

EMERGENCY WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE - 07 5527 2444 (24 X 7)

# WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

RESEARCH

Winter 2007, Issue 45

## WILDNEWS

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



*R Rivard*

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



**Veterinarian - Dr. Jon Hanger**  
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**SUBMISSIONS**

If you are interested in submitting an article or photograph for inclusion in the next newsletter, please submit via the Wildcare Australia email address, subject "Wildnews", before

**25th September 2007**

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of WILDCARE AUSTRALIA or of the editor.



TWimberley

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone,

First of all thank you everyone that took the time to come to the AGM on the first of July, it was really nice to see so many new people. It was especially nice to be able to catch up with some of the carers who have been around a long time but who we don't get to see often due to distance and time. It was also really nice of the carers that live hours away at Gympie and on the Sunshine Coast to come down for the day, I hope everyone had a good time.

And a big thank you to Terry and Trish for having the new meeting room nearly completed for the day, it looks great! And not to forget, a big welcome back to the committee as we take the reins again for another year. We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas, questions or suggestions for Wildcare Australia so please don't hesitate to contact us!

.....

## Quote of the month:

We ARE the environment. There is no distinction.

*David Suzuki*

## HOOK, LINE AND SINKER!

About five Pelicans a week are admitted into the wildlife hospital, nearly all have injuries or wounds that have been caused by humans or their rubbish.

This week, we had a beautiful little female named Jenny brought in to us, she had ten metres of fishing line trailing from her mouth. On x-ray, we discovered something even more sinister in her stomach, a circle of heavy duty wire as thick as coat hanger wire which was 40cm long including the usual fish hooks. We think the wire was used to tie bait into a crab-pot which must have come loose. Jenny had consumed the bait, wire and all.

The good news is Jenny underwent abdominal surgery during which the wire, hooks and line were removed. After four days in ICU, she is now outside and readily consuming fish in a vast quantity.



## WARM AND COZY

Over the last few weeks, we have seen a number of animals come into the hospital simply suffering from the cold. An important point to remember if you are caring for wildlife at the moment (particularly birds, possums, koalas, flying foxes and gliders) is to be aware that a lot of animals that are coming into care or are already in care have been suffering from the effects of the prolonged drought and are not in good enough condition to cope with the extreme temperature changes we are having this winter.

So if you are housing animals you have in care outside and they are not in optimal body condition or do not have adequate fur and feather coverage, you will need to provide a heat source of some type or house them indoors to avoid fatalities. Animals that are in low body condition, fighting off illness or recovering from an injury do not have the resource to keep warm as well. Some of the effects of this can be weight loss, failure to gain weight, depression, hypothermia, loss of appetite and death; so remember...

## KEEP THEM WARM!

# FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to attend this year's Annual General Meeting. It was nice to see so many members travelling from Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Gympie areas to attend.

Perhaps next year we will move the AGM further north?

Thank you also to Trish and Terry for again allowing us to use their property to hold the AGM.

My sincerest thank you also to those members (and you know who you are) for helping to organise everything for the AGM – preparing and wrapping gifts, preparing certificates and awards, helping with the Annual Report, organising food and drinks and setting up and cleaning up afterwards.

If you have yet to download and read the Annual Report for this year, please do so quickly as it will only be on the website for a short period. It is a very comprehensive report of what has been happening within Wildcare for the past year and I hope that everyone

takes the opportunity to read it.

## EDUCATION CALENDAR

A reminder that the Education Calendar for July to December has been posted on the Wildcare website. You can find the Calendar under the "Noticeboard" section.

Please ensure that you register early for workshops that you wish to attend so that the trainer has adequate time to ensure that there are sufficient training resources available on the day. You can register by telephoning the Wildcare office on 07 5527 2444 during business hours or by emailing – [education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au).

Also a polite reminder to please let the Wildcare Office or the trainer know as soon as possible if you cannot attend a workshop for which you have registered. It continues to be a source of frustration for trainers when almost half of registered attendees do not turn up. In some instances extra time and energy have been spent changing the training venue to accommodate a larger group, only to find the original venue would have been sufficient for those who do actually attend.

## WILDCARE T-SHIRTS

Finally – after much debate we have decided on a design for Wildcare T-Shirts. It is a navy blue polo shirt with a bone-coloured trim. It is made from a light weight fabric which will be nice and cool

through the summer months (seeing we don't really get a terribly long winter). The shirts are \$28.00 each, including embroidering.

An example of the shirt in each size will be available at the Wildcare Office so that members can try them on for size. We will have a few shirts available at the Office for immediate purchase, otherwise you can place your order and it will only take two weeks or so to get the shirts ordered and embroidered.

The shirt comes in both men's and ladies sizes. The men's sizes come in S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL and 5XL and the ladies come in sizes 8 to 24.

We will also take sample shirts with us to workshops in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and Gympie so members in those areas will have an opportunity to see the shirts and place orders as well.

Polar fleecy vests, jumpers and other outdoor jackets are also available which we can order and have embroidered.

The shirts look very nice and I hope to see lots of people in "uniform" at upcoming events.

Karen Scott

## MACROPODS

It continues to still be a fairly slow year for orphaned joeys, which is great news. We have had the odd ones coming into care but it is by no means as busy as this time last year.

Unfortunately though, the number of adults being hit by cars has increased dramatically this year and our trauma carers have been kept extremely busy (particularly Mark and Greer) with attending to those in the Wacol area and northern Gold Coast suburbs.

Thank you to the macropod carers for your great work and continued support!

