

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

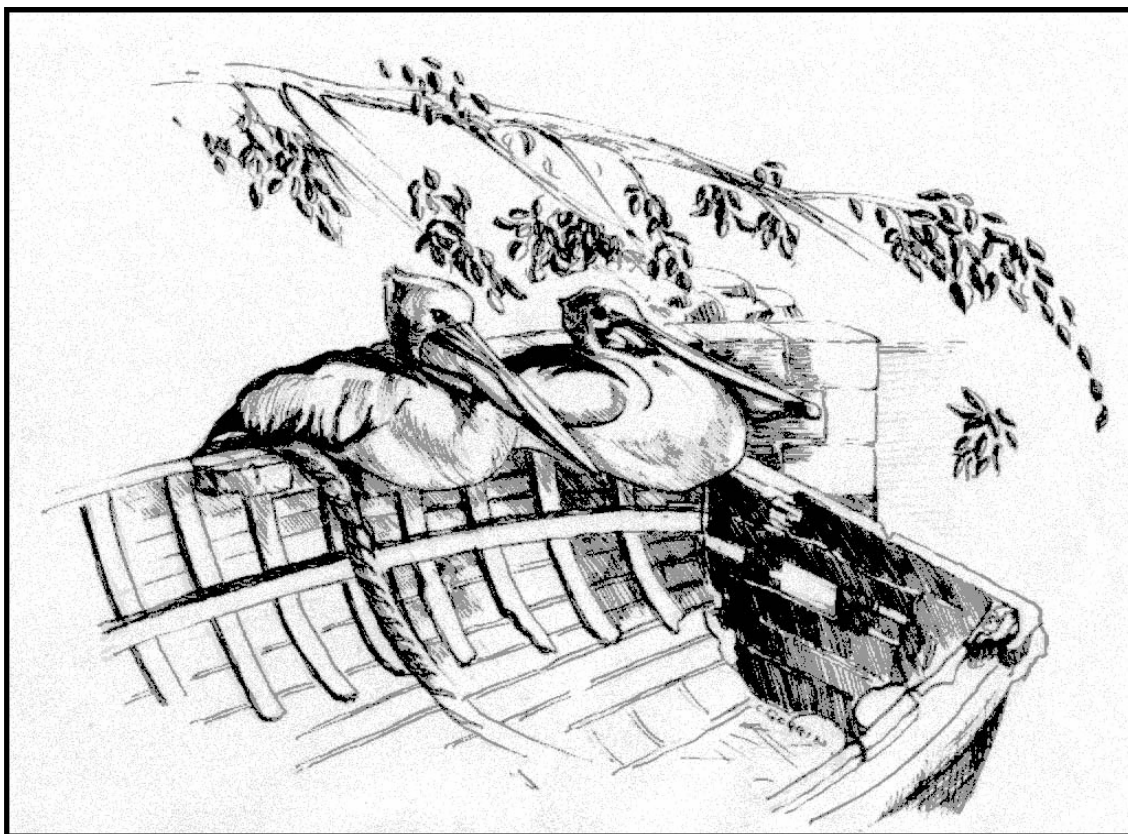
EDUCATION WILDLIFE REHABILITATION RESEARCH

July 2004, Issue 34

P.O. BOX 2379, NERANG MAIL CENTRE Q. 4211

WILDNEWS

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



This newsletter is proudly sponsored by
KAY ELSON MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE



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Wildcare Education and Training 07 5527 2444
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Position vacant	John Hanger

Thank you

Trish and Terry

Thank you Trish and Terry for your on going support of Wildcare Australia in allowing us the use of your home for our office and education programmes. This is a huge invasion of your privacy and it is hard to find words to convey our sense of gratitude for your amazing generosity. Your commitment to Wildcare Australia and the wildlife of this country is evinced in so many other ways, not least your willingness to rescue any animal at any time, regardless of the hour or distance, your willingness to give assistance and advice to those who need help, your ongoing financial assistance and your sheer hard work . Our very special thanks to two wonderful people.

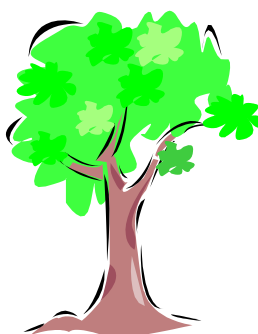
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Quote of the Month.....

"To watch over the life of a plant and its general harmony, is it not to watch over the safety of humanity?"

Mme. Michelet 1872



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past few months, and in particular over these last few weeks, it has come to my attention that there is some confusion, indeed a complete misunderstanding, about Wildcare Australia's views and beliefs in regard to not only our native species of birds but also to wild introduced species.

Here is some clarification of the matter. When you join Wildcare Australia you do so to help our sick, injured and orphaned native animals as you are concerned about animal welfare and the plight in which these animals find themselves due to land clearing, urbanization and habitat destruction.

Wildcare Australia does not euthanase Australian native animals unless they suffering from illness or injuries that we are unable to treat or cure.

Within Wildcare Australia our Australian native species will always have first priority over any non-native species and most Wildcare Australia rehabilitators will choose to look after native species only.

While it is totally up to the rehabilitators what species they choose to look after, they must abide by the guidelines and legislation set up by the Department of Primary Industries. If they choose to raise or rehabilitate non-native species that is fine, but those

animals have to remain in permanent care. They cannot be released into the wild as it is an offence under the DPI Act to release any non-native species into the environment.

It will be a very sad day if rehabilitators take on too many non-natives and then, when breeding season comes around, find they have no room or finances to help our native birds. Yes, I know they are cute and I have been told it doesn't matter, but the truth is, if we all had that attitude, there would be no habitat left for our wonderful Australian species as introduced species seem to dominate in areas where they become established, depriving native species of food and shelter, as we see happening now. If you had the choice between saving an Indian Minor or protecting habitat and saving our Noisy Minor what would you choose?

