

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION WILDLIFE REHABILITATION RESEARCH

July 2006, Issue 41

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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INTERNATIONAL PATRON : Brigitte Bardot

AUSTRALIAN PATRON: Helen Clarke

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Vice-President	Karen Scott
Secretary	Trish Hales
Assistant Secretary	Dianna Smith
Minutes Secretary	Laura Reeder
Treasurer	Karen Scott
Assistant Treasurer	Position Vacant
Education	Karen Scott
Record Keeper	Kerry Chadwick
Assistant Record Keeper	Kiersten Jones

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Prof. W. Robinson	Dr A. Tribe
Dr R. Kelly	Dr P. Wilson
Dr D. Sutton	Dr J. Woolcock

LEGAL ADVISER : Mr I. Hanger Q.C.

HONORARY SOLICITOR :
Position vacant

PHOTOGRAPHS:
K. Hooke
K. & M. Alexander
J & E Hanger
L. Reeder
K. Johnson
R Johns

Quote of the Month

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did no weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

Chief Seattle

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Wildcare Australia has awarded a Life Membership to Orm and Nancy Ridgway in recognition to their services to wildlife. In 1996 they became founding members of Wildcare and continued their work with wildlife on their beautiful property near Boonah. Orm has been the macropod coordinator for the area since that time and as well as rescuing and rehabilitating animals both Orm and Nancy manned the phones every week for many, many years, mentored new carers and assisted with fundraising.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS FOR TWELVE MONTHS

The following members were awarded twelve month honorary memberships in recognition of their contribution to Wildcare Australia and wildlife

John & Cath Mitchell for rescue, care and office work.

Lee Anne Burgess for rescue, care, phone and newsletter .

Kiersten Jones for record keeping.

Tonya Howard for design and printing brochures.

Kerry Chadwick for office work, record keeping and bird coordinating.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone,

Another year is over, and the AGM has come and gone once again. Twelve months passes so quickly. It's definitely true when they say time passes faster as you get older.

As I welcome in the new committee we say a very sad goodbye to Kim Alexander who has spent the last twelve months as an extremely

busy Vice President, setting up Wildcare Brisbane, organizing the annual conference for Wildlife rehabilitators along with a host of other things. Kim has been an outstanding asset to Wildcare Australia and we are going to miss her terribly...who will bring me my soy lattes? Kim is taking the next few months off to concentrate on her family. As a school teacher and busy mother of teenage boys she is constantly on the go, so I along with the committee wish her all the best. Kimmy put your feet up, eats lots of chocolate and get Mark to take you away on romantic weekends!

I will remind everyone that the treasurer's position is still vacant. So if you, or someone you know, is interested please let us know, as Karen Scott would like a break from that role, although she is still willing to help the person who takes over in the future.

Last year I came across a paper produced by WWF in around 2002. It was a study of the environment based on land clearing in Queensland and they inadvertently came across some pretty horrific facts on our native wildlife. Given that wildlife loss was not the focus of the study it makes the figures even more shocking. The outcome of the whole study produced a document that I for one found sickening, by the time I had put it down I was wondering if we had any hope at all of preserving and protecting the wildlife and their environment. Even more shocking was the fact that these figures are for Queensland only. So for me that made even more of an impact, because once you start to multiply the figures across the country it becomes even more upsetting.

Whilst the document is now a few years old, given that the rate of land clearing over the intervening period has actually increased, I doubt there is much of a difference in what is happening out there today. Here are some of the figures that the paper produced.

In Queensland during 1997-1999 we cleared 446,000 ha of land per year. The majority of land cleared was eucalypt woodlands.

In 1998 Queensland alone accounted for 81 per cent of Australia's remnant native vegetation that was converted to other uses e.g. housing developments.

More than **2.1 million** Australian mammals die each year as a direct result of land clearing in Queensland; the

real figure is probably much higher.

This year in Queensland more than **19,000** koalas will die.

More than **342,000** possums and gliders in Queensland will die.

More than **172 million** other native mammal species in Queensland will die.

All of these will die as a direct result of land clearing

Around **8.5 million** birds die in Queensland each year as a result of land clearing.

The biggest casualties are those that live in eucalyptus woodland with **6.2 million** birds in those regions being killed each year.

A conservative estimate is that **89 million** reptiles die as a result of land clearing each year in Queensland alone. Australia has a carrying capacity of around **154 billion** reptiles.

With Australia's current land clearing trends only 39 per cent of the reptile population will be here in 20 years, in that time more than **1.05 billion** reptiles would have been eliminated from Queensland's rich wildlife resource base all through habitat loss.

Pretty devastating isn't it and a bit overwhelming, but remember everything you do whether its saving the life of one bird, lobbying the councils and government, rescuing an injured possum or simply helping out on the phone puts us one step further in working towards saving these amazing animals and rectifying our mistakes.

The figures above say to me that all of our wildlife should be classified as threatened or endangered, and the listing of "common" should get dropped altogether, but what does that mean?

According to the IUCN Red list of threatened species, "threatened" means that the animal has been categorized as at risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future by a review of many factors: change in numbers of the species, the degree and type of threat, the limits of habitat and the level of conservation commitment. Whilst "Endangered" means to be assured of extinction if any of the factors defining threatened get worse. What do you think? Into what categories do our native species now fit taking into account everything that you know.....I am beginning to prefer "Endangered" more and more because once we get to that level land clearing must stop!

Gail

"Conservation is a way of living and an attitude that humanity must adopt if it wants to live decently and permanently on earth".

Paul Bigelo Spears

IFAW GRANT FOR RESCUE TRAILER



We have just learnt that our funding submission to International Fund for Animal Welfare has been approved. The Grant is for \$5,000 and will be used to purchase a trailer and rescue equipment. The trailer will be used to carry specialised rescue equipment such as extendable poles and ladders and will also be used as a promotional trailer at displays and events.

If anyone can help with sourcing a good price on a custom built trailer or even a commercially made one, could you please contact Karen Scott on 0400 165462 or 5533 8125. Many thanks.

ADOBE SOFTWARE

IN-KIND-DONATION

We recently applied to Adobe Software for several software programs which we utilise in our education programs including Adobe Acrobat 7.0 and Adobe Photoshop. We were fortunate to obtain approval of the software which arrived only ten days after our application was submitted.

Many, many thanks to Adobe Software for this donation.