Karen



# FROM THE OFFICE



## MUDGEERABA SHOW

7th and 8th JULY 2007

Once again the show was a great success; lovely sunny days if a little dusty. The Mudgeeraba show is a local agriculture show that takes me back in time to the shows of my childhood. The show committee is a hard working group of volunteers and I would like to congratulate them on the great work they did and the way they have always been available to help with setting up our exhibit. To set up and run the Wildcare exhibit is a lot of hard work and I would like to thank each of our volunteers for the cheery way they take on the task.

Firstly, to **Bret Hales** for transporting all the gear, setting up the marquee and lighting, taking

it all down again and transporting it back home. Bret is my father-in-law (87 years young) and offers great support with all of my Wildcare work. A big thank you to **Rose** and **Tony** who helped Brett erect the marquee, lighting and display. It only takes one call to Rose and Tony and they're always there for me.

To **Cerri-Lee** for her brilliant work manning the display all day Saturday and back again on Sunday. Cerri-Lee and I stayed late and enjoyed the fireworks, singing and dancing to the strains of John Williamson singing "True Blue"...with a tear in our eye remembering Steve. To **Dianna Smith** for her help with transporting, setting up, manning the display on Sunday and taking it all down again, and to **Lee-Anne Burgess** who helped Cerri-Lee all day Saturday while I was at work. She did a fabulous job making and selling kites which she donated.

**Anne Asquith** came all the way from Springbrook to lend a hand

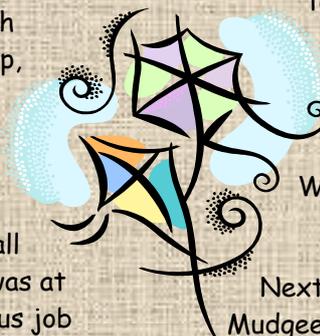


which was really appreciated. **Marly Woods** was back and forth Saturday and Sunday and brought along her cousin (Cerri-Lee's niece), **Tory**, who excelled with displaying and selling the balancing birds. Tory was also a great help keeping up the supply of food and drinks to the workers. Thank you!

Overall with sales and donations, we raised \$722.25. Not a bad effort. However, the most important thing was the amount of interest and enquiries from the public. We had several enquiries for Wildcare memberships.

Next year will be the 80<sup>th</sup> Mudgeeraba show and I feel we should make an effort to make our exhibit bigger and better than ever.

Trish Hales



### OFFICE HELP NEEDED

The Wildcare Office operates 8am to 4pm weekdays and is in dire need of volunteers. If you have a spare day or even half a day a few times a month, we would love to hear from you.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE - 07 5527 2444

### NATIVE TREES

Provide for native wildlife, plant native trees.

Moreton Bay Fig Trees, 30cm tall, available from Cathy Goggin for \$5.

Contact Cathy at  
07 5463 8321

# WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE

WILDCARE'S 24-HOUR EMERGENCY WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE

NEEDS YOU!!



The Wildcare 24 X 7 emergency wildlife phone service is in desperate need of volunteers. We currently have about 18 members who regularly cover the 25 weekly (100 monthly) phone shifts that occur outside the usual 8am to 4pm office hours. If you can spare 1 to 3 hours a week, once or twice a month then please consider helping with this very important service.

In order to facilitate the addition of new volunteers to the phone service, Wildcare will pro-

vide Telephone Training on Sunday, 22 July at the Daisy Hill Koala Centre from 1pm until 4pm. Members who are new to the phone service are asked to complete this training prior to being added to the phone schedule. Experienced phone volunteers who simply want to refresh their skills are also encouraged to attend.

Please help spread the word. If you know of any new members wishing to help on the phones, please let them know about the training and have them register with me or Kim Alexander.

Telephone shifts that are urgently in need of filling for July are Sundays 7am-10am, 10am-

1pm, 1pm-4pm and 4pm-7pm. The August roster is in the planning so if any current volunteers can do extra shifts please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support,

Liz Meffan  
0419 684 461  
lizmf@bigpond.com



## FOR THE CARNIVORES

Just a reminder.....

One of our members, Silva, recently sourced a free supply of up to 4000 day-old chickens to be used for food for our meat eaters in care. They are being donated by Steggles at Rochedale. This is a magnificent donation and will be of enormous help to carers.

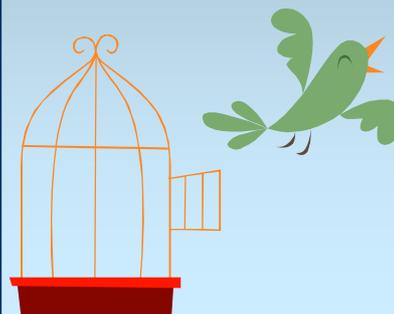
As a result of this donation, Silva was anxious to get a freezer for storage. An amazingly generous friend, who wished to remain anonymous, from an online herpetology group donated a brand new LG chest deep freeze. So the free bounty is ready for distribution.

A very special thank you to Silva for organizing the donations, to Steggles of Rochedale and to the anonymous donor of the deep freeze for their generosity. Bird and reptile carers should contact the Wildcare Office 07 5527 2444 to take advantage of this generous gift.

## CAGE & AVIARY LIBRARY

Wow, we have been getting some nice donations of much appreciated equipment. Please let me know if you need any cages or aviaries. We have some great aviaries still looking for a good home, so if you need any get in touch and we will work something out. We need as many people up and ready with "baby bird season" rapidly approaching!!

Please remember that any equipment borrowed remains the property of Wildcare Australia and can be loaned out for as long as needed.