If you would like to care for non-natives and pet birds maybe Wildcare Australia is not the organization for you.

Non-native species should be handed to the RSPCA, DPI or your local council as they are the people on whom the responsibility for these animals rest.

Gail Gipp
President

Steve's Story

Steve is a two year-old koala who is currently being treated in our state-of-the-art koala hospital. In some respects Steve is a very lucky koala. This morning, (Thursday morning, 20 May 2004) Steve took his first steps in our koala exercise yard after 22 days in our intensive care ward. This is his story.

Steve is a wild subadult koala from Burpengary, in south-east Queensland. Within the last 6 months he had left the home range of his mother to explore the world, as young koalas do, then settle into an area that

he could call his own. For some young koalas this may only take a few months, for others, especially young males, it could take years.

For koalas in south-east Queensland, and, in fact, many areas of Australia, this period of dispersal can be the most dangerous of a young koala's life. Even for koalas living in large areas of protected habitat (a rare thing in Australia) this is a dangerous time of their life – they are starting an adventure of discovery that exposes them to many dangers. As they traverse unfamiliar territory they are exposed to predators such

Continued on page 12

COMING EVENTS

Wildcare Australia Education and Training

To confirm the date and venue of any workshop or course the **Brisbane** community should contact Kim Alexander or the Wildcare office. The **Gympie** community should contact Paula Rowlands or the Wildcare office, and people from all other areas should contact the Wildcare office (between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday) on 07 5527 2444

Costs

Please note that all Wildcare workshops are free to members. There is a fee for courses and workshops run by other persons or groups.

Lunch

Please bring your own lunch to workshops and courses. Only coffee, tea and biscuits are available.

August	1	Orientation Day 1
	8	Orientation Day 2
	15	Baby Bird 1
	29	Baby Bird 2
September	4	Orientation Day 1
	11	Orientation Day 2
	19	Bird Anatomy, Physiology, Injuries and Diseases
October	3	Orientation Day 1
	9	Possums of SEQ
	10	Orientation Day 2
	17	Baby Bird 1
	23	Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals
	24	Possums of SEQ
	30	Macropod—furred to pre-release
	31	Baby Bird 2

PLEASE

**remember to register for any workshop you may wish to attend and always check dates, times and venues of events with the office
07 5527 2444**

FUNDRAISING

RAFFLE

Community Art Union Raffle

Your chance to win a \$25,000.00 SPENDING SPREE AT HARVEY NORMAN'S is fast approaching.

The raffle closes on the 6th August and all tickets, sold or unsold, must reach Ken Bridge by 31st July.

So please finalize your tickets sales and return them to Ken as soon as possible. If you have any queries, contact details are:-

Ken Bridge
Ph: Hm 07 5534 1444
email: qailf@iprimus.com.au

Karen Ney
Ph Wk (weekdays): 07 3407 2555
Ph Hm (weekends and nights): 07 3882 3171
email: sesc@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Karen Ney & Ken Bridge
on behalf of Wildcare Fundraising Committee

PAULS MILK BOTTLE TOPS

Please start saving the yellow and red "collect-a-cap" milk bottle tops from Paul's milk for WILDCARE

The fundraising committee will arrange a drop off box for these at the office.



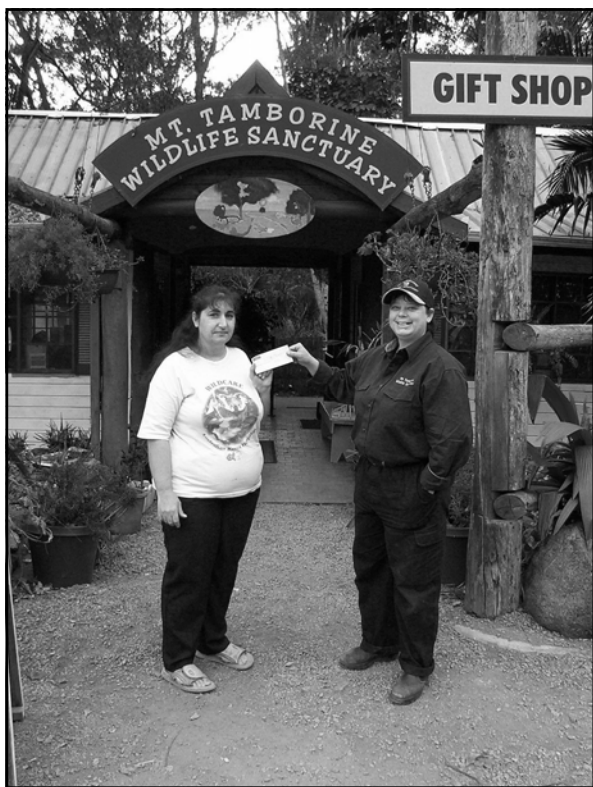
STAMP COLLECTORS

please note

Stamps lose their value if they are damaged in any way.

To maximise the return please leave at least 3 cm or 1 inch of paper around the sides that you can.

Thanking you in anticipation
and happy collecting.



Lee-Anne Burgess from Wildcare accepts the cheque from Amanda Yates, Tamborine Wildlife Sanctuary

Mt Tamborine Wildlife Sanctuary Donates To Wildcare

Donations made by visitors to Mt Tamborine Wildlife Sanctuary were recently handed to Wildcare as part of the sanctuary's support for local wildlife. Amanda Yates, the sanctuary owner, was more than happy to write a cheque for over \$150 to go towards caring for native wildlife.

"Wildcare is an excellent organization and one I fully support," she said. "The carers give so much of their own time and money rescuing and caring for sick and injured wildlife. They need and deserve all the support we can give them."

Mt Tamborine Wildlife Sanctuary at Thunderbird Park welcomes donations all year round for those who wish to help Wildcare.

Eds. note. Thank you, Amanda, we are delighted to have your support.

