

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

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

RESCUE

Winter 2008, Issue 49

WILDNEWS

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



This newsletter is proudly sponsored by
BRETT RAGUSE MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE



Veterinarian - Dr. Jon Hanger
Wildcare Australia Office
Wildcare Education and Training
Website: www.wildcare.org.au

07 5436 2097
07 5527 2444 (8am to 4pm Tuesday - Friday)
07 5527 2444
Email: enquiries@wildcare.org.au

P.O. Box 2379, Nerang Mail Centre, Queensland 4211

MAIN COMMITTEE

President	Gail Gipp
Vice-President	Karen Scott
Secretary	Tracy Paroz
Assistant Secretary	Dianna Smith
Membership Secretary	Trish Hales
Treasurer	Kirsty Arnold
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Assistant Record Keepers	Kiersten Jones Amy Whitham
Newsletter	Eleanor Hanger Renée Rivard Toby Clinch

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	K. Scott
	A. Watson
	R. Webster

SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in submitting an article or photograph for inclusion in the next newsletter, please submit to news@wildcare.org.au before

20th September 2008

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Report	3
From the Office	4
Wildlife Phone Service	5
Coordinator's Corner	6 - 8
Keeping the Dream Alive	9 - 10
Wildcare Training Workshops	10
Official Business	11 - 14
Special Report: Hendra Virus	14
Research	15
WILD WORLD: China	16
SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: Gliders	17
Rescues Stories	18
On the Lighter Side	19
PJ's Wildcare for Kids	20 - 21
Photo Gallery	22
New Members	23
Supporters	24 - 25



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone,

First of all my apologies for being unable to attend the AGM, I believe I had the worst flu I have ever had in my life and actually thought I was about to die that day.....I know I was wishing it for a few hours!! Tip for people that work closely with germ people in winter, send them home before they spread it around.

Congratulations and welcome to the new committee, I am sure we will have a fantastic year and it is wonderful to have so much new input. To all our members, keep the ideas coming in we really appreciate them.

A big thank you to Trish and Terry once again for the use of Narrowleaf and Terry, my love, you don't get off that easy... Trishy and I have plans for you!! I will be in touch!

Each day we get amazing stories told to us or we are lucky enough to witness them. Here is one of those stories...

The team at the Australian Wildlife Hospital (AWH) is still shaking their heads in disbelief at the dramatic circumstances that surrounded the arrival of one of our newest admissions last week - an eight-year-old male koala who has been given the name Ely "Lucky" Grills.

Last Wednesday afternoon, just as twilight was descending, Ely had the misfortune of being literally collected by a car on Dayboro Road, near the Petrie Quarry, in Brisbane's Pine Rivers district. The driver of the vehicle alleges that she thought she saw a koala on the road but had been unaware that her vehicle had made contact with him. It was not until the driver stopped at the Petrie Train Station, some 12 kilometres on, that she was alerted to the fact that there was a koala dangling from her car's grill by a concerned passer-by. This prompted an urgent call to the Caboolture Koala Care and Rescue group, who despatched Rhonda Hay to assist the stricken animal.

Rhonda's first impression when she approached the car was that the koala had been decapitated, as his body was indeed "dangling" but his head and left arm were not visible. A closer inspection revealed that the koala's impact with the car had

been with such force that the hidden body parts had been pushed through the grill, wedging him close to the bonnet. This impact was consistent with the 100 kilometre per hour speed limit that exists on the Dayboro Road.

There were signs of life however and thus began a very delicate task to free Ely, with Rhonda using household scissors to carefully cut around the grill mesh with the permission of the owner of the prestige vehicle. A few anxious minutes ensued until it was mission accomplished and, after an initial shake of his head, a limp-bodied Ely was placed in a cage and transferred to the Australian Wildlife Hospital for urgent assessment.

Whilst Ely was clearly in shock from the experience, the Hospital's veterinary team was amazed to find that he had suffered no serious injuries. Within two hours of his placement in the Hospital's Intensive Care Unit, he was much brighter, sitting up and eating. Ely was however found to be suffering from an underlying chlamydial infection, so will remain at the Hospital for 45 days to complete the required treatment regimen.

Gail Gipp

PLANNING AHEAD, AMEN!

At a time when environmental and animal welfare groups have to be vigilant to ensure that development does not override the needs of our wildlife, it is gratifying to see that the Tugun Bypass Planners paid significant attention to details concerning the survival of two endangered frog species and other wildlife.

During the planning stage, it was determined that the construction of part of the road meant the destruction of approximately two hectares of wetlands habitat. So, compensation for that loss was built into the scheme and 4 frog ponds were built to exact specifications to ensure the survival of the Wallum Sedge Frog and the Wallum Froglet. And it worked!

A few months after the ponds were built, the Wallum Froglet moved in. And, less than a year later, the more fragile Wallum Sedge Frog was seen inhabiting the ponds! This certainly was The Year of the Frog for these two species!

Aside from providing a substitute frog habitat, the Tugun Bypass Planners also replaced the hollows lost in the construction process. More than 100 nest boxes were strategically placed beside the bypass, and to date, at least half are being used for shelter by sugar and squirrel gliders, brushtail possums, wood ducks, rainbow lorikeets and an owl nightjar!

Toby Clinch

FROM THE OFFICE

RESCUER REMINDER

One of Wildcare Australia's main goals is to provide timely rescue for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife.

Through the training we gain during Orientation and First Aid for Native Wildlife workshops, we are provided with the basic knowledge required to perform rescues for most animals and to provide temporary housing for them until an appropriate carer can be contacted.

As we gear up for the upcoming busy spring season, we would like to remind those of you who have gratefully signed up for rescues that Wildcare's phone service volunteers may call upon you to rescue ANY animal (except animals that require specialized handling such as snakes, bats, raptors, etc).

Assuming you have the proper equipment, the phone volunteer may call upon you to:

1. Rescue any animal and take it to a nearby vet.
2. Rescue or pick up any animal, contact the appropriate species coordinator and temporarily house the animal for a few hours or overnight until the species coordinator can contact a carer. Even if you are not a "carer" for that animal, the coordinator may need your help temporarily until the animal can be placed with a carer.

The latter is particularly important because members of the public are not trained to provide appropriate housing or emergency care. Thank you in advance for your help!

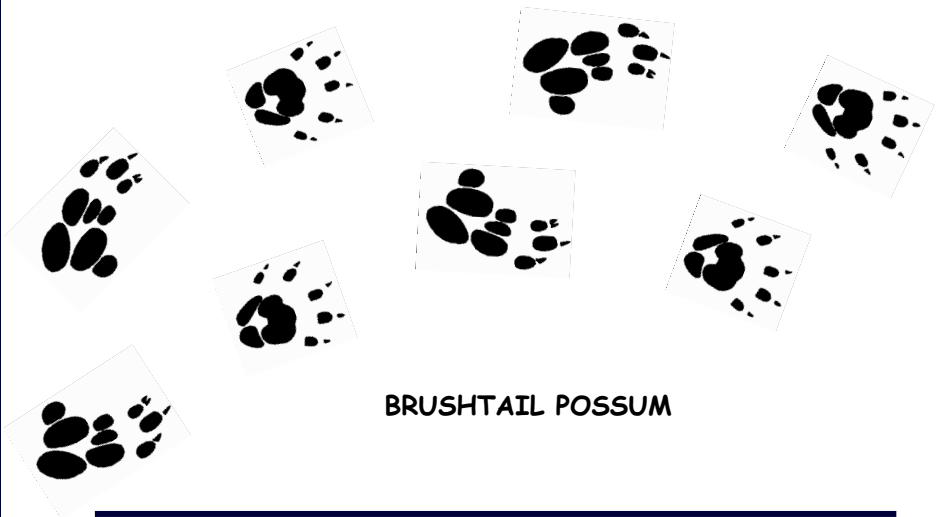
Renée Rivard

WILDLIFE FOOTPRINT STICKERS

Wildcare Australia now stocks a range of vinyl footprint stickers which are waterproof, UV resistant and great for sticking on cars, bikes, diaries, computers, furniture, windows – almost anything!!

A range of footprints are available including kangaroo, koala, brushtail possum, bird, pelican, bandicoot, echidna, wombat, numbat and Tasmania devil.

They are available for \$4 a sheet via the Wildcare Shop. Orders can be placed by emailing shop@wildcare.org.au.



KOALA

BRUSHTAIL POSSUM

GARAGE SALE/CAR BOOT SALE

Raising Money for Wildcare

Do you have bits and pieces around the house/yard you will never use?
Do your family and friends have things they can donate?

Over the past few months, we have been collecting ideas and a few goods in preparation for our garage sale/car boot sale at Gold Coast, Brisbane and Sunshine Coast areas.

We will probably set a date in August or September so if you have unwanted goods, or a great location to hold a Garage sale/Car boot sale, please email me:

tonyaehoward@hotmail.com or call 5530 5953.

