

# WILDNEWS

Winter 2012 Issue 64

## Rescue

It is Trauma Season  
Again...

How Common  
is Common?

*Feature Story*

The Best Way to Travel  
Totally Conscience Free





# President's Report

Karen Scott

I HOPE THAT MOST OF OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE ENJOYED THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AS THINGS SETTLED DOWN AND FEWER ANIMALS REQUIRED CARE.

I am sure that our telephone operators have enjoyed the slightly quieter times with fewer incoming calls. The colder months are generally an opportunity for many of our volunteers to catch their breath, however, as the year seems to be flying by so quickly, I am sure the busy spring/summer months will be upon us before we know it.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Wildcare Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 29th July 2012 at Nerang. Everyone should have received notification of the AGM including a Nomination Form, if you wish to become involved with the operational side of the group. As Wildcare continues to grow, so does the number of administrative jobs, which seem to be becoming more and more demanding. We would be very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved in a managerial role as the current workload has become too much for such a small group of Committee members. If anyone is interested in this side of things and has good organisational and computer skills, please feel free to chat with either Tracy or

myself, to see if we can find a role that you might be interested in.

Along with the AGM paperwork, you would have also received a Membership Renewal Form for the 2012-2013 membership year. Thank you to those members who have already returned their paperwork. Thank you to all of our members who continue to support Wildcare. Even if you are not an active rescuer/carer within the group, your annual membership subscription contributes significantly to allowing Wildcare to continue the work that it does. It allows us to be able to offer training to our volunteer rescuers and carers at no charge and helps to cover the costs of operating the emergency telephone hotline; two of Wildcare's primary objectives.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of both Wildcare and our local wildlife.



## Our Mission

To protect and enhance the environment by providing a high standard of rescue, care and rehabilitation for sick, injured, orphaned and displaced native fauna with the goal of successful release into the natural environment.

Wildcare Australia, Inc.  
PO Box 2379 Nerang Mail Centre, Qld 4211

Cover photo: Yellow-spotted Monitor (*Varanus panoptes*) EMHanger

24 X 7 Emergency Phone Service

(07) 5527 2444

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

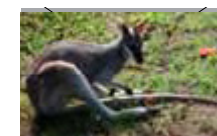
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shop@wildcare.org.au  
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news@wildcare.org.au  
records@wildcare.org.au

### The Main Committee

President - Karen Scott  
Vice-President - Gail Gipp  
Secretary - Tracy Paroz  
Treasurer - Ashleigh Paroz  
Committee Members - Natasha Lewis-Millar and Trish Hales

Newsletter Team - Eleanor Hanger, Karen Scott, Renée Rivard, Deb Bianchetto  
Newsletter submissions can be sent to [news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au)



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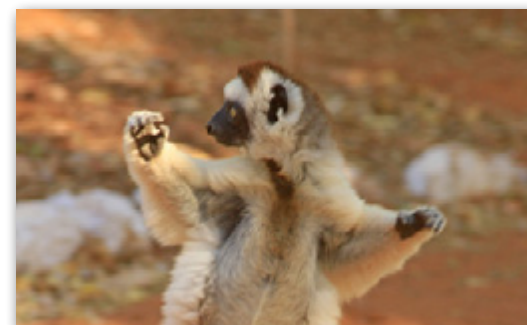


PHOTO // P HACKER

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

## *A Warm Welcome to Our New Members*

*Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members in April, May & June 2012*

Erin Ahern; Nicole Lucock; Phil Russell; Robyn & Matthew Ross; Sophie Harabasz; Michael Doughty; Shannon Murtagh; Laura Tandy; Lyle Toa; Kirsty Sullivan; Lesley Brooks; Marika Power & Tamika Crow; Lynda Conlon; Catherine Madden; Debbie Seal; Silvia Holl; John Callaghan; Tina Niblock; Nicki & Rob Pittendreigh; Analese Zillman; Gillian Kerr; Delia & Lees Fullerton; Jennifer & Neville Kingdom; Robyn Kollbaum; Megan Adams; Claire Smith; Kate Stonestreet; Penny Cooper; Susan Allan; Desley & Jeffrey Salmon; Paula Frazer; Denise Madsen; Anna Barnes; Kerry & David Beaumont; Melodee Brencher; Blair McEwan; Pamela Dury; Amanda & Kobi Cuthbert; Alyssa Stewart; Colin Lester; Shannon Beagan; Dejana Durdevic & Kirsty Doherty; Joseph Finn; Charlotte Matthews & Paul Williams; Kylie Asher & Damien Hitchcock; Carolyn Whiting; Madeleine Flynn; Helen McCullagh; Jason-Jay Fletcher; Jamie Montgomerie; Melanie Gibson; Anne Stephen; Leah Hattendorff; Leanne Colthup; Anthony Clark; Stephen Mastromonaco; Kirsten, James & Matthew Cruikshank; Graham & Trench Allen; Renee Morrisay; Elizabeth McLean; Cassandra Needham; Bridget Hewett; Elizabeth & David McDaniel; Jo Price; Cara Threlfall, Kelly Trubuil; Susan Hollindale.

By joining Wildcare Australia you are demonstrating your commitment to the welfare of Australia's native animals. Please don't hesitate to get involved in this, your organization. If you are unsure of where your personal niche may be, contact us and I'm sure we will be able to help you. We hope you have a long and happy association with Wildcare Australia.