NEW MEMBERS to 22 June

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA welcomes the following new members: Sonya Harris, Bundall: Janet Gamble, Jimboomba: Sandii Cullinane, Southport: Sybil Primrose,, Bray Park: Suzanne Krono, Tallebudgera: Lisa Skrokov, Glenwood: Delyth Lewis, Pimpama: Kieren Marchant, Hill End: Ilona Roberts, Tumbulgum: Susan Johnson,, Crabres Creek: Belinda Eichmann, Windsor: Lesley Ward, Broadbeach Waters: Scott & Christine Wilson, Willow Vale: Conor Maguire, Victoria Point: Tony Harrison, Coombabah: Trudy Hunter-Boyle, Mt Tamborine: Jodi Hooper, Russell Island: Nishma Bakrania, Corinda: Tania & Peter Bishop, Cashmere: Dennis & Marilyn Smith, Mudgeeraba: Perry & Colleen Jenks, Parkwood: Teya Glavanics, Currumbin: Chantal Dunbar, Robina: Crystal Wilkes, Uki: Nicole Ellison, Helensvale: Tania Pfeiffer, Beechmont: Susan Miles, Mt Tamborine: Jenny Schoen, Mudgeeraba: Erin Murphy, Coolangatta: Vanessa Goreki, Brisbane: Micah Hoogland, Chermside: Carla Gerrard, Labrador: Karen Modra, Alexandra Hills: Christina & August Huber, Redland Bay: Scott & Caroline Oertel, Everton Park: Pennie & Nicholas Beecroft, Beenleigh: Glen Wilson, Annerley: Ann Allen, Chelmer: Gary Searle, Elanore: Harry & Marilyn Brust, Moorina.

*We hope you have a long and happy association with
WILDCARE AUSTRALIA*

Thank you Kay Elson and Staff

A special thank you to Kay Elson MP Federal Member for Forde and her staff at Beenleigh for their continuing support of Wildcare Australia. It was early in 1998 that one of our founders, Sharon White, met Kay Elson and told her of the work that Wildcare does. As a result of that meeting Kay offered to sponsor the Wildcare newsletter and since the April 1998 edition the newsletter team have been gathering in Beenleigh every three months to photocopy and prepare the newsletter for mailing. Kay's staff have always made us feel most welcome, have made sure that we have everything needed for the task, and have cheerfully rendered assistance when the photocopier was feeling temperamental. Thank you Kay and staff for your recognition of the work Wildcare does and for your ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated.

FUNDRAISING

FUNDRAISING CHOCOLATES

DID YOU KNOW?

That for

Every chocolate sold *HALF* the price goes straight to *Wildcare* helping to save animals?

That there

Are more than **6** different flavours to choose from and now even the option of getting lollies?

That for BRISBANITES

we have a collection person in the Brisbane area
(who also collects money to save you going all the way to the coast)?

Well all these things are true.

Wildcare needs your help now.

This is the easiest form of fundraising – if you can sell some chocolates

Just call

**Trish Hales at the office on 5527 2444 (Tuesday or Friday) or Rochelle Manners in Brisbane on 3879 2367 or 0414 761 311
(email s350442@student.uq.edu.au if you prefer)**

Marny Finds An Echidna

A children's story written by Rochelle Manners, a Wildcare member. It features two children who find an echidna in their yard. When they wonder what to do, George, their garden gnome comes to life and teaches them about the animal.

Further books will be available at a later stage.

The book costs \$10.00 through the Wildcare shop, with a third of that money fundraising to help Wildcare. The book educates, one of Wildcare's aims, and also includes the Wildcare phone number for advertising

If you can't get to the shop, order them directly through Rochelle Manners, the author, in Brisbane.

s350442@student.uq.edu.au 0414 761 311 or 3879 2367

WANTED

Anyone who can help (man or woman) at a WILDCARE display at the
Mt Gravatt Show on Saturday 24th July or
Beautesert Show on 4th September.
Any amount of time would be appreciated.
Please contact Margaret Christison on (07) 3217 4568
or email Margaret.christison@justice.qld.gov.au



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INTRODUCED SPECIES REPORT

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2004

Sunday the 6th of June saw yet another successful World Environment Day Do hosted by Gecko at Winders Park in Currumbin. Each year this festival highlights some amazing environmental initiatives, and each year it seems to be getting bigger and better. The Wildcare stall helped to bring to the attention of the general public the plight of our native animals in urban environments, and how they can get involved and help. A big thank you to Eleanor Hanger, Ken Bridge and Gail Forbes for their help on the day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

Thanks to all who attended this year's AGM that was held on Sunday 27th June. A new Management Committee was voted in (which ended up being just the old one revised!!) Results of the voting were as follows:

President	GAIL GIPP
Vice President	KIM ALEXANDER
Treasurer	KAREN SCOTT
Secretary	KYLIE PATRICK
Assistant Treasurer	KATHRYN BIBER
Assistant Secretary	TRISH HALES

The following members received special thanks for their commitment and dedication to Wildcare and for helping our amazing wildlife:

Roy Webster, John & Catherine Mitchell, Trish Hales, Don Langham, Kerry Chadwick, Georgie Belz, Sharon Griffiths, Keirsten Jones, Jim & Greer McNeill, Nadia Dixon, Ken Bridge & Gail Forbes, Eileen Lucre, Margaret Christison, Karen Ney, Rochelle Manners, Rose Marie Zalewski, Catherine Goggin, Sonia Laws, Lee Anne Burgess, Chrissie Beasley, Karen Barney, Ricky Johns, Sonya Murray, Barb Van Luyn, Deb Stanton, Angela Mutton, Sharon Singleton, Paula Rowlands, Leigh Koppman, Karen Scott, Marion Burcher, Beryl Wallace, Eleanor Hanger, Shane Ho, Leone Viewers, Gloria Litchfield, Stewart McDonald, Brett Grey, Kim & Mark Alexander, Kathryn Biber.