Any goods that don't sell will be donated to the AWL and RSPCA shops.



WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE

WILDCARE'S 24-HOUR EMERGENCY WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE

Wildlife Phone Service Revitalization 2008

In June, we successfully launched Wildcare's Phone Revitalization Program. The premise behind this new approach was to establish a large enough pool of volunteers so that each member on the team was only needed for one, 3-hour shift each month (or the occasional overnight shift). This gives volunteers (volies) a month to recover from their shift should they find it a bit stressful, heh!

Our first phone recruiting effort certainly paid off as we have now TRIPLED our current pool from about 18 active phone volies to an amazing 53! Because we understand that people's lives and schedules are in constant flux, we will continue to recruit members and review the availability of phone volies each quarter. Hopefully, this will allow us to meet the needs of the phone service in conjunction with the needs of our members.

Participation on the phone service team provides a great opportunity to educate the public about our wildlife and also offers endless educational opportunities for mem-

bers to learn about managing all wildlife situations. Approximately 70% of the calls we receive are about birds, but we also get many interesting, humorous as well as serious calls about possums, bats, macropods, reptiles, koalas, echidnas and the occasional frog.

Here are the key concepts that we hope will help us maintain a strong and enduring phone service:

- Initial pro-active recruiting effort by phone to current experienced carers/rescuers. GOAL: large pool of 60-70 members.
- Revolving monthly Standby List to be used by phone volies in the event they cannot fill their scheduled shift.
- Ongoing pro-active recruitment of current members from membership database, new carers (identified via carer records), as well as recruitment of skilled new members from monthly orientations.
- Monthly phone trainings during February – August.
- NO new phone volie recruits during the busy season, October – January.
- Development of animal-based "Quick Guides" (Q&A flow charts).

We thank everyone who has been able to contribute time for the upcoming quarter as it has helped revive and stabilize the heart of Wildcare; our emergency phone service. We also owe an enormous amount of gratitude to Liz Meffan and the 18-20 members who held the phone service together during the last few months, several of whom covered 6-, 8-, or 12-hour shifts more than once a week.

I also want to thank Tracy Paroz, Amy Whitham, Michelle Petersen and Liz Meffan for their help in rolling out this new program.

We are currently looking for two assistant phone coordinators to join our team and we are still in need of an additional 15-20 phone volunteers before the busy season hits us in October. If you have 3 free hours a month and are interested in participating, please contact Liz Meffan, Phone Coordinator (0419 684 461 or lizmf@bigpond.com), with your contact details and availability.

Thank you,
Renée Rivard

WILDLIFE PHONE SERVICE SHIFTS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7-8am	7-8am	7-8am	7-8am	7-8am	7-10am	7-10am
8am-4pm Office					10am-1pm	10am-1pm
					1-4pm	1-4pm
4-7pm	4-7pm	4-7pm	4-7pm	4-7pm	4-7pm	4-7pm
7pm-7am	7pm-7am	7pm-7am	7pm-7am	7pm-7am	7pm-7am	7pm-7am

COORDINATOR'S CORNER



BATS

Hard to believe it is nearly the middle of July and only about 3 months to the start of the baby bat season. It is with sadness that I have to report that this past week we had five bats come into care; they were either hit by cars or caught on barbed wire. Of the five, one sadly passed away within hours; he had been hanging on the wire for approximately 2 days and was just too weak to put up the fight for life any longer. Our only consolation is that he at least died warm and without pain and in close proximity to other little bats. He was one of last year's little babies...sadly such a short life.

One of the other bats sustained injuries to the membrane between his foot and fifth finger - an injury, if treated, would have allowed him a full recovery but alas he also sustained a small cut to the membrane between his thumb and shoulder! Such a small cut...but it severed a vital small muscle-like tendon that he needs to sustain flight. Another little grey-headed lady had fractured her pelvis so badly that all she could do was lie in the cold all night under a bush until a very kind lady found her and called Wildcare to come quickly. This gentle little lady was also pregnant; she aborted her tiny, completely formed, little boy last night and sadly she, too, passed away late this evening.

At this time I would like to remind all carers that any female bat found injured at this time of the year has the potential to be pregnant. Therefore it is vital to get her the special treatment required to save her life and the life of her unborn foetus. Over the past few years, we have developed a routine treatment specifically for this scenario and we have had close to a 99% success-rate in saving both mum and bub. Our two other patients, we are pleased to report, have minor injuries and we expect they will have a full recovery.

At this time, I would like to thank our young bat rescuer, Sam Howard, who along with his mum Tonya successfully rescued their first barbed wire injured bat. With young Sam driving to the rescue, his mum Tonya read her notes from our last bat workshop about how to rescue a bat from barbed wire. I might add that they both did a beautiful job and the rescue went just as the workshop notes said it should; the little boy bat is now resting comfortably after his ordeal.

Once again, it is time for all those potential bat foster mums to think about getting their bat wraps, baby bottles, wipes and dummies ready for the next round of those delightful little flying puppies. At this time, I would like you all to think of ways in which we can educate the general public about the importance of these very unique flying mammals.

Both Greer McNeil and I will be available 24/7 during this coming baby season and look forward to assisting our new and long-term bat mums and rescuers.

Trish Wimberley

BIRDS - SUNSHINE COAST

We had a very interesting sighting here in April; a juvenile Tropic-

bird. It came into the care of Len and Violet Hopkinson at Tin Can Bay and for a while its identity had us all guessing. As Violet soon found, its appetite was tremendous and it was quite happy to splash about in the wader pool. The main concern was that it did not seem able to move about comfortably on land giving us cause for some concern about a possible injury that was not apparent.

With the aid of a digital camera and the Cooloola Medical and Professional Centre, we were able to get a photo of the bird emailed down to Bird Observation and Conservation Australia (BOCA) in Brisbane and had its identification confirmed. Its behaviour on land, we confirmed, was normal. These birds don't walk in the accepted sense as they only approach land to breed; they have a funny sort of shuffle and hop when moving about on a firm surface. They breed on Raine, Lord Howe, Norfolk and Kermadec islands off the Queensland Coast (*The Seabirds of Australia - Terence R. Lindsey 1986 edition*). The juveniles only land on our coast if, during their maiden flight, they strike strong winds up high which sweeps them in.



The story had a happy ending as the bird, after two or three days of R & R, was returned to the Fraser Coast by National Parks (after eating Len and Violet out of fish and octopus). It was last seen heading east and gaining height.

BOCA was so interested in this rare arrival to our shores that they will be listing it in a coming edition of The Bird Observers Magazine under "unusual sightings".

With the arrival of winter conditions, the seemingly constant supply of nestlings has finally eased off. However, with the shortening days creating more contact between cars and birds who are all heading home around the same time, injured birds are coming into care much more frequently.

Ailsa Watson

ECHIDNAS

Winter seems to be a busy season for adult echidnas coming into care as a result of trauma. And, we have a shortage of echidna carers. If you are particularly interested in rescuing and caring for these remarkable animals please contact me. I am more than happy to run individual training for people really keen. The next Echidna workshop is coming up in August.

Karen Scott

MACROPODS

Wildcare has had two Macropod coordinators for the past couple of years. So to streamline the fostering process, we decided to amalgamate the whole of the Gold Coast and Brisbane areas under one coordinator once again. Roy Webster has been welcomed as the new placement coordinator and will do a wonderful job of placing the joeys. He will be backed up for advice and help from both Karen Scott and Laura Reeder. Thank you Roy!

Thankfully, it has been quieter over the last few months with road traumas being the primary cause for rescue. Roy and I have worked closely together aiming for the best outcomes for the orphans.

Roy, covering the greater Gold Coast area, has fostered out ten red-necked wallabies and five

eastern grey kangaroos. In Brisbane's southwest, I have fostered out almost the same number.

Mark Alexander has been very busy with call outs for badly injured kangaroos and wallabies. It's a tragedy that so many are hit and then just left to die. Full credit goes to Mark for maintaining this unpleasant but so necessary aspect of wildlife rescue. The RSPCA in Gold Coast and Brisbane also deserve mention for their invaluable help. We so appreciate it.

We have had fewer call outs from the Wacol area since the rains earlier this year which has been a huge relief for everyone. The trauma and frequency of the road hits and the increased incidence of diseased animals has been hard on everyone.

Roy had an interesting call from a farmer at Biddaddaba who said that a grey kangaroo was standing at their back door and would not go away. It seemed tame but was scaring their horses. When asked why he thought it was tame, he replied that there was a dog collar and bell around her neck.



Sure enough, Roy arrived to be greeted by a beautiful fully grown Red Kangaroo wearing a collar and bell. He returned the following day ready to capture her only to hear that she had moved on to a neighbour's property. The farmer there said that he hadn't seen a 'roo for years but when asked to simply turn around, there she was, relaxing in the grass behind him.

She was caught, placed in care

Organic Body Butter For Your Pinkies

I have been using this beautiful body butter on my pinkies now for approximately 12 months and have never had a problem with peeling or dry skin. Prior to this, it was a constant battle so I decided to put something together myself.