Dianna Smith  
5530 7340  
0409 223 062  
dianna@milroy.com

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT *Reptiles*

Wildcare Australia would like to welcome our new Reptile Coordinators, Kristie Rimmert and Jai Hennessey. Kristie and Jai have been with Wildcare for several years and have always enjoyed caring for pet snakes, lizards and turtles. They both have completed extensive training and obtained licenses and permits required to rescue and care for venomous and non-venomous snakes as well as other reptiles.

They are excited about their new role and are very interested in building a strong team and support network of reptile carers within Wildcare. So, if you currently care for reptiles or if you think you may be interested in adding reptiles to your wildlife care list, please phone or email them and introduce yourself.

One of their goals as new Reptile Coordinators is to increase education and awareness about reptile rehabilitation, including the latest in first aid and other treatment methods. In the next few months, they are planning a couple of different workshops covering general reptile care (e.g. handling, first aid, housing, food) as well as a more advanced snake workshop. If you are interested in these or other reptile topics, please contact them so that they can determine the current level of interest and provide you with the information you need to become a better reptile carer.

Kristie and Jai have more than 10 years of experience between them and

can provide invaluable advice to assist you in the handling and care of reptiles and turtles (plus have some great snake rescue stories to share). Please take a minute to welcome them in their new role.

Kristie Rimmert 0433 016 051  
 Jai Hennessey 0430 288 826  
[kremmert@bigpond.com](mailto:kremmert@bigpond.com)



## Herpetology Course



Herpetology for Beginners is designed for those with a keen interest in seeking further knowledge and understanding of reptiles and amphibians. It covers identification, husbandry, health, nutrition, reproduction and handling. Courses are conducted by a qualified herpetologist - Kurt Walker.

### Course Details

- **Duration:** Two Sundays – 9am – 5pm
- **Cost:** \$250.00
- **Venue:** Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Dates:** Next Course is being held at  
*The end of July 2007*

# COORDINATOR'S CORNER

## CHANGES TO POSSUM COORDINATORS

After being the Possum Coordinator on the Gold Coast since the inception of Wildcare, Eleanor Hanger has sadly decided to resign from this position due to increased family commitments and being fortunate enough to spend more time travelling. Eleanor has been a fantastic coordinator and has always been a tremendous source of knowledge and guidance for carers. Thankfully, she has kindly offered to continue assisting with workshops and the possum notes where she can.

With Eleanor retiring from her Possum Coordinator position, there have been changes to the Coordinators. As many of you know, I will be relocating to the Gold Coast later this year, and as such I will be taking over Eleanor's position as Gold Coast Coordinator. This created the perfect opportunity to spread the load of the Brisbane Coordinator between three new coordinators who will be taking over from me. Thank you to Kathy Keed, Caroline Oertel and Delicia Williams for taking up these positions. Thank you also to Lee-Anne Burgess who has been holding the fort on the Gold Coast with regards to placements. Your help has been greatly appreciated.

With the new coordinators coming on board, I ask that from now on you contact your local area Coordinator to report possums in care, for placement of animals and for any caring advice. If at any time you are unable to contact your local area Coordinator, please contact any one of us for assistance or placements. I will also continue to be available to all carers that have concerns or require advice regarding their possums. A list of all the coordinators and their contact details is as follows:

### **GOLD COAST (incl. Beaudesert, Boonah)**

**Kathryn Biber**

Home: Tba

Mobile: 0411 643 557

Email: [katbiber@yahoo.com.au](mailto:katbiber@yahoo.com.au)

### **BRISBANE (All areas for caring advice)**

**Ricky Johns**

Home: 3207 4025

Email: [rickyjo@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rickyjo@bigpond.net.au)

### **BRISBANE SOUTH (incl. Logan, Redlands, Ipswich)**

**Kathy Keed**

Home: 3349 0045

### **BRISBANE NORTH (incl. Pine Rivers, Caboolture)**

**Caroline Oertel**

Home: 3289 9838

Mobile: 0423 172 554

Email: [carolineoertel@iprimus.com.au](mailto:carolineoertel@iprimus.com.au)

### **SUNSHINE COAST**

**Rachel Lyons**

**Delicia Williams**

Home: 5485 0595

Home: 5441 4000

Mobile: 0407 766 052

Mobile: 0419 919 000

Email: [rallyons@iprimus.com.au](mailto:rallyons@iprimus.com.au)

Email: [deliciaw@bigpond.com](mailto:deliciaw@bigpond.com)

If you are currently caring for possums, you should have received either an email or letter in the post requesting information for the new Possum Carer Database that we are creating. The information in this database will be used by all the

coordinators to assist us with placing animals that come into care. This will also mean that we have access to the same information and can assist one another if a coordinator is away or not contactable. It is very important if you have not received this form and are a current Possum carer, that you please contact me ASAP so that you can be added to our database. If you are wishing to care for possums, please let me know and I will also forward a form to you. If we do not have your details on the Database, then the coordinators will assume that you are no longer in a position to care for possums and you will not be contacted when animals require placement.

Personally I would like to say a big thank you to all the carers that have regularly been in contact with me while I was the Coordinator for Brisbane (please feel free to still ring and say hi) and I look forward to meeting and getting to know all the Gold Coast possum carers.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Biber

# RESCUE STORIES



## SEABIRDS

Today, I got a call for a pelican at Jacobs Well reported to have fishing line coming from its mouth. We've been after another bird up that way with a bad hook injury to its leg. There was no one available to watch this bird for the hour it would take me to drive to Jacobs Well but I decided to go in the hope that it might still be hanging around waiting for a free meal of fish. Upon arrival there were lots of people and boats, it being a busy Sunday.

