I encourage everyone to do so. There are informative wall displays and murals and it is a lovely way to get close to the resident koala. Then you can go for a walk and pick a spot for a picnic. Best of all it's free for the family.

Hi from Wildcare Straddie

By Greg Grimmett

Wildcare now has eighteen new members on North Stradbroke Island, with another member pending.

I'm sure you know Straddie: "Perfect one day, burnt and blackened the next".

The bushfires on the Island have burnt something like 17,500 hectares (think a small European country) leaving only 10,500 hectares.

While at least one known koala colony was lost, some of the remaining bushland is densely populated with wildlife. Wildlife, like people, need water and tucker, preferably with a sea breeze thrown in. The areas left have all three.

We cannot thank people enough for their offers of help during the bushfires. We've had offers from many Wildcare Australia members and from concerned people across Australia. We've even had an offer of support from Karl in Plymouth, England who was willing to spend one week of his two week holiday in Australia searching for injured wildlife.

Post bushfire, we have no idea how many animals were lost. Many animals were turned to ash by the intensity of the blaze and then blown away by the wind.

continued on next page

Hi from Wildcare Straddie

Continued

We have expended over \$10,000 of other people's money in Island surveys. To date Wildcare Straddie organised surveys have included:

An aerial survey conducted by the Channel 7 Chopper (thank you Channel 7) across burnt out areas especially over one koala colony that is now known to be gone;

- A boat based survey down the west coast of the Island part funded by Channel 7 and facilitated by Moreton Bay Research Station;
- A vehicle survey funded by Quandamooka Corporation (thank you QYAC) to travel down the east coast through native and national parklands;
- A single vehicle survey conducted by Michael Dickinson funded by Redland Council (thank you Redland Council) down the whole length of Main Beach and back through southern beachside camping areas. This survey found fox tracks.
- A two vehicle survey to all known water resources funded by Sibelco (thank you Sibelco). This eight hour survey found a number of oases of life near water reserves.

I honestly think it is time to put grieving behind us and use all of our resources to ensure the survival of the living.

What we can say for certain is that each and every animal is even more precious now than it was before.

Here on the Island we will be pressuring the Council to put the rhetoric "support for wildlife is paramount post the fires" into action. We are so glad that we now have the power of Wildcare behind us as we fight for better wildlife services.

Greg Grimmett

Unofficial spokesperson for Wildcare Straddie



Coordinator Reports

BIRDS - Gold Coast

By Simone Smith

We still have baby birds coming in! I don't believe we will get a break this year. Thank you to all our dedicated bird carers and coordinators who have helped so much these last twelve months. You have done an amazing job.

Due to development, on the Gold Coast in particular, we were inundated this last year.

The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital alone had 3703 birds admitted during the past year, 978 of which were Rainbow Lorikeets, and that's not even mentioning admissions to the RSPCA, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and other vet clinics.

We need more bird carers. Please chat with your friends, colleagues and family members. We only have sixteen active carers in Wildcare for Brisbane and the Gold Coast at present. Most of these carers work full time, so don't let that stop you! Even if you can care for as few as two birds at a time, that is a tremendous help.

Some Exciting News

On the 16th of March we saw our first ever documented Rainbow Lorikeet egg hatch. Our lovely reptile coordinator, Annette, took on the hard job of incubating the egg for us and it hatched.

Little Baba Ganoush weighed 2 grams on his birth date. This is very exciting for all of us, as the vital data of his growth will be used to help many more that come into care.

Since birth he has been in the trusted hands of Lorikeet carer Petra Derington who is very protective of him. His feeds started at 0.08mls and he was so tiny we had to use a small catheter tip!



Bubba Ganoush – the newly hatched lori

Be Aware

Snakes will soon be going into hibernation, so I would like to remind you to make sure all your cages are snake proof, as they may be looking for that last meal. If you are not sure how secure your cages are, or need some advice, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Also a note that if you keep wildlife in a room accessible by a roller door, snakes can get in through the small gaps above the roller door when closed. They can stretch and manoeuvre their way into many spots.

Bird Reunite Team

In the coming months we will be forming a Bird Reunite Team to be ready for the coming spring. We have so many baby birds come into care that, once they have been checked by an avian vet and given the all clear, can be reunited with their parents. If you are unable to care this may be perfect for you. Our carers just don't have the time. So anyone who may be interested in being part of this team please contact me. We will conduct a short course on the subject in the second half of the year, once I get a list of interested people. It is a very rewarding job and our favourite part!

