

# WildNews

ISSUE 69 - SUMMER 2013

*New Section!*

## Compassionate Kids

Two Bad Days for Bat  
Conservation

## Aspiration Pneumonia

+ Suggestions & Ideas for Carers





## President's Report



By Karen Scott

Well, another year is upon us and what a horrible way for it to start for wildlife in South-east Queensland. January has seen the decimation of tens of thousands of flying foxes in colonies throughout the area, as a result of the recent heat waves.

Bat carers in all wildlife care groups have been pushed to their limits in an attempt to save the few that they could, and to retrieve hundreds of orphaned babies now left without their mothers. This effort will go on for several months, until those orphans are old enough to be released back to the wild. We extend a huge 'thank you' to all of the dedicated volunteers, who have been involved with this effort. I would ask anyone who is able, to assist the bat carers over the coming months in whatever way you can. If you are unable to spare any time to help with feeding (you must be vaccinated), cleaning duties, or fruit cutting, please consider making a small donation to help cover the costs associated with this massive effort. This was really the last thing that our local bats needed, when they face such an uncertain future at the hands of the Queensland Government.

In addition to the situation with local bat colonies, sadly the wildlife on beautiful North Stradbroke Island have also suffered a massive setback with the bush fires, that have affected a large portion of the Island during late December and early January. Thousands of native animals will have perished. The small group of wildlife rescuers on the Island are currently merging with Wildcare to form Wildcare Straddie and we hope to be able

to assist them in their efforts to improve outcomes for island wildlife. They also bring to Wildcare a wealth of knowledge and experience and we look forward to working closely with them.

The Committee has already started work on its plans for 2014. We will soon see some improvements to our Wildcare hotline with a new message and call-divert feature.

We are also just adding the finishing touches to a series of wildlife brochures that will be available for distribution to the public. The brochures include topics such as, feeding wildlife, wildlife and pets, homes for wildlife and baby birds. Thank you to everyone who has been involved with this project and to the Logan City Council's EnviroGrant, which is funding the project.

We also hope to have some positive news for Gold Coast wildlife carers in the coming months as we work closely with the Gold Coast City Council to establish a fodder farm, similar to those that already exist in other local council regions.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a little bit of 'down time' over the Christmas and New Year period and I wish everyone a productive and happy 2014.

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#### Wildcare Australia Inc

PO Box 2379  
Nerang Mail Centre,  
Qld 4211

24 X 7 Emergency Phone  
Service (07) 5527 2444

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

#### 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.

#### EMAILS

[enquiries@wildcare.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wildcare.org.au)  
[shop@wildcare.org.au](mailto:shop@wildcare.org.au)  
[education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au)  
[news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au)  
[records@wildcare.org.au](mailto:records@wildcare.org.au)

#### MAIN COMMITTEE

President Karen Scott  
Vice-President Samantha Longman  
Secretary Lewis McKillop  
Treasurer Tracy Paroz  
Committee Members Annette Bird,  
Rachel Lyons

#### NEWSLETTER TEAM

Eleanor Hanger & Deborah Bianchetto.  
Submissions can be sent to  
[news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au)  
cover photo: Annette Bird





## A Warm Welcome to our New Members

### Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members in October, November & December:

Jen Johnstone; Ryan Stuart; David Quinn; Irene Stewart; Jodie Riek; Kirsty Nalvarte; Hayley Long, Daniel Long, Charlotte Long, Piper Long; Holly Van Oosten; Greg Johnstone; Troy Warren & Nina Mayer; Audrey Pietersen & Kiera Pietersen; Debbie Salem; Robert Taylor; Victoria Warren; Maia Sales & Geeta Sales; Robyn Allen, Bruce Allen, Linda Allen, Richard Allen; Shelley Hyland; Teresa Steinmeyer; Kate Moorfield; Nicola Sheather; Michelle Krestan; Stef George; Christina Mischewski & Hudson Klease; Fiona Sheppard; Janice Bourque; Debbie Ellison; Jodie Gilliam; Nicola Dudley & Neill Dudley; Jill Fechner; Estelle Siddons; Angelique Filby; Jessica Vincent; Cindy Day; Natalia Froud; Erika Borgstrom; Joanne Lonergan; Hazel Wallace; Meghan Ellison; Stephani Blank; Elisa Diedrich; Annabelle McFadyen; Jane Miller; Kerry Burns, Taleah Wilde, Sarah Trail; Donna Archer; Heidi Ross; Kate Gamblin; Marcello Porcu; Natasha Crow & Millie Crow; Joelene Mouser; Tracey Robertson & Shane Tebbutt; Tracy Suszynski; Jaimee Blouse; Nick McMullin; Brendan Johnson; Madison Zago; Ross Polst; Michael Nothling; Julia Hartman; Courtney Altenkirk; Lee Curtis; Tomane Cristescu; Greg Grimmett & Stell Grimmett; Jack Jackson; Fiona Davy.