And finally, in appreciation of their outstanding contribution to Wildcare, the following were granted honorary membership for 2004/05:

- Jim & Greer McNeill
- Karen Barney
- Jeff McKee
- Mike & Jackie Symes

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank ALL of our members for being a part of Wildcare Australia. You are what makes this organization what it is, and we look forward to another year with you all.

Kylie Patrick
Secretary

INTRODUCED SPECIES

At the species coordinators' meeting I was asked to clarify the raising and releasing of introduced species. There is no legislation that says you cannot raise or rehabilitate an introduced species, however **it is an offence under the Qld Nature Conservation Regulation (NCR) to release such animals**. There is no similar provision for the release of over-abundant natives or natives that are out of their normal distribution.

DISPOSAL OF BODIES

The NCR also details options for the legal disposal of bodies. Basically in our circumstance, bodies are to be either incinerated or buried. There are other options such as giving the bodies to museums etc, but I'm sure the Queensland Museum would not appreciate being at the receiving end of all of our bodies! (keep it in mind though if you find yourself with the dead body of a conservation significant species).

Similarly, there is no special provision for the burial of animals that have been euthanised with solutions such as lethobarb. Either way the body must be buried or incinerated. Please note that NCR body disposal only applies to animals held under permit, not to road kills. Feel free to call if there are any further queries.

Kylie Patrick

BRISBANE WORKSHOPS

WILL BE CANCELLED

The disappointing response to the workshops held in the Brisbane area has forced me to put pen to paper and also to question the viability of the continuation of these workshops.

Over the past two months since we started to hold workshops at Brisbane venues we have only had a small response to these workshops. Worse still is, that of the handful of people who do respond and book in for these workshops, even fewer actually attend. Of those who book in but don't attend, many don't even phone to say they will not be attending on the day. In some cases we have held workshops where there have been only two more participants than presenters. Even the recent Orientation had twenty-five people booked of whom ten attended the first day and twelve on the second day. Only one of the missing thirteen people phoned to say they would not be attending.

Presenters of these workshops are volunteers, carers and in most cases also hold down full-time jobs. The preparation of these workshops takes many, many hours, as is obvious from the quality of the workshop presentation and the accompanying notes. These presenters give up their time on a regular basis, many of them presenting multiple workshops at multiple venues each month.

The venue at Brisbane is donated to us free of cost and is privately owned. In order for us to use the Brisbane venue the owner has to be present to open up and close the venue for security reasons. Whilst neither Jacky nor Mike Symes would wish to withdraw the use of their venue, they must at times question the disruption to their lives for such a small number of people.

It is essential that ALL people planning to attend a workshop phone the office and book in, with current contact details (or use the workshop booking form included in your membership renewal) at least two weeks prior to the workshop.

If, two weeks prior to the workshop, there is not a reasonable amount of people booked in to attend, the workshop will be cancelled and all the people who have booked will be contacted.

We will continue to run the Brisbane workshops for the next two months, after which time there will be a review of the viability of the continuance of these workshops.

It is now up to you, the members of WILDCARE to show us what you want.

BIRD LOVERS

As of the 1st July it is compulsory for all carers to attend a Baby Bird workshop and an Anatomy, Diseases and Injuries workshop before they will be able to care for any birds. There is important information detailed in these workshops that carers need to be aware of before taking on caring.

We would also like you to look through the list of bird species and their requirements and let us know what facilities and time you would have to care for certain species.

It is advisable not to take on a lot of different species at once when first

starting out. Pick one or two species and either fill in the form and post it back to me, or contact me on H. 5543 6441 or W. (Fri.) 5580 6205, email to kbarney@optusnet.com.au, or ring Cheryl on 5561 1438.

Be realistic when choosing which species you wish to care for, e.g. don't take carnivores if you only have a budgie cage or live close to your neighbours as they are large and noisy babies. If you would like some advice in choosing which species is best for you, please ring me at anytime.

We need the exact dimensions of

your aviary, so we can determine how many animals you can house.

After attending a workshop, if you feel you would like one on one training from any of the coordinators, please ring us.

Due to the lack of numbers and the heavy commitment of the coordinators we have decided to combine the Brisbane and Gold Coast workshops and hold them on one day at Ormeau.

The new dates and times are listed in the newsletter.

Karen Barney

What is WILDCARE Brisbane?

or moreover

What is not WILDCARE Brisbane?

WILDCARE Brisbane is not a separate entity from WILDCARE. It is not in competition with WILDCARE Gold Coast/ Gympie. It does not control its own finances either incoming or out going.

WILDCARE Brisbane is a geographic convenience for the members of WILDCARE who in the past have found it difficult to access the services of WILDCARE at its Gold Coast base. It enables the members and carers to attend workshops and other activities closer to their home address.

The creation of the Brisbane Coordinators was and is an effort to enable carers to have access to the expertise of these people within closer proximity to their home. Therefore allowing more frequent liaison and support.

The creation of the positions of Fundraiser / Education Officers/ etc was and is an effort to bring a broader base of members into the already existing committees and working parties.

The setting of goals and targets for WILDCARE Brisbane is therefore not appropriate as WILDCARE Brisbane is WILDCARE and so falls under the goals of WILDCARE and its committees and working parties.

Therefore the organization of Fundraising events to purchase specific items for WILDCARE Brisbane is also not appropriate.

Currently all workshops, stationary, postage, phone and other expenses are met by WILDCARE. With the expansion of WILDCARE into various regions across Queensland, expenses have increased considerably and for this reason it is necessary for members from all regions to be involved in fundraising and submissions to increase the income of WILDCARE. Therefore regional fundraising is necessary to enable all members easy access to these events and to enable the fullest possible involvement from all members.

But

Money raised from these events will not be the income of that region. This money will become WILDCARE money to be used to support **all** members. However having said that, **various committees** may opt to purchase items, to be used by a region to enable that region to offer a program or workshop, at the venue of their choice. It would obviously be advantageous to

have multiple sets of display boards, AV equipment and other resources so that activities can be held at multiple venues without the necessity of someone transporting these items backwards and forwards or planning dates that do not clash. This however would be the decision of the WILDCARE Fundraising Committee and the Education Committee.