Thank you to all those members who have renewed their Wildcare membership subscription for another year. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

## *Food for Thought*



"In forgetting that we, too, are animals, a part of nature, as dependent on its health and balance as any other mammal, we foolishly permit the unrestrained destruction of our earth habitat that promises to leave mankind as desolate and bereft of hope as a turtle stripped live from its shell."

*End of the Earth: Voyages to Antarctica.* Peter Matthiessen

# Telephone Report

Christine Johnes

## Twelve Volunteers take 500 Hours of Phone Shifts each Month

I continue to be so grateful to be working with such a great bunch of volunteers. We recently lost the fabulous talents of the Wildcare shop staff (sniff sniff), and things seemed rather dire. But again, the efforts and synergy of our small group of dedicated phone operators have risen to the task once more.

While there have been no more training sessions, the newest wave of recruits has continued to help carry the workload alongside our regulars, and they have been a big help. It seems to be forever changing, but we always seem to get by – just! This is testament to the qualities and commitment of our phone operators, so thank you.

We still have many blank shifts wanting ‘forever’ homes – it would be so nice to see a full roster one month! While things are improving, we are still at risk of recurring staffing problems, as **we are currently relying on just over a dozen people to man around 500 hours each and every month.** That’s a scary concept!

PLEASE do your bit to help us keep afloat – EVERYONE can find three hours a month. Any questions, expressions of interest, feedback or comments, please contact Christine on [hotline@wildcare.org.au](mailto:hotline@wildcare.org.au) or 0401 786 677 (evenings / weekends).

# Newsletter Report

Eleanor Hanger

## How times change!

Until fairly recent times a small group gathered every three months to print and collate, fold and address, stamp and post the newsletter. Now such intensive labour is a thing of the past: most people receive their newsletter via the web and the few who prefer a hard copy were provided with such, up until the closure of the office, by the office staff or Karen.

Over the years the newsletter has gone through a few design transformations, initiated by Renee Rivard, followed by Mike Egan of Egan Creative and carried on by Karen Scott and Deb Bianchetto.

Of course, without the contributors the newsletter wouldn’t exist. So at this point I feel it appropriate to thank sincerely all who have contributed to making our newsletter the excellent publication it is.

Our newsletter is one of many tools for the dissemination, not only of news, but also of educational material, as well as general interest stories. We invite you, our readers, to contribute in whatever way you can, by submissions, ideas or suggestions, to further our aim of keeping our members informed and entertained, and to ensure the ongoing relevance and value of the newsletter.



# Upcoming Events

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## **Animals in Focus Conference – 4th to 6th October 2012 @ Wacol (Brisbane)**

This unique animal care event is being hosted by the RSPCA Queensland and will host speakers and presenters from the USA, UK and around Australia – covering topics on animals in need of care including sick and injured wildlife, their treatment, rehoming rescue animals, rehabilitating wildlife and 'left field' thinking to reduce intake and marketing initiatives that find homes faster.

For more information visit [www.animalsinfocus.com.au](http://www.animalsinfocus.com.au)

## **Talking Wildlife Conference – 7th and 8th September 2012 @ Bardon (Brisbane)**

## **Quoll Discovery Day – 5 August 2012 @ Jimboomba**

Below is a link to a flyer for the upcoming Quoll Discovery Day on Sunday 5 August 2012 from 10am - 1pm. The Quoll Discovery Day will be held at the Caddies Community Care Centre at 19-33 South Street, Jimboomba.

Quolls are endangered nationally and need our help!! There have been sightings around the Jimboomba/Logan area, so if you live in the area come along on the 5th August to learn more about the Spotted-tailed Quoll or tell us your Quoll story! We can all help protect this species so that it is still living in Logan in many, many years to come.

There will be a live quoll on display on the day, morning tea and a presentation from the worlds leading quoll expert, Dr Scott Burnett!!

Please RSVP to Alina at Wildlife Qld by the 31st July 2012. Alina's details are [quoll@wildlife.org.au](mailto:quoll@wildlife.org.au) or 3221 0194.

## **Hunting in National Parks**

Below are links to a flyer regarding a rally in the Sydney region and in-depth information regarding this issue. If you have friends or family in the Sydney area, please pass on.

[No Hunting in our Parks flyer.pdf](#)  
[hunting STEP Matters.pdf](#)

## **National Koala Conference– 18th and 19th May 2013, Port Macquarie**

"Their future is in our hands". A conference focusing on research, wildlife rehabilitation, translocation and habitat. Hosted by the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital 40 years celebration of working with wild koalas.

For more information [www.koalahospital.org.au](http://www.koalahospital.org.au).

Contact [supervisor@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:supervisor@koalahospital.org.au).



## *Interested in Increasing Your Knowledge?* \_\_\_\_\_

The Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE are offering a Certificate 11 in Animal Studies at Fleays Wildlife Park at Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast.

Please contact TAFE directly to enrol: [www.msit.tafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.msit.tafe.qld.gov.au)

## *Record Keeping Rap* \_\_\_\_\_

*Kiersten Jones*

### *Important Change: When to Submit Records*

We are now asking that endorsed members submit their records at the end of every six months as a minimum (or every three months, if applying for the carer subsidy). Since records are only collated every six months for reports, we felt that monthly records submissions are no longer necessary. It will still be necessary for carers to update their records regularly – this means every few days for busy rescuers/carers. When they are due, there will be a two week time frame for you to submit them, so please get them in as soon as possible. As a back-up system, carers are still welcome to submit their records more regularly if they feel it will help them keep on track, or just as a back-up of their records in case of computer malfunction. These will be accepted and stored electronically, but will not be processed until the end of the six month period (i.e. 30th June, 31st December). The WildNews newsletters and the Wildcare Information Emails will be used to remind carers when their records are due.