**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

**Autumn** - Issue 70: 29th March

**Winter** - Issue 71: 25th June

**Spring** - Issue 72: 25th September

# Records Reminder

By Kiersten Jones

**All 2013 rescue and rehabilitation records are now due from all permit-endorsed members, and need to be submitted by 14th Jan 2014. Thanks to all who have already submitted these.**

Once your records are submitted, I will be in touch soon after with your 2014 records form. If you have already submitted them and I haven't emailed you already, there will be no change to the 2014 form due to the planned transition to online records this year, so please keep adding records to your existing file in order to avoid getting behind, and you should be able to do a simple cut and paste over to your new file, when you receive it.

**I need to hear from every permit-endorsed member**, so if you haven't done any rescues or had any animals in care for 2013, then please just email me to advise 'nil' for 2013 to avoid unnecessary delay when you re-apply for your permit endorsement in June.

If you are submitting records for the first time, the records forms (emailing and handwritten) and records guidelines may be downloaded from Wildcare's website [www.wildcare.org.au](http://www.wildcare.org.au) – they are under "Carers' Resources". If you have any trouble locating them, I can email them to you.

All Excel and Word records are to be emailed as an attached file to [records@wildcare.org.au](mailto:records@wildcare.org.au). If handwriting your records, the address to post them is on the records form.

If you have any difficulties completing your records, then please email me at [records@wildcare.org.au](mailto:records@wildcare.org.au) or else phone me (my mobile is on the committee contact list).

A reminder too, that you need to have your records up-to-date and submitted, whenever re-applying for the permit endorsement under Wildcare, or for the carer's subsidy.

Thank you in anticipation, and I hope everyone is in for a fantastic 2014, full of happiness, good health and with lots achieved for our precious wildlife.

## Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

By Eleanor Pollock

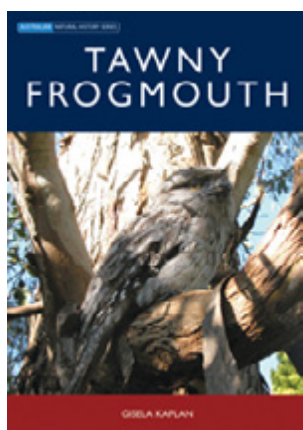
**Hobart - 26th - 30th May 2014**

To those interested in wildlife rehabilitation in Australia. Technology is hampering the 2014 AWRC committees' success in reaching those folk who received the 2012 AWRC bulletins from Townsville last year. I really never thought I would be using those lists again, when we moved to Brisbane in January last year. In an endeavour to assist the 2014 AWRC Committee to reach as many wildlife rehabilitators as possible, I have offered to assist using the 2012 AWRC conference communication lists. No doubt heaps will come back on this first go, however if you would like to be removed from the lists please let me know.

The 2014 Conference programme and the 2014 Conference registration form can be found on the AWRC website: [www.awrchobart.org.au](http://www.awrchobart.org.au)



# Guest Speaker Workshop – Gisela Kaplan



## Tawny Frogmouths and Australian Magpies

Saturday 15th February 2014 at Nerang (Gold Coast)

Gisela Kaplan is a Research Fellow in the School of Science & Technology and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Professional Development & Leadership at the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales. With 19 published books, she has gained national and international acclaim for her books on bird behaviour and animal cognition.

Gisela is the author of CSIRO publications Australian Magpie; Biology and Behaviour of an Unusual Songbird and Tawny Frogmouth.

Gisela presents information gathered from over ten years of observation of these species.

**This is a unique opportunity, so book now!**

## Education Report

*By Karen Scott*

We have just kick started our training workshops for 2014, after a short break over the Christmas and New Year period.

Workshop registrations are coming in well for upcoming workshops, with some workshops beyond capacity already. I would strongly urge anyone wishing to attend to register early as many of the venues will only accommodate 20-25 people.

We would also remind all members, who hold a Permit Endorsement from Wildcare, to check the conditions on their Permit carefully. Some members were issued Permits conditional upon them attending workshops by the end of December 2013. This is the time to make sure that you are aware of your obligations, with regard to attending training workshops, and to make sure that you book in and attend before your Permit expires. Permits will not be renewed until all the necessary conditions have been met. Please check your Permit and book in now! Permitted members must attend **a relevant workshop each year for each species** for which you hold a Permit. If you have any questions regarding the training requirements, please contact Karen or Lewis.