BREAKOUT DESIGN AND PRINT

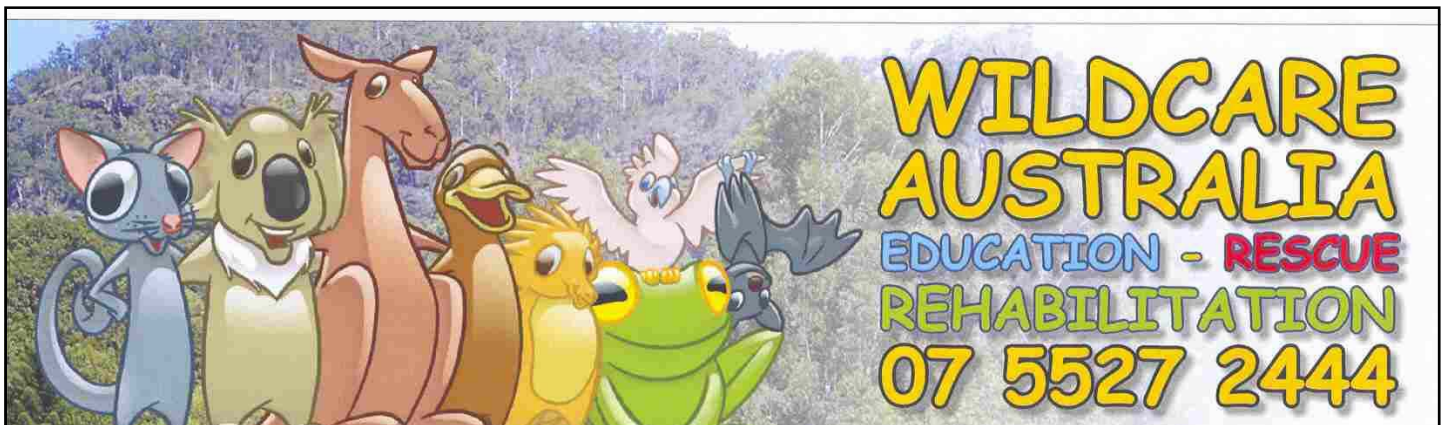
Thank you to the staff at Breakout Design and Print from Broadway in New South Wales for donating a beautiful original drawing of a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo overlooking a pond.

We will be using the drawing for a raffle in the near future.

STICKERS AND BUSINESS CARDS

These delightful Wildcare stickers and business cards are now available for purchase at the office.

The cards have a space on the back for carers to leave messages or their personal contact details



REHABILITATION PERMIT

There are still a number of members who have not submitted a request for an Endorsed Rehabilitation Permit. Please note that this Endorsed Rehabilitation Permit means that you are approved as a "Registered Carer" with Wildcare. Permits are not automatically issued to members, you must apply for them.

Endorsed Permits are provided to members who "care" through Wildcare Australia solely. This means that you RESCUE animals through Wildcare, submit monthly CARER'S RECORDS to Wildcare and CARE for animals under Wildcare's supervision and pursuant to the organization's Rules and Regulations.

If you RESCUE, submit RECORDS and CARE through another wildlife care group that you will not be issued with an Endorsed Permit from Wildcare. You should apply to your existing wildlife care group for a Permit. Current financial members in this situation are still welcomed and encouraged to attend the Wildcare training workshops at no cost – the training is included in your annual membership fees.

SHOP SUBSIDY It's Back!!!

Yes, it's true. The Wildcare Shop Subsidy has now commenced again thanks to the generous donation from a Gold Coast company. The subsidy is available to registered Wildcare Carers and entitles those members to a 25% discount of the cost of most essential food

and vitamin supplements. In order to avail yourself of the subsidy, please remember:-
You **MUST** have an Endorsed Rehabilitation Permit – this means that you are a **Registered Carer** with Wildcare Australia. If you do not have an Endorsed Permit as yet, you should contact me as soon as possible.
You must be a **financial member** of Wildcare – have you renewed your membership??? Memberships expired 30th June

CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE

The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health has very interesting information and useful links on their website.

www.arwh.org

They also publish a fantastic Wildlife Health Investigation Manual, which contains chapters on clinical signs of disease, sample collection, diagnostic procedures and post-mortem procedures.

A few copies are available for purchase at the Wildcare Office.

QUICK POP QUIZ

Can you answer the following questions?

What do the following abbreviations stand for?

- a. GST
- b. ABN
- c. TFN
- d. P & L
- e. BAS

If you purchased an electric heat pad from the Wildcare office for \$55, what portion of that amount represents GST?

Add the following amounts on a calculator.

\$100.00
\$ 38.50
\$ 49.50
\$ 48.00
\$ 28.00
\$ 30.00

If you are confident that you answered all of the questions correctly – then please read on.

There is currently a fantastic position vacant within Wildcare for a very "special" person. This is probably the most rewarding job within the organization and we have been saving it particularly for the right person. Yes – I am talking about the job of Treasurer! After five years I thought it was time that I stopped being selfish and allowed someone else the opportunity to take on this fabulous job.

So –

- Do you have a few hours spare each week?
- Do you live around the Gold Coast or Brisbane area?
- Do you have some bookkeeping experience?
- Do you have an understanding of GST?

If so, you should give consideration to taking on this position. If anyone would like to contact me to find out more about this **wonderful opportunity**, please feel free to contact me at ANY TIME – day or night!!

Regards,
Karen Scott
Acting and Outgoing Treasurer
Home 5533 8125
Mobile 0400 165462



HELP OUR WILDLIFE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME



- WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?
- CAN YOU SPARE 3 HOURS A MONTH?
- DO YOU LIKE TO CHAT?



Wildcare operates a 24 hour telephone service to provide help and information to the general public. Volunteers can help with as little as 3 hours a month by manning these phones from home. We all understand how busy life can be so sparing so little time can be such a great help to our native wildlife. The free training is available to all our members.



Please contact Cerri-Lee Van Buuren,
our friendly Telephone Co-ordinator on 0403 265575
or you can call 07 55272444 during office hours.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dianna Smith

The AGM was held on June 25th. The format was a little different this year – with a sausage sizzle preceding the meeting. There was a very good attendance for both the great meal and the meeting – including some very welcome visitors. It was held at “the room at the top” at Narrowleaf and was standing room only with people spilling out onto the patio. Gail began with an interesting and informative presentation including a short video to remind us of how rewarding our work can be. She also informed us of some new developments that I am sure she will tell you all about.

Some special floral and pottery presentations were made to Statesman Press and Chateau Beachside who sponsored our new, very professional pamphlets. If you haven’t seen them yet, make sure you pick some up at the office. They are great!

Next was a new innovation – Peer Recognition Awards. I am sure you all received the nomination forms for this and

thank you to all who responded. It was quite interesting to hear about what some of the hard workers in Wildcare are up to in their interactions with other carers. Here’s hoping these award become a regular part of the AGM and that many more people send in their nominations. Certificates of Appreciation were then handed out for outstanding contribution and some beautiful pottery works were distributed as special thanks.

The meeting was then closed to prepare for the election of officers. We thank last years committee President -Gail Gipp, Vice President – Kim Alexander, Treasurer – Karen Scott, Secretary – Trish Hales, Minutes Secretary – Karen Hooke for all their hard work and dedication to the cause.

The new committee for 2006/2007 are President – Gail Gipp, Vice President – Karen Scott, Treasurer – position vacant, Secretary- Trish Hales, Assistant Secretary – Dianna Smith, Minutes Secretary – Laura Reeder and we wish them all the best. Please note that the position

of Treasurer is now vacant. We hope that one of our members will volunteer for the position.

There are also now some sub committees, Fundraising, Grants, Telephone, Community Liaison, Education with quite a few welcome volunteers who put their hands up for these positions.

If you are interested in joining any of these sub committees please phone the office and someone will connect you to the appropriate person. All help is greatly appreciated and remember “Many hands make light work”

All and all it was a most enjoyable AGM. Apart from the formal proceedings, it was also a good opportunity to catch up with co-workers whom we don’t get a chance to see regularly and to meet and put faces to some of the names we know well. Hope to see everyone again next year and if you didn’t attend this year, please try to make it next year.