**Please note that your January to June 2012 records are next to be submitted to the record keeping volunteer, and they are due by 14th July 2012.** Please email Excel records to [records@wildcare.org.au](mailto:records@wildcare.org.au) or post your handwritten records to Wildcare Record Keeper, PO Box 2379, Nerang Mail Centre, 4211.

### *Records Forms and Guidelines*

The records forms and guidelines have recently been updated, and these may be downloaded from Wildcare's website [www.wildcare.org.au](http://www.wildcare.org.au) - under "Carers' Resources".

As always, if you need any help, then please contact me. The best way to do this is by the above email, but you can phone me too (my mobile is on the committee contact list).

*Continued on next page*

# Record Keeping Rap (con't)

Kiersten Jones

## 2011 Records Data

Thank you to the 143 endorsed members who submitted their 2011 records. I have now collated them and am generating a list of reports that have been requested over the past six months based on the 2011 data. These reports are coming out quite late this year, as 2011 records came in to me late from a number of carers, so please remember to get your records in **on time** when they are requested so that the reports can be done in a timely manner.

Recently the 2011 Records Report was completed for Wildcare's 2012 Annual Report. I encourage all interested to have a look at the information there on reasons for rescue, outcomes and locations, as there were a few changes to 2010 records, particularly in numbers for some species/animal groups.

Here are the 2011 records figures based on Animal Groups, taken from the 2012 Annual Report:

FIGURE 1- 2011 RECORDS - BY ANIMAL GROUP\*

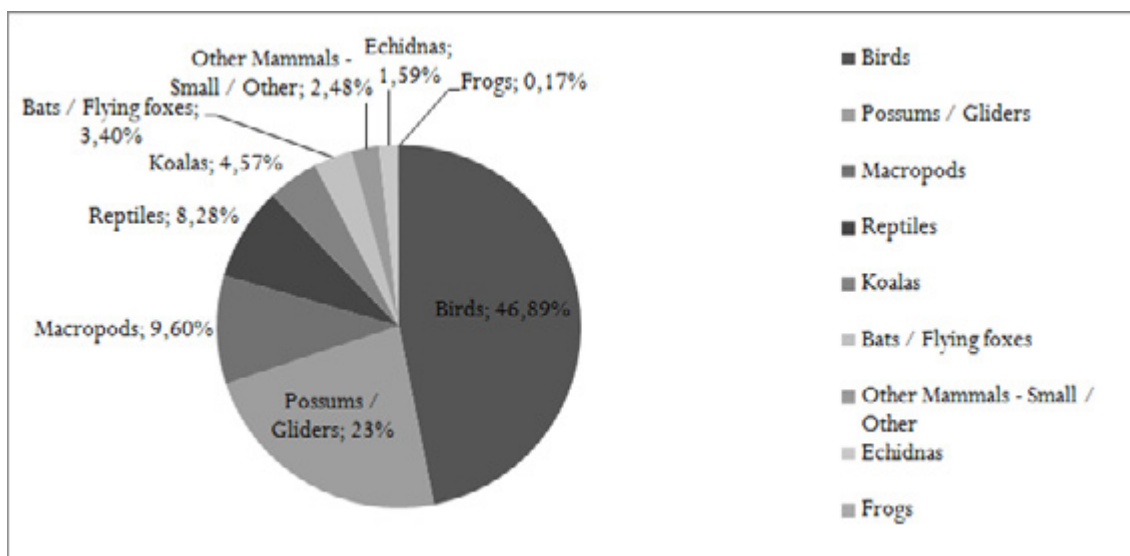


TABLE 1 - 2011 RECORDS - BY ANIMAL GROUP\*

\*Please note that the above figures not only include rescues and animals in care/rehab, but also include road kill sightings and animal transfers (mostly rescued koalas)

ANIMAL GROUP			QTY	%
Birds			2208	46.89%
Possum / Gliders			1083	23.0%
Macropods			452	9.60%
Reptiles			390	8.28%
Koalas			215	4.57%
Bat / Flying-foxes			160	3.40%
Mammal Small / Other			117	2.48%
Echidnas			75	1.59%
Frogs			8	0.17%
Crustacean			1	0.02%
TOTAL	4709	100%		

# *Jeannette Miles, 1974–2012*

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*From Terry and Trish Wimberley with Love*

For those who did not know Jeannette I believe it will be hard to imagine her energy and passion for all she did. For those who had the pleasure of meeting her, no explanation is needed. Jeannette was a bat carer and a spokesperson for them. A journalist by profession and part of Griffith University's climate change department Jeannette was well qualified to take up the defence of our winged mammals. This she did with vigour and skill. Importantly to me she was able to put aside all attachment to carer groups to focus on the issues at hand and there were many (and still are). Often she was perplexed by the petty infighting within carer groups, so she was part of all groups. Her thirst for knowledge was admirable.

Trish and I have lost an example of how we all should be and the bats have lost a champion in full flight.

We have included part of what we said at her celebration of life.

"So we all fell silent and listened to the singer, knowing in our heart that her music was a mission in full song. She might say that we are perfect, just the way we are, but we could use some improvement.