Once again, thank you to all who have helped.

Coordinator Reports

REPTILES

by Annette Bird

Well, as usual, it's been a very busy couple of months primarily with rescues and rehabilitation. A few public education events were attended including the Daisy Hill Koala Sanctuary where an enthusiastic team spent the day answering the flood of enquiries at our stand.

Annette delivered two formal talks to the public about what we do with Tegan stepping up and speaking as well. Annette also recently attended a local kindergarten with a couple of bearded dragons and snakes and gave the children an up-close look at some of our reptiles. This went down well with the older children but the smaller ones were less than enthusiastic!

It has been crazy as usual on the rescue and rehabilitation front with one species, water dragons, taking up most of our time. The weird season continues with many more venomous snakes requiring rescue and some of these coming into care. The lace monitor calls also continued during the last few months and we have seen many more of these species than in previous years. My incubators are now getting a much earned rest with only gecko eggs and Rainbow Lorikeet eggs for now. Again, I had very good hatch rates this year with all now released, with the exception of a Brisbane River Turtle who hatched with a shell deformity. This little guy is under observation to assess whether the deformity is likely to give him any grief as he grows. A decision regarding his future will be made in a few months.

Update on the last Newsletter report:

Quade, the big male lace monitor with multiple skull fractures and fractured mandible, is slowly improving and has now been transferred to my new outdoor monitor enclosure. This enclosure was recently completed and will be dedicated to this species as they terrify the other reptiles in my other outdoor enclosures. Quade and his new neighbour Turbo (also with multiple skull fractures and fractured ribs) are both now enjoying their days outside but Turbo still comes in for a good night's rest. I also have a third large male lace monitor – Valentino, who again survived a 4 x 4 head strike and has a displaced skull fracture. He is still in critical condition and will be indoors for some time to come. For now, he is being tube fed as he has severe mobility and balance issues.



Quade enjoying some outdoor time on his ledge

Some of our new arrivals worth mentioning:

Another high-volume species in this season are the green tree snakes. Currently, I have two tiny 4-gram hatchlings and three sub-adults (all dog or cat attacks). I love this species and all will be ready for release once their sutures are out and they have finished their antibiotic courses.

Another resident worth mentioning is Farren, a sub-adult yellow-faced whipsnake, who was in a terrible state on rescue.

You can see the challenge for this rescue – a venomous snake trapped in two sections (only one visible in the photo). He was also trapped about three inches above his cloaca and this was worse than the one in the photo (which is bad enough) as it was a full body piercing with rusty wire. He was nearly cut in two at the heart level. He has terrible wounds and fractured ribs and is receiving antibiotics and analgesia via injection. Needless to say, he's not too impressed with me. Despite all this, he should be ready for release in a few weeks.



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Coordinator Reports

REPTILES

Continued

Probably the biggest news this month is not reptile-related. I managed to hatch a baby lorikeet – so exciting. Now I hatch a huge volume of reptiles and whilst every baby is an amazing experience, this is my first native bird hatching and you couldn't contain my excitement. A big thanks to Kelly and Simone who then had to calm me down and direct me on how to feed it - hadn't considered that had I? And a big thanks to Belinda who drove the little guy to Petra for me, as I was in hospital later that day and unable to drive. See the pictures of just before his/ her first feed.

Lastly I want to remind everyone not to forget to book for this year's **REPTICON REPTILE Conference**. They have a great line up of world-class speakers and it will be bigger than last year. You can book online via the **PET CITY MT GRAVATT website** and we will be manning our usual stall. Please book and enjoy a great meal with friends and listen to some great speakers.



POSSUMS - Creating a Safer Environment for our Wildlife

By Natalie Rasmussen

Many wildlife carers have precious domestic pets. We care about all animals, both domestic and wild, but as carer/ rescuers we need to get an important message out there, that people need to be responsible pet owners.

Unfortunately our wildlife has not evolved with dogs and cats and does not see them as predators. They run into dogs and cats all too often and the outcome for many is not good.