WILDCARE'S "WISH LIST" for 2005

In March 2005 the Fundraising and Management Committee formulated a "Wish List" that could be provided to potential sponsors and that could also be used as a basis for applications for Grant Applications. Here it is and our achievements to date with the generous sponsorships, grants and donations from Strand Resorts and Statesman Press, Australian Government Volunteer Small Equipment Grant, Lewis Land Corporation, Craig Fitzgerald, Newheath Pty. Ltd. and IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare).

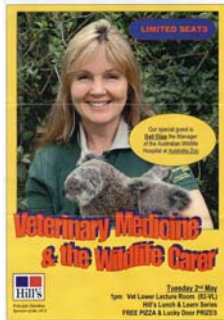
1	Coloured Brochures	Achieved! Thanks to sponsorship from Strand Resorts and Statesman Press
2	Photocopier	Achieved! Purchased from donated funds
3	Marquee	Achieved! Thanks to Australian Government Volunteer Small Equipment Grant
4	Display Boards	Achieved! Thanks to sponsorship from Lewis Land Corporation
5	Laptop and Data Projector	Achieved! Thanks to sponsorship from Newheath Pty Ltd for Data Projector. Thanks to Craig Fitzgerald who organised the donation of a second-hand laptop!
6	Emergency Care Equipment – Oxygen Regulators and Flowmeters	Achieved! Purchased from donated funds
7	Safety Equipment (eg Safety Vests)	Still pending
8	Carer Subsidy	Achieved! Thanks to sponsorship from Newheath Pty Ltd
9	Telephone Costs for After Hours telephone operators	Achieved! Thanks to sponsorship from Newheath Pty Ltd
10	Part Time Office Administrator	Pending
11	Office Administration Centre	Pending
12	Tracking Equipment	Pending
13	Identification Scanners	Pending
14	Rescue Trailer	Achieved! Thanks to sponsorship from IFAW

As you can see we haven't done too badly over the last 12 months. Many, many thanks to the generous sponsors who have helped Wildcare over this period!

"WISH LIST" for 2006

1	Printing – Coloured A3 Poster	Cost approx. \$2,000. These posters can then be distributed to vet surgeries, pet shops and other businesses
2	Telescopic poles with attachments x 4	Approx. \$3,450. Lightweight 10 metre high extendable poles with various attachments to be used to free entangled wildlife from trees (such as birds and flying foxes) and can be used as koala flag poles.
3	Pole Syringes x 4	Approx. \$700. Extendable poles for use by trauma carers for sedation of large macropods.
4	Large bird/animal nets x 8	Approx. \$2,100. Extendable 8 foot pole with net for capture of birds in difficult situations
5	Snake catching equipment	Approx. \$1,100
6	Large Bird Throw Nets	Approx. \$2,000. For use in capturing birds
7	Bird Traps x 4	Approx. \$450. For use in capturing small birds
8	Microchip Scanners	Approx. \$2,500. For use when microchipping animals and birds prior to release.
9	Tracking Equipment	Approx. \$8,000. To be used to purchase radio-tracking equipment to track and monitor, wildlife that have been re-introduced into the wild after rehabilitation due to injuries and / or hand-reared orphans.

University of Queensland's vet school works closely with Wildcare Australia



Nearing the end of our first semester at vet school, the tension is starting to build. Exams are looming with biochemistry and statistics causing many heart palpitations!

However, amongst all the stress there is a huge ray of hope for the care of wildlife in the future. In the past three months we have been sponsored by the Hill's Pet Food Company to organise lunchtime talks. Of course, they have all been based around wildlife, and our first speaker was Gail Gipp.

Gail spoke to a record crowd of 165 students about the relationship between rehabilitators and veterinarians, and the essential role rehabilitators play with regards to conservation and public service. The feedback was fantastic and the future veterinarians are really keen to learn more; which is great.

Our second talk was from Giles Clarke, the supervisor of big cats at Australia Zoo, on tiger and habitat conservation, and Dr. Jon Hanger will be talking on 30th May about why he became a wildlife veterinarian.

We have had such a great response from the students to learn more, that Wildcare Australia will be hosting an

8 week training course for veterinary and veterinary technician students in the second semester, under the management of Karen Scott and Gail Gipp. Sponsorship for the course has been provided by Ian Curry, the Director of Hoteliers International; a conference and event management company based in Brisbane, who has supported Wildcare events in the past.

For those that do not know us, we joined Wildcare back in 1994 when there were only a handful of members. Our interest in all things wild has grown from those days. Our aim for undertaking these seven years of study, was firstly to become wildlife veterinarians and follow a dream, and secondly to try and convert the thinking of other future veterinarians, to the importance of treating sick and injured wildlife in their practices.

We have made a start on our goals and the response is fantastic. We look forward to working closely with Wildcare Australia in the future, and we will keep you all posted on our progress.

Keep up your great work

Sharon Griffiths and Mike Champkin.
Wildcare members

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Wildcare Australia welcomes the following new members:

Pete Fugelli, Point Lookout; Glenda Pickersgill, Kandanga; Alison Crocker & Wayne Matthews, Redland Bay; Prue Cooper-White, Kenmore; Robyn Fuller, Gaven; Jason & Leanne Tonking, Tewantin; Bonnie Arbon, Caboolture; Angela O'Leary, West End; Jane MacGibbon, Petrie; Ebony & Peter McIntosh, Gumdale; Sue Redhead, Cooroy; Valerie & Shalom Nissim, Clear Island Water; Maria Andreis, Redcliffe; Paul & Nicola MacKenzie, Black Mountain; Jules Morton & Glen Holmes, Toowong; Leanne Oakley, Bundaberg; Sheryl Moreland, Eagle Heights; Natalia Kopitonova & Vitaly Ustinov, Bundaberg; Sara Larsen, Bundaberg.

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, call Trish Hales, our secretary, and I'm sure she will be able to help you. Trish is in the office from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm on Monday and Friday.

We hope you have a long and happy association with Wildcare Australia.

SUNSHINE COAST AND GYMPIE REGION REPORT

The last few months have been very busy up this way with trauma patients, particularly macropods. Our new macropod carers have done an excellent job helping us spread the workload so that we all remain sane.....well sort of!

Of late we have had a run of sea turtles coming in through QPWS from Fraser Island and Rainbow Beach. These are passed down to the Aussie Zoo hospital. This week we received our first lorikeet chick.....looks like the busy season will be big this year.

By far the most concerning issue affecting carers and caring in our region at the moment is the Beattie Government's "Traveston Dam" proposal to be located at Traveston Crossing on the Mary River.

Several of our carers have properties and wildlife release sites that are directly affected by the locally named "Lake Travesty" which will require the acquisition of approximately 900 properties (7600ha) with prime agricultural and conservation significant land. Just this week the Beattie government announced the dam will be staged which has the same effect on the ground but just extends the agonising uncertainty for affected landholders for the next 20 years.

To date no environmental, social or economic studies have been undertaken on the current dam proposal and no triple-bottom-line evaluation of the option in comparison with other options has occurred. No consultation with landholders, Councils or other interested parties was undertaken prior to the announcement. The proposal simply came from no-where.