Two pelicans were standing on the beach. Both appeared well but on closer inspection through binoculars I could see 2 meters of line coming from the larger bird's mouth. I stood for some 20 minutes thinking through the many ways I might catch the bird. Being alone makes it difficult. I decided to bring the pelican in with fish and see how it responded. Fortunately, the local

shop sold mullet.

I bought three mullet, put them in a yellow bucket and walked out of the shop. The bird was at least 50 meters away and I was surrounded by picnickers but as soon as it saw the bucket and a likely meal of fish it charged up the beach towards me, grunting and bellowing. It was a very feisty bird. I enlisted the help of some young people telling them I'd need back up if I caught the bird. I placed the bucket on a low wall as the "peli" approached. It was keen as mustard so I put a mullet on top of my hand and held it out. The bird hesitated for about 2 seconds then lunged. My finger was lowered under the mullet and caught in the birds pouch. It was all over. One of the quickest and easiest captures I've had.

My new assistants were happy to hold the bird while I inspected the injury. It wasn't good and there was no way I could cut out the hook which was embedded deeply in the bird's face, luckily missing its eye. It was a very nasty injury. So, it was off to hospital.

Up until now the "peli" had been fairly placid but the one hour drive south to Currumbin was a nightmare. It was stressing severely and wouldn't settle. I had to stop six times on the M1 to

disentangle its beak from the cage. I was very worried it would damage itself but the only option was to get it to hospital as quickly as possible. Upon arrival, Currumbin's head nurse, Mimi, met me at the gate and whisked the bird away for immediate veterinary attention.

Rowley Goonan

## MISS RIGGLEBUM

This is Tomkin Rigglesbum who was found in a garden shed on her own. She only just had fur and had been left all day without heat. She was very cold but battled on to become very wild and healthy. Her story is very normal.

Cathy Goggin



## Aussie Wildlife Rescue



### Learn the skills to help sick and injured wildlife.

The Aussie Wildlife Rescue Course is designed to enable graduates to deal with most situations and care for sick and injured wildlife in the most practical and least stressful manner when needed. Aussie Wildlife Rescue utilize the veterinary hospital and park resources to make the program a unique, hands on experience.

### Course Details:

- **Duration:** Conducted over eight, 2.5 hour weekly evening sessions (usually Tuesdays 6 – 8.30pm)
- **Cost:** \$250.00
- **Venue:** Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Dates:** The next courses are scheduled to start on **Tuesday 31st July** and **Tuesday 18th September**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:  
Level 5 Water Restrictions  
Impact on Carers**

This legislation is implemented by each Council, but the legislation is from Queensland Water Commission (QWC). So depending on how you count pens, enclosures etc. determines the applicable restriction until I get them to clarify the restrictions related to rehabilitation of "Wildlife". I am presently in consultation with QWC; the 'powers to be' are reviewing the situation and are to get back to me with clarification.

In relation to maintaining your animal enclosures; if you keep animals, birds or poultry (whether domesticated or live-stock) for raising or breeding on premises that have more than five pens, kennels or other enclosures or more than two stalls, **or** where the occupier of the premises derives annual gross revenue of \$5,000 or greater from the activity, then you would fall under restriction **7.1**.

Restriction 7.1 states that you can use reticulated (town) water for the provision of their drinking water, washing the animals (provided that if a hose is used for this purpose, only a hand held hose is used) and cleaning of animal pens and enclosures with a high pressure water cleaning unit. This restriction requires that a rainwater storage facility be installed on the premises and that all water from this device be used for animal husbandry purposes before water from the reticulated supply.

If you want information emailed to you when I get it please email me at [teriether@optusnet.com.au](mailto:teriether@optusnet.com.au) and I will email you when I get updated advice.

Terri Eather

# OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## Managing Unwanted Cats & Dogs

### Invitation to comment

The Queensland Government is seeking community input on the issue of managing unwanted cats and dogs. This discussion paper has been prepared by relevant agencies within the Queensland Government as the first part of the process. It aims to stimulate discussion and feedback on the key issues that need to be addressed and identify possible solutions.

Interested stakeholders and community members are invited to make submissions in response to this discussion paper using the response form on page 15.

Submissions may be aligned to the specific questions raised in this discussion paper, or may address any matter that the state government should take into account when developing a policy position with regard to managing unwanted cats and dogs.

This document and related material is available on the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

(DPI&F) website at  
[www.dpi.qld.gov.au/animalwelfare](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/animalwelfare)

### Hardcopy submissions

Survey questions can be downloaded and submitted:

### by post to:

The General Manager  
Animal Welfare  
Biosecurity Queensland  
Department of Primary Industries  
and Fisheries  
GPO Box 46  
Brisbane Qld 4001

**by fax to:** (07) 3239 3510

**The closing date for submissions  
is Friday 3 August 2007.**

### Electronic submissions

Access the survey questions on-line and submit your answers electronically (available shortly).

## ECHIDNA SURVEY

**WANTED:** your Echidna sightings. If you sight an echidna could you please email your sighting to me. Please include size ("dinner plate", "bread & butter plate" or "cup & saucer" size), time of day (morning or evening), status (alive or dead) and area of sighting.