Also

Although expenses incurred by WILDCARE Brisbane/ Gympie etc. specific to them, e.g. Yellow Pages Advertising, will be covered by WILDCARE, every effort should be made by the members of those regions to hold events and specifically fundraise in order to cover the additional expenses incurred on their behalf. It would also be hoped that in the future not only will workshops be held at more localized venues, but they will be fronted by the coordinator who resides within that region and therefore would be locally more accessible.

WILDCARE is WILDCARE

There is not and should not be them and us.

We are the fastest growing and most widely known wildlife organization in South East Queensland and probably Queensland. We are sought after for our workshops and expertise, Australia wide.

We are something very, very special and have the opportunity to be the model for others in the future. Therefore it is imperative that we **ALL** work together. Together we are **WILDCARE**. Separately we are just people with an interest in native wildlife.

Your role then is to be an **ACTIVE** member of **WILDCARE**, be on the committees, attend the workshops and activities, and actively participate in fundraising and community events, communicate with other members through the newsletter and other forums. If you have a problem, then voice it (hopefully with a solution) or if you have praise to offer, tell everyone.

Remember you are WILDCARE. The more you involve yourself the more you will get back. Enjoy the fact that you are a part of something very unique and special and feel proud to tell people, "I am a member of **WILDCARE**".

Kim Alexander (Vice President)

Record Keeper's Rap

QPWS Changes

Recently there have been some significant changes to what QPWS/EPA expects of wildlife carers. In the area of records, the main difference is that QPWS no longer require our records to be submitted as part of our umbrella permit requirements. However, before you all think, '*This is wonderful; I can now throw away all my record forms*', PLEASE THINK AGAIN. WILDCARE's main committee has discussed this issue and has agreed that we all still need to submit our records. This is for the following reasons:

1. Although QPWS do not require our records, they may at any time ask for a record if there has been a query on a rescue or an animal in our care. Therefore we need to have quick access to all records.
2. In addition to this, it is also recognised that the data in the records can be useful in many ways, in order for us to justify the need for our community to look after our wildlife. The records provide very useful information, such as road kill data (has been used to argue against proposed road changes), domestic pet impact on our wildlife, and highlights patterns (such as common location where animals are injured or sudden multiple incident of a disease).

Record Keeper Position up for grabs

I recently handed in my resignation to the main committee of Wildcare. It has been three years since I took on the Record Keeper position, and I no longer have the time or enthusiasm to do the job efficiently, which I feel is letting WILDCARE down. The position is being advertised, and I am quite happy to talk to any interested members about what the role entails. I still hope to be involved with the emailed records, so for those carers who email them to me, please keep doing so! The handwritten records are also still being collected and entered onto the database by some data entry helpers, so nothing changes there, either!

Records Awards 2003-4

At the AGM, there were a number of people who were awarded certificates for either helping with the records or for great submission of records.

Recently Beryl Wallace has become responsible for the data entering of all handwritten Brisbane records – thanks Beryl for taking this on, and for helping me

with the 2003-4 backlog! So, Brisbane carers, you may get a phone-call from Beryl if she has any queries in regards to your records. Kathryn Biber has also helped with data entry in the last year, so thanks to you also, Kat.

Certificates were given to carers who stood out from all in submitting their records in a consistently timely manner, and/or did them correctly and accurately.

Those carers are:

Chrissie Beesley, Marion Burcher, Gail Forbes & Ken & Terry Bridges, Trish Hales, Barb van Luyn, John & Cath Mitchell, Sonya Murray, Karen Scott, Deb Stanton, and Roy Webster.

There are others who also deserve a big thank you for doing this, particularly some of our newer carers – hopefully the records session in the Orientation Course is partly responsible.

Orientation

Just a reminder to all existing carers that they are most welcome to do the Orientation Course, even if they have been carers with Wildcare for some time. You will be amazed at what you can get out of treating the orientation course as a refresher course.

Friendly Reminder

Please make sure you have handed in all your records for the 2003-4 records year (that's April 2003 to March 2004). (*That includes you as well, Gail & Eleanor!!*). When doing so, please make sure your records are accurate, too. If you can't get all the details of an animal you cared for, try phoning the rescuer or the person who was on phone duty at the time (their initials are in the code). If you are having any difficulty getting all this information together, please contact me and I'll arrange a time to visit you to help you sift through it all.

Kiersten Jones

Record Keeper – WILDCARE AUSTRALIA.

PH 07 5576 3625

kierstenj@bigpond.com

MUDGEERABA SHOW REPORT

After last years great success, I was determined to do as well, if not better, this year. With the knowledge of what to do, where to get it and on whom to call for what jobs, I set the wheels in motion.

Once again Shannon Hennessey very kindly transported the goods to the show ground and with the help of Kerry Chadwick set up the tent ready for the next day.

Saturday 3rd July

At first light Ken Bridge arrived at my house to cut down branches to decorate our exhibit. He set up the electricity for the TV and lights and worked non stop over the next two days and then loaded his van and returned all the goods and shattles back to Advancetown at the end of the show. Ken is the ultimate Showman and works the crowds like a professional. With his constant, "Don't worry Trish it will be all right", he amazed us all. Thank you so much Ken.

THE GRAND PARADE

Our entry wasn't the biggest, it wasn't the best but we certainly managed to grab everyone's attention and slow down the whole parade. With Bret the kangaroo, Rose the koala and Kylie the bilby, Lee-Anne the 4WD driver, Luke, Kerry, Julia and

myself, we took the name 'Wildcare' to the crowds. After the parade our costumed characters entertained the crowds at our exhibit. Thank you Bret Gray, Rose Zalewski and Kylie Patrick.