The ingredients are Shea Butter, jojoba oil and distilled water. This combination rehydrates the skin in no time at all.

A 100gm container is \$12 and 200gm is \$20 and only a tiny bit is needed.

FREE DELIVERY for Wildcare members.

People at work call me Naturenanna, but my name is Nalda. Call and leave a message: 5445 7771 or 0419 257418.

and is now waiting on the EPA to determine a suitable release site for her.

With an expected increase in the numbers soon to be in care, now is a good time for all you macropod carer "wannabees" to get trained and ready to help. We need you. The joeys need you!

Roy Webster, Karen Scott and
Laura Reeder

POSSUMS

With the onset of winter, spending an evening by a cosy fire can be an attractive option, but before you light that match, check that nothing has set up house or become trapped in the chimney. A young brushtail possum was recently taken into care after receiving burns to its feet and...luckily for it... the damage, though extremely painful, was fairly limited and it made a quick recovery and was returned to its home. The chimney has now been possum proofed.

Loss of habitat is a worsening problem in this area and I have noticed a large number of brushtail possum road kills in the last month. Apart from a couple of adult males, most have been

young males probably dispersing in search of a territory to call their own. Sadly they didn't make it.

Some car victims amazingly survive and we have one in care, awaiting an operation for a broken leg and jaw. Before being reported to Wildcare, it had spent a few days in a fowl nesting box much to the chagrin of the fowls that were trying to lay eggs there. The animal can't be operated on until its massive infection has cleared up.

Dermatitis, dog attack and car strike are the reasons for most of the brushtail possums coming into care over the last couple of months. As well as adults, there have been three joeys under 100 grams, only one of which survived.

Two mountain brushtails have been successfully released and are doing well.

A number of groups of gliders have recently been released. One group of six has chosen to continue living in the aviary, a sensible option in view of the recent weather, but they do venture out at night and have caused much anxiety dancing on the roof of the aviary instead of staying in the relative protection of the trees and shrubs. Another released group has been seen working their way through some heavily flowering grevilleas. We hope the predators are hibernating.

Please remember to notify your coordinators of any possums that

you have in care, and if your nest is empty and you are ready and willing to care, please let us know.

Eleanor Hanger

REPTILES

The last three months have been much quieter for us reptile carers, with fifty-two rescues in the Gold Coast and Brisbane areas, and only eight reported on the Sunshine Coast. The majority of these have been lizards that have become victims of domestic animal attacks and snakes that are suffering from secondary conditions caused by an old injury.

Unfortunately, quite a few of these reptiles have required intensive care, and many weeks of rehabilitation to ensure they have recovered fully and are in optimal physical condition prior to being released during this cold period.

Despite the reduction in reptile calls coming through to Wildcare, we would still like to hear from anyone who is interested in caring, or helping out with rescues. This is the perfect time of year to start learning about reptiles in preparation for spring and summer's busy season.

There are currently some reptile products available from the Wildcare office; we will be increasing this range over the coming weeks.

Kristie Remmert



SPORTY'S FISHING

Sporty's Fishing is endeavoring to teach children how to enjoy fishing responsibly.

Too many people are unaware of the footprints they leave behind! All too often, Wildcare members rescue or rehabilitate wildlife that have become entangled in fishing line, trace, hooks or lures which have been carelessly left behind. In our kid's workshops at Sporty's, we dedicate a whole session to the environmental impact of fishing.

I am a fellow Wildcare rescuer and carer, and I educate the children of our future about the consequences of their actions. If you have children who fish, please consider registering them for Sporty's Fish'n Kidz workshops or similar workshops in your area.

Tracy Moore

32 Strathaird Road

Bundall Qld 4217

Ph: (07) 5526 2786

Fax: (07) 5527 6894

Email: sales@sportysfishing.com



KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE!

Education Highlights

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The past few months have been a fairly productive one for our Education Team. We have had a few new members get more involved with our education program who have all brought with them some new ideas and lots of enthusiasm.

I have been busy preparing new training material for bandicoots and native rodents, updating our First Aid training course and our Orientation Program.

Our Volunteer Manual has been updated to include more information. If it has been a long time since you joined Wildcare, you can request an updated copy of the Manual by contacting the Education Team by email.

We have received a great response to our Anatomy & Physiology course for August and October. There are only minimal places left for the October date.

We have submitted a number of our training packages to the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC) for endorsement which we hope will be assessed in the coming months.

We have welcomed Daneile Holmes as our Workshop Coordinator. Daneile will be handling all general workshop enquiries and workshop registrations in the hope of streamlining this process.

A special thank you to Michelle Petersen who did a fantastic job of setting up our new workshop registration process and for developing better procedures for registrations.

"Training the Trainer" Workshop

We will be offering a "Train the Trainer" workshop in August (at a date to be finalized shortly).

This workshop is designed to teach the basic principles of teaching adults. It is hoped that all coordinators and other people interested in helping with teaching workshops (even a small segment of a workshop) will attend.

If you would like to attend, please email the Education Team for more details.

Koala Workshop

Last year, we offered a small 'hands-on' workshop on koala rescue at the Australian Wildlife Hospital which was well received. From that workshop, we gained a few more members who were willing and equipped to attend koala rescues (particularly in the Gold Coast region).

We will be offering another workshop in August if anyone is interested (particularly for those in the Brisbane region). Please contact me, Karen Scott, if you are interested in attending.

Education Team

education@wildcare.org.au

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

The Wombaroo seminar went really well considering the small number of people who attended. Gordon Rich from Wombaroo gave a very informative presentation about their products and benefits of various formulations.

Thank you to Kim at Pet City for all

of her help with the seminar. Thank you also to Kelly and the team at Manly Road Vet Hospital for their donation and attendance; we look forward to working with you more.

Lastly thank you to those who attended - you know who you are - thank you for your support. On the day, over \$300.00 was raised from Chocolate sales, a sausage sizzle and a \$50 donation from Manly Road Vet Hospital.

The plan is to try for another seminar weekend later in the year so that we can get more attendees - the information was outstanding and well worth hearing.

On a not-so-great note - it has been a dismal year at this end of the world. As I am sure most of you are aware, fundraising is not going well... I NEED YOUR HELP! Kim Alexander has come up with some fantastic ideas which we are currently looking into; one of them concerns schools and chocolate sales. This should be a great success. We are currently awaiting Committee approval!

I am available via email at BeA-ware@wildcare.org.au or mobile 0409 067 384 if anyone would like to be involved in Community Awareness. If you have ideas that you would like to put forward or if you would like to be involved with school talks or community events please let me know. It is too big of a job for one person.

When this new committee (well, newly named) first started meeting, there was great enthusiasm, however when I moved to the country it seemed to die off. It is now time to get it back. I would like to try again!!!! We need to have meetings - even teleconferences - so that we can discuss new ideas, and get our reports in order. I live three hours

north east of Brisbane. I am available most weekends for meetings. I also am getting more involved with the education department - so I can organise meetings to be held after workshops for those who are interested. I come to Brisbane approximately every 6 weeks - another opportunity for meetings or get togethers.

PLEASE don't be afraid to be a part of this, even if it is only a few hours every six weeks or so, and we could really use your help...just a few hours of your time at community events.

Next great event....

I NEED YOUR HELP!

Wildlife Expo Friday & Saturday 12-13th September 2008

Beauresort Information
and Arts Centre,
Mt Lindsay Highway,
Beauresort
(near High School)

I need a few people to give me a hand with this Expo. Friday, school students will be coming through and Saturday will be open to the general public.

This is a great way to get Wildcare's name out there and hopefully get more people involved. Community Awareness is the key to helping what we do. The more people who understand what we do, the more support we can get!

Think about it. All I need is a few hours of your time. If you are interested, please call me, Daneile Holmes on 0409 067 384 or email BeA-ware@wildcare.org.au.