Many thanks,  
Leigh Koppman  
Echidna Coordinator  
[waimuri@optusnet.com.au](mailto:waimuri@optusnet.com.au)



# REPORT: Teflon Toxicosis

by Renée Rivard

Within a matter of minutes of heating non-stick cookware, Teflon and other non-stick surfaces easily reach temperatures that produce toxic particles and gases known to be fatal to birds, to negatively affect developing mammals, and to be linked to numerous human illnesses. "Teflon toxicosis" is the term used to describe this poisoning when it occurs in birds; it causes the bird's lungs to haemorrhage and fill with fluid, ultimately leading to suffocation. Scientific studies in mammals, including rats, have shown a causal relationship of these toxins to reproductive organ tumours, low birth weight, and increased mortality in developing rats (the latter occurred at doses not affecting parent survival).

Cookware is not the only type of product to be aware of which may have a coating containing these toxic chemicals, known as per-fluorochemicals (PFCs). Other appliances and products with non-stick or Teflon surfaces which have been reportedly linked to bird fatalities include coated heat lamp light bulbs (unfortunately in this case used to incubate hundreds of chicks), a Teflon-coated iron, Teflon-coated drip pans underlining stovetop burners, a non-stick cookie sheet, self-

cleaning coated oven, an electric skillet, a toaster oven, a coated space heater, and even a new sofa coated with "Stainsafe". Fortunately, the EPA removed the active PFC used in "Stainsafe" from the US market in 2000.

Deaths have also occurred in large groups of wild birds in areas adjacent to non-stick coating manufacturers. In 1996, Canadian universities investigated an unusual number of wild bird deaths in an area bordering a facility that coated cookware. A pattern of lung congestion, oedema and haemorrhage was found among the dead birds consistent with death from inhalation of toxic PFCs. In England in 1997, approximately 100 wild birds were found dead within a four-hour time span approximately 700 feet from an industrial plant that coated sheet metal with non-stick paint. On that particular day, the plant had some problems leading to oven temperatures being raised to improve the coating process. The wind direction was consistent with fumes travelling from the plant to the dead birds.

With bird season around the corner, please be aware of the danger that non-stick coatings have to young



animals and of the extreme sensitivity of birds to these toxins. Moving birds or other animals in care to another part of the house is not sufficient protection as bird deaths from "Teflon Toxicosis" have occurred in rooms far from the kitchen.

A quick review of products in your home in order to remove, replace, or at least minimize use during the time when you have animals in care will go a long way in helping protect the well being of the animals we work so hard to protect.

For additional information, please see the Environmental Working Group website ([www.ewg.org/reports/toxicteflon](http://www.ewg.org/reports/toxicteflon)) and references to the 2005 DuPont class action lawsuit at <http://consumer-law.lawyers.com/DuPonts-Charged-With-Hiding-Teflon-Health-Hazards.html> and <http://www.lawcash.com/attorney/2302/ei-du-pont-de-nemours-lawsuit.asp>.



## Companion Parrot Workshop

Our Companion Parrot Workshops are designed to give practical tips to help parrot owners enrich the lives of their feathered friends. Level I and II courses available. This course is taught by leading parrot consultant Jim McKendry and includes an avian veterinary component conducted by Dr Bob Doneley BVSc FACVSc.

### Course Details

- **Duration:** Level One – half day (normally Saturdays)  
Level Two - full day (normally Sundays)
- **Cost:** Level One - \$100 per participant.  
Level Two - \$165 per participant.  
Discount available for two people from the same household/business.
- **Venue:** Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Dates:** Next Course is being held on

**Saturday 29th September (Level 1) & Sunday 30th September 2007 (Level 2)**



# WILD WORLD: Cambodia



**Mr. Tam**

## **Tough Nut With A Soft Centre**

Appearances can be deceptive. The Loutish Mr. Tam is not the keeper one would immediately choose for responsible, gentle care. He is short, stocky and tough; always the first to open his mouth if he thinks the situation merits his interference. We had not been at PTWRC long and Mr. Tam was one of the keepers helping us branch out gibbon and macaque cages - a job that had never been considered important. Another keeper was also trying to get involved - these jobs carry a small financial incentive to encourage the guys to care about their cages. On our arrival the following day the second keeper had a large suppurating wound on his forearm. He needed medical attention. On being asked how this happened he replied that the Loutish One, obviously feeling his territory was being invaded, had bitten him.

Mr. Tam was the keeper chosen to care for Sima, the tiny orphaned elephant, whose mother had probably been shot. He did a most attentive job. Baby elephants are difficult as they not only need milk, and lots of it, but as with all baby animals they need to be loved. If this spiritual support is not provided, they will either not survive or grow up delinquents. Mr. Tam slept with his charge and was meticulous in the

care he gave. Sima grew up to be a lively, well balanced little elephant. She was well integrated with Lucky and Aram. They made a happy little unit. However, not every story has a happy ending.

On the morning of 7th May 2004, at the age of 3 years old Sima was found dead in her night stall. The diagnosis from Dr. Thomas Hildebrandt at the Institute of Zoo Biology and Wildlife Medicine in Germany was Endotheliotropic Elephant Herpes Virus (EEHV), an illness that is almost always fatal to young Asian elephants. How she contracted the disease we do not know. We were all devastated, particularly Mr. Tam. We did not want to lose the young keeper and found him a job on Section 3.

Section 3 had always been a troublesome area. It is furthest away from the centre of PTWRC and keepers there have usually been casual at best. It was always untidy despite our efforts and any crimes committed - shootings, muggings, bike thefts and the like - are usually committed around Section 3. Mr. Tam was the self appointed foreman here. He would not tolerate sloppiness from the others and worked harder than all of them. His enclosures were always well branched and the animals cared for, any illnesses being reported immediately. If there was criticism of his section, Mr. Tam felt it deeply and was fiercely defensive. Add all this to his jocular nature and ever present smile and one realizes there is truth in the saying "Appearances can be deceptive"; the Loutish Mr. Tam provides an excellent example.