Many thanks to the Alexander family. Firstly to Kim who was in constant touch leading up to the show with, "What can I do to help?" "How about this?" or "How about that?" Her support was remarkable. Poor Mark was told, "You can do that Mark" or "Help Trish with this Mark". Luke and Sam (Junior Wildcare) set up a great game of Lucky Straws and directed Badge making for the children, which made a great deal of our money. Well done.

Thank you to all members who manned the exhibit over the two days, you know who you are and I certainly won't forget.

Karen Scott, our beloved overworked Treasurer, suffered through all my requests. Her support was truly appreciated.

The Show had record crowds over the two, very sunny days and was a great success. Wildcare raised \$1073.05 which well and truly paid for expenses with some left over. Whilst the money is welcome, the main reason for the exhibit was to take the name of Wildcare and what we are about to the public, which I know we achieved very successfully.

Trish Hales

NEW GLIDER COORDINATOR

Welcome to the new glider coordinator, Sharon Singleton, who has kindly agreed not only to take over coordinating the glider s in the Gold Coast area but also to coordinate possums generally in the absence of the possum coordinator for a couple of months. So from henceforward until further notice, please notify Sharon of any possums that you have in care. Her number is 07 5578 4546.

Thank you Sharon for taking on these roles. Your assistance and support are greatly appreciated.

A big thank you also to Angela Mutton, who is retiring from her position as glider coordinator, but who assures me she will always be happy to assist in any way. We have all benefited tremendously from Angela's knowledge and I am hugely indebted to her for her wonderful support.

Thank you Sharon and Angela.

Eleanor Hanger

Steve's Story (cont.)

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(that seem to have a particular dislike for koalas), territoriality from resident koalas as they move through their home ranges, and misadventure from miscellaneous hazards in the natural environment. But for the less lucky koalas living in or around the fringes of human habitation, the hazards are tenfold: domestic dogs, swimming pools, busy roads, electrical wires, fences, railway lines....the list goes on.

Steve was one of these less lucky koalas: born and raised in one of the most rapidly developing regions of Australia. At around midnight on Tuesday 27 April 2004, Steve attempted to cross the Bruce Highway at Burpengary in his search for safe and suitable habitat, a resource that is rapidly dwindling in the face of ferocious land clearing for residential developments. As he ambled across the tarmac he was blinded by the headlights of a car a second before being struck with unbelievable force by the undercarriage. As his body tumbled along the bitumen the car sped off into the night, its callous driver leaving him to die where he lay.

And dying he was: this is a list of his injuries, the ones that we found anyway: Multiple pelvic fracture, massive soft tissue trauma to the pelvic canal, pulmonary haemorrhage (bleeding), massive facial trauma, lacerated tongue, multiple jaw fracture, maxillary fracture, distal humeral fracture, avulsion of the radial head from the ulnar, ruptured liver, intra-abdominal bleeding, retroperitoneal bleeding, and a prolapsed penis.

Moments afterwards, Steve Janson, a bus driver, was driving home after a late shift and noticed a small ball of grey fur flopping around on the road in his headlights. In a display of compassion unfortunately rare in many humans, he pulled off the road and rescued the young koala from certain death. At 1am he delivered the broken little body to the Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation's koala hospital at Beerwah. Unlike the hundreds of other less fortunate koalas each year in Queensland that are left to die after being struck by motor vehicles, little Steve's luck had just changed.

Within minutes of arrival at the hospital a catheter was

inserted into a small vein in his only undamaged limb, and the agonising pain, shock and distress of the last hour dissipated into anaesthetic nothingness.

While Steve slept, we worked frantically to restore his blood pressure, supply oxygen to his tissues and assess the massive damage to his small body. By 3 am his condition had stabilised, but we were faced with the difficult task of deciding the kindest outcome for Steve. Although we had saved koalas in the past with single injuries similar to his, we agonised over whether it would be more humane to euthanase him while he slept. Could we expect a little koala to survive and heal with a combination of such massive injuries? Always a dilemma with such cases is the risk of prolonging their suffering with our knowledge, drugs and technology, rather than reducing it - which is always our aim. Thankfully, in this case, we decided to give him a chance – a young and otherwise robust healthy koala has amazing powers of repair. We knew he would test our skills and resources, but Steve's road to healing had begun.

The road to recovery.

For the next two days, a potent mix of narcotic pain killers, antibiotics and fluids were infused into Steve's veins while we planned the repair of the most important injuries: the fractures of his upper and lower jaws.

A koala that cannot eat will soon die. Unlike other species that can call on body reserves of fat and muscle during period of starvation, koalas walk a metabolic tightrope, with very limited reserves. Without a continuous supply of food and nutrients they quickly become hypoglycaemic and dehydrated, their gut shuts down and they die. We needed to repair the jaw fast.

Our friends at Tyco Healthcare and Stryker, suppliers of human medical equipment came to our aid by giving us the essential titanium plates and screws, and instruments necessary to repair the multiple fractures

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in the lower and upper jaws. Late on Friday night after two hours of surgery the jaw was repaired. Two titanium plates, nine screws and 5 cm of orthopaedic wire were now holding the fragments together, allowing Steve to begin to use his jaws and tongue to swallow a puree of milk formula paste and vitamised gum leaves.

For the next critical two weeks his hydration was maintained by carefully measured doses of intravenous fluids, infection held at bay with antibiotics and gut function monitored and adjusted with special medicines. Through this painful period of healing Steve was kept on a deep padded animal bed in a heated ICU enclosure. Although all his vital signs suggested that things were progressing well, he seemed lethargic and depressed. This is understandable, really, when you consider the enormous drain on his bodily resources to repair the multiple fractures and massive soft tissue damage.

Today has been the turning point where we can now

relax a little. This morning our star patient, Steve, awkwardly walked across the grass of our exercise yard and climbed a tree for the first time since his accident. Psychologically, for him and his healing process, this is a milestone: although he reluctantly gave up his short freedom when we returned him to his indoor enclosure, he had once again sniffed the wind, felt the sun on his back, and felt like a wild koala in a gum tree. With a little patience, a little good luck and another month or so, he will be.

