

Summer 2008

Issue 51, Oct · Dec 2008

# WILDNEWS

*Official newsletter of Wildcare Australia*

**CANUNGRA BABY BATS**  
*Disaster Relief Efforts*  
**WILD WORLD: AFRICA**  
*Year of the Gorilla*  
**RESCUE STORIES**  
*Sometimes You Get  
Lucky!*

**24 x 7 EMERGENCY PHONE SERVICE (07) 5527 2444**

**Wildcare Australia Office (07) 5527 2444**  
(Tuesday - Friday, 8am - 4pm)

**EMAIL**

**Questions:** [enquiries@wildcare.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wildcare.org.au)

**Shop:** [shop@wildcare.org.au](mailto:shop@wildcare.org.au)

**Workshop Registration:** [education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au)

**Newsletter Submissions:** [news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au)

**[www.wildcare.org.au](http://www.wildcare.org.au)**



## COVER STORY

### 4 Canungra Baby Bat Disaster

Wildcare Australia and the Bat Hospital lead rescue and rehab relief efforts for hundreds of abandoned baby Grey-headed Flying-foxes.

*Cover photo: Renée Rivard*



6



8



16

## 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.*

### THE MAIN COMMITTEE

President	Gail Gipp
Vice-President	Karen Scott
Secretary	Tracy Paroz
Treasurer	Kirsty Arnold

**Newsletter Team:** Eleanor Hanger,  
Renée Rivard and Toby Clinch.

Newsletter submissions can be sent to [news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au)

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



### RESCUES

- 5 Koal Danger Zones:**  
Dogs and roads
- 6 Wet and Wild**  
Ducklings and the fire brigade
- 7 Sometimes You Get Lucky**  
A visit to the Sofitel Hotel

### REHABILITATION

- 8 Coordinators' Corner**  
A busy spring season
- 8 The Limping Lori**  
...with a surprising "outcome"
- 11 Lucky Number 8**  
A New Year's surprise

### EDUCATION

- 13 Species Spotlight:**  
Grey-headed Flying Fox
- 14 Wild World:**  
2009 - Year of the Gorilla
- 16 Kids Puzzle Page**
- 17 Education Calendar**  
Q1 2009 Workshop schedule

### NEWS & ACTIVITIES

- 18 Wildlife and Conservation News**
- 19 Wildcare Business**
- 21 Photo Gallery**
- 22 Supporters**

Vale Nancy Ridgway

It was with great sadness that Wildcare Australia learnt of the passing of one of its original members, Nancy Ridgway, on 11th November, 2008. Nancy had a passion for helping the 'little animals' and devoted her life to the rescue and rehabilitation of Australia's native wildlife, especially macropods. She worked tirelessly, with her husband, Orm, on their beautiful property 'Gylandah' near Boonah, to provide a temporary home and release site for thousands of animals. Her commitment, her tenderness and love for these wonderful creatures was an inspiration to us all.

The members of Wildcare Australia would like to express their deepest sympathy to Orm and his family on their sad loss.

Management Committee



We should all be very proud and humble to have the privilege of being members of Wildcare, after all the wonderful thoughts, letters and telephone calls I have received from Wildcare members on the sad loss of my wife and life-time partner, Nancy.

Thank you sincerely,  
Orm Ridgway

## From the Vice-President

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and New Year and that 2009 does not go by quite as quickly as 2008 did!

Thank you to all who pitched in and helped with the Canungra baby bat disaster during the past months. The dedication, commitment and support of those involved, including our own members, members of other wildlife groups and private wildlife carers, has been absolutely amazing. It has been a remarkable effort.

A special thank you to Trish and Terry Wimberley who have not only opened their house and hearts to 330 odd baby bats but also to the volunteers who continue to help around the clock.

Please take the time to read the information in the newsletter about this disaster. There is definitely a lesson to be learnt, in case this ever happens again (regardless of the species).

I hope that 2009 is good to each and every one of you!

Regards,  
Karen Scott

## New Members

### Wildcare Australia welcomes its newest members

Lynde Murray, *Alderley*; Verin Mapstone, *Annerley*; Jay & Tom Lima, *Balmoral*; Mathew Lynch, *Banora Point*; Natasha Lewis-Millar & Family, *Bonogin*; Debbie Smith, *Broadbeach Waters*; Deb Oliver, *Harmony Heggie, Broadbeach*; Bec Taylor, *Browns Plains*; Kristy Willett, *Carina*; Kaye Borrowdale, *Coomabah*; Annette House, *Cooroy*; Robyn Caridi, *Currumbin Valley*; Susie Ganzer, *Drewvale*; Mark Jenkins, *Eagle Farm*; Scott Baker, *Fortitude Valley*; Jessica Lynn, *Trudy Elwin, Glasshouse Mountains*; David Albietz, *Golden Beach*; Kylene Whalley, *Gympie*; Arlene Rutherford, *Indooroopilly*; Julia & John Morgan, *Kallangur*; Carlotta Graham, *Karalee*; Jennie Clowes, *Maclean*; Samantha Ringer, *Scott Burnett & Jacqueline Nolen, Maleny*; Nancy Hall, *Maudsland*; Anne Moedt, *Mermaid Waters*; Nina Bosman, *Milbong*; Arena Mallon, *Mt Crosby*; Melissa Ormerod, *Narangba*; Cheryl Proud, *Sandie Childs, Nerang*; Sandra Johns, *Noosaville*; Amanda Lo Casai, *Melanie Fitzell, Norman Park*; Bryan Rolandsen, *Palm Beach*; Andrea & Michael Cage, *Parkwood*; Cust Family, *Parrearra*; Darren, Ronda & Denis Green, *Rathdowney*; Donna Herewini, *Redcliffe*; Juliette Broadbent, *Redland Bay*; Lillian Rukuata, *Rosedale South*; Sophie Pimblett & Christopher Parker, *Runaway Bay*; Alexandra Arbeit & Joshua Nelson, *Sheldon*; Leanne Cummings, *Sherwood*; Troy, Lani, Joshua & Hannah Baxter, *Stanmore*; Calinda Waters, *Joan Mason, Tallebudgera Valley*; Pippa & Bruce Fleming, *Tamborine Village*; Maria Curtis, *Tamworth*; Simone Porter, *Vivienne Fischer, Taringa*; Adele Maguire, *The Gap*; Jodie Rick, *Thornlands*; Natasha Johns & Adam Barnes, *Upper Kedron*; Fiona Cameron & Tamara Dechmecz, *Warana*; Mark Orreal, *Wights Mountain*; Calista Cameron, *Windaroo*; Siminee Wratten, *Wishart*.





Renée Rivard

## Rescue Stories

### Canungra Baby Bat Disaster Relief

On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of November, severe storms with cyclonic-like winds hit isolated areas of the Gold Coast hinterland. Associated with the arrival of these severe storms was an apparent rare and natural, but very unfortunate event which occurred at Canungra Bat Camp....the mass abandonment of hundreds upon thousands of baby Grey-headed Flying Foxes; a species already declared vulnerable.

Over the three to four days following the storms, Wildcare Australia rescuers worked alongside the Environmental Protection Agency and rescued over 300 baby bats, which had been left hanging on their own for days....unprotected and starving. Rescuers worked tirelessly for hours, climbed trees and brandished long rescue poles to save as many babies as feasibly possible. Sam Howard and Shawn Senior deserve special recognition as they risked life and limb and rescued over 150 babies on their own.

The babies were taken to the Bat Hospital at Trish and Terry Wimberley's property in Advancetown. Trish's newly

completed hospital plus her years of experience as a wildlife, bat and trauma carer proved invaluable as she was able to quickly implement a triage system with the assistance of local vets which helped ensure the best possible outcome for all the babies.

Fortunately, the disaster relief effort received local, regional and even international news coverage which heightened awareness of the disaster relief effort quickly. The outpouring of support from local and regional vets, vet nurses, animal welfare organizations, hospitals, medical supply companies, businesses, wildlife carers and the general public was overwhelming. The generosity, selfless support and united effort given to this cause by so many people brought a tear to your eye each and every day. With that level of support, it is not surprising that a better than 90% survival rate was achieved for the 330 babies rescued.

The feeding process alone during the first two weeks was a sight to behold. As most of the babies were less than a month old when first rescued, they required bottle feeding

every four hours....around the clock. It took numerous vaccinated carers feeding four or five babies at a time just to get all 330 babies fed within four hours, just in time for the next feed. Meanwhile, volunteer vet staff and trauma carers were tending to the sick and injured babies; pneumonia and maggot infestations were treated, and broken wings and legs were mended. And supporting the numerous bat feeders were even more numerous unvaccinated volunteers who were keeping bottles, teats, bat wraps and baby formula "on the ready" and, of course, keeping the humans watered and fed! We especially want to acknowledge the efforts of the core relief team who worked literally around the clock and slept only a few hours the first few weeks to ensure the babies were fed and cared for; thank you Robyn Martin, Sam Howard, Alicia and Shawn Senior, Kristie Remmert, Jim and Greer McNeill, and Trish and Terry Wimberley.