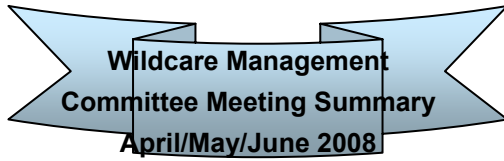
Daneile Holmes

Upcoming Wildcare Training Workshops

July – October 2008

Date	Workshop	Location	Time
<u>Gold Coast</u>			
12 July 2008	Intro to Orphaned Mammals	Currumbin	9:30am – 4:30pm
20 July 2008	Basic Reptiles	Advancetown	9:30am – 4:30pm
3 August 2008	Orientation	Currumbin	9:30am – 4:30pm
17 August 2008	Basic Birds	Currumbin	9:00am – 4:00pm
24 August 2008	Advanced Birds	Currumbin	9:00am – 4:00pm
7 September 2008	Orphaned Flying Foxes	Advancetown	10:00am – 4:00pm
4 October 2008	Orientation	Currumbin	9:30am – 4:30pm
12 October 2008	Basic First Aid	Currumbin	9:30am – 4:30pm
<u>Brisbane</u>			
9 August 2008	Basic First Aid	Brisbane	9:30am – 4:30pm
17 August 2008	Echidnas & Bandicoots	Daisy Hill	9:30am – 4:30pm
TBA	Intro to Caring for Birds		
TBA	Advanced Birds		
6 September 2008	Orientation	Daisy Hill	9:30am – 4:30pm
13 September 2008	Intro to Orphaned Mammals	Daisy Hill	9:30am – 4:30pm
19 October 2008	Basic Reptiles	Brisbane	10:00am – 4:00pm
<u>Burpengary</u>			
5 July 2008	Intro Orphaned Mammals		9:30am – 4:30pm
13 July 2008	Gliders of SEQ		9:30am – 4:30pm
30 August 2008	Advanced Possums		10:00am – 4:30pm
20 September 2008	Basic Possums		10:00am – 4:00pm
<u>Gympie/Pomona</u>			
19 July 2008	Advanced Possums	Gympie	10:00am – 4:00pm
<u>Eumundi</u>			
24 August 2008	Intro to Caring for Birds	Eumundi	9:30am – 4:30pm
28 September 2008	Basic First Aid	Eumundi	9:30am – 4:30pm
18 October 2008	Echidnas & Bandicoots	Eumundi	9:30am – 4:30pm
<u>Beerwah</u>			
25 October 2008	Habitat & Plant Identification	Beerwah	9:30am – 4:30pm
TBA	Infant Koalas		

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Business/Corporation

- A copy of the audited financial reports for the organization are available by email to all current members of the organization. You can request a copy by emailing Wildcare on enquiries@wildcare.org.au. If you do not have access to email and would like a copy mailed to you please contact the Wildcare Office on 07 5527 2444 (Tuesday or Friday please) and a copy will be posted to you.
- The 2008 Wildcare Annual Report is available for downloading from the Wildcare website under the "Noticeboard" tab. Please take the time to read it thoroughly. If you require a hard-copy posted to you, please contact the Wildcare Office on 07 5527 2444 (Tuesday or Friday please) and a copy will be sent to you.

Please also note that the financial information contained in the Annual Report was drafted prior to the final audited reports prepared by our Auditor so please refer to the audited financial reports for a final accounting of the year's revenue and expenses.

- The Management Committee is planning to undertake a review of the Rules of Association (Constitution) of the organization. If any members would like to be involved in this review please email Wildcare at enquiries@wildcare.org.au.

Also, please remember that as a current financial member of Wildcare you are entitled to request a copy of the current Rules of Association by contact-

ing Wildcare and requesting a copy to be sent to you by email or by post.

- The Wildcare Management Committee has recently made a decision to expand the Management Committee by offering three "Committee Member" positions. We believe that this will allow more people to become directly involved in the running of the organization.

If you wish to nominate a person (or yourself) to take up a position as a Committee Member on the Management Committee, please either email enquiries@wildcare.org.au or write to Wildcare at PO Box 2379 Nerang Mail Centre Qld 4211 with a brief description of why you feel you would be able to fulfil this role.

Hopefully, the positions will be filled by members from different regions including one from the Gold Coast, one from the Brisbane/Ipswich region and one from the Sunshine Coast/Gympie region. A brief outline of each position is as follows:

- Be able to attend monthly Committee Meetings (or at least every second meeting). Meetings will be scheduled at various locations including the southern Sunshine Coast region.
- Be in a position to disseminate information to Wildcare members by way of attending workshops or other member-related activities.
- Be able to contribute to the running of the organization including administration and public relation activities and roles.

This is an excellent way for more members to become involved in the running of the or-

ganization and the Management Committee hopes that members will avail themselves of the opportunity.

The Management Committee will make the appointments to the committee based on the information provided by the applicants. In future years, it is hoped that these positions will be voted on by all Wildcare members at the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations must be received by the 30th July 2008 so that a decision can be made at the next Management Committee meeting.

Community Awareness

- Wildcare is to participate in the Mudgerraba Show, the Wildlife Expo (Beaudesert) and the Wildlife Information Day (Esk) and welcome any and all offers to help. There is also a school expo at Waterford West SS which Wildcare would like to attend as well if there are sufficient volunteers to assist.
- AVAPetPep has kept some of our members very busy in the last few weeks with visits to The Lakes College, Harrisville SS, Springfield Lakes SS, Ipswich North SS to mention a few. The children are always very welcoming, lively and appreciative of a Wildlife Carers' presentation.
- Wildcare provided a display at the THECA Forum and gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Annaliese Machen who dutifully manned it on our behalf.

Education/Workshops - External

- Karen Scott has submitted four sets of training materials to QWRC for endorsement with more to follow.

- Karen Scott conducted three, one-hour presentations at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary at the request of CWS staff. "Aussie Wildlife Rescue" stories were well received.
- National Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference: Tracey Paroz is busy organising items for sale at the Wildcare Trade table. The conference begins on 21 July in Canberra. If you have ever thought about attending one of these conferences, just do it as they are really great. The following lists some of the members attending this year: Gail Gipp, Tracey Paroz, Renee Rivard, Laura Reeder, Dianna Smith, Terri Eather.

Education/Workshops - Wildcare

- As there has been a poor response to Carer Meetings, the Mgt committee will review and revamp the concept. Any feedback and offers to assist from members would be appreciated.
- On their application, Wildcare has endorsed and will partially sponsor Kathryn Biber and Karen Scott as they undertake their Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Other members may also wish to apply for assistance. The management committee is currently developing a system for consideration of applicants.
- The committee is considering the inclusion of more training materials on the Orientation DVD thereby allowing immediate access to resources by new members.
- A new CD-ROM Trainers Kit has been created and distributed to all trainers and Coordinators.

Members/Memberships

- Sixteen new members and fifty-nine renewals in May were welcomed.

Record Keepers Report

- Amy Whitham, with her very busy team is revamping the telephone records system and transcribing all current and 2003 to 2007 historical records (which are handwritten) into Excel. This will provide valuable data from the thousands of phone calls we receive through our 24 X 7 wildlife phone service.

Species Coordinators

- We welcome Heather Frankcom as the new Bird Coordinator for Brisbane.

Telephone Service

- Renee Rivard, with the help of Tracy Paroz, Amy Whitham and Michelle Petersen, has helped take the pressure off Liz Meffan by recruiting a new generation of telephone operators with most volunteers doing one, three-hour shift per month for three months.

During the last week of June, the volunteer pool increased from 20 to more than 50 and will hopefully increase to over sixty in the next few months. Liz and her dedicated team are very grateful for the new recruits. The Telephone Coordinator Position is considered to be the most "challenging" of all.

A new orientation program for telephone operators will introduce the changes to the Operators Phonebook. The records system will be more user-friendly and additionally there will be species-specific "Quick Guides" sent out once they have been reviewed by Coordinators and key members.

Vacant Positions

- Bird Coordinators for Gold Coast.

Volunteer Review Forms

- Amy Whitham has received 46 replies to date. Please send them in if you haven't already done so.

Wildcare Shops

Tracey Paroz, with Roy Webster's invaluable assistance, is doing a phenomenal job of organising the Office and Brisbane shops. Expect lots of new items in the near future. Any offers to help will be gratefully accepted.



REMINDER

Shop orders can be emailed through to shop@wildcare.org.au or faxed to (07) 3318 7678.

The shop now stocks 5ml and 10ml glass bottles in addition to the normal 25ml, 50ml, 100ml and 200ml sizes.

The shop information can be accessed from the Wildcare website, Carers Resources page, Wildcare Shop for Members.

BRISBANE Shop

The NEW Brisbane shop is now open and supplies are available for purchase. Please contact Renay Robb on 0408 748 082 to arrange a suitable time to purchase your items.

CURRUMBIN Shop

The Currumbin shop is currently open 8am to 4pm Tuesday through Friday.

SUNSHINE COAST Shop

The Sunshine Coast shop is open and supplies are available for purchase. Please contact Rachel Lyons 0417 078 432 to arrange a time to purchase your items.

MAIL ORDERS

A Mail Order service is available to members unable to get to either shop. Orders can be placed via email to shop@wildcare.org.au. Payment can be made by Direct Deposit or Credit Card.

Minutes of
**AUSTRALIAN KOALA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
INC**
Trading as WILDCARE AUSTRALIA
AGM

Date: 29/06/2008
Venue: "NARROWLEAF",
Advancetown
Apologies: Gail Gipp
Meeting opened: 13:30

Welcome

Karen Scott (KS) welcomed all attendees and declared the meeting open.

Previous Minutes/Business Arising From

Nil report

Door Prizes

KS thanked Greer McNeill for the donation of three glass plates for door prizes.

Wildcare details

KS requested that all members update their details if changed.

Membership details

KS requested that all present renew their memberships if not already done.

Volunteer review form

KS reminded everyone that Amy Whitham is compiling the details from the surveys and asked that if not already completed, that it be done today.