Please note the special workshop being held on the 15th February 2014 with guest speaker, Gisela Kaplan, who will be speaking about Tawny Frogmouths and Australian Magpies. Please refer to the Notice in this edition for more information.





## Two Bad Days for Bat Conservation *By Terry Wimberley*

There have been two bad days for Bat Conservation recently, the first being the aim of the current state government to allow bats to be moved along or culled. Just the airing of this concept has allowed the general public, farmers and local authorities to declare a war on bats.

Trish and I have met with some local government representatives to discuss the unintended consequences of these policies, only to be told that the reason for the policy is the belief, that there are only a few issues that they can actually do something about. Bats fall into the category of something they can be seen to be doing something about. Politics versus Conservation: a great way to manage a species that is so important to our ecosystems and that has been around for 50 million years.

The second bad day was Saturday, the 4th January, when we had 40 degree plus temperatures. Canungra camp alone reached 50 degrees at 3pm. There is a count in progress, to estimate how many bats have been lost and we are now in excess of 40,000 bats from regions stretching from Gayndah in the north, to the border in South-east Queensland and further south into the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales. At the Australian Bat Clinic we have rescued over 400 babies. Our Black Flying-foxes have suffered the most. Boonah camp was one of the worst hit camps. We rescued 156 on Saturday night alone, 85 of those were a vulnerable species, our Grey-headed Flying-fox babies. A big shout out to all our volunteers, who are working around the clock to save these wonderful mammals.

The only thing that can be considered a positive is, that clearly there should not be a need for a cull.

## Toowong Family Vet

Toowong Family Vet has become a major supporter of Wildcare Australia Inc. not only assisting volunteers by providing quality veterinary care for wildlife, but also by raising money and donating it to our organization to help with costs inherent in looking after orphaned and injured wildlife – for food, medicine and equipment. The latest item bought by the surgery for Wildcare was an infant stethoscope, which was received with gratitude by our Vice President, Samantha Longman.

Infant koalas often aspirate their formula, leaving them vulnerable to aspiration pneumonia, so the paediatric stethoscope will assist the carer to monitor the joey closely and seek treatment at the first sign of a problem. Early treatment can be critical to survival.



Wildcare Australia Inc. would like to express its sincere appreciation to Vet Dr Kirsty Fridemanis and the Toowong Family Vet practice for their wonderful gift and on-going support.

# Gold Coast Post Forming

**GOLD COAST**

**POST FORMING**

Gold Coast Post Forming is another major supporter of Wildcare. All donations received are added to the Wildcare Carers Subsidy which helps reimburse rehabilitation expenses to members.

## Patrick, the Ghost Bat

*Terry and Trish Wimberley*



Some of you may remember Patrick the Ghost Bat.

A few months ago Patrick was released into a cave north of Mackay. Fortunately a number of his mates were in the cave and there was a joyous reunion amongst squeaks and flapping of wings.

Trish and I made the trip to Mackay and Trish along with three Queensland Parks rangers travelled to the remote cave. I had other business in town and according to those who went, I would not have fitted through the cave entrance anyway.

Patrick had been flown down for Trish to rehab from wounds and after three months in care, we were able to claim a success. We miss Patrick, but at the same time are happy to know that he is where he belongs.

A big 'thank you' to Queensland Parks Mackay, RSPCA (Tanya), the staff at ABC, Qantas Link and all those who supported us through this endeavour.

Gratitude to Zarraffas Coffee, whose continued support allows us to do this work.

Terry and Trish  
[www.australianbatclinic.com.au](http://www.australianbatclinic.com.au)  
[terry@australianbatclinic.com.au](mailto:terry@australianbatclinic.com.au)  
 07 5563 0333 mobile 0415 752 050

# Coordinator Reports

## MACROPODS

*By Karen Scott*

Sadly, we have seen a high number of macropod joeys coming into care of late. It is becoming more and more difficult to place these joeys due to their specialised needs. A huge thank you to our small team of dedicated macropod carers, who have taken on these little guys, many of which have special nursing and veterinary needs.

## KOALAS

*By Karen Scott*

Koala rescues have remained fairly steady over recent months. December and January brought frequent calls for mal-nourished and sick koalas found on the ground and there was the usual flow of road traumas and dog attacks.

We do need to find more volunteers who are willing to attend koala rescues. We are able to assist with equipment and on-the-job training. If anyone is interested please contact Karen via email at [karen@wildcare.org.au](mailto:karen@wildcare.org.au)

## POSSUMS

*Gold Coast By Nat Rasmussen*

I hope the New Year brings everyone good health and not too many animals that need our care - although that's probably a little wishful thinking.