When she was learning, Jeannette was like an excited child on Christmas morning. Her hunger for the great mystery inspired, and at times, wore us out. If I was across the river and said, "Jeannette how do I get to the other side?" She would say, "Terry you are already on the other side."

Such was her ability to see all sides.

I believe Jeannette was unaware of just how powerful she was, and for me this typified her abilities. She did not know the meaning of 'can't'. She did know how to say "What's next" and that to me implied an ability to change and adapt along with the courage to actually do so.

The sum of our fears may be the knowledge of our vulnerability to random misfortune, and the certainty of our eventual mortality.

Our journey is both an expression of hope and a journey within, undertaken for reasons that sometimes have little to do with the outcome. For Jeannette perhaps the perfect speed was just being Jeannette and we celebrate her life and how she touched ours. For me, all I can say is, that I always wanted to be my best when she was around.

I can hear her saying now, "So what are you saving yourself for - if not you, then who - if not now, when?" In this process we may find something in ourselves in which we can be proud.

May we find peace in the shared hope that Jeannette, who brought us such joy with her short life, is an angel showing us courage, passion, purpose and grace, feeling our love for her, awaiting our coming, and knowing she is locked forever in our hearts."





# *It is Trauma Season Again*

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*Roy Webster*

Winter is a bad time for macropods, as the shorter days mean people are driving home at dusk, and more macropods and other wildlife are being hit by cars. Our poor wildlife are suffering and our trauma carers are being called out daily to attend to them. The number of joeys coming into care has dropped but the number of joeys, who receive injuries when their mothers are hit, has escalated and unfortunately many of these are not surviving.

I want to thank our carers, who are doing a remarkable job in difficult times. It is not easy, but it is certainly rewarding.

I also want to thank all of our veterinarians for their great help and guidance, and a big thank you, of course, to our remarkable trauma carers.

Caring for macropods is really satisfying. I have been caring now for over ten years and certainly feel I have done something worthwhile.

If you think you would like to take up caring, it is easy to start. Remember, I started with just one Red-necked wallaby.

This little girl, an Eastern Grey Kangaroo joey, was found standing next to her mum who had been killed by a car. She has now been released



PHOTO // R WEBSTER

# Coordinator Reports

## Birds

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### SUNSHINE COAST

ANOTHER TWO MONTHS AND THE BREEDING SEASON WILL BE UPON US AGAIN.

This is certainly not to be taken as criticism of any sort; however, there is sometimes a tendency in new carers, towards resentment at any suggestions from more experienced carers. They seem to feel that fault is being found with their efforts, when in reality suggestions are offered to help make their job easier in the future.

We were all 'new carers' at some point in our lives and as 'experienced carers' we are trying to pass on the knowledge and advice we ourselves, have learned, often by trial and error. There is no need to feel inadequate, if you have to ask for help. You will know the answer next time. No question is too stupid, regardless of how you look at it. Ask - I can assure you no one will hold you in any less regard. In fact often congratulations are in order, because you were concerned enough for the animal in your care to want the best.

Ailsa Watson



*Crested Pigeon*

PHOTO // EM HANGER

## Possums

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### BRISBANE

MAY AND JUNE WERE THE MONTHS OF CARS, CARS AND MORE CARS, WITH A FEW CATS AND DOGS THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE. As always this meant many deaths, but there were also success stories. Personally, I had something like seven hit by cars in one week and all but one were released within a few days. They were the lucky ones. The interesting thing is the number of older juveniles and sub-adults being hit. I read this as mum kicking out the teenagers because there's another one in the pouch which, for us, means there are babies just around the corner.

*Continued on next page*

## Coordinator Reports continued...

### Possums

We know vet surgeries, RSCPA and the like will soon be inundated with babies needing carers so now is a good time to get our placement procedures polished. There needs to be a well-established link between the people, who rescue animals or collect from vet surgeries, and those who do the caring. The reality is that possums do not get injured and orphaned in the same areas that carers live. Possums do need to be moved around a bit. This is particularly true for ringtails that need to be creched, and pinkies that need a specialised carer. Sometimes this process is taking more than 48 hours which is not good enough. The only way we can improve this, is for every carer to let their relevant placement coordinator know what crèches they have, and what they can take. Please do not arrange for the placement of possums amongst yourselves. This may work for some clusters of carers, but it does not assist with the bigger picture, when large numbers of animals require placement across a wide geographic range. The placement role was created so all carers have equal access to animals they are equipped to care for with no single carer being overloaded and no-one missing out, and so that all animals can be placed promptly with an appropriate carer. We are here for the animals, so please work with the placement coordinators, so animals can be placed promptly.

I would also encourage everyone to join in the Wildcare Facebook community. Facebook has a bad reputation for the very fast distribution of negative talk but, used judiciously, it can be a useful tool. We can share stories and links that might be of interest to other carers. Caring about wildlife means more than just caring for the animals we have in care. There are people and groups doing some amazing things for wildlife and Facebook is a good way to celebrate and share links to other wildlife-related sites. Don't just share them with your personal Facebook friends; share them on the Wildcare wall so we can all 'like' what's happening.

I have recently had a few questions about the various books and charts that offer developmental guidelines. Sometimes the weights don't quite match the description, and the animal you have seems too small to be that well furred, or not well enough furred for its weight. This is particularly important when creching animals. Weight alone is not always the best indicator. The difficulty with books is that it can be a long time between revisions. The Wildcare guidelines are constantly in the minds of all our experienced carers and if a revision is required it can be made promptly. If in doubt, use the Wildcare guidelines or call one of the mentoring co-ordinators. As with all guidelines though, a little common sense is also required. At this time of year, for example, little ones can be kept on warmth for a bit longer. If you've got your electric blanket on, they would probably like one too!