2007-2008 Annual Report

The Annual Report is available in hard copy here at the meeting or on the website.

Treasurers Report

The Financial Report is available in hard copy at the meeting or on request will be emailed. It was noted that the Annual Report also contains the Financial Report.

GENERAL ITEMS

Auditor

KS reported that a new auditor was appointed due to the increase in Wildcare Australia's asset value. She recommended that Wildcare continue to use Aub Kelly in the new financial year.

Notice of Resolution to Change Name

KS provided a history of the name "Australian Koala Hospital Association Inc, trading as Wildcare Australia".

It was proposed that the name be changed to "Wildcare Australia". In a show of hands the motion was carried. There were no objections.

Role of Secretary

KS advised the attendees that Trish Hales was stepping down as secretary but would retain responsibility for Memberships. Due to increasing demand on that position, Wildcare now has three assistant secretaries each with a specific role.

Workshops

KS commended Wildcare volunteers for their commitment to the telephone service and the education program. The strength of the group lies in the provision of these two excellent services.

School Talks

Cerri Lee reported on the school talks and asked for more volunteers to assist.

Certificates and Peer Recognition Awards

The certificates and awards were presented to those who were present.

Thank you

KS reviewed the structure of the Management Committee and its rapid growth. She thanked the many new and existing members who have recently taken on a greater responsibility and done so very well. She singled out:

- Renee Rivard – record keeper, newsletter publisher
- Amy Whitham – office email responses, record keeper
- Trish Hales, Laura Reeder and Dianna Smith – secretarial support
- Tracey Paroz – Brisbane shop, sourcing supplies
- Liz Meffan – telephone coordinator
- Roy Webster – office volunteer extraordinaire
- Kiersten Jones – record keeper
- Michelle Peterson – workshop registrations
- Kathryn Biber – co education Coordinator
- Paula, Rachel and Ailsa – Northern/Gympie are a
- Trish, Roy, Julie, Suzanne, Shawn, Brenda and others – office volunteers
- Karen Abdy = RSPCA
- Jim and Greer McNeill and Trish Wimberley – rescuers extraordinaire
- Trish Wimberley – workshops
- Rowley Goonan and Dianna Smith – marine rescues
- Jai and Kristie – new coordinators
- Eleanor Hanger and Gail Gipp – founding members
- Thank you from Trish Hales
- Trish Hales addressed the group and thanked everyone for their support.

Meeting Closed at 14:00.

The current Management Committee stepped down from their positions and the meeting was declared open at 14:05 to commence voting.

Nominees as posted:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominees</u>
President	Gail Gipp Terry Wimberley
Vice President	Renee Rivard Karen Scott
Secretary	Tracey Paroz
Treasurer	Kirsty Arnold

Ballots were distributed and collected after members chose their candidates.

Delicia Williams counted the votes. The tally was a total of 88 votes of which 36 were proxy votes. The results as counted were:

President Gail Gipp (57) Terry Wimberley (31)
Vice President Karen Scott (59) Renee Rivard (28)

The remaining positions (Secretary and Treasurer) had 70 votes.

The 2008-2009 Wildcare Management Committee was announced.

President	Gail Gipp
Vice President	Karen Scott
Secretary	Tracey Paroz
Treasurer	Kirsty Arnold

Meeting closed 1500.



SPECIAL REPORT:

Hendra Virus Detected in Queensland

SYDNEY, July 9 AAP - Leading Sydney veterinary surgeon Dr Nick Kannegeiter has expressed fears that staff at the Brisbane clinic where two horses died as a result of the Hendra virus could have been exposed to the disease linked to the death of trainer Vic Rail.

The Redlands Veterinary Clinic has been placed in quarantine after one thoroughbred died and a second horse had to be put down when they contracted the disease, while another horse has tested positive.

Dr Kannegeiter, who is based in Sydney but travels to perform surgery, is among the 30-odd staff potentially exposed to the Hendra virus.

"The horses we operated on and who got sick, we are very concerned they may have been incubating the disease."

"We now have to wait two weeks to see if anybody's had exposure, hopefully we haven't."

"The two horses that have died were both pretty sick - one was being hand fed and that is another worry."

"I will be worried if any of the horses I have operated on come down with the virus in the next 10 days."

"There is no known treatment."

Dr Kannegeiter said the latest outbreak of the Hendra virus was a different strain to the one which killed 14 horses in 1994.

The disease usually manifests in respiratory problems such as coughing and nasal discharge but the "mutant" strain appears to be affecting horses' neurological functions.

And while the equine influenza (EI) virus which rocked the racing industry last year was an airborne disease, it is not known how the current Hendra outbreak is spreading.

It has been linked to bats in the past but Dr Kannegeiter says there are no bat populations in the vicinity of the affected clinic.

"It's never been recorded before - it's nothing like the one involved with Vic Rail," he said.

RESEARCH

Wildcare Carers' Records Being Used in Local Research

PATTERNS OF URBAN BIODIVERSITY ON THE GOLD COAST: **Linking Faunal Diversity with Development on the Gold Coast**

Global biodiversity is threatened by a variety of factors including habitat loss, fragmentation, and the impacts of invasive and domesticated species on native fauna. The severity of habitat loss is greatest where natural habitats are completely removed and replaced by alternative land uses and urban expansion contributes significantly to these landscape changes (van der Ree & MacCarthy 2005) with some authors suggesting that increasing the degree of the 'built' environment results in consequent reductions in the ability of these environments to conserve biodiversity (Redford & Richter 1999). However urbanizing landscapes are complex representing dynamic mosaics of primarily inhospitable terrain interspersed with open green spaces which provide refuges for both humans and wildlife alike (Pickett et al. 2001) and we require a better understanding of this urban ecology if we are to manage the ever expanding urban landscapes effectively.

A number of studies have considered the impacts of urbanization on wildlife species (Angold et al 2006, Chace & Walsh 2006, Shine & Koenig 2001, van der Ree & McCarthy 2005) but Pickett et al. (2001) argue that we need to move to a more systems ecology approach to investigate the linkages between urban fauna, economic and social aspects. This study will adopt a landscape level approach to assess the spatio-temporal dynamics of urban wildlife to deter-

mine the drivers behind the maintenance of urban wildlife diversity.

Shine & Koenig (2001) highlight that the activities of 'animal rescue' organizations are valuable to urban ecologists given their direct ecological impacts on wildlife species, as well as record keeping. This study will analyze the records of injured and orphaned native wildlife deposited with a variety of institutions on the Gold Coast and South-East Queensland to evaluate the distribution patterns and broad scale habitat associations of the fauna in the region, providing a measure of biodiversity health across the Gold Coast.

The research will compile the statistics of species handed in to institutions such as Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Fleay's Wildlife Park, Seaworld and Dreamworld as well as the Wildlife Carers network. Many of the larger institutions are obliged to accept wildlife found and handed in by the general public and undertake a program of care, rehabilitation and reintroduction to the wild if possible. In addition to the institutions, there are many individuals who are licensed to take in injured and orphaned native fauna and undertake the possible reintroduction of these after due care. These individuals are grouped into the Wildlife Carers Association and are also required to keep records of the animals that come into their care. Licenced wildlife handlers also remove problem animals e.g. reptiles, and are required to submit copies of all captures and releases to environmental authorities. These records and those of Wildlife Spotters who survey potential development sites will also be accessed to supplement data from institution's records.

Van der Ree & McCarthy (2005) have noted that the quantitative assessment of urban biodiversity patterns prior to rapid urbanization phases is difficult owing to the pau-

city of available information, particularly on current distribution and status. This study intends to utilize the variety of wildlife record data available to compile a spatio-temporal history of the fauna diversity over the past 10 years to document the trends in faunal diversity. The spatio-temporal analysis will enable us to develop a model for predicting the rate of change in faunal communities as urbanization increases while also identifying landscape elements critical to the maintenance of urban biodiversity.

Following the analysis of the wildlife records listed above, various 'hot spot' areas will be surveyed to assess the current status of the vertebrate populations and so the level of urban biodiversity in the area. These data will also be compared to habitat patterns on the Gold Coast to determine whether species are associated with specific areas. Trends in habitat associations will be investigated as development continues in the urbanizing region. These studies will verify level of the biodiversity of these areas and assist to confirm the records from the faunal injuries databases. This will lead to an assessment of the viability of forms of development currently adopted by the council providing insights into the ability of species to maintain viable populations within the Gold Coast Shire boundaries.

The study intends to provide a reliable assessment of any change in the biodiversity of vertebrate species on the Gold Coast during the last ten years of extensive development of human settlements and hence loss of habitat. It may be possible to identify particular causal factors which could provide guidelines for development projects and the retention of critical habitats within the Gold Coast City Council jurisdiction. It should assist agencies in determining the value of records and provide added reliable information to the Gold Coast

Continued on page 23

WILD WORLD: China



"They arrive at the Centre emaciated, full of infection, some with cancer and others life threatening diseases, some missing limbs from the traps which caught them, all terrified". Jill Robinson, founder and CEO of Animals Asia.