With the New Year beginning, I am hoping to get a very important message out, not only to members of the public, but also to our Wildcare members. I know it's irresistible to have a close connection with the wonderful wildlife, that comes and sits on our verandahs or railings, to have them so close you can almost touch them, but it is really important to resist the temptation to feed them human food. You can get just as much pleasure from watching their behaviour in their natural environment, seeing them catching bugs or munching on leaves.

Time and time again I hear rescuers discussing with members of the public the importance of not feeding our precious animals. Generally, people believe they are doing the animals a kindness, giving them bread and honey, left-over scraps from the table, or fruit and vegetables – sometimes spoiled. In reality they are doing them a dis-service. Also, how are we supposed to teach the public the correct thing to do, when the carers are sometimes guilty of similar habits?

Hand-reared possums have enough hurdles to overcome simply by being reared by humans. Carers make every effort to ensure they are wild before release, so encouraging them to visit the food trays each night is setting them up for future health problems or predation.

So please, give consideration to the fact that you can get just as much pleasure watching them in the wild, behaving as they should, and thriving on what nature has provided for them. By doing so you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are allowing them to be wild.

Our educators and workshops are full of amazing and valuable information. Let's try to take in as much as we can and teach not only the public, but people in our own homes the importance of a native diet.

Thank you once again to all of the wonderful carers who make coordinating such a pleasure.



# Coordinator Reports

## REPTILES

by Annette Bird

It has been a very busy couple of months, with many public education events attended, and a continuing flood of injured and sick reptiles keeping us on our toes. First to the events:

### Event 1: Public Education Day at Pet City Mt Gravatt

This was attended by Annette, Beetle (the Bearded Dragon) and Justin, with the goal being to increase public awareness about what we do. The shop was extremely busy all day. There was a continual tide of people coming through, and endless questions to answer and pamphlets to hand out. Midway, the usual injured reptile call meant that Justin did a mercy dash to Wacol, with a dog attack Blue-tongue skink requiring euthanasia. This didn't dampen his enthusiasm though and he soon returned to baby-sit a rather large Black-headed Python. I got to hold a freshwater crocodile for 'a few minutes' that turned into two hours as he was misbehaving for his owner but decided to be an angel for me – maybe he heard that I chase large wild monitors up trees! Beetle did his thing and was a magnet to the kids all day – they were lined up to see him. One of the Pet City staff placed a jar of lollies right in front of his enclosure and he spent hours staring at them – or maybe it was the baby chicks behind them, but whatever it was, he was very interested.



Justin with Black-headed Python



Beetle doing his 'thing'



Beetle being tortured with the lolly jar

### Event 2: Springfield Anglican College Day 16th October

This was attended by Annette, Chris, Tammy and Tegan (the human team). The reptile team was much more substantial; with four Bearded Dragons, two Blue-tongue Skinks, three Eastern Water Dragons, a jungle Python, Diamond Python, Green Tree Snake and Keelback lining up to play. And was it a long day! It started with the smaller children (45-62 per session) for both teams of humans and reptiles. All in all, we spoke to over 400 children in five back-to-back sessions each, with a short lunch break. I say short, because Chris and Tammy had vacated the library, as they were warned that it is usually busy during the lunch break. I think every child descended on us at once - they found us hiding out in the dance hall. At one point, I thought I'd lost Beetle and Amy Lee, the two Beardies, but they were buried in a pile of excited Year One children, who swarmed like insects. This was a bad moment, as even the teachers were fighting for control. However, after this minor hiccup, the rest of the day went off without a hitch. Luckily, the reptiles are bomb-proof and they took it all in their stride. I learnt the value of the horse-shoe shape (which the kids were put in after the first session) and boundaries, which are both essential hints for those brave enough to be contemplating going down this path, or stupid enough to want to work with children.

*continued on next page*

# Coordinator Reports

## REPTILES

*Continued*

The reptiles were on their best behaviour as usual and were a huge hit. The big take-home message when working with children and animals: NEVER, EVER bring an animal out until you have finished talking – they don't listen when they see the animals!!! The snakes were a bigger hit than the lizards and aside from the odd 'shovel story' to which I turned a deaf ear, the children were educated about what to do if they find an injured animal; what to do if they find a baby bird on the ground; why not to take a wild animal from the wild and keep it as a pet; why not to throw stones or sticks at animals and finally, they all received a short talk about basic snake safety.

We were then presented with a 'thank you' speech from the student representatives and were presented with \$319 in gold coins donated by the children on the day. Additionally I received a 'thank you' letter from a Year Three student on the back of her homework sheet. We all came home exhausted. It took until Friday for my reptiles to recover – they slept all Thursday!