Now with the arrival of little Chhouk, Mr. Tam is back with the elephants once again. We knew he would jump at the chance to care for the new baby and he did, immediately

saying he would sleep there every night until Chhouk's foot is completely healed. When asked how his wife would feel about this he replied that Chhouk needed him more. He has been true to his word and sleeps by his elephant's side every night - though we suspect he slips off quietly to see his wife and young daughter some evenings. Around two weeks after Chhouk's arrival Mr. Tam, riding on the back of Chanta's motorbike, pulled up, his foot bound with a dirty piece of cloth. He walked across the dirt to us with scarcely a limp and said that Chhouk had accidentally slipped and put his small tusk through Tam's foot. We were not permitted to remove the rag - there was too much blood - so we sent him up to the local clinic.

Within a few days Tam's foot was healing nicely and he confided quietly that when Chhouk first arrived he had purchased a bunch of bananas and 2 chickens as a gift to his God to ensure Chhouk's well-being. We asked if Mr. Tam's God was pleased and had eaten any of the offering. Tam said that He was pleased and had eaten a little and that Lucky's mahout, Sitheng, had eaten the rest. When asked if Mr. Tam had any himself he replied that he could not do so as he had a bad foot. Well, it should have been obvious really! Mr. Tam is more complex than he appears. Probably best not to ask too many questions and let him get on with it. Mr. Tam knows what he is doing.

Cambodian Wildlife Rescue

[www.cambodianwildliferescue.org](http://www.cambodianwildliferescue.org)

# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

## HUMOUR IN THE HOUSE

**Caller:** We have two possums for you to pick up.

**Wildcare Phone Volie:** Oh, yes...and what are they?

**Caller:** Ummm...I'm not too good at this sort of thing. I think one is a bottlebrush.

Meet our new species...

*Bottlebrush underwoodii*

Eleanor Hanger



## CHRISTMAS EVE

The call came in on Christmas Eve; a waterbird needing rescue. When I asked if the caller knew what type of waterbird it was, the caller, indicating that she was pretty good at bird identification, said "It's a white waterbird with a yellow beak."

I arrived to find a White Leghorn Chicken complete with comb and wattle!

Greer McNeill



## LARA'S LOT

Lara drove her car gingerly along the winding road as the rain pelted down. This was the third time she had ventured down the mountain today, but now the weather had really set in and even though she was in the 4-wheel drive, she felt vulnerable. But Lara knew this was not a mission of choice, it was a journey of necessity. Beside her wrapped gently in a fluffy white towel lay an injured animal. An animal that was now depending on her to negotiate her way down the mountain and deliver it safely to an expert who could ease its pain.

Living on the mountain as she did, Lara was often the first port of call for injured or abandoned wildlife. Not only did fellow residents ring her for or bring her all their wildlife emergencies, even tourist to the mountain tracked her down and the local vet had her number on speed dial. Barely a day went by without an animal of some kind passing through Lara's hands and that was excluding the animals she herself had in care. Lara often joked she was the only one she knew who could go out for the Sunday paper and come home with a wallaby.

That day Lara had arrived home from a shopping expedition with an injured kookaburra and native pigeon, only to be called out again to rescue a mother possum trapped in a chimney. She had barely arrived home when the call had come in for the glider. The property owners had

seen the tangled mass of fur on the top strand of their fence earlier in the day, but it wasn't until they heard the strange "motor boat revving" that they realized the glider was alive and impaled on the barbs of the fence.

Lara had taken but a few minutes to arrive and assess the situation. With the owner's permission, she had cut out the section of the fence that held the glider all the while explaining the dangers of such a fence to the native wildlife. Lara never missed an opportunity to educate the public and a situation such as this was always a powerful teaching time.



Now with the glider safely beside her in the basket, Lara headed toward the offices of a local wildlife vet. She knew that in order to safely remove the barbed wire they would have to sedate the glider and remove the barbed wire quickly to have any chance of saving the gliding membrane so the glider could return to the wild. She rang

*Continued on next page*

## FAUNA FRIENDLY FENCING & other structures

Here are two websites with suggestions for making our wildlife safe

[www.redland.qld.gov.au/NR/rdonlyrew/](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au/NR/rdonlyrew/)

## LARA'S LOT

(continued)

She glanced down at her watch, 5.39 pm, well the vet would be on overtime even if she wasn't.

The rain had eased a little by the time Lara arrived at the vet surgery and she was glad to see the lights on in the clinic and the vet waiting by the door. Quickly they went to the treatment room and while Lara explained the rescue and the possible injuries, the vet readied the sedation. Once the animal was unconscious, it was easy to unwrap the membrane from the vicious barbs that were still connected to the fencing wire. Together Lara and the vet untangled the skin now stretched and bruised and examined it for tears and holes. They checked over the rest of the animal for any other injuries and discovered that it was indeed a Sugar Glider with 3 babies in her pouch.

As Lara drove back up the mountain that evening she thought about her day. She remembered the two loads of washing, one in the machine and one sorted ready to go in that weren't done, the biscuits she had been going to make and the sewing she had promised herself she would finish that day. She phoned her husband to check what sort of take-away they would like for dinner that night and her two clients to let them know she would be there tomorrow and thanked them for their flexibility. As she looked down at the basket with the glider and her babies safely inside, she knew that as a wildlife carer she was part of a greater plan. Lara smiled, she was happy with that.