Environmentally the proposal will be a disaster. Three of the four species listed nationally under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act are endemic to the Mary River and will most likely be driven to extinction directly as a result of the dam. This includes the evolutionary significant Queensland Lungfish. Countless state-listed and other protected species including but not limited to koalas, platypus, yellow-bellied gliders and plumed frogmouths will have habitat destroyed. Approximately 900 hectares of endangered riparian vegetation will be inundated and environmental flows to the Great Sandy Straits will be changed forever. Directly impacting upon the RAMSAR wetlands, migratory shorebirds, dugong and indo-pacific humpback dolphin habitat.

From an engineering perspective the dam makes no sense either. With an average depth of 8m across mostly alluvial flats, the dam is estimated to have a 40% evaporation and seepage loss. Greenhouse gas emission from the dam as a result of continual rise and fall to water levels over the shallow terrain will be very significant also.

The dam is proposed by Beattie because of the drought and the estimated demand that an extra 1 million people yet to arrive in the south-east corner by 2020 will have. So far the Beattie government has skirted around addressing the heart of the matter, being climate change and sustainable population growth.

Please support our affected Wildcare members, our local community and the numerous groups fighting this proposal by learning more on the following websites:

www.savethemaryriver.com or www.scec.org.au

Help us by:

- contacting your local, state and federal members voicing your concerns about the proposal;
- writing letters to your local papers;
- writing to the Federal minister for the Environment Ian Campbell urging his opposition to the proposal when it comes in for assessment under the EPBC Act;
- placing "No Dam" stickers (available through website above) on your car;
- telling everyone you know about the real effects of the proposal;
- installing watertanks, water flow reduction devices, and grey water systems in your home (see www.nrm.qld.gov.au for current rebates);
- reducing water consumption and cutting greenhouse gas emissions through reduced energy consumption; and,
- urging your local council and the Beattie government to introduce population caps to ensure population growth in South East Queensland is sustainable.

As coordinators we support the fight by the 2000 directly affected families in the region and object to the deliberate destruction of the tens of thousands of native animals both within the inundation area and downstream.

Yours in the hope that common sense will prevail,

Paula Rowlands and Rachel Lyons
Sunshine Coast/ Gympie Area Coordinators

Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant ID Workshops

This new course is aimed at providing wildlife carers with the knowledge required to correctly provide native food and appropriate release sites for the wide variety of wildlife we see in care.

Learn about the wide variety of ecosystems in SEQ, wildlife requirements in relation to vegetation arrangements, food trees for the different species and release site selection. Learn basic plant ID skills to assist in providing our wildlife with the essential care and release preparation it requires.

Scheduled Workshops to date*:

Nanango 23rd September 2006

Pomona (Noosa Hinterland) 19th November 2006

Book early as numbers are limited.

* Workshops for Brisbane and Gold Coast to be held early 2007.

Is it a pest or are we?

The White Ibis was formerly an insectivore and also ate small water creatures in swampy areas. It was the farmers' friend and helped the environmental balance.

Then WE came. Developers cleared the trees and drained the swamps causing vast habitat loss. Many species could not adapt. But humans produce vast quantities of edible rubbish—thrown in open bins, schools, parks, gutters and rubbish dumps. The ibis quickly adapted to this new food source. Our rubbish is available all year round, so there is no longer a need for the birds to migrate inland after heavy rains to follow abundant insect supplies. The well-fed city ibis raised more chicks and more clutches per year. It doubled in numbers and its snowy white feathers became a dirty white. People said, "Ibis are dirty. There are too many."

The Gold Coast City Council employed a private firm and the government gave a permit for egg removal. Ibis were a danger to planes taking off from Coolangatta Airport. One was sucked into a jet engine.

Ibis Management Conference, 9th May, 2006

With many misgivings regarding the Ibis Management Program on the Gold Coast I represented Wildcare at this first National Meeting. Most of those attending were speakers at the conference and a number of National Park Rangers.

Ibis range from Indonesia to Victoria. As they can migrate a research veterinarian from the University of Queensland spoke on Avian Influenza and how migratory birds could bring the

virus to Australia. An environmental officer, John Martin, from Centennial Park, Sydney, had 100% success rate in preventing hatching by spraying the eggs with canola oil thus blocking the oxygen. The mother bird sat and sat but no chicks. The speakers gave interesting information.

It was only after lunch when we were taken to Currumbin Hill Conservation Park that we were given a demonstration of their "egg removal techniques". A long aluminium pole with a curved piece with two blunt ends welded to one end is used to push the whole nest, eggs (or chicks) and all from the tree. The ibis return from feeding to find disaster. They laboriously build a new nest and lay more eggs.



There must be a more humane way of keeping ibis numbers down.

Instead of attacking the birds, why don't we attack the cause—our rubbish?

1. on the spot fines for dropping rubbish of any kind
2. no feeding of wild birds - fines
3. lids attached to all rubbish bins
4. rubbish mulched or baled

Please do not feed any wild birds. Feeding some species alters the natural balance.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2006

Jenny Meehan



Sunday, 4th June marked World Environment Day and once again Wildcare Australia was invited to join Gecko at their annual "Do" in Currumbin.

It was a great day with many environmentally-minded people coming to our stall and showing an interest in what our organization does. Welcome to any new members who joined as a result of that day.

The possum dreys made and donated to us by the Burleigh Heads Joey Scouts drew a lot of favourable comment as to what a great idea they are for the garden.

A big "Thank You" goes to the beautiful Dianna Smith for her help on the day and also to Vetea Tiare. It would not have been the success it was without you both.



Jenny
with daughter Kirra

MUDGEERABA SHOW

Trish Hales

Two days of wonderful sunshine and once again the Mudgeeraba Show proved to be well worth the effort!!

Many thanks to:

Rose Marie Zalewski who again came to the fore, firstly helping to set up on Friday and then working all day Saturday with one of her magical children's games from which \$88 was raised—outstanding work Rose!

Robyn Martin who worked Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Robyn is always there for me and Wildcare. Thank you so much.

Dianna Smith who was a great help setting up on Friday and who manned the stall on Saturday and Sunday. Dianna is a great support.

Cerri-Lee who came up with a great draw card that attracted the crowds and made lots of money.

Bret Hales who helped with the setting up of the stall and connecting power on Friday and was there again on Sunday to dismantle



and pack up. Bret's help was invaluable.

The members who came and helped man the exhibit, Tonya Howard, Jenny Meehan, Anne Asquith, Ane Marte Bjornerem, Sharon Singleton & Robyn Fuller—many thanks.

The exhibit takes a great deal of planning and work, but helps to get our message out there. That is the

most important thing.

Special thanks also go to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary who generously donated a family pass for us to use to promote our cause. Many visitors were interested and entered the competition. The lucky winners were Darcy and Isaac Mendoza of Gilston.

Trish Hales

SPRINGBROOK BOOK LAUNCH

Jenny Meehan



Front row: Jenny Meehan, Colin Crisp, Mike Hall
Back row: John and Cath Mitchell, Jane Crisp, Anne Asquith and Sonia Laws

On Saturday 13th May, Wildcare Australia were invited to Springbrook's National Parks and Wildlife Office for the book launch of "SPRINGBROOK, A VISITOR'S GUIDE" by Jane and Colin Crisp.

\$5.00 from the sale of each book was generously donated to Wildcare that day. It was greatly appreciated.

Of course the Springbrook Wildcare members were there to say 'thank you' and present Jane and Colin with a very cute pottery koala and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Springbrook's own Ranger in Charge, Mike Hall, was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation that day for his continued help and support of Wildcare Australia.