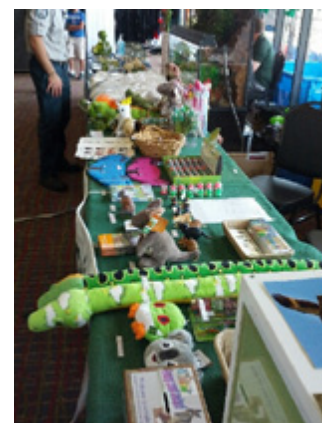
*Me, doing my thing*



*Beetle doing his thing again!*

### **Event 3: The Scales and Tails Reptile Festival 9th November at Ipswich**

This was our biggest event this year and was attended by a team of about 10. Again, Beetle came to support the work we do, this time dressed up with a bandage and again there was a line up to see him and ask about him. I think he has to be the most photographed reptile in Australia. Our volunteers assisted with gate admissions, and another team manned the stall talking to people and handing out pamphlets. We did pretty well with sales as well, raising over \$700 for the day.



Now to the real work:

It's been very busy on the rescue and rehab front as well, as we are in the middle of 'reptile season'. It has been a weird year, with multiples of species in care, where we normally only get one or two in, at any one time. For example, at one point, we had six venomous snakes and six Lace Monitors in care. This made for challenging days, with regards to feeding and medicating.

### **Update on the last Newsletter report:**

Sadly, Kobi (the Eastern Bearded Dragon) and Petra (the Eastern Water Dragon) were euthanased, as their injuries were too severe and they would never have been releasable. Oran, the Lace Monitor, has been released though; a big win, as she was very sick on arrival.

*continued on next page*



# Coordinator Reports

## REPTILES

*Continued*

### Newies worth mentioning:

**Quade the Lace Monitor** - Quade was minding his own business and crossing the road, when he had his head run over by a 4-wheel drive. Now, if you are a bird or smaller mammal, this would likely result in instant death BUT Quade is a reptile and a big one, at just shy of 4 kg. I would have to say that Lace Monitors can take the unbelievable. His injuries include a shattered skull (three fractures) and a fractured mandible (lower jaw). When he arrived, it was touch and go as to whether he would survive. He was very dull and slept a lot. He was kept in an intensive care enclosure which has no temperature gradient, to maintain his body temperature to optimum. The light wattage was reduced to help his expected headache and the light was only on for short periods during the day. He was left alone to sleep. As the weeks went by, he continued to receive his antibiotics via injection and was receiving pain relief orally, as he required tube feeding due to his jaw injury anyway. He then began to slowly rouse mentally and it became apparent that his severe head injury was affecting his balance. He couldn't stand properly, and, as he attempted to move, kept falling to the right. Whilst this is obviously unpleasant for him and not nice to watch either, he gradually improved and began walking straighter. He is also slowly improving mentally as well and I think that soon I'll be using gloves with him. For now, though, he is still easy to manage, although he is looking at me a bit more intensely. I take this as a good sign and hope that he goes "all Lace Monitor" on me soon – I'll be ready to run as he is one impressive reptile.

We have been madly rescuing eggs for all sorts of reasons. At present we have clutches of Eastern Long Neck Turtles, Eastern Bearded Dragons, Eastern Water Dragons and Knob Tail Gecko eggs all in the incubator and ready to hatch soon – about 60 in all. Things are about to get very busy. Oh, and one unidentified egg, which fell out of a chair during one of our reptile handling sessions here. It will be interesting to see what emerges from this one!!

**STOP PRESS: The eggs are madly hatching. Turtles, Geckoes & Beardies all making grand entrances.**



**Aspiration pneumonia is a relatively common condition in hand-reared wildlife. Also commonly referred to as inhalation pneumonia, aspiration pneumonia occurs as a result of foreign material inhalation.**

This subsequently results in inflammation of lung tissue often followed by infection and tissue necrosis. In hand-reared wildlife, the inhalation of milk formula is by far the most common cause of aspiration pneumonia.

The severity of the pneumonia often depends upon the type of material inhaled, the amount inhaled and the response time between the event, diagnosis and appropriate treatment. The lungs are not a purely sterile environment and bacteria and fine particles are inhaled continually. In a healthy lung there is a system in place to rid the lung of these fine contaminants. However, when larger particles or substances such as milk are inhaled, the lung cannot clear this effectively and this foreign material provides the perfect environment for infection, thereby causing serious respiratory complications.

The clinical signs of aspiration pneumonia can include one or many of the following:-

- Coughing or sneezing
- Unwillingness or inability to feed
- A 'clicking' noise whilst breathing
- Depression
- Lethargy
- Open-mouthed breathing
- Purple/bluish tinge to nose

Unfortunately by the time an animal shows some of the last signs above the lungs may already be badly compromised and can carry a poor prognosis.