MOON BEAR HEAVEN

A car picked us up from our hotel and shortly afterward picked up our guide, Rainbow. We then headed for the Moon Bear Rescue Centre, which is about an hour from Chengdu in Sichuan Province, China. The Rescue Centre, which provides veterinary services and rehabilitation for the Asiatic black bears rescued from bear farms, is usually opened on one or two days a month for educational purposes and for supporters to visit. During the drive Rainbow, who is usually engaged in Public Relations activities, detailed their most recent rescue, that of twenty-eight bears, seven of which had to be euthanased almost immediately.

On the bear farms, Asiatic black bears, also known as Moon Bears because of the beautiful crescents on their chests, are held in metal cages not much bigger than their bodies. Catheters are inserted into their gall bladders and each day they are milked for bile, which is used in traditional Chinese medicine.

In 1993 when an English woman, Jill Robinson, became aware of the plight of the Moon Bears she began a life-long commitment to rescuing these magnificent animals from a life of incredible suffering and to working with the government at a national and provincial level to end bear farming. Jill set up the Animals Asia Foundation and the Moon Bear Rescue Centre and Sanctuary at Chengdu in China and has been awarded an MBE for her achievements.

The facility has a number of different enclosures for the bears as they progress through the different stages of rehabilitation. There is no release to the wild for these bears as their problems, both physical and mental, preclude such an outcome, however they will be lovingly cared for as long as they live in this enclosed but natural setting.

The first rehabilitation enclosure we saw had large cages along one side and on cue, a bell ringing, the doors are opened and the bears come out for the day. The arrangement of food and equipment in the enclosures is changed each day to give enrichment and ensure the bears get sufficient physiotherapy in their search for food hidden in logs and hollows at various heights. The bears in this enclosure had been at the sanctuary for two years or more and it was wonderful to see how well they looked, and how happy they appeared.

The recovery period is long as many of the bears arrive at the sanctuary in shocking condition. They may be emaciated, have liver damage, cancer, gall stones, cataracts, severe infections, fur loss, over-grown claws and have lost a limb. Some have had the ends of paws and canine teeth removed. On arrival they are removed from their cages and health checked. Unfortunately some are unable to be saved, but fortunately they are quickly released from a life of unbelievable suffering. Those with a better prognosis are placed in larger cages with dishes of beautiful fruit, to await their operations. Some may need as many as six or more operations to see them on the road to recovery.

There are a few bears with special needs, one is significantly brain damaged, another is severely deformed as a result of having been put in a small cage as a cub and being left in it. These bears have their own special



cages and enclosures and have the opportunity of being together if they so desire.

In the education centre, Rainbow showed us the metal straight jackets that were put on some of the bears and sadly never removed. They looked like medieval instruments of torture and were so heavy I had difficulty lifting one.



This was a day of mixed emotions; great sadness at seeing these magnificent animals that had endured the most unimaginable suffering, physically and psychologically, and great pleasure at seeing the happy, rehabilitating bears, playing, searching out food, lazing about, and knowing that they can enjoy the rest of their days well fed, well housed and safe from pain and exploitation.

Jill is also involved in other projects to help animals and change attitudes and her work has extended to Vietnam. Animals Asia has assisted with injured and displaced animals after the recent earthquakes in China and also care for domestic animals whose families are not in a position to do so at present.

Jill Robinson, MBE, is an inspiration and she and her team deserve our support. For more information, visit the Animals Asia website www.animalsasia.org.

Eleanor Hanger

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Gliders

FEATHERTAIL GLIDERS

South East Queensland has nine species of possum in five families. The feathertail glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*) is the smallest of these and as an adult weighs between 10 – 15 grams. It is the only member of the family Acrobatidae in Australia.

I was unaware of the presence of these little gliders in my area until one was brought home by the neighbour's cat. Farmers sometimes find them nesting in banana bunches. Telephone linesmen come across them when doing maintenance work on telephone exchange boxes. However their preferred nesting site is a tree hollow, which they line with leaves and any other available soft material, such as feathers. They may nest alone, or in small or large groups, and a number of different nest sites are used. They use torpor to conserve energy in cooler months.

The fur colouring of these tiny marsupials is grey or greyish brown above and lighter underneath, however their most distinguishing features are the gliding membrane (patagium) and feather-like tail, which has short fur on the upper and lower surface and longer, stiffer fur along the sides. The tail is prehensile (capable of being used as a fifth limb).



The feet have sharp claws and finely serrated pads on the undersides, allowing them to climb on the smoothest of surfaces.

As with all possums, the hind feet have a clawless thumb and the second and third digits are fused (syndactylous) and are used for grooming.

The feathertail glider is a diprotodont - that is it has two large lower incisors. It has three pairs of upper incisors and molars with the shape and cusps of insect eaters. Its brush-tipped tongue facilitates feeding on nectar.

The eyes are large and protruding, typical of nocturnal animals and it is well to be sensitive to this when spotlighting; it can cause temporary blindness and great discomfort to nocturnal animals to have a powerful torch shining in their eyes.

The preferred habitats of the feathertail gliders are dry and wet sclerophyll forests and woodlands, and studies have found that they favour old mature eucalypt forests with a banksia shrub understorey, and banksia woodlands. They are found in eastern Australia from Cape York to Victoria and west just into South Australia. However their distribution will be restricted to areas with suitable habitat.

Feathertail gliders are nocturnal, arboreal marsupials. They are sexually mature within a year of birth and may have litters of two to four young. Pouch life is about seven weeks after which the young are left in the nest while the mother is out feeding. The young weigh about 7 grams when weaned and the animals have a life span of about two to three years.



This is the only glider capable of embryonic diapause. The female mates soon after giving birth and the resulting embryos grow slowly to become vesicles of about 2000 cells during lactation (Tyndale Biscoe 2005), unlike kangaroos where, after a brief period of cell division, the resulting blastocyst remains quiescent until after the previous joey has permanently left the pouch, whereupon development recommences.

The main components of the diet of feathertail gliders are invertebrates and nectar, pollen, manna and honeydew. They also eat fungi, seeds and fruit. Eucalypts seem to be favoured for foraging. In one study a large percentage of feeding observations were in live eucalypts (Goldingay and Kavanagh, 1995).

Feathertail gliders, along with flying foxes, play an important role as pollinators in the survival of many of our forest species. As with all species of flora and fauna, loss of habitat is having a severe impact on these amazing little gliders.

Eleanor Hanger

References:

R.L. Goldingay and S.M. Jackson, editors. The Biology of Australian Possums and Gliders. Surrey Beatty & Sons, Chippington Norton; 2004.

Tyndale-Biscoe, Hugh. Life of Marsupials. Collingwood: CSIRO Publishing; 2005.

RESCUE STORIES

PHONE SHIFT REWARDS

I would like to share a heart warming incident (or two) that happened to me while I did my phone shift.

At 7:00 am on Saturday, I received a call from the wife of a husband on his way to work who noticed a kangaroo with a broken leg and still alive. I told the caller that I would do my best to get someone out there, but if the animal was mobile, it may have relocated itself.

At 7:30 am, I received another call from a different member of the public about this same animal. At 7:45, I had a call from the wife saying that she managed to locate the kangaroo and, in fact, it was lying on the ground and was experiencing severe blood loss and she was prepared to wait with it until the trauma carer arrived. This was amazing in its own way; someone had gone out of their way.

I managed to get in contact with a trauma carer to attend the rescue. Later that morning around 9:30, the wife rang me to convey her thanks for the effort that we had gone to in order to help this animal and the professionalism with which the trauma carer conducted herself.

The woman identified herself as a member of the local council and noted that they run monthly charity days where all money raised goes to charity. She was so impressed with our efforts that she was going to put Wildcare Australia down as a potential recipient for the funds. I was speechless!

I guess the two messages I got from that were: 1. Some people out there do care (that was two calls for the one animal!!), 2. How we present ourselves to the general public

can make a big difference both with the organisation's reputation and financial support.

My other heart warming story from Saturday morning was a call I received at about 9:45 am about an echidna lying upside down on the side of the road way out in *Whoop Whoop*.

I thought to myself, how on earth am I going to get someone to go out on a potentially fruitless errand. I did ring one of the rescuers who was listed in the area, but found she had moved.

The next shift came on and as I was conveying the other messages I realised that when getting directions about where the echidna was located, the caller had mentioned a business nearby and I had written it down. I searched the Yellow Pages and didn't come up with much, except for one listing that had very little information. But I thought I would give it a call.

To make a long story short, the lady I contacted, after I mentioned Wildcare and why I was trying to find this business, said that she lived in the area and was familiar with the road and that she would check it out. It was a good thing I was sitting down, because it was not what I was expecting! At best I thought I was grasping at straws. I do not know the fate of the echidna but the fact that another member of the public is aware of Wildcare now, and offered to check out the animal, is a bonus in itself.