Once the vets and the EPA had given the babies a health clearance, many were able to be transferred out of the hospital to bat carers around the region. With the support of wildlife and bat organisations, individual bat carers of North Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast as well as Wildcare's own bat carers, approximately 100 babies were transferred out for rehabilitation. This definitely helped ease the burden on the core disaster relief team at the Bat Hospital; some of whom resided at Trish's for the first few days and weeks and many others who put in long hours after leaving their full-time jobs to ensure necessary care could be provided around the clock.

The rehabilitation of the remaining 200 babies at the Bat Hospital continues, it is a time-consuming and expensive process. We were very fortunate to have received a donation of 600 litres of S26 Gold baby formula from Wyeth Nutrition which provided food for the babies for the entire month of December. The babies now, however, are almost three months old and are starting on an adult diet of fruit.....and soon, on Australia Day, most of the 130 babies transferred out for rehabilitation will return to baby bat crèche at the Bat Hospital.

*(continued on page 6)*

# Koala Danger Zones: Dogs and Roads

I had to share this with you all. Renee and I had the most amazing rescue experience late one evening this spring.

But first, I have to give you some background. In April last year, we received a call from Elanora for an adult male koala with a growth on his chest that was bleeding. Shane and I managed to flag him down out of a high tree. The people who reported him, Christine and Jules, were a lovely couple. They were South African and named the koala "Zulu". Zulu went to Australian Wildlife Hospital, where I was certain he would be euthanased – the growth was horrendous. He was very lucky, the tumour was excised and his pathology came back clear. He was ear-tagged (left for boys, because girls are always "right"! ) and about two weeks later, he was released back to Christine and Jules' property.

Christine is passionate about koalas and her neighbours refer to her as the "koala lady".

Anyway, she telephoned me at home late one afternoon. A koala had ventured into a yard across the street and the dog had attacked the koala. Her son had jumped the fence, rescued the koala and Jules rushed it to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital (CWH). Christine was concerned because there was another koala in a tree in the yard with a small back young.

We phoned CWH but learned sadly that the koala had arrived dead on arrival – but – she had an enlarged pouch and was lactating.

Karen Scott



Daddy's Little Girl

So – was her joey still in the yard, dead or injured? Was the koala in the tree with its own back young there by coincidence or did it have the dead female's joey?

So I set off to check out the situation with Renee and EPA Ranger Sergio in tow for assistance.

We found a koala in a tree – and yes it had a small back young. Was it a male or female? The koala turned its head – a red ear tag, in its LEFT ear – it was a male! He was sitting quietly, eating leaf with a 500-600 gram baby on his back (back riders aren't usually found on males).

So there we had it - a male tagged koala with a small back young in a tree in the yard with a large dog still. How to get them down safely?

The residents arrived home to find us all on their front lawn planning the rescue of the koalas. The dog was

locked up and we put our plan into action.

A perfect flagging job – Renee, Sergio and Jules on flagging – me ready to grab. Three others with blankets in case the baby fell in the flagging process. Christine on spotlight control.

The adult male koala came down perfectly but got a little spooked when he was just within reach. I grabbed one hind leg and then quickly grabbed the baby from his back and held it to my chest. He was in a tree outside the yard so we let the adult go back up the tree. A quick look at the tag number revealed the male was Zulu!

I rushed the baby to the car to see if it was injured – a little girl (aptly named Christine), no sign of injury, bright and alert but scared.

Then the rest of the story came out....when the dog was attacking the mother koala, Zulu came down from another tree and was frantically trying to get INTO the yard. He managed to do so and somehow ended up with the baby koala clinging to him. He went up the tree with the baby and was as calm as you could possibly imagine.

Zulu is a true warrior – what an amazing animal. A sad ending for the adult female but what an experience!

It reminded me why I do this.....

Karen Scott

## Northbound on the M1

Late this particular evening, two guys brought me a young koala they had rescued. It's worth noting here that we don't usually advise untrained individuals to rescue koalas because of the serious injuries that can result from the teeth and sharp claws of a scared koala.

The two arrived with a young male koala, probably only two or three years of age, wrapped up in the cover of a child's car seat and being held firmly inside a shopping green-bag by the passenger. As I slowly

"unwrapped" the koala, I was given the whole story.

They were travelling south on the M1 when they suddenly saw a small koala northbound walking along the dotted white line between the two southbound lanes of traffic! They pulled over quickly on to the shoulder of the road and reversed back to the koala.

The traffic was buzzing along on either side of the koala and then, the sight of an approaching double-trailer semi sent their heart into their throats....they feared their attempted rescue was certainly going to be in

vain. But, as the semi passed, the koala was still on the centre line making his way north.

They assessed the situation and knew they had only one chance to make the grab in the lull of traffic....and they did so successfully.

The lucky little koala was released the next day in a safe bush area in Tallebudgera Valley....not too far, it just so happens, from the spot where I released a young female koala only days earlier.

Renée Rivard

## Baby Bat Disaster Relief Supporters

- Dr Rod Meehan, Dr Rosie Booth, Dr Camille Alexandra, Dr Michael Pyne, Dr Jon Hanger, Dr Claude Lacasse, Dr Robyn Gommers, Dr Michelle Barton, nurses Peta Moore and Jo, and fourth-year vet students Sharon Griffiths, Mike Champkin, Liam Flanagan, and Amber for donating their time and veterinary skills.
- The EPA, RSPCA of Brisbane and Gold Coast, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, Australian Wildlife Hospital, and QWRC for their support.
- Wyeth Nutrition; Nutricia; Lypards; Provet; Pfizer; John Flynn Hospital Pharmacy; Suncorp at Runaway Bay, Helensvale, Harbourside and Elanora; the Animal Emergency Services at Underwood and Carrara; World for Pets at Springwood; Going, Going, Almost Gone; Pet Barn at Nerang; Gold Coast Pet Centre at Burleigh; Anaconda in Ashmore; and Red Bull for the collection of, assistance with and/or donation of supplies.
- Bat carers from ONARR, Wildlife Carers of Darling Downs, Bat Care of Brisbane, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and Australian Wildlife Hospital for taking more than 100 baby bats into care.
- Individual wildlife carers from South East Queensland who have dusted off their bat feeding skills and have fed hundreds of bats over the last couple of months.
- The more than 50 members of the public and the men from Man Kind Project who have volunteered their time at the Bat Hospital.
- The more than 150 people in Australia and the US who have donated money and/or supplies towards the Baby Bat Disaster Relief efforts!
- Trish and Terry Wimberley and their Bat Hospital without whose support and generosity this relief effort would not have been possible.

The young bats will require massive amounts of fruit until their release in late February or early March.

Besides completing the construction of a large flight aviary BEFORE Australia Day, the next large challenge which lies ahead is establishing a procurement and transport system of good fruit on a regular basis to the Bat Hospital. Any offers to help are still being graciously accepted. Please contact the Wildcare Office if you would like to help or know of someone who might be of assistance.

This baby bat disaster relief effort would not have been possible or successful without the invaluable generosity of so many people, organizations and businesses.

We extend our extreme gratitude to everyone who has helped with this effort.

## Wet and Wild

I was called to do a rescue in Coomera Springs, where nine baby Wood Ducks had fallen through one of the new storm water drains (which are bigger now in the newer subdivisions).

Luckily, a builder had seen the event and reported it to Wildcare Australia. The ducks were going for one of their first strolls down the street when the mother and father, walking along the side of the road, walked over the grate and turned around only to find all their babies gone.

By the time I arrived, the babies had headed off into the smaller drains and none were to be seen even though we could hear them peeping frantically. We waited



Simone Smith

patiently, hoping they would come back out.

Over the next hour, we still had no luck so I raced home to make some phone calls for help and left the builder to keep watch. In the meantime, I called fire rescue and the council to come and help. When I returned, a crowd had gathered. They were joining in on the action and had managed to catch one of the ducklings. Placing him in my rescue box, we sat and hoped to lure out the rest. Two hours and half the neighbourhood later, we had three!

Fire rescue arrived followed shortly thereafter by the council who opened up the middle drain hole in the road. There they all were, sitting in the middle drain where the other drains meet. The fireman quickly grabbed one but the rest scattered. By then the frantic parent ducks that had been nearby had left and we were unable to catch them.

We were now into our fourth hour and our rescue team numbered fifteen - volunteers, neighbours and firemen. We devised a plan to flush them out to the main drain in the middle of the road which was downhill from us. The fire brigade lifted the drain cover and one by one the rest of the little duckies came 'white-water rafting' out into the firemen's net. We successfully retrieved all nine!

A local neighbour informed us of a dam she had at the back of her house so we thought we would go check for the parents. To our surprise, we saw two Wood Ducks. We took the babies closer and as soon as they started peeping the parents came straight over. They all swam off happily ever after!!

I was hoping they didn't go for the same walk the next day.