Kim Alexander

# KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE!

Education Highlights

## LAURA IN WINNIPEG

In February, I had the pleasure of introducing Wildcare Australia and Wildlife Warriors Worldwide to two classes in Ecole Provencher in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

My niece, Avery, and nephew Liam attend this French immersion school. Their teachers invited me to share with the students some of my stories about wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. It was a great opportunity to introduce Canadian kids to Australian wildlife. With a few rescue stories, they were fascinated, grossed out, touched and inspired in turn. Lots of photos were passed around. As it was Library Week at the school, the primary focus was on reading so I read a short story to them about one of my favourite orphans. They had lots of questions and made me promise to return to the school on my next visit home.



I was impressed with their knowledge of Australian animals, gained primarily through Steve and Terri Irwin's influence. The kids were so very aware of the need to be proactive in caring for all wildlife. Steve touched their hearts and Bindi has become their hero.

Let's keep up the good work!



Join our artist in residence, Andy Reimanis, to engage in a practical program which allows you to discover the endless possibilities of depicting native fauna at its best.

### Course Details

- **Duration:** Kids and Adult courses available
- **Cost:** \$45 and \$95 (includes materials and refreshments)
- **Venue:** Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Dates:** **Kids : 1st Sunday of each month 9am – 12noon**  
**Adults: 1st and 2nd Sundays each month 1pm – 4pm**

(Time: Basics -1.00pm – 4.30pm, Advanced -10am – 4pm)

# A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Wildcare Australia welcomes the following new members:

<b>Alderley</b>	Ashleigh Frater
<b>Birkdale</b>	Natalie Blanch
<b>Bonogin</b>	Brendon Peisley
<b>Browns Plains</b>	Michael & Christel Story
<b>Burleigh Heads</b>	Mimi Dona
<b>Coolangatta</b>	Sandy McDermott
<b>Currumbin Waters</b>	Katherine Ross
<b>Daisy Hill</b>	Kam & Harjan Singh Athwal
<b>Deception Bay</b>	Hugh & Bernice Johnston, Jeremy & Tabetha Johnston
<b>East Brisbane</b>	Shelley Trevaskis
<b>GCMC</b>	Cherie Sadler
<b>Glasshouse Mountains</b>	Jo Loader
<b>Glenwood</b>	Lisa Skrokov
<b>Greenslopes</b>	Donna Lipyeat
<b>Indooroopilly</b>	Katie Payne
<b>Kings Beach</b>	Catherine & Mathew Manwaring
<b>Little Mountain</b>	Anita & Robyn Hicks
<b>Mt Gravatt East</b>	Alison Holbeck
<b>Nambour</b>	Lesley Saunders, Ruth Wheeler
<b>Nerang</b>	Amanda & Debi Freeman, Evely Katz
<b>New Farm</b>	Carla Morgan
<b>Oakey</b>	Sonya Street
<b>Oxenford</b>	Sharon & Mark Brass
<b>Redcliffe</b>	Jill Nugent
<b>Redland Bay</b>	Amanda Barrett
<b>South Grafton</b>	Marion Collins
<b>Southport</b>	Karen Pither & Larry Dyer
<b>Springbrook</b>	Shawn Senior
<b>St. Lucia</b>	Sacha Woodburn
<b>Thornlands</b>	Petrina & Greg Carter
<b>Toowong</b>	Ginnie Rossini
<b>Wamuran</b>	Sue Amirsardari
<b>West End</b>	Eliza Smith



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 8:00am to 4:00pm on Monday and Friday.

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

# PJ's WILDCARE for KIDS

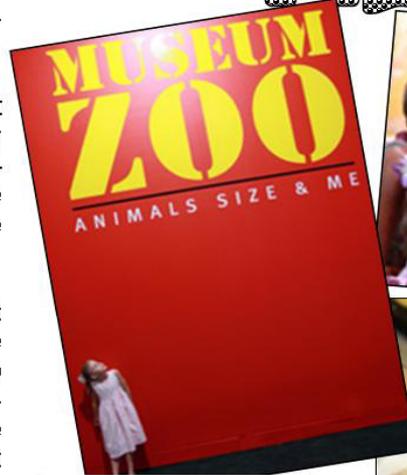


*Hi again everyone!*

I hope you are enjoying your school holidays. I certainly am! A few weeks ago, my family went to the Queensland Museum for a visit and next week I'm going to go again with my cousins.

Upstairs on the first floor, there is a great exhibit called Museum Zoo. Here they have a couple of hundred replicas of animals—reptiles, birds, small and large mammals. They are all lined up from the really tiny to the great big ones!

So, if you haven't been along lately, get your mum or dad or grandparents to take you for the day. There is always lots to do at the museum and also at the new Gallery of Modern Art next door. They make the best French Fries at the restaurant there!



Pictures courtesy of [www.qm.qld.gov.au](http://www.qm.qld.gov.au)



Do you have things that go bump in the night? Do you hear what sounds like a herd of elephants jumping on your roof? Then you've probably got possums living near you who like to visit your house looking for food.

My mum is always complaining that her roses are being eaten by the possum. And they also eat anything with nice juicy shoots—like my baby spinach plants and her new parsley plants! So, she told me to share some of her anti-possum ideas so you could tell your mum if she is having the same problem. They don't hurt the possums but just make our plants a little less yummy.



1. Pepper—sprinkle some white pepper all over the plants that they like to eat—like the rose bushes or the petunias. But, if it rains, you will have to do it all over again. Put up some plastic netting. You can buy heaps for \$2 at the cheap shops. Try planting things away from where they wander. Sometimes they are too scared to go into the parts of the garden that are far from the house (where they might feel safest).