Most rescues of late have been due to dog and cat attacks. All attacks will cause the native animal severe stress. For some the physical trauma is mild, for others it is very severe, for example puncture wounds, ruptured major organs, fractures and open wounds. Either way, it is essential for us as carers to get them to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Even if there are no obvious puncture wounds or other signs of trauma, the presence of saliva on the fur will implicate a

dog or cat. The bacteria in the mouth of a cat or dog can be deadly to a possum/glider, so antibiotics need to be administered urgently. Survival may depend on it.

I also believe we can't be dog and cat haters. These animals are doing what is natural to them. They are very proud when they bring the catch to their owners! The most important thing for us to do is to spread the message of responsible pet ownership, which means keeping cats in the house, or in a suitably sized outdoor cat run with access to the house and dogs contained in their yard and to a smaller area, such as a garage or balcony, at night, so that wildlife entering the yard to feed or pass through are safe.

If we can spread this message, we will live in a happier world and love our cats and dogs, while creating a safer environment for our wildlife.

The perils of pampering pademelons

By Penelope Hacker

Many years ago I fell in love with wallies, but since I moved to where I can release pademelons, I have become besotted with them.

They would have to be the cutest joeys you could meet. The name is well known but they are often misidentified. I have excitedly gone to collect a new “paddy” to find a Black-striped wallaby, a Rufous bettong and a Swamp wallaby. The main key to ID is their rainforest habitat where their small size is an advantage.

But beware; they are a challenge to raise. They have given me much cause for panic. Wallabies are hard to get out of their pouches – paddies often don’t want to stay in. They bond with you very easily, following you about, often keeping a hand on your foot when you are still, so you can’t sneak away. When you move they seem to be under each foot as you try to walk. They don’t believe in sleeping alone and love to climb in with any furry body nearby (the wallies don’t seem to mind a small “teddy bear” to cuddle). What they lack in stature, they make up for in personality, looking for adventure and places to explore. When they are quite small, their round little bodies about the size of a grapefruit, they want to graze. They need a shrubby garden as they like to sit under bushes for cover. While on paddy patrol, you can turn away for a second, and they are gone. They can squeeze through the smallest places, then when they hear you looking for them, stand completely still, so you are looking for a small, brown, furry rock. Only when they stand up, showing their white bellies, do you see them. They are very fast, racing off, their tails cork-screwing like a propeller. While they rarely have the diarrhoea that tends to afflict the wallies, they can get some mysterious, sudden illnesses. When they see a python, they tend to stand about a foot from its nose, stamping their legs as a warning. If the python strikes, they levitate like lightening, but sometimes they are not quite quick enough, so they need watching, and a safe run, particularly at night.

Let me tell you about Reilly, currently in care, with a smaller “sister”, Muffin...

He had broken front and rear right legs but tolerated the several hospital trips very well, so he now races about like a mad thing. A couple of days ago, I was watching the pair of them, when Reilly wandered away a little distance. Suddenly there was no more rustling noise and I couldn’t see him. There was a hole under the fence, chain wire with chook wire in front, that a bandicoot must have made, and he was the other side, looking very pleased with himself. I had to race round via the gate. Reilly was at the back in

the neighbour’s, behind a jungle which included stinging nettles. He refused to come to all my clucking noises, so in I went. He took off, then disappeared, standing stock still. It was getting dark... Luckily, I saw him at last and grabbed him...

A couple of evenings later his behaviour was very odd. He was standing still, looking spaced out. Oh, no, not myopathy... By 7pm, I wasn’t happy so I took him in to the RSPCA at Wacol, where he was admitted and put in a Vitario ICU, on an IV line.

Next morning, I rang to see how he was. Reilly was fine – come and take him home! Apparently he felt much better during the night, was bored, so had opened the Vitario and jumped from the bench onto the floor, trailing the IV line behind him. He then wrapped it round the leg of a chair, and was looking for more mischief...

The treatment record form stated that the condition being treated was “Naughtiness”!! Meanwhile we wait for lab reports to see what the mystery illness was.



Muffin and Reilly

Postscript

Sadly, Reilly had two more seizures, and died on the way to hospital during the third. Dr Tania did a necropsy and found a blood clot on his head. Again we are waiting for lab results. RIP, little bloke...

Observations of an Amateur Naturalist

By Eleanor Hanger

We seem to have had a large number of aggressive or predatory birds around lately, which may explain the absence of the smaller forest birds.