Simone Smith



## Sometimes We Get Lucky

**D**uckling stories are not always happy stories but every now and then rescuer, ducklings and mother ducks do get lucky.

Liz passed a call to me about eleven ducklings born on a third-floor balcony of the Sofitel Hotel in Broadbeach.

The problem is that ducklings can't fly they literally drop from the nest. That's fine when they've got a nice grassy park to land in, but the main driveway of the Sofitel is anything but soft and there's nowhere to go - even if they do survive the fall.

The valets in the driveway had been collecting falling ducklings for days and taking them back up in the elevator. They realised it couldn't go on so they called WILDCARE.

When I first talked to the valets I had no idea what to do about the situation. The ducklings weren't the problem. They'd all been collected and placed in a box. The problem was catching mum. We had to catch her in order to relocate the whole family or the little ones were doomed.

When I arrived the mother hadn't been seen for half an hour. Eventually we found her in the swimming pool on the third floor! I took the ducklings up in a box and placed it in a small ornamental garden bed by the pool. Swimmers began to take notice.

Netting a wild bird with a hand net is nigh on impossible unless the bird is injured, tangled or drunk; preferably all three, but it was the only option. Eventually the mother approached the box. I used all my stealth and skill but missed her twice. Once is bad enough but two misses and usually it's all

over. The bird became so wary there was little chance of another try. She retreated to the pool and wouldn't come out.

The situation was looking hopeless so I took a big chance and rushed the babies down in the lift and across the street to the tiny park in front of the hotel. I held the box in a bus shelter to amplify the ducklings' cries. It worked!

**“...every now and then a rescuer, ducklings and mother duck do get lucky.”**

The mother duck heard them from the third floor and appeared high on the balcony then flew down to the park. I released the ducklings and they rushed to their mum. This was a step in the right direction but there was still one very BIG problem. The park is only half an acre and bounded on all sides by heavy traffic. It was Sunday and kids in the park were excited to see the ducklings. But with all the activity they were being driven onto the road.

Fortunately a couple of fellows could see a disaster unfolding and ran over to help. I asked them to keep the kids away and keep the mother and ducklings in the park. She was being extraordinarily loyal to her brood and staying with them on the ground. If she stayed,

there was a possibility I could net her. It was their only chance. I bolted back to the hotel, took the lift to the third floor and retrieved my gear.

Back in the park we herded the family towards a small garden bed where I got one shot at mum. Against all odds I caught her in the net. What followed was a wild treasure hunt with several adults and a dozen children all joining in to search the tiny garden bed for ducklings. Fifteen minutes later we had all but one. We searched hard

but couldn't find the last little fellow. It's always sad to leave any creature behind but we'd caught mum and ten ducklings. It was a great effort and meant they could all be relocated safely.

I loaded them into the car and rushed them to a quiet lake in Robina. I set the boxes on the ground then opened the doors and they all ran out. It was so good to see her round up the ducklings and dive straight into the lake with her ten kids in tow.

Now, for those on the phone roster who are thinking, “YES, we have a specialist duck catcher!” I have one word for you. **“NO!”**

Well, *maybe*.

**Rowley Goonan**



# Coordinators' Corner

## Bats

As most of our regular Wildcare bat carers know, for the past four years our baby bat season has started on October 10. Of course this one just had to be different. It began a full month earlier with a caesarean delivery of a little black flying fox pup by Dr Camile from Currumbin; her first and she didn't know at the time the success rate of such a premie, otherwise she may not have even tried. Well, little Gobbin is now well on his way, giving all the little grey bats in care grief and flying everywhere.

Our second delivery only a couple of weeks later was one of our crèche mums who also decided to give birth early. However little Loganberry decided he wanted to be different and tried to come out thumb first. A very panicked Robyn and young Eden came running, 'Quick, do something.' So another quick trip to Dr Rod and a successful delivery of another little boy, three weeks early and weighing in at 95gms (*see inset*). That weight may have had something to do with his mum, who tipped the scales just prior to delivery at 1.3kilos...and I might add this was her first pup.

Well, the boy brigade continued. All rescues for the next month were little black boys, with only one grey and he died before the vet could save him. And the black bubs continued. We now have four little girls and the rest boys.

Concerns were starting to surface from other carers and groups. Where were the grey pups? My gut instinct took over here. There was something not quite right going on out there. I ordered

extra IC Units just in case we had some late bubs. My fears, of course, were confirmed when we checked out the Canungra camp in late November.



Robyn Martin

This issue's Rescue Story and Species Spotlight will give an in-depth review of our Grey-headed flying foxes and our 'thank you' to all who helped during the rescue and rehabilitation.

I would like to share some of the experiences of caring for these wonderful little puppies; the hours of delight just

being a part of something so special; the adoring looks from the eyes of the little pups as they get their cuddles; and the contentment after their bath and bottle all wrapped up in their little blankies with their dummies; the joy of watching their progress and the little antics they get up to; their exploring and inquisitive ways as each new item is introduced to their environment. I have watched the wonder of new carers as they have acquired new skills they would never have dreamed of having a month prior, and the old bat carers coming out of retirement and the newfound and forgotten delight of caring for these little pups.

The wonderful sharing of old and new knowledge amongst all the carers from all the different groups has brought tears to my eyes and to see all this happening in one place and at one time. It shows bat carers can put aside differences and work for the common good of all bats. To all those involved, I thank you deeply, from the bottom of my heart, for restoring my sometimes wavering faith in human nature to put the animals first and foremost above our individual feelings. I

## Limping Lori

I was given a Rainbow Lorikeet the other day by another carer and was advised that he would need to be put down. He was in a terrible state at the time, he could not move and had his feet up. I was certain he was going to die.

I took him to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital to see Dr Mic, and to my surprise he said to give him another week and that he appeared to have some sort of leg trauma. I took him home for a few days of observation.

Two days later he expelled a 15cm long tapeworm, so I decided to worm him thinking all along there couldn't be anymore.

To my surprise, he laid out his body weight in worms!!!

It was so disgusting but at the same time quite interesting. The next day, you would not believe...he was chatting, alert and extremely happy.

He has now regained the use of his leg and is very happy after getting the all clear to go into the flight aviary with the other loris. So amazing!

Simone Smith



Simone Smith





Trish Wimberley

have met many new bat friends and touched base with many old and although there has been many a sad moment, the experience will stay with me a life time. Would I do it all again? Let us hope we don't have to.

It is of the utmost importance that we do something to conserve habitat and teach the general public to share our environment with these wonderful, valuable creatures. Our lives and our planet would be much poorer without them. They have been here for millions of years and the latest research shows they will be gone in approximately 70 years - our lifetime.

We need to act now before it is too late.

Trish Wimberley

## Birds

### BRISBANE

Bird season has been hectic after the storms and I also notice that after a few windy days the vets seem to get a lot of baby birds.

After the big storm on the northside, there were many birds rescued in the Morayfield/ Caboolture area. I had to drive to the Narangba vets to pick up an assortment of baby birds because the carers in that area were inundated. Michael Jones picked up 25 birds in one day and still had more to pick up.

I have been delivering the baby bird buckets to any vet to whom I go to pick up birds. Kelly has also delivered many baby bird buckets to vets on the northside and Terri Eather has delivered some as well.

All the vets have been very happy to display the posters and bucket nests.

Heather Frankcom

### GOLD COAST

It was a busy season this spring and early summer but everything ran pretty smoothly thanks to Dianna, Liz, Christine and Jim, all of whom were great at placing their specific species and coaching our new carers when needed. Splitting the heavy influx of baby birds not only helped to keep the coordinators' stress levels low but also optimized the welfare of the birds by facilitating transfers of birds to, and among, carers.

We have also had some keen new bird carers this year who have been a real pleasure to work with. It's so nice to see so many new people get involved.

Together with the success of the Baby Bird Brigade distributing buckets and educating the vet surgery staff and the public about re-nesting baby birds, I'd say we had a very successful bird season on the Gold Coast.

I was placing insectivores, frugivores and nectivores this season. We had a few Noisy Miners, as usual, but not really that many (we really pushed the re-nesting advice hard), a lot of figbirds, a few cuckoo-shrikes, and odds and ends of others. Interestingly, I noticed quite a few friarbirds, both Noisy and Little, that came in this year which I had not seen last year. They have the most delightful personalities! In December, I had the pleasure of rehabilitating three Rainbow Bee-eaters! Having never seen one, I was very excited to be involved

## LIVEFOODS UNLIMITED

LIVEFOODS UNLIMITED has a range of live insects available including crickets, cockroaches and giant mealworms. Also available in limited quantities are standard mealworms and grasshoppers. A bulk discount is offered to all Wildcare members (minimum number of most items, 250). Orders can be picked up from Tallebudgera

Valley and are usually ready for collection on the following day, or they can be mailed out for dispatch that week if orders are placed by close of business Monday. Postage and packing charges apply.