"SPRINGBROOK, A VISITOR'S GUIDE" is a beautifully presented guide to stunning Springbrook; its origin, parks, walks and wildlife. Available for purchase at the Wildcare Office or by calling Jenny Meehan on 07 5533 5620.

FEATHER AND FUR

Greetings from the Bird Coordinator

As you would have seen, we have a number of bird workshops scheduled through till the end of November. We are incorporating some new and easy to understand information into a basic bird workshop. This workshop will mainly cater for new carers including those who care short-term, but all carers are welcome.

Shortly, a basic starter kit for birds will also be available from the Wildcare shop at Advancetown for about \$10. If you are only caring for a few birds this will get you started without having to outlay a lot of money.

There are still a number of small cages available for new carers. These would be suitable for babies or small birds. Please contact Diana Smith on 55307340 if you are interested.

I can now be contacted at work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 11.00 am and 5.30 pm on 55806205. I am home on Sundays and Tuesdays and can be contacted on 55486614, or Thursdays and Saturdays after 7.30 pm.

If carers in Brisbane would be interested in having a bird workshop would you please contact the office or me. We need to gauge the level of interest, as workshops require a lot of organization and we require a minimum of five people to hold a workshop. We could conduct a full day workshop that would include basic care and diseases and injuries.

We are also in the process of compiling a list of bird carers that telephone operators will use to phone carers to rescue birds. The list of bird carers will comprise only those people who have com

pleted orientation and have an endorsed permit. We will also require you to complete the new basic bird workshop as soon as it is available. If you are unsure which species you may want or be able to care for, please contact any of the coordinators. That is what they are there for. Also, if you are willing to pick up birds, but are unable to keep them long-term let us know that as well. The more information the telephone operators have regarding our carers and their circumstances the better they will be able to do their job.

Don't forget it is important that you ring the coordinators and let us know what birds you have in care.

Karen Barney

Hello Possums

Over the years, I have avoided being labelled, but eventually it had to happen, and thanks to Eleanor's power of persuasion, I seem to have landed myself with a title. I am now officially one of the Wildcare Possum Coordinators.

Sharon was a fantastic possum coordinator so it's a good thing she's still around so I can pick her brain. At least she will still be able to look after possums even if her circumstances don't allow for her to continue as coordinator. She'll be a tough act to follow.

So to get me up to speed I would like the following information:

able to or wish to be a possum rehabilitator, could you please either ring me or send me an email (email is better). I will need to know what age and stage (baby possum, juvenile, adult) you are able to rehabilitate and what facilities you have. I will also need to know what experience you have had (both good and bad) in order to organise the placement of both young possums and adults. If

you don't tell me then I won't know and you may miss out on the wonderful chance to look after a possum or two or ten.

If you have attended the appropriate workshops but have yet to take on a possum, I need to hear from you as well. Or if you haven't done the workshops but would like to be a possum carer, then it is probably even more important that I know about you so you are ready to care as soon as the required workshops are done. I am not a mind reader so let me know.

I believe if we all work together, and share our experiences and desire to help these creatures in need, then this will be a very rewarding experience for all.

For those of you who have possums in care at the moment, could you give me a quick call or email, to let me know why they are in care, their weight and all the appropriate details, so that the system can run smoothly.

As a tip, I used to ring Eleanor and Sharon regularly so that my babies could be paired up or grouped according

to their stage of development. I also let them know when I was able to take a baby, or had room in an aviary that might be filled by an adult. All this information is important so please let me know.

If we haven't met before, then just a curtesy call or email would be appreciated. My email address is batty1@airwebconnect.com.au, my phone numbers are 5630 4223 (yes that 6 is right) or 5545 2821 both are Gold Coast local numbers

Basically if you have or want a possum now or in the future, then contact me. Even if you are able to rescue but not able to keep that animal, you are important too so let me know.

Thanks, Lee-Anne Burgess



If someone had told me a week ago that I would be running around in close proximity to an Eastern Brown Snake – I would have had to assume that I would be running in the OPPOSITE direction, not actually chasing the snake and trying to restrain and put it into a bag - I would have thought they were stark raving mad, not to mention myself!!

But nevertheless, that is exactly what I and thirty-three other people did during the past week.

The course presented by Geoff Coombe and Greg Smith from “Living with Wildlife” in South Australia was very professionally presented. Each day of the three day intensive course consisted of both theory and practical sessions with REAL venomous snakes. Even though the snakes were captive snakes, it still gave the participants an idea of how snakes behave and what to expect when dealing with them (and that is to expect the unexpected!).

The theory sessions included information on their biology, their natural behaviour, first aid for snake bites (we did that bit first up!!), the effects of snake venom and heaps more.

The practical sessions included seeing first hand how snakes respond to different situations. There were numerous sessions where participants learnt to capture and restrain venomous snakes including Red Bellied Black Snakes, Eastern Brown Snakes and Tiger Snakes. There was also a practical session on how to retrieve an arboreal snake from a tree.

For someone like myself who, while I had a healthy respect for snakes, was still terrified of them, this was truly a remarkable experience. What a way to get over my fear of snakes!

We will be conducting another course in late November so if anyone is interested in attending please contact me QUICKLY as places are filling fast!



Shane Ho showing his expertise



King Brown Snake

POSITION VACANT

Volunteer **Snake Coordinator** for the Gold Coast
Current permit essential. Please register your interest with the
Wildcare Office 07 5527 2444



We have recently introduced a new system to keep members informed of what is happening within the organization. We have been using this email system to advise of changes to workshop dates and for reminders for special events.

We have however encountered a problem with some of the email addresses stored on the membership database in that quite a few email addresses are incorrect.

If you have not been receiving these email alerts and you would like to, please forward an email to:

wildcare@goldlink.aunz.com

These email alerts are SEPARATE to receiving your newsletter by email. You can still opt to receive your newsletter by snail mail but still get regular updates by email.

MACROPOD COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Karen Scott

This edition of Wildnews, I thought that instead of sharing with you the sad stories of the macropods that have come into care over the past few months and haven't survived, I would share with you some of the animals that call our house "home".

First of all there is Jaya. Jaya came into care in January after Cerri-Lee received a phone call from an elderly couple at Worongary who had "caught" a wallaby. Both Cerri-Lee and I had trouble trying to establish why they had caught it, how big it was and what was wrong with it – all we could establish was that the wallaby was lying on the lounge room floor! So Cerri-Lee raced off to collect the mystery animal and then delivered it straight to me. Cerri-Lee arrived holding a pillow case from which a tiny 700gram Swamp Wallaby joey poked her head. The poor little thing had a look of total and utter exhaustion on her face. On closer examination, she was extremely dehydrated and very malnourished; her skin hanging loosely off her bones. I gave her some subcutaneous fluids, established that she had no injuries and then settled her in so that she could rest for a while. I swear she didn't move an inch for hours – except when I disturbed her to see if she was still alive and to administer more fluids! I arranged to take her to the Australian Wildlife Hospital first thing the next morning where she was promptly placed on intravenous fluids. Her prognosis was poor in view of the fact that she was so critically dehydrated and malnourished. I brought little Jaya home though and hoped for the best. Little did I know that she was going to prove to be such a fighter. Jaya remained on intravenous fluids for five days. She was slowly introduced to more milk and food over that time and with each day became stronger and brighter. She had numerous set-backs during this time but she didn't give up and so neither did I.