Speaking of electric blankets, I'm taking advantage of a quiet week and hitting the sack early. I suggest you do the same while you can.

Deb Turnbull

*Etan, who was attacked by a dog, is now doing well after a stint at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, where he was given a blood transfusion, following an internal bleed.*



PHOTO // D TURNBULL



# Coordinator Reports continued...

## Possums

### GOLD COAST

**LOSS OF HABITAT IS THE SINGLE BIGGEST THREAT TO OUR WILDLIFE.** From it stem so many of the issues with which we have to deal. The situation will not improve in the foreseeable future with the increasing population swallowing up the bushland and bringing with it cars, domestic animals and feral species - both plant and animal, fences, chimneys, barbecues and pools.

Of the above mentioned problems, victims of cars, cats and dogs made up the majority of animals coming into care over the past year. More and more possums seem to be getting hit by cars and attacked by dogs, and an increasing number of gliders are falling victim to cats. We are not going to be able to totally prevent such unnecessary suffering and loss, but hopefully through our education programs and community talks we can make a difference. It is a widely held view that with education comes appreciation and with appreciation comes the desire to conserve or protect.

Loss of habitat is making it increasingly difficult to find suitable release sites for our hand-reared animals and in some instances older animals, that come from sites recently cleared, in the process of being cleared, or that are designated to be so in the near future. Contrary to popular belief, possums do not "just move on". Research suggests that many animals remain faithful to their territory. Moving on is not an option, and, if forced to do so, there is a high mortality rate. Vacancies caused by the death of animals in neighbouring territories will probably be filled by dispersing young, not by established animals wanting to upgrade!

My sincere thanks to the Gold Coast Co-ordinators, Natalie Rasmussen, Robyn Braniff, Tonya Howard and Clare Boyd for their continuing support and to the wonderful team of

possum carers without whose ongoing commitment and high standard of care our possums would be suffering enormously. A warm welcome to

Jane Koltoft, who has joined the team and taken on the role of Gold Coast Brushtail Possum Placement Coordinator and to Sharon Singleton, who has taken on the role of mentor. Sharon is available to give advice to possum and glider carers.

I would also like to thank sincerely the Brisbane Coordinators: Helen Bradley and Deb Turnbull for advice and mentoring and Maree Green for placements, also Laura Reeder for coordinating the Brisbane area gliders and Anika Lehmann for possum mentoring and advice in the Moreton Bay region.

A sincere thanks also to Rachel Lyons, Delicia Williams, Paula Rowlands and Cathy Cope, who are managing the possums on the Sunshine Coast.

We really appreciate the time and effort you give to these roles and the enormous benefits to the possums which your commitment and expertise provide. Thank you.

Eleanor Hanger

PHOTO // A ASQUITH  
Common Ringtail Possum



# *Coordinator Reports continued...*

## *Bats*

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WELL, ANOTHER YEAR AND WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN! OUR BABY BAT SEASON HIT EARLY WITH QUITE A FEW PREMMIE BATS.

One little one, called Bundy, came in at 38gm, a little black splodge, with eyes closed and not a sign of fur. I thought my goodness, a foetus, how does something like this survive? But those of us who know bats recognize that little black boys are virtually bomb proof. So we warmed him up in a tiny egg incubator and fed him. How he survived was nothing short of a miracle.

Bundy lived it that egg incubator every hour of every day for six weeks until he reached the weight of a new born full-term baby bat. Bundy defied all the odds and turned out to be a little pocket rocket. He bossed all the other premmies around and held his own with the big bats. In a season that brought a lot of sadness, with the number of babies we were losing, Bundy was our bench mark. This season saw the largest number of premmie survivors that we have had, which shows we must be learning something at last.

Along with these babies came the dreaded tick season in far north Queensland and a bumper spectacled flying fox baby intake of around 500. Thank you to all those who were able to go to Atherton to help Jenny Maclean at Tolga, without your dedication we would have lost many babies. This season also saw an air lift of 98 of those babies from Cairns and Tolga to the Gold Coast with help from the RSPCA. They would not have survived without the help of so many volunteers, who again gave their time.

I have to give a special 'thank you' here to a carer, very new to bat caring, who went through her baptism of fire with the 98 babies. Catherine Page spent every day at the clinic from early morning to late at night just caring for these little spectacled bats and I fear is still getting over the experience. Thank you Catherine. My other 'thank you' is to Jeannette and Gavin Miles who both worked full time jobs. Sadly we lost Jeannette a few weeks ago - a very sad loss for our little bats. She will be so sorely missed buy us all.

How do I list all those who helped equally, giving of their precious time to help these little bats

survive when so many ill informed members of the public are doing their utmost to have them killed?

This coming year will be a battle for the very existence of our bats, with the change in government. We now, it seems, need to go back and fight for the right to exist for these bats. Battles, that we have fought and won already. At the moment I am not proud to be an Australian when I see what we are doing to our wildlife and our environment. We have no right to condemn others, when we do what we do, without a thought to our children's heritage.

Thank goodness our bat workshops continue to be popular and we are now getting more people able to help with bats. Not everyone is in the position to take on baby bats, but those people are always welcome to help at the bat clinic with cuddles and feeds. There is nothing more precious than to hold a tiny baby suckling on a dummy. It melts the most hardened heart. If everyone could be exposed to this I think there would be more bat champions.