Sadly, Steve is one of many patients treated at our purpose-built koala hospital. Some we can save, others we cannot.

Frustratingly, all levels of government seem uninterested in seriously addressing the processes that threaten the lives and welfare of individual koalas, like Steve, and the conservation of the species as a whole. Whilst these threats continue, our hospital, sadly will continue to be busy.

INTRODUCING THE NEW SNAKE AND LIZARD COORDINATOR

Hi. I'm the new lizard and snake coordinator for the Brisbane branch of Wildcare. I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I've just started doing postgraduate study at The University of Queensland, after finishing my Bachelor of Science (Wildlife and Marine Biology). This means that for the next year I'll be researching an area that interests me, namely saltwater crocodiles (crikey!).

I've been interested in animals all my life, but reptiles in particular have always fascinated me. I don't really know why, but I have a feeling it's because they're very misunderstood, and often persecuted. I guess I feel somewhat sorry for them, and I'd like to help turn people's unfounded misconceptions around.

I've been keeping "pet" reptiles on licence for about eight years, and looking after injured ones on and off for about the same time. My "pet" collection is currently made up of four pythons, four freshwater turtles, and one blue tongue lizard.

I maintain a web site with some information on Australian reptiles, and I plan to add more information to the site in my (currently very limited!) spare time.

Previously, I've been involved with Wildcare mainly through my parents, who run the Brisbane shop. As such, I'm still becoming familiar with the administrative side of things.

There's a Snake and Lizard workshop scheduled for Brisbane in January, but if there's enough interest an earlier one could be arranged. As spring tends to see our reptilian friends emerging after their winter naps, it might be useful to have a workshop sometime around the start of spring. If you'd like to see a workshop sooner rather than later, please contact either myself or the Wildcard office and register your interest.

I look forward to working with the other reptile coordinators, Brett Gray (Snakes and Lizards - Gold Coast) and Shane Ho (Amphibians and Turtles), and indeed with all our members.

If you have any questions about anything reptilian, or you just want to say "Hi", feel free to drop me an email.

Stewart Macdonald

stewart@reptilesdownunder.com
<http://www.reptilesdownunder.com/>



LITTLE JOEY

The Baby Brushtail

I had a phone call from Wildcare asking if I could collect my first baby brushtail possum, as I had looked after and soft released three teenagers previously.

Little Joey had lost his mum in a fall at a daycare centre. One of the children's parents saw a foot moving in the dead possum's pouch and quickly wrapped the dead possum and delivered her to the local veterinarian. Wildcare was called and so we collected our 150 gram baby brushtail.

I contacted our possum co-coordinator Eleanor and kept in contact with her regularly for advice. Rebecca, who worked and lived with us at the time, and I quickly collected a new cage, warming pad, thermometer, Di-Vetelact, teats, bottles, sterilizer, bottle brush, pouch, pouch liners, scales and a good book on possums. We were on our way, but I soon realized I couldn't run the business and do all the feeds required. So, against all the rules, Rebecca and I took turns by feeding in the same quiet room, wearing the same white cotton coat and gloves and ensuring that the procedure was the same each time. By keeping little Joey away from anyone else, we were pleased to find he quickly adjusted to our routine.

Our main hurdle was working out the best method to feed him his milk; he hated a syringe and so we went straight to the bottle and teats. Getting the hole in the

teat right was a nightmare and although we measured the milk before and after the feed, how much actually was consumed by Joey we couldn't tell. With Eleanor run off her feet at the time, this problem, coupled with not knowing if we were toileting him properly, brought us to Carol Green. Carol suggested trying an eye dropper. What a change in Joey, he drank heaps but it was a little too late as he had developed ulcers on both eyes.

Wildcare said to take him to Dr Jon Hanger at Dreamworld. I hated bothering him but I needn't have worried. What a wonderful man. Rebecca and I arrived with Joey in his pouch. Jon pulled him out and just kept saying "you poor little possum". Jon rehydrated Joey with needles under the skin and gave us drops to be put into his eyes every two hours. Jon regularly saw Joey over the next few weeks and with his dedicated care and the eye dropper Joey put on weight and his eyes cleared.

I am lucky to be living on seven acres and so introducing solids was easy. Bec and I spent time each day collecting native food and it was amazing, upon speaking to Eleanor, just how much native food is out there.

As he developed I did give him some introduced food, just to top him up but found he would eat his native food and leave the apple or carrot. Yes, he loves corn and melon but it's the native food he's grown up with that he really loves.

The day came to soft release him and we moved his outdoor cage (which he'd been in for many weeks beforehand) to an area that appeared to not have much possum activity; put his box high in a lovely gum, put a secondary box in the cage, and opened the door.

He climbed down to the ground and discovered grass for the first time (leave litter was all he had known); he trod carefully and noticed a creeper on the ground which he quickly consumed; he cautiously moved out of the cage and onto the trunk of the tree. I said goodbye and walked away.

Our house is a football field away from the release site, but over the next week, on three occasions, Joey appeared at 3 am on my bedroom screen. In my dressing gown, I'd pick him up with a rag around him, (something I hadn't done since he was hand fed) and returned him to his cage. As I'd walk towards the bush I could feel his heartbeat quickening; perhaps he just needed reassurance, as he went back into his opened cage without a fuss.

After this I didn't see him for a few weeks; although I continued to put out a small amount of supplementary food – just as a lifeline, as I lived in the area, and by doing so could make things that bit easier for him to adjust. I knew it was Joey who took the food, as if I left a slice of apple, carrot or orange, it was still there the next night.

Remember the 40 degree weekend we had earlier in the year and the wild storm that followed? I wondered how Joey fared and he soon let me know.