Jaya is now beautiful and healthy and weighs 4kg. She is currently a resident of my pre-release enclosure with three other Swamp Wallabies.

And then there was Angel – named so because I swear she must have had a guardian angel looking out for her in April. Angel was hit by a car on Smith Street at Parkwood and was found lying in the middle of the road by a passing motorist who kindly took her to Pet Accident & Emergency Vets at Robina. She had taken quite a nasty hit to the head and had suffered extensive abrasions on her head and legs. Dr Elli cleaned her wounds, administered cortisone and placed her on an intravenous drip. I collected her from the vet surgery that night at around 9pm. She was about 3.5kg though – a difficult age to bring into care as the stress of being in captivity often brings with it a huge array of stress-related problems. I didn't hold out much hope for her survival given her injuries and knowing how difficult it is to treat a juvenile wild macropod.



Angel on arrival

Remarkably though, within six hours she was trying to move off her ICU bed so that she could urinate - a very promising sign. By 7am the next day, she was standing up – although very weak and wobbly! That afternoon I took her off the intravenous fluids and transferred her to our nursery pen where I had hoped she would be less stressed. That evening I offered her the remainder of Jaya's milk bottle. Surprisingly she took the bottle and downed the remain-

der of the milk in no time flat.

She remained a little cautious of Shane and me over the next few days although if we appeared with a bottle of milk she was like putty in our hands!!! She soon learnt to enjoy a little pat and loved to have her chest rubbed. She was very sore and stiff from her injuries for about two weeks but I was quite surprised at how quickly she regained her strength.

Angel is now 5kg and her wounds have all healed. She is probably the bossiest of all the wallabies in the yard and tries her best to "steal" a bottle away from the younger joeys whenever she can.

And then there is Morris – sweet little Morris. Imagine being 9 inches high, weighing only 1400 grams and being hit by a car. That is exactly what happened to little Morris the Red Necked Pademelon. Between Anne Asquith and John and Cath Mitchell, little Morris found his way from Springbrook to Pet Accident and Emergency vets who administered some preliminary treatment for his injuries. He was then delivered to me late that evening.

Morris had suffered a severe head trauma and was unable to move his hind legs. I kept him as stable as I could through the night and again first thing the next morning drove to the Australian Wildlife Hospital at Beerwah. There Dr Amber placed him on an intravenous drip and x-rayed him. He had suffered a compressed vertebra at the top of his spine – his prognosis was poor but we decided to give him 48 hours to see if he responded to treatment. He was placed on antibiotics, given some strong pain relief and home he came.

He remained on intravenous fluids for four days in conjunction with the pain relief medication. By the 5th day he had regained some use of his legs. By the end of the first week, he was standing on all fours but was still quite weak and was still suffering from partial paralysis on one side of his face. He was taking his bottle well though (although slowly...) and had started to nibble on some roots and dirt.

By the end of the second week he was slowly walking around on all fours and I started letting him wander around the nursery yard with the other three pademelons for a few hours each day so that he could get some fresh air and sunshine.

By the end of the 3rd week, he had regained more of his strength and most of the body condition. He enjoyed spending time in the yard and would just wander around grazing and minding his own business. By this stage though I was starting to get worried as he hadn't yet actually hopped and I had concerns as to whether he had suffered permanent brain damage.

Then one day while sitting in the shed feeding the other pademelons, I watched him walking around slowly on all fours and I tried to deal with the fact that he may need to be euthanased if he had suffered permanent damage. Suddenly, as if he had read my thoughts, little Morris took three little hops, stopped and turned and looked at me.

From that point I swear it was like someone had flicked a switch on in him somewhere (or maybe he just read my mind??). By the end of the 4th week, Morris was hopping around quite well. He was becoming more assertive; he started greeting me at the gate, eagerly awaiting his bottle.

Now I look at the four pademelons running around the yard and sometimes have to stop and look closely to see which one is little Morris. He has truly surprised me. I had contemplated euthanasing him on so many occasions during those four weeks. I look at him now though and I know that it was all worth it. He is truly a remarkable little animal.

I am so appreciative of the veterinary support that Jaya, Angela and Morris received from both Pet Accident and Emergency and the Australian Wildlife Hospital. I know that they would not have survived if it was not for the prompt veterinary care that they received.

And then there are the other animals that call our place "home".

There's Kobie, a Red Necked Wallaby that we released six months ago. He turned up a few weeks ago limping so he was encouraged to re-book himself into the yard for some R'n R and first aid treatment. He suffered a wound to the base of his foot. He seems to be relishing the easy life at the moment and is enjoying the morning and evening feed of macropod pellets and lucerne. Another week or so and he should be able to check out again. Kobie owes a special thank you to Dr Robyn who helped him along.

And then there's Bridget. The sub-adult Eastern Grey Kangaroo who was on death's door at pre-release. I thought I was bringing her home to either die or be euthanased. Well, she has stumped us all. We couldn't figure out what was wrong with her despite numerous tests but she has survived and has piled back on her weight and is as happy as could be. She will be checking out next week also and returning to her Eastern Grey pre-release yard.

And then there's Steppie. The Swamp Wallaby that came from a member of the public, underweight, poor fur and with the misconception that she was either a dog or a horse – she couldn't decide which. She is definitely the boss of the wallaby yard now!

And there's Lucy. The Rufous Bettong who much to her horror shares the yard with the four pademelons. She would give Steppie a run for her money in the bossy category if they came face to face! Thank goodness she spends all day and night outside now – no more being woken up in the middle of the night with this thing scratching and kicking the bedroom door!

And poor Brynn and Flynn, the two male Swamp Wallabies, both of whom have been a total delight to have in care. Neither have ever been a problem but have to put up with Steppie bossing them around.

And then there are the free-loaders - Annabelle and Tammy who were released about eight months ago but still come back just about every day for breakfast (macropod pellets). They often arrive with a large wild male in tow, also looking for a little morning snack. Both of the girls have small pouch joeys now so it will be nice to see the joeys



Kobie waiting to leave



Morris Red necked Pademelon



Jaya Swamp Wallaby

grow and see how good a mother they each turn out to be.

And then there are Stevie, Yo-Yo and Springer that complete the little mob of Red Necked Wallabies.

So that is my "mob". It is funny, when I am up in the wallaby yard, feeding or tending to them, I often find myself with a small smile on my face. I look at each of them and it amazes me that some of these animals have survived their ordeal. I know that I only have them in my care for a relatively short period of time but they will hold a special place in my heart for a long time to come. It is nice to know that we can save some of them despite all the ones that we can't.

Hello to everyone who takes an interest and/or action, at any level, in Australian wildlife and wildlife on a global scale. Hello also to my fellow wildlife carers and mentors who provide such a wide range of support and friendship and information at any hour of the day or night.

In this article I will provide a brief overview of my involvement with Wildcare Australia but one of the most important missions in my life at present is reaching out to a very large number of people. Why? Again I will try to be brief as I respect that any person involved in wildlife care has a limited amount of time for light reading.

My mission, in this instance, is to draw everyone's attention to the devastating proposal to dam the Mary River. **Our plans and concepts for a wildlife sanctuary were destroyed in an instant** by one person's idea. It is not my intention to provide details of this dismal concept or to provide rhetoric on the political aspect of Premier Peter Beattie's ill-conceived ideas.