This month saw the launch at Currumbin Sanctuary, of the much awaited bat book written by Les Hall and Greg Richards and with the wonderful photography of Steve Parish. Both Terry and I had the privilege of a three week expedition to collect a lot of the photos featured in the book. This coming September will see both Terry and I on another bat expedition to Cape York to find as many of our little bat species as we can in an area that has had minimal recording. Both Terry and I and Jeannette had been working on getting a bat display back into Currumbin Sanctuary, which we believe would give the public a greater awareness as well as up to date information about our bats. We are particularly pleased that this was announced at the book launch. Now all we have to do is raise the funds to have one of the aviaries refurbished as a suitable habitat for our bats.

This month will also see the much awaited Micro Bat Manual that Rachel Lyons and I have been working on for the past year. Congratulations Rachel, to you new edition, a beautiful little girl.

## *Coordinator Reports continued...*

### *Bats (con't)*

Along with the spectacled babies airlifted from Cairns, we also had around thirty little cave bats airlifted from Proserpine after their roost had been disturbed. Around half the babies were lost before they arrived at the clinic.

If anyone has worked with raising little sultanas, they will know the difficulties involved. Rachel and I have tried to share our experience with each of our microbat species, with you, in an effort to produce more people capable of rearing baby micro bats which are far more intensive than baby flying foxes but for a lot shorter period. It only takes seven weeks for a baby micro bat to grow to release against sixteen weeks for a baby flying fox. So all those carers, who can't do baby flying foxes, get ready for the little sultanas - they are so cute.

I would like to take the time to thank Karen and Gail and all the Wildcare committee for your work over the past year. At times it is an unrewarding position, often having to make hard decisions, but know that I, for one, appreciate what you have done this past year. A big thank you to the trauma carers who took the brunt of the euthanasias, allowing me more time to attend to all the babies we had in care.

Trish Wimberley



*Bundy at three weeks in his little incubator*



**We do not inherit the world from our Ancestors - We borrow it from our Children.**

*(Kenyan Proverb)*



## Coordinator Reports continued...

### *Echidna and Small Mammals*

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THINGS HAVE BEEN FAIRLY QUIET FOR BOTH OF THESE SPECIES IN RECENT MONTHS.

It is expected though that the next few months will bring a steady stream of injured echidnas, as they shortly begin their courtship and mating routine.

We have had a small number of bandicoots into care, primarily as a result of cat attack, and the odd little orphaned bandicoot joey.

We have already received great interest in the annual Small Mammal and Echidna workshop scheduled for 1 September 2012 at Wacol. I look forward to seeing a few new faces at that workshop with a view to getting a few more members trained to care for these remarkable critters.



PHOTO // JM HANGER

Karen Scott

### *Koalas*

---

The past few months have not been kind to our local koala populations. We are seeing an increasing number of diseased koalas coming into care, many of which are sadly at a point where they are no longer treatable. This is very distressing for those involved with the rescue of these animals, and for those volunteers who are closely involved with monitoring the local populations.

Several years ago, the majority of koalas coming into care were trauma related (dog attacks, car hits), however these days most koalas come into care are suffering from various forms of Chlamydia and diseases such as leukaemia and cancer.

Wildcare recently attended the Koala Fun Day at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary along with the Gold Coast City Council's Koala Conservation Team. It was a great day, although the weather was not ideal and the lorikeets were very noisy in the morning, but the event received good attendance from local residents interested in their local koala populations.

Thank you to those members who make up our team of koala rescuers. They are a small group of very committed volunteers, who drop everything and rush out the door to respond to these koala rescues.

Karen Scott

## *Sunshine Coast Wildcare Rehabilitators Round-Up!*

*Claire Smith*

OUR WILDLIFE HAS A TOUGH TIME DEALING WITH FAST ROADS, LAND CLEARING FOR THE EVER GROWING TREND IN 'STUFF THE WILDLIFE, LET'S BUILD MORE HOUSES', FERAL AND DOMESTIC ANIMAL ATTACKS AND ALL THE OTHER ODDS THAT ARE STACKED AGAINST THEM. WOULDN'T IT BE LOVELY TO BE ABLE TO TURN THE TABLES FOR A DAY!

I drive to work every morning through Kunda Park and I am noticing more and more dead Ringtail and Common Brushtail possums on the side of the road. In fact, not so long ago there was a Common Brushtail dead in the median strip just past the Matilda service station. It's an industrial area. It just goes to show how far our possums are being pushed out of their natural habitat.

Some of us have possums in care at the moment including a lovely female Common Brushtail called Heather. She suffered a broken pelvis and other injuries when the tree she was in was felled. Her joey, sadly, didn't make it. She spent quite a while at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital before going into care with one of our Sunshine Coast rehabilitators. She's doing really well and has now been allowed to start climbing. She's still got a way to go, but she'll get there with the ongoing support and care she's receiving.