Kookaburra numbers have exploded as one of the neighbours has been feeding them for some time. Another neighbour had thirteen sitting on her pergola waiting for the dog's food to be put out. Dog has to wait until after dark for dinner now, or she is harassed by our badly-behaved feathered friends.

Currawongs have been calling and nothing much escapes their eagle eye. Crows have returned to the mountain and the resident magpies and butcher birds notify us of their presence with their operatic voices.

The dawn chorus of lorikeets over the past few months alerts me to the fact that my *Eucalyptus* spp. have been flowering well - they are so tall that the flowers are not easily seen. At night the lorikeets give way to the flying foxes, whose squabbles I am always delighted to hear, knowing that I am providing a good food source for them.

The Blue Quandong (*Elaeocarpus grandis*) is flowering much later than usual this year, so apart from a couple of Brown Thornbills searching for insects, things have been quiet in that tree. Once the flowers are producing nectar I'm sure things will change.

The fruits of the Native Mulberry (*Pipturus argenteus*) have just ripened and I noticed a Lewin's Honeyeater quietly feeding.

Three Brown Cuckoo Doves have been feasting on the fruit of the Bleeding Heart (*Homalanthus* sp.) and *Breynia oblongifolia* and a Striated Pardalote has been calling each day since the end of February. Perhaps there is more than one.

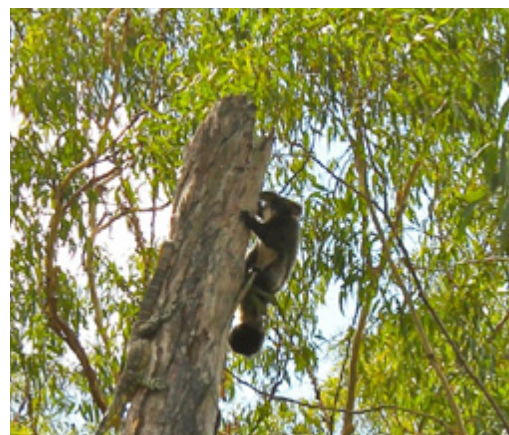
This past week has seen three animals, two rats and a bird, killed during the night by an unknown predator or predators. After identifying one of the bodies by its rear foot, as *Rattus rattus*, I was rather shocked to see a kookaburra devouring it, large and stiff as it was, about five minutes later. However once over my initial distaste at the sight, I was pleased that the remains provided a meal and were not wasted.



Greater Gliders in Upper Brookfield

By Lexie Scott

Lexie Scott reports that she and some other property owners in Upper Brookfield are excited to find they are sharing their living space not only with koalas, and pademelons but also with greater gliders. These are the largest of the gliding possums and belong in the same family (Pseudochiridae) as ringtail possums. They are solitary animals and feed almost exclusively on the foliage of Eucalyptus spp. They use between three and eighteen den sites, so protecting mature trees with hollows is critical to their survival in an area.



Bird Behaviour

By Ailsa Watson

I had an interesting conversation today with a canary breeder. He is well respected in the local organisation and he remarked on the number of breeders who have had trouble this year with their birds. The parents have been laying the eggs and then abandoning them. Some sat for a while and then lost interest. He also remarked on his local magpie pair, saying they have just had two babies leave the nest. He showed me a photo of them wandering around his back yard and they are definitely very young.

Is the weather confusing our native birds when it comes to nesting? My poor old peewees had three settings this year and, I hate to say it, they look as if they are rebuilding again. My local butcher birds also had three settings, but to date they haven't started breeding again.

I am a bit worried about the local kookaburras they have been taking the food offered on the feeding tray away and they usually only do that when they have young in the nest and food is scarce.

Has anyone else made similar observations, if so please let me know on birdlady3@bigpond.com

a voice for the
environment.

Gecko's mission:

To actively promote, conserve and restore the natural environment and improve the built environment of the Gold Coast region in partnership with our member groups and the wider community.

Become a member today.