**Recognizing the signs of inhalation and obtaining prompt veterinary attention is essential in improving outcome.**

Immediate signs of aspiration may include:-

- The animal appearing to "choke" or "cough" whilst drinking
- Fluid coming out of the animal's nostrils
- Excess fluid coming from the animal's mouth immediately following feeding

In some instances, these signs may be very subtle and a carer may not necessary notice that the animal has aspirated.

It is imperative that when an animal aspirates, prompt veterinary treatment is sought so that a firm diagnosis and appropriate treatment can be prescribed.

Veterinary diagnosis of aspiration pneumonia is aided by a thorough and detailed history. Vets rely on the wildlife carer for this. Other diagnostic techniques can include radiographs, chest auscultation and bronchi alveolar lavage. Treatment by a veterinarian generally involves prescribing a broad-spectrum antibiotic. Further treatment for more severe cases may involve oxygen therapy, anti-inflammatories, sedation, bronchodilators and nebulisation. It is important for carers to understand that in some cases euthanasia is the most humane treatment.

**By far the most effective method of treatment is prevention. The vast majority of cases of aspiration pneumonia occur because of incorrect feeding technique or incorrect feeding equipment.**

The following guidelines should be followed whilst feeding young animals:

- Administration of fluid (whether water, milk or medications) should not be given faster than the animal can swallow. The smaller the animal the smaller the quantities that should be offered at each interval. Remember also, if the animal is debilitated (eg. dehydrated, weak, malnourished) the animal's responses may not be as quick as a healthy animal and the rate of administration should be adjusted accordingly.
- Use the appropriate sized feeding equipment. The smaller the animal, the smaller the feeding equipment. Use small-gauged syringes, cannulas and fine teats to feed small animals.



# Vet Check: Aspiration Pneumonia

*continued*

- Ensure that the appropriate sized hole is placed in latex teats. An inappropriate sized hole is by far the most common cause of aspiration in bottle-fed joeys. Joeys are not designed to drink milk quickly – look at mum’s teat – the supply of milk is slow and steady. Joeys are designed to drink slowly and although it may be more convenient for us, humans, to place a bigger hole in a teat so that the animal drinks more quickly, it is not good for the animal. Check teats before each feed to ensure that the hole has not become too big or has split. As a general guide, for a joey less than 1kg the diameter of the hole should be no more than 0.5mm. For a joey 1kg to 2kg, the hole should have a diameter no more than 1mm.

Despite the best efforts of wildlife carers, there will still be some instances where aspiration pneumonia may occur. To ensure the best prognosis for the animal, it is always best to be honest with your veterinarian and provide a thorough and detailed history so that appropriate treatment can be prescribed. The quicker treatment is obtained, the better the prognosis.

*This article appeared in our Summer 2009/2010 newsletter. It has been reprinted for our newer members.*

# Animals Feel the Heat Too

*By Ailsa Watson*

**Not only is the heat causing problems for humans, but my small dogs, birds and chooks are feeling it too. I have set up a sprinkler on the aviary, which I turn on briefly every hour. I have filled the old plastic sand pit with water for the dogs, and hose down the chooks every hour or so.**

I am constantly adding ice blocks to the drinking water and to help my baby birds, I have them in an open cage with a small fan nearby, over which I keep placing a wet tea towel.

It is so sad. I have had reports from friends on the western side of the Great Dividing Range that they are finding dead wallabies and kangaroos in the paddocks. One has even placed a large container of water for the wildlife on the fence line, even though they themselves are struggling to keep their own water supply up.

My personal opinion is, that we may have to get used to these hot days. We had them last year too and I don’t think they are going to go away in the short term, so maybe it is time to give some thought to dealing with them, cooling down our aviaries and thinking of anything else we can do to help the animals to live through them.

After the heat wave last year I took the precaution of growing a vine over the aviary. It still has a bit of growing to do, but with even the little bit I have, it has made a tremendous difference to the temperature in the cages and is great when the sprinkler works, as the leaves seem to drip for ages afterwards. I have seen one bird sitting on the perch with his mouth wide open catching the drops as they come down.

I know it sounds strange, but I have even been watering my larger trees for the Lorikeets, Peewees and Noisy Miners, which have been taking refuge in the branches. They seem to enjoy the hose, as do the Butcher birds and Magpies and they all seem to be getting on together for a change.

Hopefully this weather event will pass and not too much damage done, but please give some thought to inventing ways and means of keeping our animals cool in this type of weather for the future and please let me know if you come up with some really good ideas.