Ph 5533 8375 or email [the3porters@bigpond.com](mailto:the3porters@bigpond.com)



Renée Rivard

with them. They were successfully released the week of Christmas. The only other species that came in that is uncommon to find in care was a Spangled Drongo. He was a nestling when I picked him up from a family in Tallebudgera on Christmas night and at the time of writing this was only a few days from release.

Regarding the Tawnies, I recall at one point in November Jim having at least fifteen babies. We had several new carers trying their hand with the Tawnies as well. They're the cutest little things.... the Tawnies, that is!

I know Christine had her hands full with ducklings this year and luckily we had two or three new carers take some on as well. And the lorikeets, rosellas and pigeons kept Dianna busy too. Liz's review of her busy carnivore season is below.

Thank you to all the new carers who jumped in and tried out their newly found skills and thank you to the other bird coordinators for taking on the busy baby bird season with such gusto and professionalism!

Renée Rivard

### **Carnivores**

Welcome to those who care for the black and whites, and other carnivorous birds. These include mainly magpies, currawongs, kookaburras, butcher birds, peewees and crows.

Special thanks must go to the following Gold Coast Winged Warriors for their help and dedication throughout this busy season: Christine Wilson, Shannon Black, Jim and Greer McNeil, Robyn Braniff, Kerry Schilling, Leah and Paul Hobbs, Robyn Fuller, Tina Hunter and Marian Lane.

As a result of the constant communication amongst the telephone operators, our brigade

has had some good results this season, as rescuers have called me when they have picked up a carnivore and I have been able to pair up the relevant species.



Renée Rivard

I must also thank those above for keeping in contact and providing regular updates and reports on their birds in care. Most of these people work and run families so their dedication is to be admired. As the saying goes - 'If you want something done ask a busy person – ask a bird carer!!'

It has been good to see the smooth transition for the baby birds in care from nest to aviary. With only the one move it has enabled this step to cause the minimum amount of stress for the birds. We all know how clever these guys are and what funny personalities they possess.

Recent storms and bad weather have deprived many babies of a normal upbringing, however public education on the makeshift nest / bucket system has proved to be invaluable and many babies have been able to remain with their parents. It has also been great involving the public and making them more aware of what a baby bird really needs!

Also a HUGE thank you must go

to the staff of Currumbin Wildlife Hospital who have once again been extremely helpful during this busy season. They are always on hand with help and advice. Without them we wouldn't have the success we do with our caring.

We are always looking for more carers for our carnivores so if you are interested please call Wildcare on 5527 2444 for more information.

I hope you all have a well deserved break in the near future and happy and safe holidays. I look forward to catching up with you and your birds again soon.

Liz Meffan

### **SUNSHINE COAST**

Thankfully, the baby bird season is finally coming to an end. The only birds still coming in regularly are figbirds, kookaburras

and kingfishers, but even their breeding season should be coming to an end.

A number of carers are relying on other carers to see their birds through to release, as they don't as yet have aviaries. Please give some consideration to the recipients of these birds. The cost of feeding an adult bird, as opposed to a juvenile or nestling, is impressive. If you do have to hand your birds on, please make a small donation either in the form of cash, meat, fruit or even honeyeater, insectivore or granivore mix. I can assure you these little thank you gifts will be much appreciated and will help everyone with their budgets.

Many thanks to all who have taken part in this year's bird onslaught. Because of the storms we had more than the usual number of birds in care, it seemed, but all were found homes and if not already released, are well on their way.

Ailsa Watson



## Lucky Number 8

Three weeks before Christmas, I was sent on a rescue to collect ten baby ducklings.

When I arrived, I was handed ten eggs! The woman told me her children had "rescued" them so that they wouldn't be eaten by a snake on their farm.

They had already had the eggs for two days and had kept them warm under a desk lamp!

I did a bit of research to find the best way to manage them. I put them under heat of 37.5 degrees and I turned them twice a day along with misting them every now and then for moisture. Since none had hatched by Christmas I was convinced that they had died, whatever they were, but thought "what the hell" and kept it up. We even had a power outage for four hours one night.

News Year's day, all but two hatched!!!

I now have eight beautiful Pacific Black ducklings and they are the healthiest ones I've ever seen!

Simone Smith



Simone Smith



Christine Wilson

### Echidnas

It has been fairly quiet on the echidna scene lately. We have had very few adult echidnas come into care, which has been great.

The storms in the South East Queensland region have, as we know, taken their toll on the bird population, but one poor little echidna also got into a spot of bother.

Sumo, as she was named, came into care after she was found treading water in the river at South Brisbane. She is only a "puggle" – short spines and ears only just opening. We can only surmise that she was washed out of her nursery burrow during the flooding. Her mother had definitely been attending to her as she came into care with a full belly, which, I am sure, made it even more difficult to swim! Unfortunately we didn't know from where exactly she originated, so we weren't able to reunite her with her mother.

Karen Scott

### Macropods

We are still short of macropod carers especially in the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas, so we are fortunate that it has been a little quieter over the last few months with only a few joeys coming into care. I would like to thank the very dedicated carers we do have, for the great job you are doing. We could not do it without you.

Please keep in contact with your coordinators. Let us know when you are able to take joeys so we can pair them up when one does come in to care, or if your circumstances change for any reason. This would be a big help. And just a reminder, we are still looking for anyone who can care for pinkies.

A special thank you to the trauma carers, who have the task of going to trauma calls. Unfortunately they seem to be constantly busy lately with Gold Coast calls to Hope Island, Coombabah and Helensvale seeming to come in every few days. One wonders how long this can last before the kangaroos disappear from these areas.

There is a Macropod Basic Workshop coming up at Currumbin on March 22nd for anyone wanting to start caring for these beautiful animals. Please call or email the office if you need further Information. We look forward to seeing some new faces at the workshop.

Let us hope everything is as quiet in the coming months as it has been over the past few months.

Roy Webster and Karen Scott

### Possums / Gliders

BRISBANE

The last few months have seen an influx of possums needing care and for awhile I was worried that it might be raining ringtails!



Terri Eather  
Page 11



Please continue to keep me informed of possums in care with a quick email, mobile text or phone call. It is vital to group orphaned possums (even brushtails) and if everyone keeps me updated I will know who needs what.

Welcome to Amie Lowe, who is new to Wildcare but has fast become one of my trusted and dedicated carers.

Finally, keep up the great work everyone!

One of my 'babies' released on my property two years ago has just separated from her second joey. If you are lucky enough to experience this, it truly does emphasise the worthwhile contribution we all make!!

Caroline Oertel

#### GOLD COAST

Possum Report for the Gold Coast  
With the excellent rainfall over the past few months, food resources for possums are looking good, although the severe storms would have temporarily ruined nectar and pollen supplies for the gliding members of the possum family.

The brushtails coming into care have mainly been car victims, although we have had four animals with rat bait poisoning and a short-eared possum with dermatitis. The ringtails have mainly been displaced juveniles.

Most of the gliders coming into care recently have been as a result of cat attacks and of the others; three little feathertails lost their mother and home when telephone linesmen were repairing a malfunctioning box, an adult male feathertail lost its home and relatives to residential development and a sugar glider with an identity problem had to be re-educated.

The sugar glider from Park Ridge was a sad case as it set up home in a gum boot on someone's verandah. Every time a member of the family walked onto the verandah the poor little dot would

jump onto that person, snuggle into his neck and on several occasions gently nibble his ear. It is not difficult to draw certain conclusions about the rearing and releasing of this animal and I certainly hope it was not a registered wildlife carer who was responsible for the situation.

When raising a young animal for release to the wild, it is critical that it knows what it is. For this reason, we like to raise more than one of the same species at the same time. In some cases this is imperative. Secondly, it must be familiar with its natural diet and competent at finding it. As there are nine species of possum in South East Queensland, it behoves possum carers to understand the needs of the particular species with which they are dealing and to ensure that at least 95% of the diet is what the animal would be eating in its natural state. A big, beautiful bowl full of exotic fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds may well be popular with your possum but may not meet its dietary requirements and will certainly not be available to it after release.

Wildcare Australia's possum workshops are open to anyone interested in possums, their biology, care and management. If you know of people raising possums or people who just have an interest in these delightful animals, encourage them to attend the workshops. The greater our knowledge, the better we can prepare our orphans for a healthy, productive life, and the more authoritative we can be in dealing with issues of habitat loss and conservation.

Possum workshop dates for the next three months are as follows:

- **Basic Possum** – Brisbane, 18th January
- **Gliders** - Gold Coast, 8th February
- **Advanced Possum** – Gympie, 28th February
- **Basic Possum** – Gold Coast, 29th March
- **Gliders** – Gympie, 5th April

Please note in your diary the



Trish Wimberley

workshop dates and register by emailing [education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au) or by telephoning 07 5527 2444 during office hours.

Please remember to notify your coordinator of your status with regard to caring. Are you taking a break? Are you available for rearing orphans, caring for sick or injured adults, taking animals for pre-release? Have you a lone orphan that requires a friend?