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Compassionate

Kids



Our amphibious friends

By Jasmine, Lilly & Jack Rasmussen

Our amphibious friends:

Isn't it wonderful, hearing the melodic croaks during the night, but not often do we see the creator of this wonderful music. The frog is a beautiful, shy amphibian that's natural diet varies upon species, but most types eat small insects, which they catch with their long sticky tongue. Most camouflaged frogs are nocturnal, and find a hollow or small damp hole during the day before becoming active to feed and mate during the night. Their skin is always moist and smooth, and the toes of some species have evolved adhesive toe pads to provide a firm grip on smooth surfaces such as to ceilings or walls. Many frogs are becoming critically endangered, like the native Cape Melville tree frog, due to habitat loss, road trauma, domestic animal attacks and the introduction of the poisonous and fast breeding cane toad. All of these issues are unfortunately caused by humans. The Cape Melville tree frog only exists in a very small part of north Queensland, where it lives in tropical streams and rain forests. Their skin is camouflaged with rainforest leaf litter. Their endangerment is also due to the intentional killing by humans because some Cape Melville tree frogs have similar colourings to that of a toad.



It is really important to look after our environment, including our precious wetlands and waterways. A simple way to help out is to not litter and pick up rubbish, so that litter does not get caught up in our natural streams and rivers, suffocating and strangling our lovely native aquatic life.



CAPE MELVILLE TREE FROG

Nature and our children

By Brigitte

There has been talk again in the news of the disconnection between nature and our children in this the age of social media and technology. What does this mean for our wildlife and our environment – is it all doom and gloom or is there a balance?

With the age of social media and the advancement in technology, the word is, the good old art of tree climbing, making mud pies and going on adventures of discovery, then coming home with pockets laden with nature's bounty - odd looking sticks, unusual shaped stones, feathers, beautiful shaped leaves and shells are something the younger generation is missing out on. (I said 'art' of tree climbing, as once up a tree, I recall the 'art' was getting back down without a broken bone or ripped clothing – need I say anymore) and maybe there is truth in that. I don't see many tree climbers or mud pie makers anymore. What I have found though are wonderful junior members in Wildcare that do a brilliant job of spreading the word.

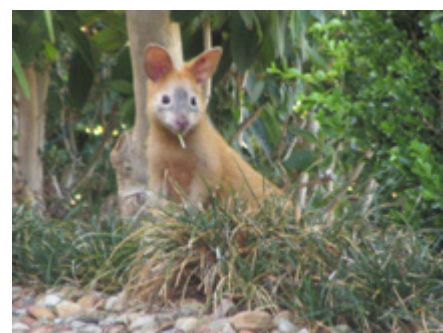
Their passion for nature is infectious and powerful in so many ways and they inspire those that listen - I have met a few and I was lucky enough to meet another inspiring junior member at Annette's reptile workshop on the Gold Coast in February and while talking to her, I had hope, I really believed, that maybe all isn't lost like they predict in the news.

Of course, they too use social media and technology and no doubt everyday, and while they may not be out and about making mud pies and convincing their younger siblings that they 'taste yummy' and should try it! (I never did this to my younger sister – I swear, crossing fingers behind back). They haven't 'disconnected' either because they are in the age of social media/technology. Instead these young people have drive and PASSION and utilize these resources. They believe in nature as passionately as I did at that age with all its wonder and interconnection with our lives. They are just immersed in it in a different way, from what we were twenty years ago.

They are inspired to make a difference and they use social media and technology to do it. It has opened up an easily accessible connection with what is happening around the world, be it a project on palm oil and the irreversible destruction of Orangutan habitat to put palm oil products on our supermarket shelves, or the campaign to make March plastic bag free, or to save koalas endangered on the coast, or simply how to encourage wildlife into your backyard and safely.

Using this information these dedicated young people inspire those around them, their parents to make better choices while shopping (no palm oil products, no plastic bags), relatives, even neighbours and more importantly their peers with their passion. Like skipping a stone into a still pool of water the ripples move outwards and in turn their passion touches those around them and influences the choices they make in their lives.

They are still in touch with nature/wildlife and the environment they live in, they are probably just a little cleaner than we were (due to not eating mud pies or falling out of trees) and are better equipped to empower others to get involved in making a change to protect the little nature and wildlife we have left.



*I imagine mother swamp wallaby said to her young one, "come here, your ears need a good clean, then you can have your photo taken." Following having his portrait taken, he settles down to eating what remains of our little garden. Linda Lillie
Photos Raymond Lillie.*

Craft Idea

Skill level: Easy

Painted stones: can be used for paperweights, doorstoppers, magnets, necklace, Mothers day gift. So many possibilities!