**Rescue of injured marsupials: Please attend to the mother first, unless the joey has been thrown from the pouch, or has sustained serious injuries.**

Remember to conduct a thorough examination of each animal you receive into care, even if it has come from a vet surgery or another carer. When everyone is extremely busy, overworked and tired, it is easy to overlook injuries. Also it may take a little time for an injury to become apparent, such as is indicated by bruising and/or swelling.

As Ailsa mentioned in her report, animals feel the heat too and when confined to a cage or aviary rely on us to relieve their discomfort. So make sure they have plenty of fresh water and that their cages or aviaries are kept as cool as possible.



## **Some ideas for reducing the heat in established aviaries:**

- Plant vines to grow over them, or on trellises beside them, to provide shade;
- Plant trees and shrubs around them to shade the sides and roof, particularly from the afternoon/western sun;
- Shade the roof with an old sail, piece of canvas, or similar, allowing plenty of room for air circulation between it and the roof. Secure it well, so that it doesn't flap and frighten the occupants out of their minds;
- Allow leaf litter to build up on the roof and/or add some old branches to reduce the heat generated by direct sunlight on the roof;
- Using a fine mist, hose the aviary down periodically. This helps reduce the temperature inside, even if only temporarily.

## **Some ideas for reducing the potential problem of excessive heat, if you are planning to erect a new aviary:**

- If possible position the aviary, so that it faces away from the prevailing winds and rain, and is protected from the afternoon/western sun by buildings, trees or shrubs;
- Consider the morning and mid-day sun too, when positioning the aviary, as in summer or during a heatwave an aviary can become a furnace in a very short time;
- If positioned correctly (check the direction of the prevailing winds and rain), there will be a reduced need for solid walls.
- A larger area of wire will allow better air circulation and will give the occupants a greater feeling of being part of the natural environment, rather than being trapped in a box.
- Read the ideas for established aviaries.

Summer is the time when snakes are most active, so if you haven't checked that your aviary is snake proof, now is the time to do it. I have been amazed at how methodically pythons will work their way around the aviary looking for an entry point. Recently I saw a Lace Monitor (about 1.3 m long) doing the same thing - working its way around in a methodical fashion, pressing quite firmly on the wire every ten centimetres or so.

Finally, if you have any ideas that could assist carers in any way, please let us know.



# Compassionate

# Kids



We are delighted to re-introduce a Children's Section to our newsletter after a long absence. It will be called "Compassionate Kids", named, appropriately, by our junior members, Jasmine, Lilly and Jack. We hope it is enjoyed by our younger members and friends and thank the children who have contributed to this edition. I would also like to thank Brigitte Blakeway, who was instrumental in its re-birth and the Wildcare Committee, who supported the idea so enthusiastically.

*Eleanor Hanger*

## WILDCARE ACTIVITIES FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS

We are currently looking into developing some activities for our junior members, as the general Wildcare training workshops are not particularly suitable for those under 14 years.

### Children's section in the newsletter

We are re-introducing a Children's Section in our newsletter and are inviting our junior members to contribute a story, poem, puzzle, game, drawing or painting on a wildlife or other environmental theme. The work must be original and should be received by [news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au) before the end of March, for inclusion in our next edition.



We would be delighted to hear from a senior member, who would be prepared to take responsibility for this section. If you are interested, please contact [news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au) for further information.

### Junior workshops

We would like to develop some short workshops for junior members where they can learn about wildlife related topics and participate in activities.

If any of our senior or junior members are interested in participating in these projects, please register your interest by emailing Karen at [karen@wildcare.org.au](mailto:karen@wildcare.org.au).

We look forward to hearing from you.



### Monthly Mission:

Plant a native shrub in your own backyard!!

Water, it is the life blood of all that inhabits this precious earth. Without it there would be no life on earth.

Australia is a country with a rich diversity of both flora and fauna. We have a national anthem that proudly sings about the soil with its riches and the sea that surrounds us.

Queensland can boast of having one of the natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef, in our own backyard. We truly have it all, yet unfortunately that claim is tenuous, as pollution and habitat destruction are threatening these special places.

Mining, fracking, dredging and dumping - will it ever stop? We, adults, must stand together and say, "No more destruction of our natural resources!" We stand to lose everything that makes Australia unique, and the children of the future will have no wonders of the natural world left, nothing to inspire and reconnect them with the planet that they live on.