Thank you to those who have taken animals and who keep me updated. Your cooperation and help are greatly appreciated.

Eleanor Hanger

#### Small Mammals

It is the season for antechinus!!!

We have had an influx of antechinus coming into care not to mention other little "rat-like" things. We are desperate for small mammal carers. If you don't mind two hourly feeds, live insects and digging in the dirt for earth worms, please let me know!

We have also had a few juvenile bandicoots coming into care as a result of coming face to face with cats that are allowed to roam free during the night. Most have been successfully treated and released back to the wild.

Karen Scott



Grey-headed Flying Fox

## Species Spotlight

The Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) occurs only in Australia and is endemic to the eastern coastal region from the Mackay area in Queensland south to the Melbourne region in Victoria. They are social animals and can travel up to 50 kilometres a night to feed on nectar, pollen and rainforest fruits. They are nomadic and travel hundreds of kilometres in response to changing food sources. They navigate using their keen eyesight and excellent sense of smell.

They are Australia's largest flying-fox species with a head and body length of 23 to 29 centimetres. Their average weight is 600 to 800 grams but they can weigh up to one kilogram; their wingspan can

exceed a metre. Their fur is silver-grey and is usually lighter on the head, they have a "collar" of thick orange-brown fur which encircles the neck and the fur on their legs extends down to the ankle, a feature which differentiates them from other flying-foxes.

Grey-headed Flying-foxes, as with other flying-fox species, are very important pollinators of Australian native forests such as eucalypts, myrtles, melaleucas and banksias. This is especially important for native trees which produce nectar and pollen only at night and which cannot be pollinated by daytime nectar feeders such as lorikeets, honeyeaters, bees and other insects. They also feed on rainforest fruits such as figs, palms,

lilly-pillies and quandongs and may disperse the seeds of these plants to new areas each evening, many kilometres away from the original feeding site. Where forests have been cleared, they may resort to orchards and gardens for food.

They roost in large numbers in treetop communal "camps" which are usually located beside creeks and rivers, or in tall trees with a dense understorey. These camps may contain thousands of individuals and may also include other species of flying-foxes such as Blacks and Little Reds. When they roost together Grey-headed Flying-foxes usually roost below the Black Flying-foxes. During the day, they keep busy with social activities such as grooming, caring for babies, or sleeping. Some camps may be used on an occasional basis depending on availability of local food sources while other camps are occupied all year.

Bats are known to carry a virus which can be transmitted to humans. Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABL), a virus related to rabies, is a rare but life-threatening virus transmitted by the bite, and potentially the scratch, of a bat if it is infected. The only two cases of ABL known in humans were contracted by bat carers from the bites of infected bats. This occurred prior to the education and requirements for rabies vaccination and sadly, neither of these bat carers survived. However, subsequent research as a result of these deaths identified the rabies vaccine as a means of preventing ABL. Members of the public should not handle bats but instead, should call their local wildlife or bat rescue group to report an injured, sick or orphaned bat so that an appropriately vaccinated bat rescuer can attend to the animal.

The population of Grey-headed Flying-foxes continues to decline; it has been declared a vulnerable species since 2001. It used to number in the millions and is now



estimated to be fewer than 300,000. Clearing of native vegetation for urban development and agriculture is the biggest threat to its survival while the most common reason reported for rescues is entanglement in barbed wire or loose fruit netting. Please help protect this beautiful and invaluable species through bush regeneration and increased awareness.

- Plant native trees and shrubs.
- Protect your fruit trees with durable, knitted mesh (not nylon) stretched taut over fruit trees.
- Avoid using barbed wire.

#### References:

Australasian Bat Society; [www.abs.ausbats.org.au](http://www.abs.ausbats.org.au).

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation; [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au).

New South Wales Government, Department of Environment and Climate Change; [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

Roberts BJ, Catterall CP, Kanowski J, et al., A re-evaluation of the northern distributional limit of the grey-headed flying-fox, *Pteropus poliocephalus*. Australian Bat Society; October 2008.

Wildlife of Greater Brisbane. Queensland Museum, Brisbane; 2007.

Renée Rivard



*image courtesy of wikipedia*

# Wild World:



*image courtesy of UNESCO*

2009

## The Year of the Gorilla\*

Despite concerted efforts to save the gorilla species of the world, they are on the brink of extinction due to rampant poaching, deforestation, the devastating Ebola virus and war. To address this distressing problem, the United Nations Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) has declared this year (2009) as the "Year of the Gorilla" (YoG).

According to a UN report on the conservation status of gorillas, there are four widely recognised sub-species in two species – the Eastern and Western Gorilla. The UN Declaration states that three of these sub-species are considered critically endangered. They are the Cross River gorilla (about 300 in Cameroon and Nigeria), the Mountain gorilla (about 700 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda), and the Eastern Lowland Gorilla in the Congo where their numbers have plummeted from 17,000 to about 5,000 in the last ten years. The fourth sub-species, the Western Lowland gorilla (about 150,000), is also critically endangered in some of its home countries.

## Equatorial Africa

The CMS, recognised worldwide for its expertise in negotiating and implementing agreements and species action plans for the conservation of a wide variety of endangered migratory animals, has raised an enormous amount of money to train game rangers, educate judges to understand the need to strictly enforce anti-poaching laws, support scientific research, and raise awareness of gorilla threats.

In partnership with CMS, and its 110 member countries, is the UNEP/UNESCO Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP), dedicated to stopping the decline of the great ape populations. GRASP is made up of strategic alliance of UN agencies, governments, non-government corporate organisations and foundations. They mobilise and pool resources to improve coordination and communication among the various organisations, enabling development of tailored conservation plans in the great ape range countries. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the third strategic partner, is made up of selected zoos and aquariums, regional and national Associations of Zoos and Aquariums, as well as various zoo educators and zoo veterinarians from around the world.

Joining these three groups as official campaign patron is the world-renowned great ape conservationist, Dr. Jane Goodall (DBE). "It is time," she said, at the launch of YoG, "for us to pool all of our resources toward saving these magnificent creatures... ensuring a future for this close cousin of humankind." Taking this a step further is UN Environment Program (UNEP) expert Ian Redmond who stated, "The Year of the Gorilla is not just about gorillas but about their habitat," and that gorillas act "as guardians of the forest...gardening the forest, pruning the trees and



distributing the seeds through their droppings.”

The Gorilla Agreement, an international, legally binding treaty to protect and conserve the gorillas, came into effect in June 2008, and has been signed by six of the ten countries with gorilla habitats. Implementation of this agreement includes anti-poaching campaigns, reforestation work, and developing eco-tourism and other local community development projects in regions around areas protected for gorilla conservation. The Agreement also includes programs designed to reintroduce orphaned gorillas back into the wild. The governments that have signed the agreement are Central African Republic, Nigeria, Rwanda, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Gabon. Those who have yet to sign are Angola, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Uganda.

Also adopted by the Agreement’s member states (in November, 2008) is an Action Plan identifying and detailing priority projects for the conservation of gorillas and their habitats in each of the various countries. Each project has specific relevance within each country, however many of the basic needs are the same. Some of the most prominent are to:

- implement conservation education awareness and outreach programs (with specific emphasis on the great apes) in local communities;
- provide effective deterrents to poaching;
- provide incentive for local communities to create reserves;
- develop and promote responsible great ape tourism within the broader ecotourism strategy for national parks, reserves and sanctuaries;
- build research and training stations;
- set up disease surveillance programs and rapid response structures specifically for great apes (with focus on Ebola and Anthrax);



#### Western Lowland Gorillas

*lockwise from left: © Ian Redmond; © Sebastian Meys; © Julie Mavros.  
Background photo from Ape Alliance website, [www.4apes.com](http://www.4apes.com).*

- develop strategies for use of wildlife resources;
- provide training for local community participants and research personnel in ape census, methodology and community based law enforcement;
- establish effective law enforcement to halt commercial hunting;
- increase law enforcement, anti-poaching brigades and surveillance of protected areas;
- develop a monitoring system for illegal activities concerning gorillas;
- in protected areas, introduce measures to minimize risks of disease transmission and establish health monitoring system for apes, rules for all people using the site, education for villagers and tourists;
- further the development of trans-border conservation initiatives between countries for protection against the cross-border smuggling of wildlife and timber;
- improve judicial and law enforcement capacity in protected areas and logging concessions, including mobile anti-poaching brigade, specialized training for local authorities, gendarmes and magistrates.

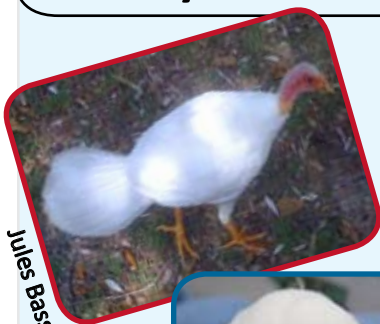
The Gorilla Agreement, as well as the results of its many Action Plans, will contribute enormously to promoting the long-term survival of gorillas, their forest habitat and dependent human populations. In turn, this should help the countries concerned to combine conservation and long lasting economic development.