Amy Whitham

A RARE SIGHTING!

I'm at a friend's house today near Greenbank. The drive here takes me around the military grounds and there is often some poor road-kill - that I have to stop to check.

Whizzing around at 80km/hour, I catch a glimpse of matted fur off to the side of the road, pull over, do a U-Turn and head back. I park and see the matted fur - maybe a swamp wallaby by the colour. I can see the shape of the muzzle and the ears. I'm a bit of a sook so I pull out my gloves, put them on and cross the road. I steel myself for the often grim find, bend down and find I am about to rescue.....

...a discarded kid's furry pillow in the shape of a dog - plastic eyes and all!

Anonymous



CALL OF THE WEEK

1.30am - Monday morning

Caller: "I thought my cat was sick because it was almost screaming and sounded like it was in pain. Upon checking, I noticed a ringtail possum riding on its back. How bizarre!!!! Apparently the possum was fossicking through my cat's fur looking for a pouch with a teat!"

Believe it or not this was the second call in two weeks - same thing!

Liz Meffan

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



LITTLE POSSUM TALES

We have been having great fun lately. On Saturday night we got to go out to dinner!!! Mummy was going to meet her cousin that she has just met up with and hasn't seen in 15 years. Normally we don't go out with her but this was an important occasion and Mummy couldn't rebook it.

We are big enough to stay on our own but Mummy worries about things going wrong, like the car breaking down and not being able to get back to us in time for our MILK!! We stayed nice and quiet and well-behaved while the adults had dinner and then Mummy's cousin gave her some apple to give to us – what a great dessert.

Yesterday, Mummy put us in our travel bag in the walk-in wardrobe so we could have a quiet nap but she didn't close the zip all the way....so when she came back Mya was climbing through her clothes!! But not Sasquatch though, he was far better behaved than Mya and he just waited in the bag 'til Mummy came back.

Then last night Mummy got up at 2am to check on us and see if we wanted some milk, she opened the door to our house in the garage and.....SURPRISE we weren't there :) We were playing in the wheelbarrow!!!!!! But it's okay so don't worry because as soon as Mummy saw us we ran in through the door and pretended to eat leaf

as if we had never got out!! And we never told Mummy how we got out, so now we get to move into a new house!!

We are getting quite big now and growing – we know how much Mummy loves to wash things, so each time she tries to toilet us, no matter how many tissues or cloths or anything she uses, we always make sure we manage to pee on her clothes so that she has more washing to do!!! What fun!

We have to go the Hospital tomorrow to see Doctor Tim because Sasquatch's eye hasn't gotten any better. Other than that, all is going well. Take care, see you soon, Sasquatch and Mya.

Anonymous

LINDY'S NEW BEAU

I have 9 macropods in care at the moment... anyone who knows me knows I am a little crazy? (I think it comes with the territory of being a carer, ha ha!). Well, we have tried to create a macropod-friendly zone within our 10-acre property so that our rehabbers are safe but also to keep the natives safe, too. Of course that is all fine and well 'til they realise that they can get free food! So I put food out morning and night for my little darlings since it has been a little dry over the past few months.

I came home the other afternoon to find that my released Red-necked Wallaby had brought her boyfriend home for a free feed. This sounds wonderful until you understand that true natives do not like humans (predators). Lindy (the lovely wallaby) came to get her faced scratched and obviously to get some free food and to show off her new beau!

Well, let's just say he was less than impressed; he went hopping mad and got himself all hot and bothered, jumped into a fence and ended up needing to be rescued himself! (So much for a macropod-safe zone.)

All is well now, however he no longer comes into the yard. Being the kind-hearted souls that we are, we have put a dish into the unfenced yard so he can eat without the stress. All's well that ends well!

Daneile Holmes

HUMOUR IN THE HOUSE

Possum Answers

Bloke: Mate, I've got a possum stuck in my wall.

Mark: Are you sure it is a possum? It could be...

Bloke: Nah mate, it's a possum I can see it.

Mark: You can see it... but I thought it was in your wall?

Bloke: Oh yeah mate, I punched a hole in the wall and now I can see the poor little bugger. What should I do?

Mark: I take it it's your house?

Bloke: Nah mate, I rent it.

Mark: Well I guess you've done your bond now, so just punch a bigger hole, open the window and shut the door; he'll find his own way out.

Bloke: Thanks for your help, mate I didn't want to leave the poor little bugger in there!

Anxious Man with Thick Kiwi Accent

Man: I've got a snake in my yard.

Mark: Where do you live?

Man: Coomera.

Mark: Well there are a lot of snakes around there. Just go inside and shut the doors, and bring your pets in. The snake will probably move on.

Man: But I got kids.

Mark: Well, bring them in, too!

Man: But it's a snake.

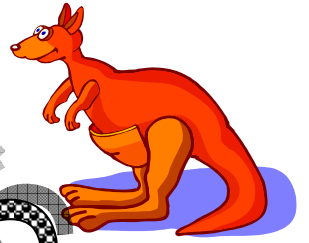
Mark: Yes, they do live around there!

Man: But I live here. Where can I go that hasn't got snakes?

Mark: New Zealand!!!

Kim Alexander

PJ's Wildcare for KIDS



Hi again everyone!

Recently, my family and I went up to the beautiful Bunya Mountains National Park. I have been studying National Parks at school and I chose Bunya as my study topic.

The Bunya Mountains has the world's largest stand of Bunya Pines. Actually, the Bunya Pine is not a true 'pine' tree it's really a member of the Araucaria species (*Araucaria Bidwilli*).

We camped at the Dandabah camp site near the Ranger's Office which has lots of information about the park and its many species of wildlife.

Everywhere we looked, there were wallabies! They were the Red-necked variety and some even had joeys in their pouch. They seemed very much at home amongst the campers but were too shy to be approached. Of course, as for all wildlife, we should not try to feed them human food or any food at all. It was just nice to look at them and see them up close without touching them.

We enjoyed some great bushwalks and saw the towering Bunya pines above us. And there were other big trees like the one my mum and I walked through! (below). On Saturday night, our tent felt like it was about to take off and fly away. The wind and rain were really strong. Also, the temperature dropped to not much above zero degrees so we were pretty cold in the tent.



I also enjoyed a great ride on a cart pulled by two big Clydesdale horses. We went up a nearby property and enjoyed billy tea and damper around a campfire while we watched the beautiful pink sunset. I really liked being near the warm fire. I'm looking forward to our next trip to the Bunya National Park. It takes about three and a half hours to drive there but it's really worth it. I hope you will make the trip there soon too.

This cute wallaby (below) liked to sit at the front of the cottage. I thought this was a great photo! Here are some facts about the **Rednecked Wallaby** thanks to my trusty *Wildlife of Greater Brisbane* handbook.

Body length—82cm; **Tail length**—80cm; **Weight** 15kg

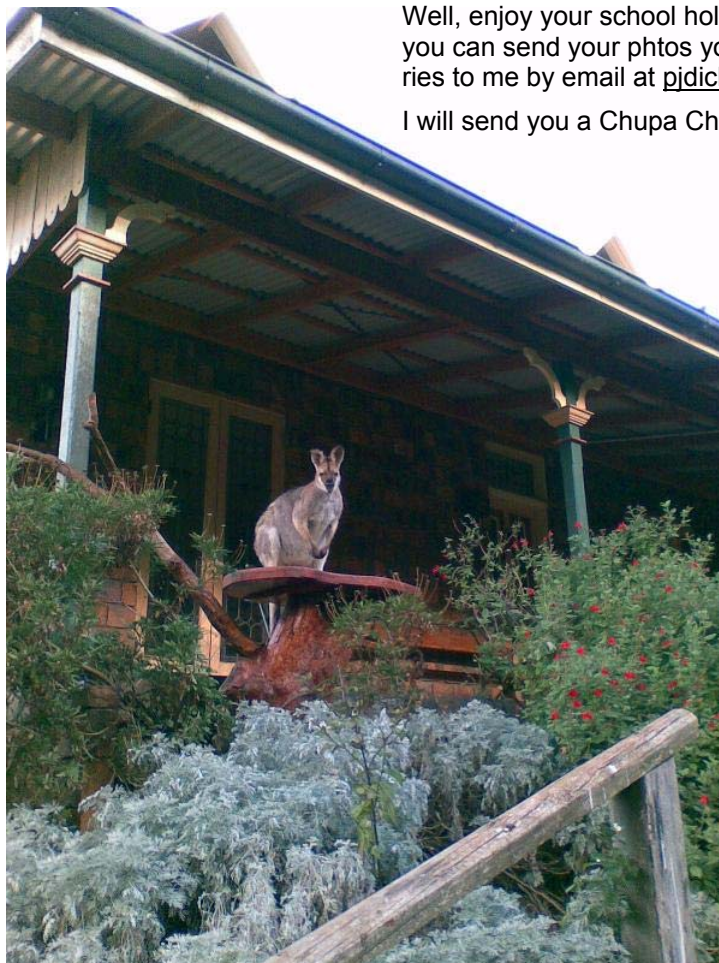
Weak face stripe, weak to absent thigh stripe, rusty red shoulders and upper back; rest of body silver tipped with grey.