Supplies needed:

- Flat/smooth stones (Bunning's has these in the garden section)
- Paint brushes/cotton buds (different sizes)
- Assortment of non-toxic paints/ sealer
- Pencil
- YOUR AWESOME IMAGINATION

* Remember to let each paint application dry before adding another colourwonder and interconnection with our lives. They are just immersed in it in a different way, from what we were twenty years ago.

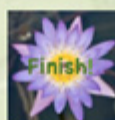
Love to see your creations in our next Compassionate Kids section.



Let's play!

Help the green tree frog reach his water lily home!!

Start!



Monthly Mission:

Pick up at least 50 pieces of rubbish from around your home!!!



Grants

As a non-profit organisation we have been extremely fortunate over recent years to obtain sponsorship and grants through a number of different programs.



GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL

\$10,000 worth of funding was received from the Gold Coast City Council's Community Grants Program for Wildcare to provide a trauma rescue service for the Gold Coast (including purchasing a dart pistol and sedatives, and covering costs of fuel and the emergency phone line) and to provide a community education service which includes provision of training manuals, workshop resources & consumables, a new projector, brochures and pull-up banners.



CITY OF IPSWICH

Funding of \$2,000 was received to purchase rescue equipment for our dedicated reptile rescuers.



MAZDA FOUNDATION

Funding of \$4,700 was received for koala rescue and rehabilitation. Funding will enable rescuers to be better equipped, particularly in regions where there are currently very few koala rescuers or none at all.



QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION

Funding of \$6,900 has been received under the Koala Rescue and Rehabilitation Program Grant to enable the purchase of more specialised koala rescue and rehabilitation equipment, such as rescue cages, poles, intensive care unit and binoculars.



LOGAN CITY COUNCIL

Funding of \$5,000 was received from Logan City Council's EnviroGrant Program to assist Wildcare to produce a Wildlife Educational Brochure & Pull-up Banner.

ENVIRONMENT and HERITAGE PROTECTION – KOALA RESCUE and REHABILITATION GRANT - Wildcare is appreciative of the Queensland Government's approval of a small funding application to purchase specialised koala rehabilitation equipment to the value of \$4,450.

SPONSORSHIPS

A \$1,600 sponsorship was gratefully received from Pet City Mt Gravatt from the Repticon event.

Support Wildcare's Members & Supporters



Our sincerest thanks to Greenleaf Images for the use of several of their beautiful photographs in our promotional material. The quality of the material would not be what it is, without the use of these professional images.



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We would also like to offer free home delivery to all carers from as far north as the Sunshine Coast and as far south as Lismore. This discount also applies to home deliveries with a minimum order of \$30 for the Gold Coast and \$40 for Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and NSW.

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Thank you!



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- AUSTRALIAN BAT CLINIC
- BEC FEED SOLUTIONS
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- DAISY HILL KOALA CENTRE
- DONORTEC
- DORRATT DESIGN
- FLEAYS WILDLIFE PARK
- GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND
- GECKO
- GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL
- GOLD COAST POST FORMING
- GREENLEAF IMAGES
- INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE
- JOHN WILLIAMSON
- LEWIS LAND CORPORATION
- LOGAN CITY COUNCIL
- MARGIE SPIES
- THE MOUSE'S HOUSE
- NATURAL ARCH CAFÉ RESTAURANT
- PETER the ORIGINAL POSSUM & BIRD MAN
- Cr. PETER YOUNG
- PRINT BY DESIGN
- RSPCA
- SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
- TAMBORINE MT. NATURAL HISTORY ASSOC.
- THE PINES SHOPPING CENTRE

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| ALBERT STREET VET CLINIC
Beaudesert 5541 1233 | GYMPIE & DISTRICT
VETERINARY
SERVICES
Gympie 5482 2488
Tin Can Bay 5486 4666 |
| ANIMAL EMERGENCY
CENTRE
St Lucia 3365 2110 | KENILWORTH VET CLINIC
Kenilworth 5472 3085 |
| ANIMAL EMERGENCY SERVICE
Carrara 5559 1599
Underwood 3841 7011 | MANLY ROAD VET HOSPITAL
Manly 3396 9733 |
| AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE
HOSPITAL
Beerwah 5436 2097 | MT. TAMBORINE VET
SURGERY
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- Note: UQ Small Animal Clinic St. Lucia has now moved to the UQ Gattton Campus.