YoG has hit the road running with plans to attract at least \$630,000 dollars to implement gorilla conservation projects. Sales of high quality artwork and cuddly toy gorillas are on the market, with donations and other initiatives in full swing. Fundraising efforts for selected projects have started to help on-the-ground gorilla conservation and the development of affected human populations where help is needed most and where resources can be used most efficiently. A list of specific Action Plans will be provided in the near future enabling donors to choose a project to support.

\*The word gorilla is derived from a Greek translation of the word Gorillai (tribe of hairy women) described by an explorer on a voyage around the coast of West Africa in about the year 480 BC. Whether the "hairy women" he saw were actually what we call gorillas today is extremely debatable.

Toby Clinch

## Wildly Curious!



Jules Bass



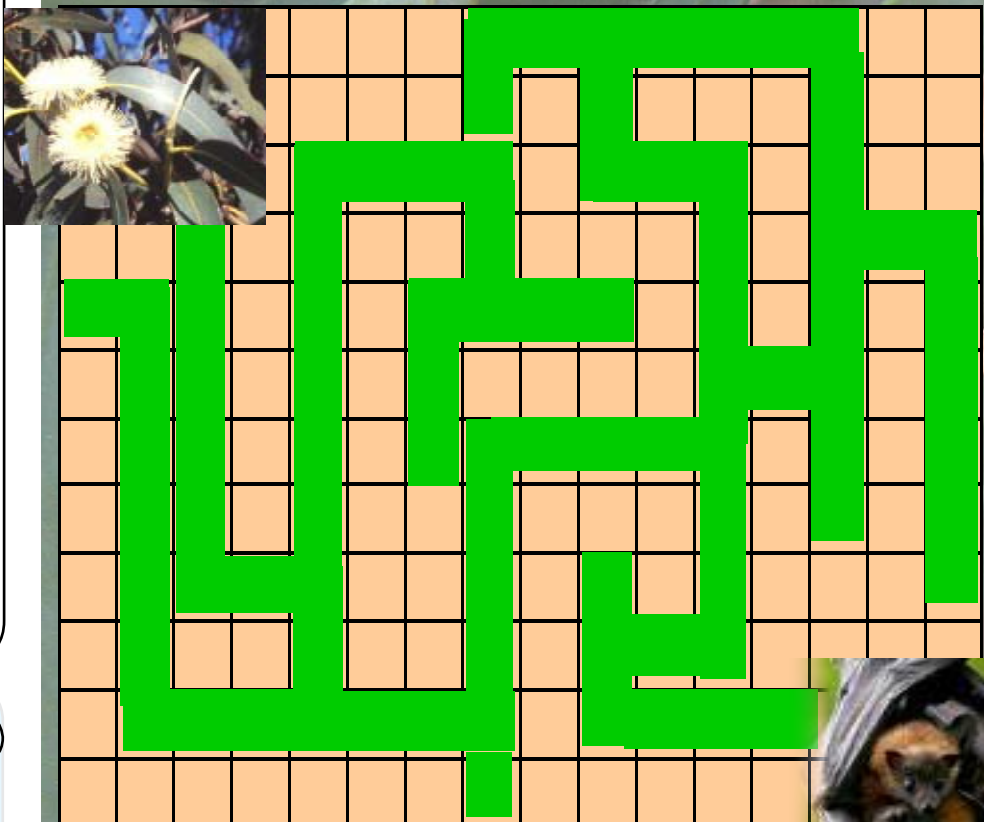
Mimi Dona

Albinism is a congenital defect which results in the inability to produce or distribute melanin (pigmentation). The animal is referred to as an albino.

Two of our members captured these albino birds this spring; the Brush-turkey in Noosa and the Noisy Miner at Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

## Kids Puzzle Page

Help the Grey-headed Flying-foxes find the nectar in the Eucalyptus flowers.



C	B	E	T	T	O	N	G	B	T
A	O	L	K	O	Z	N	F	E	O
U	T	C	N	K	M	A	M	M	A
S	U	I	K	M	Q	O	P	D	D
D	R	A	P	A	Y	P	Y	U	U
A	M	B	O	S	T	G	T	C	K
U	E	T	T	A	M	O	H	E	E
S	L	A	O	N	S	R	O	W	L
T	O	B	R	D	R	F	N	T	I
R	M	M	O	I	E	Q	A	T	Z
A	Y	O	O	H	D	U	O	U	A
L	S	W	C	C	I	O	T	R	R
I	R	O	S	E	L	L	A	T	D
A	A	S	K	S	G	L	E	L	O
H	O	N	E	Y	E	A	T	E	R

Cockatoo  
Duck  
Owl  
Rosella  
Honeyeater  
Wombat



Lizard  
Echidnas  
Frog  
Bat  
Mole  
Gliders



Australia  
Turtle  
Melomys  
Bettong  
Potoroo  
Quoll



# Wildcare Australia

## Education Calendar

January to April 2009

### January 2009

Date	Workshop	Venue
Sunday 18th January	Possums – Basic Workshop	Brisbane
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Echidnas, Bandicoots, Small Carnivorous Marsupials and Native Rodents	Beerwah

### February 2009

Date	Workshop	Venue
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Emergency Telephone Training	Brisbane
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Reptiles – Basic Workshop	Gold Coast
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Orientation Program	Gold Coast
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Gliders	Gold Coast
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Koalas – Infants	Beerwah
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Orientation Program	Brisbane
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals	Beerwah
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	First Aid for Native Wildlife – Basic Workshop	Gold Coast
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Possums – Advanced	Gympie

### March 2009

Date	Workshop	Venue
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Native Birds – Basic Workshop	Beerwah
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Reptiles – Basic Workshop	Brisbane
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Orientation Program	Beerwah
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Emergency Telephone Training	Gold Coast
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Flying Foxes – Adult and Sub-Adult	Gold Coast
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Anatomy & Physiology of Native Wildlife (* FBC)	Beerwah
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Macropods – Basic	Gold Coast
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Native Birds – Basic Workshop	Gold Coast
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals	Gympie
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Possums – Basic	Gold Coast

### April 2009

Date	Workshop	Venue
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Orientation Program	Gold Coast
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Reptiles – Basic Workshop	Beerwah
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Gliders	Gympie
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Emergency Telephone Training	Beerwah

\*FBC = Fee Based Course. Course fees are applicable to this training workshop. Please see over for more details.

**Please register by emailing [education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au) or telephone 07 5527 2444 during business hours.**



# Wildlife & Conservation News

## Public Comment -

### SEQ Koala State Planning Policy

In response to the recommendations of the Premier's Koala Taskforce, the State government has committed to introducing a raft of measures to protect the South East Queensland (SEQ) koala population. Of these is the introduction of a new Koala State Planning Policy, supported by \$2 million in extensive mapping of existing and potential koala habitat in SEQ.

The long term planning strategy for protecting koala habitat values through planning and development process is the establishment of a new Koala State Planning Policy in 2009. For more information visit [www.dip.qld.gov.au/regional-planning/seq-koala-state-planning-regulatory-provisions.html](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/regional-planning/seq-koala-state-planning-regulatory-provisions.html).

The finalisation of the mapping and a new Koala State Planning Policy will help determine the appropriate protection mechanisms to ensure the long term protection of koalas in SEQ. The timing of this work will also allow the outcomes to be considered in the final SEQ Regional Plan 2009–2031 in July 2009. The draft SEQ Regional Plan 2009–2031 is open for submissions from December 2008 to 3 April 2009.

Until these matters are addressed and finalised, the Koala SPRP will be in effect.

Other measures which the government is undertaking in regards to the Koala crisis include:

- introducing powers to enable compulsory acquisition of koala habitat and areas suitable for reestablishment outside the SEQ urban footprint
- \$10 million on new main roads and upgrades to include koala friendly designs and examine retrofitting of koala

crossings to existing main roads

- unless urgently required for social infrastructure around 170,000 ha of state lands cannot be sold or cleared until the koala values can be assessed
- encouragement of SEQ councils to regulate dogs and maintain individual koala habitat trees
- development of new public education and monitoring campaigns.

#### Have your say - public consultation and submission process

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning is now seeking public comments and submissions on the draft SEQ Koala SPRP. Submissions close **27 February 2009**.

After a review of the submissions, the final State planning regulatory provisions can be made. To make a properly made submission it must:

- be in writing
- be received on or before 27 February 2009
- state the name and address of each person who made the submission.

Submissions by email or in other electronic form will be accepted provided they include the full name and email address (or other address) of the submitter.

Forward your submission to:

Draft SEQ Koala State planning regulatory provisions  
Department of Infrastructure and Planning  
Reply Paid 15009 City East  
Brisbane Qld 4002

By fax: + 61 7 3235 4071

By email:

[seqkoalareview@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:seqkoalareview@dip.qld.gov.au)

All enquiries phone: Free call 1800 070 609



*image courtesy of wikipedia*

## Devil Research Volunteers Needed

Devil Facial Tumour Disease Research - Volunteers needed for live trapping.