Buddy was a ringtail possum, that came into care after spending a week in the home of a member of the public. Buddy had suffered a broken hind leg due to suspected road trauma and unfortunately he did not receive any treatment for his injuries during that first week. Eventually, more by luck than judgment, he came into care with a Wildcare rehabilitator, who took him straight to AZWH. The break required surgery and, because it had been an open

wound, he needed anti-biotics. Buddy had been dragging himself around on the broken bone stump. Dr Robyn did an amazing job with the surgery. Buddy was sent back to our carer but despite being given pap etc. Buddy's blood glucose dropped dramatically and he was back in hospital inside 36 hours. AZWH did everything they could for this little fellow, but he couldn't over-come the effects of the anti-biotics and sadly had to be euthanized. What made it worse was that the MOP had been a carer in the past in another part of the country, but was no longer a permit holder and Buddy was just one in a list of other wildlife currently in that person's care. This has now become a case that's been taken up by the RSPCA and DERM.

We are still seeing rainbow lorikeets coming through with LPS (Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome). Again, it seems to be a shortage of food and, of course, the heavy bouts of rain have not helped. Rapid weight loss and the inability to get air-born are classic symptoms of this condition. Given the right care and time these birds can recover and go back where they belong.

With the latest cases of Hendra, or suspected Hendra virus on the coast we are bound to see yet another tirade in the press calling for the culling of flying foxes on a grand scale. Usually we have about a dozen or so flying foxes that come and feed on our fruit and fig trees, this year we have not seen one. I might add that there are also horses on the property but, sensibly, they are kept away from fruiting trees and natural water sources, so there's no risk.

*Continued on next page*

## *Sunshine Coast Wildcare Rehabilitators Round-Up! (con't)*

*Claire Smith*

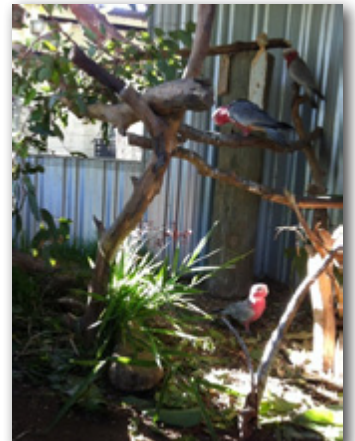
It seems that people aren't happy unless they have something to have a go at and blame for all the wrongs in their lives, why they've lost their job, had their house repossessed, had a failed marriage, why NSW won the second round of 2012 Origin. Let's take it out on the bats, let's all get guns and shoot them, feel better about ourselves and get on with our lives...until the next time.

Ill-informed people jump on the media band-wagon of fear, whipped up by equally ill informed politicians, land-owners and the like. And they do it so well on the coast!

Our bat carers have their work cut out for them, not only with caring but also with coping with the opposition by those who believe all flying foxes should be eradicated. Let's hope that sanity prevails and their protected status never gets revoked.

For submissions to the Sunshine Coast Rehabilitators page contact Claire at [walkaboutclaire@hotmail.com](mailto:walkaboutclaire@hotmail.com) stories, photos and tips.

PHOTOS // C SMITH





# Education Report

*Karen Scott*

BY NOW EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THEIR EDUCATION CALENDAR FOR MAY TO DECEMBER 2012 AND HOPEFULLY EVERYONE HAS PLANNED THEIR WORKSHOP ATTENDANCES. SEVERAL NEW WORKSHOPS HAVE RECEIVED GOOD INTEREST SO FAR WHICH IS GOOD TO SEE.

Our reptile handling workshop with Martin Fingland has again received great interest. It is great to see so many members keen to get some hands-on training in reptiles as they have sadly not received enough interest in the past. Hopefully we are increasing our database of wildlife rescuers with the skills and confidence to rescue lizards and non-venomous snakes.

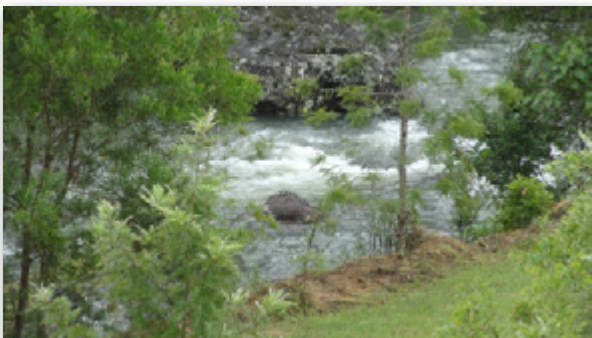
Please remember that you must book in for any workshops that you wish to attend. As some workshops fill quickly and some venues can only hold a set number of attendees, it is important that you book in early to avoid missing out.

Please remember that you must complete training every year for the species that you wish to be licensed for. All Permit Requests are assessed to ensure that training is up to date. Permits will be denied for members that are not up to date with their training requirements. Although it may seem boring to attend a workshop each year for the same species, wildlife rehabilitation practices are always changing and we are always learning new things so it is good to keep abreast of these advancements. It is also a good opportunity to network with other members of Wildcare and volunteers from other organisations such as RSPCA, CWS and AZWH.

Thank you to all of our volunteer trainers who have put an enormous amount of effort into their training programs this year to date.

## May – Observations of an Enthusiastic Naturalist

*Eleanor Hanger*



May, and the beautiful perfume pervading the balcony emanates from the masses of tiny, delicate white flowers of the Prickly Alyxia

May, and the soft call of two Crimson Rosellas dissolves the silence, as they quietly move around the Grevillea feeding on the seeds.

May, and the Red-backed Fairy-wrens busily take tiny insects from the tall grasses, Noisy Miners drink of the

nectar of the Grevillea flowers and a Red Robin gleans insects in the fig tree.