Instead, if you have access to the internet I would refer you to the web site, www.savethemaryriver.com. If you are like me and do not have internet access, there is a Save the Mary River Coordinating Committee, and fellow Wildcare member, Glenda Pickersgill, is a committee member – Tel 07 5484 3150. Glenda's property is within a kilometre of the proposed dam wall location and is on the banks of the beautiful Mary River.

Please, please set aside some time to learn why the proposal, not only to dam the Mary River but other rivers in South East Queensland, is so wrong and misguided. Killing our Australian rivers to support burgeoning population growth is not the best solution. We constantly see articles in the media on climate change, water usage and ways to conserve a precious gift for our life on earth, but how many of us pay any real attention until we are shocked into it by something happening in our own back yard.

This is the exact situation that exploded in our very own "back yard" on the 27th April of this year.

I had been in to Gympie to collect supplies for the wildlife in my care, only to glance at the headlines of the Gympie Times and find Peter Beattie was intending to dam the Mary River. The shopping was forgotten, the wildlife supplies were picked up in a daze and I drove the half hour home in a state of acute distress. This state of acute distress and depression has only deepened for Neil and me and all the communities that are affected by non-consultative government decisions.

Our story - Neil and I found and purchased our small section of Australian bush just over four years ago, in a pleasant part of the Mary River Valley. We had very clear parameters to help in our search, both having been born and raised on farms in semi-remote areas, and in adult life always maintaining a close affinity with our country roots. I remember very clearly that Neil's keenest desire was for old gum trees and double-bar finches and mine was just something secluded and down the end of a dirt road.

We found our present home just a few kilometres out of Kandanga and a half hour drive to Gympie and for the first two years we commuted every second week end from our jobs on the Gold Coast. Changing circumstances then presented and we moved here permanently, with great joy and enthusiasm for our plans. A large part of these plans was to restore the native flora and fauna and as is often found, there were many issues to deal with. It takes time for our wildlife to learn trust and security. One doesn't achieve an overnight return by hoisting a flag to say that we are wildlife friendly.

The removal of old barbed, dog and chicken wire fencing was first priority when we observed a koala trying to negotiate a small fenced paddock in order to reach a desired tree. Fortunately for the koala we saw its plight and we descended on the fencing with pliers, wire

cutters and all the necessary equipment to eradicate that particular barrier. Our koala population increases with one or two new bobbies each year.

As is usual in all parts of Australia (cat lovers should not read this paragraph), we also decided on a trapping and eradication programme to remove the feral cat population. To date we have trapped more than a dozen and are constantly vigilant on this issue.

Our reward, and the reward for our wildlife and our fellow Australians, is realising our dream of providing a sanctuary for our natural fauna and flora. The native flora is slowly re-seeding and growing and would be more abundant if seasons had been less dry, and each season brings a wonderful collection of new wildlife creatures.

Our property consists of only thirty acres but is surrounded by rural land and is quite removed from busy roads. Our address is actually at the end of the road. We are fortunate to have a designated old growth timbered gully through the middle of our place (where the koalas laze away their days). This gully is linked through continuing corridors of timber and scrub to bush lined Kandanga Creek and then on to the Mary River. The other direction is through some 200 acres of other properties where timber, scrub and grazing mix and leads over to an area of old rainforest.

We are also blessed with several neighbours with similar attitudes to preservation. None more so than immediate neighbour and now fellow member and carer Sharon, who had barely unpacked into her new home when she began her close encounters as a carer for possums.

My involvement with Wildcare Australia began with workshops to allow me to make a decision on commitment and involvement. Great, I thought. I will become involved in a year or so when urgent projects around the home are taken care of. Then, a desperate call for me to take care of an eastern grey kan-

DAM DEVASTATION – DREAMS DERAILED

Then, a desperate call for me to take care of an eastern grey kangaroo Joey. I remember my comment to Paula was that I was not prepared and I would need to borrow some basic gear. Added to this was that even the knowledge and experience of having lived in or close to the bush and experienced wildlife in all its facets, does not prepare you for the time involved and the technical focus to capably care for tiny creatures.

Well, I still operate on a basic level. It seems that I gain a level of feeding routines that should allow me time to better organise myself, when another creature finds its way to me. I am sure everyone knows the feeling of not knowing what will happen in the next five minutes let alone trying to plan tomorrow or next week. Needless to say, my role as a carer, the successes and sadness's, the highs and the lows are many stories in themselves.

If our newsletter readers are interested, I will try to pen further articles for future editions. My immediate plan is to recover from a dreadful virus (perhaps we could name it the Peter Beattie 27/04/06

virus on behalf of all Mary River people affected with anxiety and depression). My little charges have all been moved to pre-release or relocated with other carers to allow Neil and me to take a break away from home and regain our perspective. Mind you, every time a vehicle comes down our driveway now I half expect to see a bundle being carried forth.

I would also take this opportunity to welcome fellow carers for a visit should they be in the Kandanga area. When the Premier gives us the all clear on the dam proposal being squashed, we will then enthusiastically continue with our plans for a pre-release and release sanctuary for our treasured wildlife. A telephone call will confirm if we are at home and I will have the billy on the boil and even bake a cake in honour of the occasion.

Thus, I wish you all good health, lower levels of sleep deprivation and sheer joy in your successful rehabilitation of our precious and beautiful wildlife.

Sincere and kind regards,
Robyn Taske 07 5488 4107



R. Taske



R. Taske



R. Taske

Mary River and protest flotilla

CAGES - AVIARIES - CAGES - AVIARIES - CAGES



R Johns

Hi all – Just a few interesting things from our front. We have had quite a few recent donations from the public after some “Community Service Announcements” on Radio Hope Island – 94.1 FM. Always good to get our message out there too. There is a medium size wooden carry box, several smaller cages (perfect for baby birds that will be

arriving all too soon) and a couple of fish tanks.

We also have another exciting project under way. Thunderbird Park, on Mt Tamborine, has kindly donated some aviaries and fencing – all quite substantial. We just have to go and get it all. We are currently organizing some working bees with interested parties to disassemble and remove these in an orderly manner. We have a bit of time to complete the task, but would like to get it over and finished as soon as possible. We need all the helpers and equipment that we can muster.

I have pictures and measurements of everything. If anyone is interested in anything mentioned please contact me.

Dianna Smith
55307340
0409223062
dianna@milroy.com

Every now and then something truly wondrous happens while we are out and about rescuing wildlife. One such occurrence happened only a few weeks ago at Springbrook.

I received a phone call from the Wildcare telephone operator to say that a baby koala had been found at the bottom of a tree at Springbrook. I telephoned the caller who said that the baby was only the size of a small hand and appeared to be uninjured. There had been two koalas in the tall gum overhead, which they had presumed from their behaviour were a male and female. One had since moved off but they weren't sure if the remaining koala was the mother of the joey.

So I headed off to Springbrook to see if I could establish whether the remaining koala was the baby's mother or not. I honestly didn't hold out much hope of being able to reunite them if it was.