## A GREAT BOOK TO BUY!

When I was at the Museum last time, I asked my mum to buy me this book. It costs \$32.95 but it's the only book you'll need if you live in Brisbane! It has everything that you could possibly want to find out about. Now, when I see something in the garden and I don't know what it is, I can just look it up and find out all about it.

It would be a great Christmas present for anyone, so maybe you could save up your pocket money and buy it for someone special.

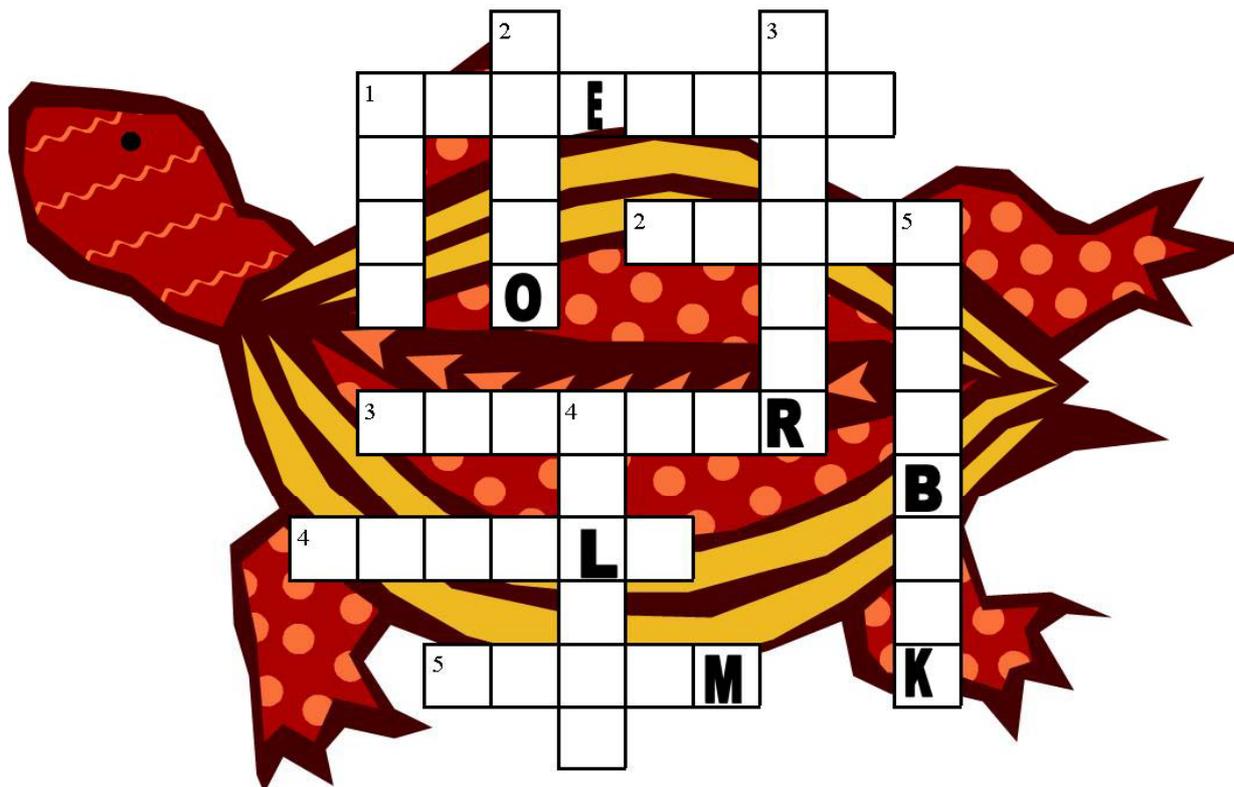
Well, that's all from me. I hope to hear from you or receive your stories or pictures at [pjdick@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pjdick@ozemail.com.au)

Till next edition,  
Bye from

P.J.



# WILD CROSSWORD



This edition's crossword features some of our native reptiles and fish.



## DOWN

1. Cane -----
2. Spotted Velvet -----
3. Lace -----
4. Sea -----
5. Freshwater snake -----

## ACROSS

1. Green -----
2. Garden -----
3. Narrow-banded Sand -----
4. Long-necked -----
5. Yellowfin -----

## WORDSEARCH

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

SNAIL, BLOWFLY, HARDYHEAD, SEDGEFROG,  
LIZARD, EGRET, ROSELLA, SCRUBWREN,  
BANDICOOT, DUNNART, RINGTAIL



EMHanger

# Photo Gallery



TWimberley



JMHanger



KRemmert

What am I?



EMHanger

Yes, I am a reptile!



RReward

The Pied Butcherbird with its superb fluted, far-carrying song is best heard at dawn during breeding season, or on still, moonlit nights.

Often answered by others in duet or in sequence with notes which always seem perfectly chosen.

The spectacular Rainbow Bee-eater hunts fast flying insects on the wing, then returns to the perch to eat, after beating the captured insect on the branch.

It prefers more open country or clearings in the forest with exposed perches.

The Grey-Headed Flying Fox is a dietary generalist, some individuals primarily select blossom while others mainly select fruit.



TWimberley

They are very efficient pollinators. The flying foxes along with the tube-nosed fruit bats may be the only seed dispersal agent for many of Australia's rainforest trees.

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A photographic guide to identifying  
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 of Australia  
 by  
 Lynda Hyde



“A Bird in the Hand” is now available from the  
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