Below are two children's thoughts, cares and concerns about our precious reef and oceans. *Brigitte Blakeway*

## My Reef Adventure

*By Madison Gribble – Age 8*

Big silver speedy boat  
Heading to the reef  
Water splashing, wind gusting  
Whoops! Almost lost my hat

I'm high in the sky  
In my first helicopter flight  
Amazing colourful views  
As far as I can see

Fins, goggles, vest, snorkel  
Butterflies in my stomach  
Brrrrr, the water's cold  
Let's go explore the reef

Crystal clear aqua water  
Colourful cheeky curious fish  
Darting here, weaving there  
Dancing before my eyes

Large stable spacious reef  
Bright yet spiky coral  
Yellow, blue, green and orange  
Never want to leave

One long trumpet blow  
Means it's time to go  
Someday I will return  
To the Great Barrier Reef

## Why we should save our oceans

*By Shana Fraser*

Imagine a world without the ocean.

Where would the beautiful dolphins live?  
Where would the majestic whales take care of their young?

Where would the fish swim?  
Where would the coral grow?  
Where would we swim, surf and play?  
But the most of all, what would we do without a home for all our wondrous animals?

Everyone needs to help preserve our ocean.  
All of the animals will become extinct if we keep polluting and neglecting our oceans.

If you really want to help, please keep our oceans clean - free of rubbish, chemicals and pollutants.  
Please help us save our oceans.



*Deep Sea by Benjamin Edwards (aged nine)*

# Make your footprint count!!!

By Jas Rasmussen

Hi, my name is Jas Rasmussen and I have been a member of Wildcare for about eight years now. For the last couple of years, I have been assisting Eleanor Hanger, along with my brother Jack, sister Lilly and mum Nat, in presenting and educating the joey scouts at Burleigh on Wildcare and the importance of our wildlife.

It has been one of the most uplifting and rewarding experiences, to know that we are giving back to our earth and helping others to do so as well.

This year was a little different from the past, as Eleanor and my mum placed the whole talk in our hands. We were able to communicate with the kids and connect with them, being of similar ages.

The introduction had an amusing start, with ducks suddenly flying around the room. The children had never seen them there before and thought that we had brought them with us as a prop. What a coincidence!

We taught the joey scouts what Wildcare is all about; what to do if you find an injured animal and why they are all so important to our own lives and the lives of many. We also showed pictures and educated them on some endangered species and let them know how they can help, as children, in their own lives, such as donating to Wildcare, keeping domestic animals inside, picking up rubbish, not using rat poison to get rid of rats, and also getting rid of weeds like lantana and planting native plants in their garden instead, for the native animals to eat.

Jack and Lily were fantastic in assisting me with this presentation, and spoke so well, which makes me a proud sister. Mum also read them a story and explained the meaning to them, which was an excellent way to educate and encourage the kids towards caring for our wildlife. We played games and the children engaged in numerous fun activities, such as a quiz. It was very interesting to see that the children had listened well to our presentation and remembered all the key information, and just to remind them, we gave them an interactive brochure to help them remember all of the information.

It was a wonderful experience and I think the joey scouts enjoyed the presentation as much as we did and left eager to find a way to help our native wildlife. I would encourage all children of any age to do the same. I would like to also give a big thank you to the joey scout members and leaders for having us and embracing our presentation. We'd also like to thank them for the wonderful possum dreys they so kindly made for us, which will be really handy in the future. In this issue, I urge you all to find your own way to help our wildlife and environment, whether it may be talking to your schoolmates and family members about wildlife, or planting a tree in your back yard. Whatever it may be, I hope that you can all make a difference, and have a clean footprint, one that really counts, and be compassionate kids!



Coral Reef by Jonathan Edwards (aged six)



Rasmussen family receiving dreys from Burleigh Joey Scouts.





Let's play!



### Word search!!

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

#### Words to find:

- Possum
- Koala
- Kangaroo
- Snake
- Kookaburra
- Lorikeet
- Platypus
- Echidna
- Wombat
- Lizard

# 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.



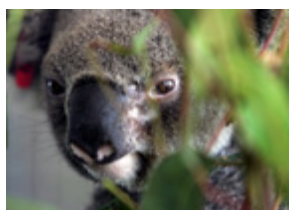
## CITY OF IPSWICH

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.

## 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 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.

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## Thank you!



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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  
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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 5545 2422
COAST VET Burleigh Waters 5520 6820 Helensvale 5573 3355 Robina 5593 0300	NOOSA VETERINARY SURGERY Tewantin 5449 7522
CURRUMBIN VALLEY VET SERVICES PETER WILSON Currumbin 5533 0381	TOOWONG FAMILY VET Toowong 3613 9644
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
GREENCROSS Mudgeeraba 5530 5555 Nerang 5596 4899 Oxenford 5573 2670 Southport 5531 2573	Note: UQ Small Animal Clinic St. Lucia has now moved to the UQ Gatton Campus.