I arrived at Pademelons Restaurant and met Jenny Meehan, a fellow Wildcare carer who only lived across the road. We found the remaining koala WAY up high in a huge gum. The koala had its head hidden so it was impossible to try to establish whether it was male or female. I had a look at the baby and she seemed to be uninjured. She had been resting peacefully in a warm beanie quite oblivious to what was going on. She was only about 250grams - just lightly furred and very, very cute!

So I made a decision to see if we could establish whether the remaining koala was the baby's mother or not. I warned the restaurant staff that I would need to be a little cruel to be kind if there was any chance of being able to reunite the baby with its mother.

So with everyone standing back a little way I stood underneath the huge gum where the koala was, took the koala joey from the artificial pouch and held her in my hands. She did not like that feeling of insecurity and immediately started calling out. As soon as she uttered a sound the koala above jolted upright from her deep sleep and starting looking around anxiously. She was obviously the baby's mother!

I kept making the baby call out by moving her around in my hands while watching to see what the female above was doing. She immediately started back along the branch towards the trunk of the gum. If the baby stopped calling out, she would stop and look around. Once the baby started calling again, she started moving again quite quickly down the tree. Unfortunately the thick vine at the base of the gum prevented the mother from continuing her climb down that tree so she headed back up the tree and back along a horizontal branch. She sized up the next tree with the aim of jumping to it to continue her search for her baby but the branch she was on was too short. She back-tracked to the trunk, found another branch which this time was longer. When she reached the end, she again sized up the next tree and took a flying leap successfully landing on a large branch.

All the while the little baby was still in my hands, feeling very insecure which unfortunately was necessary in order to make her continue to call to her mother. The mother found the trunk of the second gum and made her way down that trunk. When she reached about six metres from the ground I placed the little joey on the leaf litter at the base of the tree as she was far too small to climb to her mother. I moved well away from

them both and stood with Jenny and watched them. The mother very cautiously looked around and surveyed the area. She hesitantly continued her climb down the trunk to above half a metre from where the baby was. The baby immediately saw her mother and started calling even more frantically, reaching out with her arms towards her. The mother climbed to the ground, stood directly over the baby who VERY quickly climbed on board and made her way to her shoulder area. The mother stood there on the ground looking around very cautiously until she knew that the baby was safely on her back. She then moved back to the tree trunk, jumped up and started moving up the tree with the little baby looking over her shoulder. She continued her climb to the first tree fork where she stopped and rested.

I don't think that there was anyone standing there that didn't have goosebumps! We don't get many opportunities to reunite young joeys of any species with their mothers when they become separated so this was truly a remarkable experience. The mother was a beautiful, healthy large koala and was obviously a very diligent mother. It was nice knowing that the joey was back where she belonged.



Hi Everyone,

A new Wildcare year has begun so this gives me the opportunity to thank you all for all the hard work you have put in during the last year.

Please remember that the smallest contribution effects the whole contribution. You may not think your records make a difference, but I can tell that they do.

PHONE RECORDS

Thanks to all the hardworking phone operators who submit their records every month, can you please continue.

Daniele Holmes will now be taking care of the phone records. Please email your records direct to:

daneile_vines@hotmail.com

Daniele has kindly offered to help me on this one. Now would be a great opportunity for those phone operators who do not normally submit records, to start now. For those who hand write their records, please continue to send them to the office.

If anyone is having trouble recording either carer records or phone records, please contact me for some help.

Many thanks
Kerry Chadwick (Record Keeper)

WHY DO WOMEN DO MOST OF THE WILDLIFE CARING?

I have often asked myself this very question.

Is it a nurturing thing? Once the kids have left, is there an empty nest? Is there a space between kids leaving home and a retiring husband? Maybe young women not yet ready to have babies? So many questions.

Let's consider the following:

Firstly, I don't think it is a nurturing thing. What woman would want a Brushtail Possum hanging off her teat? All those teeth and claws !!!!!!!

They don't want a Happy Meal and ice cream when you go through the drive thru at Macdonalds

No nappies. Yes even men can do this. A few simple wipes and the little one goes back to sleep.

Depending on the age, you can actually take them out to social functions and rely on your host to provide a quiet, warm, dark environment and peace at feeding time.

They do not leave dirty underwear and towels on the bathroom floor.

They do not insist on having a mobile phone.

Designer clothing and "what is cool" means nothing.

They don't play golf, football, swimming, athletics, or any other physical stuff.

They don't invite friends over and want a cooked meal as well as complete control of the tv at a moments notice. Even though you have been looking forward to that movie for weeks.

They don't snore and take up most of the bed.

Gee, come to think of it, I could go on forever. I think I have made my point.

EXPO EXTRAVAGANZA

Volunteering Gold Coast hosted an Expo Extravaganza with the theme "Change Your World With Us" during National Volunteer Week. The event was to answer questions about volunteer organizations and to showcase the many volunteer community groups offering services on the Gold Coast. The event was opened by Margaret May MP Federal Member for McPherson who spoke of the enormous contribution that volunteers make to the community, work for which the government could never afford to pay. The positive effects of volunteering not only for the community but also for the volunteer in terms of health, friendships and social life and the great benefits of giving something back to the community were extolled, and a recurring theme was the fact that you get back more than you can ever give.

Wildcare Australia was represented by Lee Anne Burgess and Eleanor Hanger. Our display was well received and there was much interest in what we do, so we are looking forward to some new members joining our ranks.

SUPPORT BEAR RESCUE



Jill Robinson with patient

It's a little known fact that bear farming has been illegal in Vietnam since 1999 yet for the last seven years 4,000 bears have continued to languish on farms across Vietnam waiting for rescue.

The techniques of bile extraction in Vietnam are different to those practiced in China - there are no permanent catheters or gaping holes, instead once a week the bears are sedated, their gall bladders found using an ultrasound and the bile is then drained using a needle and pump. Just as in China it's a cruel and unnecessary practice.

In November 2005, Jill Robinson and her team at Animals Asia Foundation (AAF) signed an agreement to rescue 200 farmed bears in Hanoi – that rescue will commence in September and will follow on from AAF's China Bear Rescue which has, to date, seen 205 bears released from farms.

Jill will be returning to Australia to update everyone on the world's largest bear rescue which now spans two countries and could potentially help 11,000 Moon Bears!

Come and hear her story on Thursday August 10th at either a breakfast at the Royal Pines Resort at Cararra from 7:15am Tickets \$50.00

or

drinks at the Conservatorium of Music, Southbank
from 6:30pm.

Tickets are \$55.

To book, call 1800 666 004 or go to
www.animalsasia.org/ausroadshow/



Thank You

A special thank you to Sharon Singleton for coordinating the possums for the Gold Coast region with such efficiency and enthusiasm. Your help has been very much appreciated, Sharon, especially in the last twelve months. We look forward to the time when your

other commitments are not so demanding and we thank you for your continuing support.

We also thank Kim Schulz for coordinating the gliders. Although Kim is unable to continue in the role of coordinator because of her other commitments she has offered her assistance to anyone needing help with gliders. Thank you Kim for your ongoing support. It is greatly

appreciated.

Thankyou Beth and Wayne Abbott for the beautiful pottery pieces you created as gifts for our hard working members. They were absolutely beautiful.

Thank you Karen Hooke and Craig Fitzgerald for your wonderful contribution to Wildcare and your ongoing support. We wish you well in your move to that magnificent property at Esk.

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be it caring, rescues, record keeping, phone shifts,
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Look forward to hearing from you!

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