Experience with wildlife is desirable but NOT essential.

University of Tasmania research project in Cradle Mountain area.  
**Two volunteers needed.**

Volunteers need to stay for the entire length of the trip.  
**From May 4th - May 15th 2009.**  
Staying at Cosy Cabins Cradle Mountain.

#### **Accommodation & Food provided**

Live trapping capture-mark-recapture study including disease survey and blood sampling.

For more information about the project see [http://www.zoo.utas.edu.au/devil\\_ftd/devvolunt\\_feb.htm](http://www.zoo.utas.edu.au/devil_ftd/devvolunt_feb.htm)

If interested, reply as soon as possible to:

[rkhamede@utas.edu.au](mailto:rkhamede@utas.edu.au)

Please reply if interested & available ONLY.

# Wildcare Business

## Shop News

On the Wildcare website ([www.wildcare.org.au](http://www.wildcare.org.au)), Carer Resources, Wildcare Shop for members, you are able to access and download the following information: Shop Price List/Order Form, Payment Form, information sheets about the books, food supplements and miscellaneous items we currently stock in the shop.

You are able to place your orders 24hrs/day, 7 days per week by emailing [shop@wildcare.org.au](mailto:shop@wildcare.org.au) or faxing your order through to (07) 3318 7678 for processing.

### ASHDENE MUGS & SCATTER TRAYS

**Mugs \$10 each**

(Baby Orangutan, Elephant, Zebra and Panda, Pelican, Koala, Kangaroo and Possum)

**Scatter Trays \$5 each**

(Baby Orangutan, Elephant, Zebra, Panda and Koala)

### FESTIVE ANIMAL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Festive Animal Christmas Decorations and serviette rings are now available in the shop. They are \$6 each, set of 4 (of the one animal) \$20 or you can have a mixed set of 4 for \$24, the serviette rings are \$7 each or a set of 6 for \$35. Xmas decoration animals are: Koala, Kangaroo, Echidna, Wombat, Possum, Sugar Glider, Frog, Kookaburra, Lamb,

Kiwi, Seal and Penguin. The Serviette rings contain the following animals: Koala and Platypus.

### WILDCARE TSHIRTS

Orders for the new Wildcare T-Shirts, Jackets, Vests, Hats can be placed using the order form available from the Wildcare website and either emailing it through [shop@wildcare.org.au](mailto:shop@wildcare.org.au) or faxing it to (07) 3318 7678.

Due to the complicated logo, we need a minimum of 10 orders before we can have them produced by the embroiderer.

### **CURRUMBIN SHOP**

The currumbin shop is currently open 8am to 4pm Tuesday through Friday; contact 5527 2444.

### **BRISBANE SHOP**

Please contact Renay Robb on 0408 748 082 to arrange a suitable time to purchase your items.

### **SUNSHINE COAST SHOP**

Please contact Rachel Lyons on 0417 078 432 to arrange a suitable time to purchase your items.

Email: [shop@wildcare.org.au](mailto:shop@wildcare.org.au)

## Education Report

Thank goodness 2008 is over! The past year has been a difficult one in terms of our education program. Hopefully the glitches that plagued us in 2008 will not re-occur in 2009!

I have now finalized the education calendar for 2009. We are however doing things a little differently this year. We had a number of workshops postponed during 2008 as it was difficult for trainers to commit themselves to scheduled dates up to twelve months in advance. So for 2009, workshops will only be advertised for a three to four month period. The calendar for January to April 2009 has been completed and is enclosed with this newsletter.

Workshop registrations are open and can be made via email to [education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au)

[au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au) (preferred method) or by telephone.

I have also completed a Training Program Outline which sets out all of the workshops offered through Wildcare at various times. It is a very comprehensive document and I recommend that you download a copy of it from the Wildcare website.

If you have any questions regarding our education programs, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email at [education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au) or 0400 165 462.

Karen Scott  
Education Coordinator

## Office News

Volunteers are desperately needed to help in the office at Currumbin. We are also seeking volunteers to help prepare for and attend the Mudgeeraba Show.

Additionally, we are seeking members with various business, art, technology and administrative skills, experiences or contacts such as corporate fundraising, public relations, grant writing, graphic design, database query and report design, document management, photography or office administration.

If any of the above interests you or you would like to help with monthly, quarterly or periodic projects, please contact the office at 5527 2444.

## The Committee

### Oct/Nov 2008

#### Business/Corporation

##### **Wildnews redesign**

The newsletter, "Wildnews", will be published with a new design for the January 2009 issue.

##### **Website redesign**

The Wildcare Australia website will be re-designed and a project team set-up.

#### Education/Workshops – Wildcare

The 2009 Education Calendar will consist of 1 page and will be circulated once every 4 months.

#### Emergency Telephones

The Committee noted that it had become necessary to divert the emergency phone line to message bank on occasions due to a shortage of telephone volunteers. The critical periods for manning of the Emergency phones were evenings and weekends.

#### Members/Memberships

All new and renewing membership applications were approved.

#### Office

The Committee noted that Julie Swift-Hoadley finished up in the Wildcare Office on 4 November 2008. The Committee recognises her outstanding contributions.

#### Telephone Operator Rewards

The Committee has decided to reward Telephone operators for shifts undertaken along similar lines as Members who sell chocolates. 1 point is equivalent to \$1, and a voucher will be issued after 20 points have been accumulated. Points will be issued as follows:

##### **Normal season rewards**

1 point per 3 hour shift  
3 points per 12 hour (overnight) shift

##### **Busy season rewards**

2 points per 3 hour shift  
6 points per 12 hour (overnight) shift

Tracy Paroz

## Grant Approvals and Awards

Congratulations to Amie Low, Kelly Clarke and Deb Turnbull who were all successful in obtaining grants from the Brisbane City Council (BCC) under the Wildlife Carer Funding Program. This Grant has enabled Amie, Kelly and Deb to purchase aviaries and equipment to aid in the rehabilitation of wildlife in the Brisbane City region.

Wildlife carers living in the BCC area should consider applying for a grant through this funding. For more information, please email me at [karensco01@bigpond.com](mailto:karensco01@bigpond.com).

We would also like to congratulate three of our members who were recognised at GECKO's 12th Annual Environment Awards Night for their outstanding contributions:

**Linda Ray** - Life Membership  
**Trish Wimberley** - Silver GECKO  
**Nina Hardie** - Certificate of Appreciation

Karen Scott

## Emergency Phone Service

Once again the latest quarter has been exceptionally busy. It still amazes me to see the same people hanging in there on the phone shifts. I would love to see some new people help out. We only ask you for three hours a month. Yes, only three hours a month!!!

With over 400 members and only 25 active phone operators, we really are desperate for more help.

Two of our busiest and most dedicated members are Trish Hales and Roy Webster. These people man our Currumbin office and telephones 8.00am to 4.00pm, Tuesday to Friday.

If you are able to help on the phones, either at home or at the office, please call Wildcare on 5527 2444. We would love to hear from you!!!

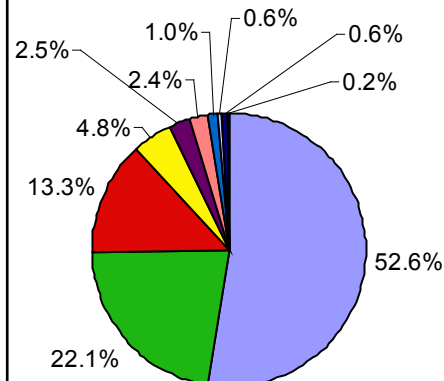
Liz Meffan  
Emergency Telephone Coordinator

## Record Keeper's Review

Number of rescues/rehabs reported for January - August 2008: **1319**

#### **ANIMAL TOTALS**

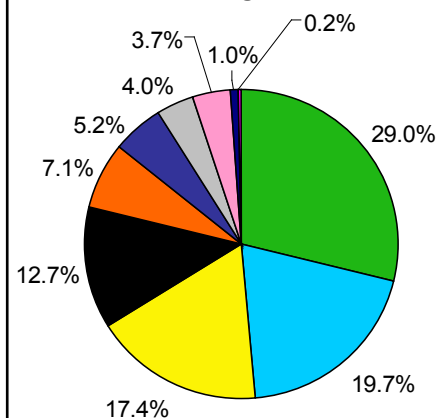
Jan - Aug 2008



Bird	52.6%
Possum / Glider	22.1%
Macropod	13.3%
Bat	4.8%
Reptile	2.5%
Mammal, Small	2.4%
Koala	1.0%
Monotreme	0.6%
Feral Species	0.6%
Amphibian	0.2%

#### **OUTCOME TOTALS**

Jan - Aug 2008



Released	29.0%
Died	19.7%
Still In Care	17.4%
Euthanased	12.7%
Transferred Out	7.1%
Road Kill	5.2%
No Rescue	4.0%
Transferred Internally	3.7%
No Outcome Noted	1.0%
Escaped	0.2%

Renée Rivard



# PHOTO GALLERY

## The Diverse World of Birds

Good bird husbandry for rehabilitating baby birds relies on knowing from what type of nest your baby has come and how the bird feeds as an adult.