Habitat & Range—dry open forest with some brushy undergrowth. Most abundant wallaby. Commonly seen early mornings, late evenings feeding along sides of roads.

Threats: Creekside and ridgetop clearing; cars and dogs.

Well, enjoy your school holidays and remember you can send your photos and stories to me by email at pjdick@optusnet.com.au.

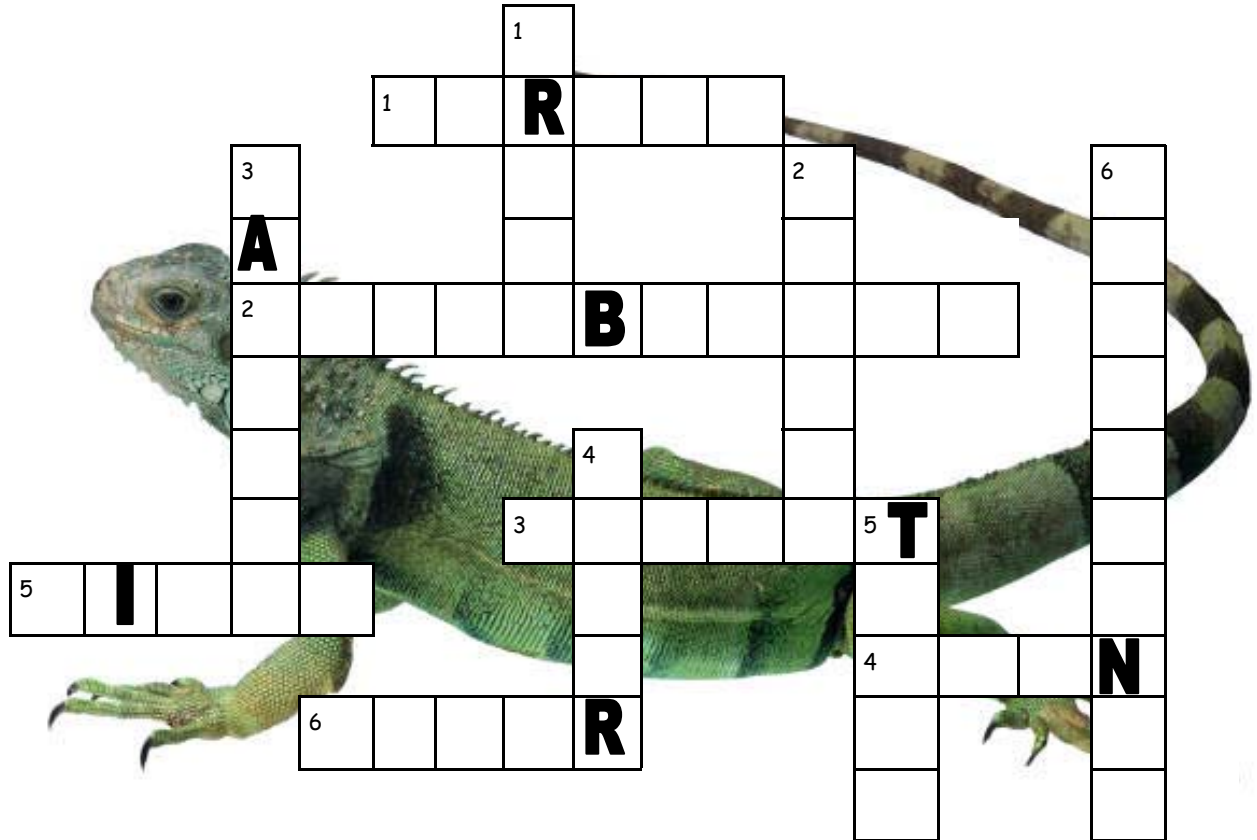
I will send you a Chupa Chup as a thank you!



Bye from

P.J.

WILD CROSSWORD



This edition's crossword features some mammals, reptiles and birdlife of the Bunya Mountains National Park.

DOWN

1. Wompoo - - - - - Dove
2. Eastern Long-necked - - - - -
3. Willy - - - - -
4. Yellowfaced Honey - - - - -
5. - - - - - Frogmouth
6. Yellow-footed - - - - -

ACROSS

1. Australian King - - - - -
2. - - - - - B - - - - - Frog
3. - - - - - Python
4. Superb Fairy - - - - -
5. Paradise - - - - - bird
6. Satin - - - - - bird



WORDSEARCH

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

Rosella, Wallaby, Bandicoot, Pitta, Possum, Pademelon, Ringtail, Brush Turkey, Catbird, Snail, Eucalypt, Honeyeater, Redgum, Conifer, Fern, Bonye,

Answers: DOWN: 1. Fruity; 2. Turtle; 3. Wagtail; 4. Eater; 5. Tawny; 6. Antechinus
ACROSS: 1. Parrot; 2. Great Barred; 3. Carpet; 4. Wren; 5. Rifle; 6. Bower

Photo Gallery



The Noisy Pitta is predominantly a rainforest dweller and forages for insects, worms, snails and other small animals on the forest floor. Holding a snail in its beak, it will strike it repeatedly against a stone until the shell is broken.

When approached, a Pitta will turn its back to danger, peer back over its shoulder, cock its tail and spread its wings.



The Common Brushtail Possum is probably the best known possum. It has adapted to urban living and often comes into contact with people. It is found almost anywhere there is a tree or roof. Its diet consists of leaves, blossoms and fruits but in suburbia it will eat almost anything.

Oh, and aren't Ringtail Possums supposed to be the ones with white-tipped tails?!



The Shingleback Skink uses its tongue together with special organs, called Jacobson's organs, in the roof of its mouth to detect odours for finding food and for identifying one another.

Shinglebacks are found in desert grasslands or sandy dunes of southern and western Australia.



Also known as the mopoke or boobook owl, the Southern Boobook is the smallest of Australia's owls. They have dark eye patches bordered by white "spectacles" and have one of the most familiar night time calls, *boo-book* or *m o r e - p o r k*.

They are found throughout Australia.

Answers to last issue's identification quiz:

1. Red-necked Pademelon
2. Red-necked Wallaby
3. Australian Brush Turkey
4. Graceful Tree Frog
5. Pink-tongued Skink
6. Variegated Fairy-wren
7. Glossy Black Cockatoo
8. Pheasant Coucal nestlings

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Wildcare Australia welcomes the following new members:

Sonya Scott, *Albany Creek*; Natalie Fraser, *Bardon*; Leanne Nelson, *Bardon*; Ivan Southan, *Beenleigh*; Rebecca Ryan, *Brookfield*; Irena & Ronald Zanelli, *Burleigh Waters*; Christopher Jeffery, *Capalaba*; Peter & Tania Bishop, *Cashmere*; Christina Lovell, *Chevron Island*; Aleysha Campbell-Hogg, *Clagiraba*; Kerry Schilling, *Coomabah*; Charlie & Suzanne McDermott, *Coomera*; Jody Swader, *Eagleby*; Tere Scullin, *Highland Park*; Nicholas Heard, *Highland Park*; Janelle Smith, *Landsborough*; Natalie-May Sheppard, *Maleny*; Shelley & Brett Besford, *Maleny*; Dawn Smith, *Manly*; Kathryn Guidotti, *Mermaid Waters*; Nana Satake, *Moggill*; Wendy Nash, *Molendinar*; John Davies, *Moodlu*; Lee Pirini, *Morayfield*; Janine Barr, *Mudgeeraba*; Carla & Jan Harp, *Nerang*; Sally Murray, *Ocean View*; Brendan Riggs, *Oxenford*; Janine Gallagher, Kelly Dixon, Anne Romanus, *Palm Beach*; Ann Hunziker, *Rathdowney*; Leah and Paul Hobbs, *Robina*; George Tanner, *Rocklea*; Bill Brown, *Runaway Bay*; Emily Anderson, *Springbrook*; Felicity Lawler, *Springbrook*; Geoffrey "Andrew" Grant, *Tamborine*; Sharyn & John Vamvakaris, *Tarragindi*; Eddie Duffell, *Tingalpa*; Lyndel Held, *Tingalpa*; Geoff de Smidt, *Upper Coomera*; Julie Wilson, *Warana*; Gabrielle Bryden, *Woodgate*.

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 our office and I'm sure we will be able to help you. The office is open from 8:00am to 4:00pm most week days.

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



Wildlife Database. The study should also provide supplementary material for future planning of development sites and nature reserves. This study will be undertaken on a part-time basis over the next three to four years as part of the research Masters program (MPhil) at Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus. The research is coordinated and supervised by Dr Guy Castley from the Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies and will be undertaken Mr Neil Morley.

Dr Guy Castley

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