The next evening I went out around 9 pm. It was a lovely clear night and as usual I flashed the light into his tree but no Joey. So I put out the couple of wild flowers and a piece of corn and, as I walked away, I looked up for the second time. There he was.

Sitting in the fork of the tree, looking twice his size, Joey glanced down but wouldn't allow eye contact; he then looked out across the top of the trees feeling the breeze on

his face and I could see clearly how content he was to be free. I thought to myself, "if you only live one more night, Joey, I can see that setting you free was the right thing to do". I stood for sometime looking at him and he allowing me to do so.

Thank you Wildcare, Eleanor, Jon, Bec, Carol, Candy (the parent who found Joey) for giving this little possum a chance at life.

Bev Hellyer

Thanks to: Eleanor Hanger, Wildcare, Dr Jon Hanger, Rebecca Holland, Mother, Carol Green, And to Little Joey – perhaps his name should now be just Joe!!

THE BAT WHO STAYED FOR A SLEEP-OVER

On Monday the 19th of April at about 4:30pm (had just got home from work), I got a call from the EPA about a bat that needed rescuing from Southside Toyota at Woolloongabba.

I rang Southside Toyota and was told that the bat had flown in to the workshop and was hanging from a chain on one of the hoists. When she first came in she was hanging about a metre from the ground, but when I got the secretary to go to check the bat she came back with the "good news" that the bat was now right up the top of the chain (which just happens to attach to the roof of the shed (and guess how high the shed is - HUGE).

So we packed the car with the rescue kit, including an extension ladder (the longest one we own).

When we got there we assessed the situation. We ended up having to put the ladder on to the tray of the big 4 wheel drive utility that was parked in the bay where the bat was. Up went the extension ladder. I got to stand at the back and keep the ladder stable while my husband, Peter (who is also vaccinated), with a towel over his shoulder climbed the ladder. By this time all the mechanics had stopped work and were watching with interest. Once Peter got to the roof he wrapped the bat in the towel and came back down with her. She was put in to the cage and home we went.

Took cage and bat in to the back room, turned off the lights, turned on the table lamp, put blanket on table, took bat out of cage and put her on blanket on her back. Peter went and got some apricot nectar and was giving her that with a syringe (she loved it) while I checked her over. There was absolutely nothing wrong with her.

I then rang Kim to see what she thought would be the best thing to do. We decided it would be best to try releasing her straight away. So my husband and I took her down to the Kangaroo Point cliffs (just up the road from where we live) - there's always plenty of flying foxes feeding down there. Put her back in cage, covered the cage and headed up to the cliffs. Went down the stairs to the river - there were a few bats feeding in the trees down there (but not as many as usual - we'd missed the big feed run) Took her out of the cage and hung her from a branch in a tree. She hung

there grooming herself and looking around. We waited and waited for her to show some interest in the other bats.

After about 45 minutes of her just hanging there (looking at me with a look that I'm sure was saying "what are we doing here - can we go home now and have some more apricot nectar") we put her back in the cage and took her home. Settled her in to a larger cage with a branch for her to hang off. Cut up some mango and pawpaw and hung that in an ice-cream container - was also giving her more apricot nectar from the syringe. At one time, I was too slow getting the full syringe back to her and she roused at me. She was a real little character (and not a mean bone in her body).

In "Wildlife of Greater Brisbane" there was reference to bat colonies on Norman Creek so on Tuesday the 20th I left work early, went home and got the car and went to Norman Creek. First I went to Norman Park which seemed a likely place to start searching Norman Creek. At one stage I could hear them but couldn't see them so I just kept walking around the edge of the creek listening and looking through the binoculars. I worked out that they were probably around the bend, so got back in the car and drove further around. Did another search. Could hear them but still could not see them. Ended up coming around to the Coorparoo side of the creek - found a park at the back of a child care centre - and started walking from there. I FOUND THEM!!!! Checked them all out and found where the ones about the size of my one were roosting. Then got my bearings as to where I was in relation to the car park. You can actually drive in to Giffin Park at Coorparoo - park in the football club car park - follow the bike/walking path around - keep to the path and after a bit of a walk, lo and behold, there are the flying foxes. It was a much shorter walk when we brought her there just after 5.00 pm. I kept a cover over her cage until we got down to the creek. She heard them and became very excited.

We opened the cage - she was hanging from the lid - and placed her in a tree. She crawled up and over on to some other branches, slowly working her way over to the others. Some of the older ones were flying low checking her out. We sat and watched her for over an hour. She eventually got in to a tree with a few of her

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Continued from page

own size. Some of the others were already flying off. They started leaving in groups, then there'd be a break, then another group would fly off. She flew off with the group that she had joined. It was just the best feeling watching her fly off with the others - hard to describe just what I was feeling—it was just the greatest. Peter and I were on a real high..... till we got the call at about 8:00pm to pick up another bat out at Cannon Hill that had been hit by a car then run over by another two.

The people in the house saw it happen. The husband grabbed a broom and went out on the road and picked the poor thing up on the broom. He wedged the broom in to a tree in their front yard then called the 24 hour animal ambulance. The ambulance driver was not vaccinated to handle bats - that's why they called us. The animal was in a terrible way. The right wing was completely shattered and there was blood coming from the nose and ears. We took it straight to the RSPCA to be euthanased.

That one certainly brought me crashing back down to earth. But I've still got my wonderful memory of the earlier successful release.

Margaret Christison

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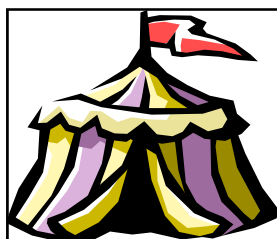
WANTED

Anyone who can help (man or woman) at a WILDCARE display
at the

Mt Gravatt Show on Saturday 24th July or
Beaudesert Show on 4th September.

Any amount of time would be appreciated.

Please contact Margaret Christison on (07) 3217 4568
or email Margaret.christison@justice.qld.gov.au



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