See how many nest and feeding styles you know by matching them to the appropriate babies on this page.  
(answers noted below)



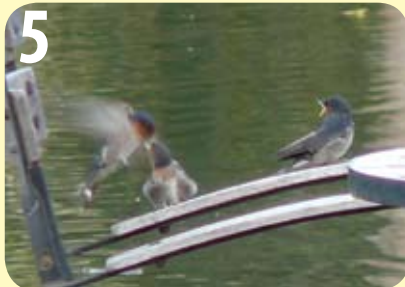
Pale-headed Rosellas



White-throated Honeyeater



Australian Owllet-nightjar



Welcome Swallows



Striated Pardalotes

### Nest Type; Usual Feeding Style

- Deep cup-shaped nest suspended in foliage; nectar and insects high in canopy.
- Tree hollow or rock crevice; insects at night taken in flight/on ground/in trees.
- Hollow in tree/stump/post; seeds on ground and in trees.
- Burrow/tunnel in dirt embankment or tree hollow; insects gleaned from leaves high in canopy.
- Open ground; insects and worms from ground or just below surface.
- Tree hollow; nectar/pollen in shrubs and trees.
- Dense ground cover of grass/reeds; insects/frogs/lizards on ground.
- Open platform of twigs; seeds on ground.
- Mudnest; insects in flight.



Pheasant Coucals



Crested Pigeons



Rainbow Lorikeets



Masked Lapwings

### Answers:

- 1.g,
- 2.h, 3.f,
- 4.e, 5.i,
- 6.b, 7.a,
- 8.c, 9.d

Photos courtesy of Ailsa Watson, Dianna Smith, Renée Rivard, Simone Smith and Trish Wimberley.



# Support Wildcare's Members & Supporters

## STATESMAN PRESS

For all your printing requirements

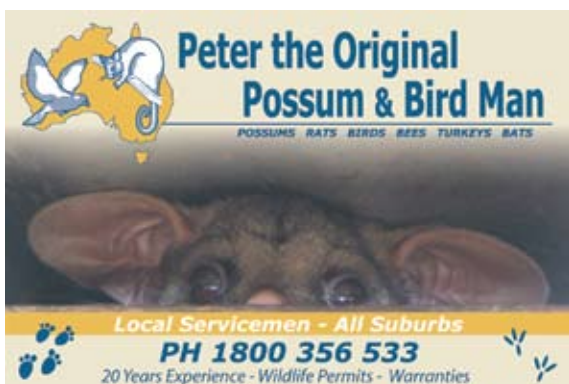


- QUOTE/INVOICE BOOKS
- LETTERHEADS
- COMPS SLIPS
- ENVELOPES
- RAFFLE TICKETS
- BUSINESS CARDS
- 1 COLOUR FLYERS
- FULL COLOUR FLYERS/ BROCHURES/CATALOGUES
- NEWSLETTERS
- SWING TAGS
- STICKERS
- PAD PRINTING
- PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
- COLOUR COPIES
- PHOTOCOPY SERVICE
- GRAPHIC DESIGN

3/55 Dover Drive, Burleigh Heads QLD 4220

PH: 07 5576 7955 FAX: 07 5576 5366

Email: sp@aldnet.com.au



## A Special Offer for Wildcare Australia...

Green Leaf Images is a Sunshine Coast based business that specialises in creating custom works of art with our Canvas and Fine Art Photographic Printing Services.

We would like to offer our services to Wildcare Australia members at our very competitive prices and in addition, we will donate 10% of the print price to help assist Wildcare Australia in the great work that they do.

Our prints are made from the best quality canvas, inks, papers and materials to produce amazing colours, clarity and print lifetimes. Where possible, we choose to use products that are sustainably sourced. Our range of photographic papers are made to some of the highest environmental standards in the world and produced without the use of toxic chemicals such as dioxins. At Green Leaf Images, we believe that beautiful artwork shouldn't cost the earth!

Whether you are looking for a great way to decorate your home or office, or display wedding, baby, family portraits or precious images - we have a range of print sizes and styles to suit any decor or budget. Green Leaf Images also offer a beautiful range of nature inspired photographic prints available for sale so please see our website or contact us for more information.



## Green Leaf Images

Canvas & Fine Art Photographics

P: (07) 5492 9197 M: 0412 423 270

[www.greenleafimages.com.au](http://www.greenleafimages.com.au)

[sales@greenleafimages.com.au](mailto:sales@greenleafimages.com.au)



THE CLEAN SEED PEOPLE

Dust and husk removed for healthy nutrition.  
Privately Australian Owned and Operated.



We pride ourselves in offering efficient service and the best quality seed.

Breeders Choice Seeds are proud to support Wildcare Australia.

We would like to offer all carers a 10% discount on presentation of their Wildcare card at our factory Unit 3/5 Cahill Court, Burleigh Heads.

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.

If you require Bird Seed, Lori Wet/Dry, Egg & Bloccy, Hand Raising mixtures or Small Animal mixes

PLEASE CALL OUR FACTORY ON  
**1800 637 039**



## SLUMPED ARCHITECTURAL GLASS

Slumped glass is a stunning choice for Shower Screens, Pool Fencing, Balustrades, Feature Panels, Doors and Windows.

Phone: 5573 1396

email: [sales@gravityglass.com.au](mailto:sales@gravityglass.com.au)

[www.gravityglass.com.au](http://www.gravityglass.com.au)



**WILDCARE AUSTRALIA**  
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES ALL OF ITS SUPPORTERS

ADOBE SOFTWARE  
ARAKAN MARTIAL ART  
ASHMORE HOLIDAY VILLAGE  
AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC  
BEECH MOUNTAIN STORE  
BINNA BURRA TEA HOUSE  
BRADLEY TREVOR GREIVE  
BREEDERS CHOICE SEEDS  
BRETT RAGUSE MP FEDERAL (FORDE)  
CHATEAU BEACHSIDE RESORT  
CITY LINKS SNACK BAR  
CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY  
FILTRONICS  
FLEAYS WILDLIFE PARK  
GECKO  
GOLD COAST POST FORMING  
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE  
JOHN WILLIAMSON  
LEWIS LAND CORPORATION  
MARGIE SPIES  
THE MOUSE'S HOUSE  
MUDGEERABA STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
NATURAL ARCH CAFÉ RESTAURANT  
NERANG COLOUR COPY  
PETER the ORIGINAL POSSUM & BIRD MAN  
Cr. PETER YOUNG  
PRINT ONE NERANG  
RED ROCKET MEDIA  
RSPCA  
STATESMAN PRESS  
SUNCORP (RUNAWAY BAY)  
TAMBORINE MT. NATURAL HISTORY ASSOC.  
VALLEY VIEW CAFÉ  
THE WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

**WILDCARE VOLUNTEER CARERS**  
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING VETS FOR THEIR  
DEDICATION AND TREATMENT OF OUR  
AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE

ALBERT STREET VET CLINIC Beaudesert 5541 1233	GREENCROSS Highland Park 5574 9622 Mudgeeraba 5530 5555 Nerang 5596 4899 Oxenford 5573 2670
ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE St Lucia 3365 2110	GYMPIE & DISTRICT VETERINARY SERVICES Gympie 5482 2488 Tin Can Bay 5486 4666
ANIMAL REFERRAL CENTRE Carrara 5559 1599 Underwood 3841 7011	KENILWORTH VET CLINIC Kenilworth 5472 3085
AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL Beerwah 5436 2097	MANLY ROAD VET HOSPITAL Manly 3396 9733
COAST VET Burleigh Waters 5520 6820 Helensvale 5573 3355 Robina 5593 0300	MT. TAMBORINE VET SURGERY 5545 2422
COOMERA RIVER VET SURGERY Oxenford 5573 2670	NOOSA VETERINARY SURGERY Tewantin 5449 7522
CURRUMBIN VALLEY VET SERVICES PETER WILSON Currumbin 5533 0381	SOUTHPORT VETERINARY CLINIC & HOSPITAL Southport 5531 2573
CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY Currumbin 5534 0813	TUGUN VETERINARY SURGERY Tugun 5534 1928
DR. BRIAN PERRERS Southport 5591 2246	VETCALL Burleigh 5593 5557 Mudgeeraba 5530 2204
GCARE Varsity Lakes 5593 4544	WEST CHERMSIDE VET CLINIC Stafford Heights 3359 0777

If undeliverable, please return to:  
WILDCARE AUSTRALIA, INC.  
PO BOX 2379 NERANG MAIL CENTRE  
NERANG, QLD 4211

Print Post Approved PP442167/00008

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**



WILDNEWS - The newsletter of Wildcare Australia, Inc.