May, and a Pied Cormorant fishes in the fast flowing waters of Cave Creek, a Willie Wagtail uses the lichen covered rock in the creek as a perch, from which to hawk for insects above the swirling waters and a Saw-shelled Turtle rests on Turtle Rock which is almost submerged by the rising waters.

What will June bring?

PHOTOS // EM HANGER

# How Common is Common?

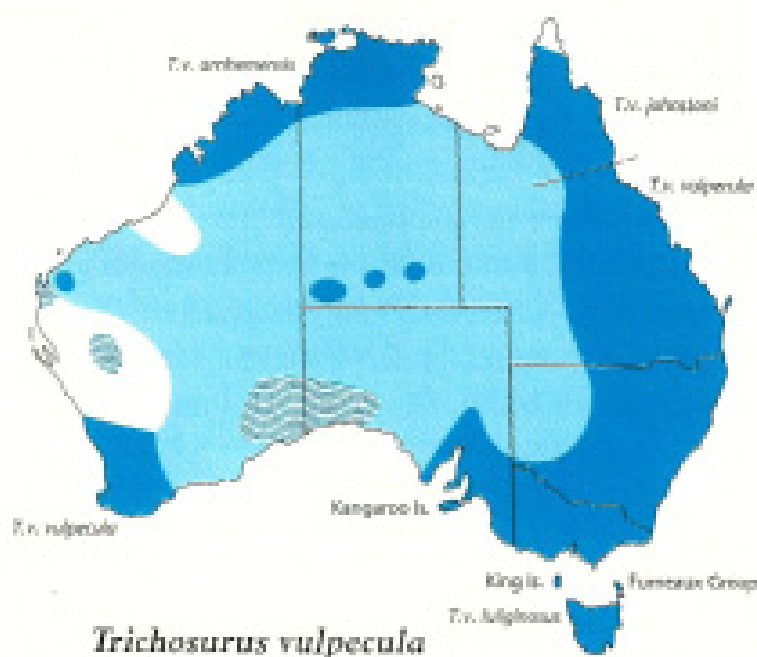
Deb Turnbull

## A RECENT FACEBOOK POSTING BY A FRIEND PROMPTED A LITTLE RESEARCH.

The posting asked for volunteers for endangered possum monitoring. An endangered possum? I was interested. I read on to find that this endangered possum was the Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). Next step was to check my big mammal book, *The Mammals of Australia*, to compare proper names. Yes, it is the same species as ours. In the Northern Territory our common brushy is not so common. It is, in fact, listed as endangered in that state. The map shows where the Common Brushtail is currently found (dark blue), where it inhabited prior to European settlement (light blue), and where fossil remains give evidence of an earlier presence. While it is all one species, there are several identified sub-species.

Early European explorers described possums as being common throughout Australia. Today, they are considered extinct in arid NSW, with single figured reports of sightings in arid SA and WA. The only significant reports of possum sightings in the NT are within the West MacDonnell Ranges. The story of these localized extinctions includes a combination of human and natural impacts.

The years between 1920 and 1970 saw average or well below average rainfall across the arid zone, placing a natural stress on habitats. At the same time, possum populations were impacted by predation, by cats, foxes and dingoes, by altered fire regimes affecting their habitat, by hunting for the fur trade, and by grazing impacts from cattle and feral animals. Numbers dropped and populations fell into what is sometimes called a predator-pit, where depredation by predators was greater than increases through reproduction. Most localized extinctions occurred during the most severe droughts of the 1940s and 1960s.



# *The Best Way to Travel Totally Conscience Free* \_\_\_\_\_

*Penelope Hacker*

ALMOST EVERYTHING WE DO THESE DAYS SEEMS TO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE PLANET, ESPECIALLY ON ITS WILDLIFE.

Travel, in particular, is a worry, with concerns about aircraft emissions affecting climate change. Added to this is the fact that many of the best places to see wildlife have dodgy political systems and corrupt practices, which result in illegal logging and the killing of animals for commercial gain.

Perhaps we should avoid those countries? Instead, however, I feel we should spend some of the dollars we have free after caring for our own wildlife, in going to poorer countries. In some of these countries wildlife is not seen as having any worth, and so our visits could change attitudes, while providing local jobs in the environmental tourism business.

Recently I travelled to Madagascar, said to be one of the poorest countries on Earth, and was totally blown away by the wildlife I saw. Between 80-90% of all native plants and animals in the country are endemic, and they are disappearing fast, as the local people try to scratch a living from subsistence agriculture.

The best-known animals are the lemurs and there are at least 86 species, each clinging to a tiny fragment of habitat. Some are nocturnal and minute, such as the well-named Mouse lemurs. Some are large and diurnal, like the famous Indri. It is black-and-white, tailless and the size of a koala. It has a beautiful but haunting call, which is said to be one of the most memorable sounds of the animal world. I certainly will never forget it. Indri can't be captive-bred, as they need a wide range of native plant material to survive.

There are the well-known Ring-tailed lemurs, often seen in zoos, and the famous "dancing" Verraux sifakas. Their back legs are so long that they "dance" on them rather than drop to four legs, when they must go to the ground, because the distance between trees is so great. They can make prodigious leaps, even on the long spines of the cactus-like plants, in the dry south.

I saw all of these, and another 17 lemur species, with the help of the knowledgeable guides, though I didn't see the famous and mysterious Aye-aye.

Then there are other less well-known creatures, such as five species of mongoose, many species of bats including flying-foxes, which we saw, and strange carnivorous creatures such as the civet-like Fanalouka and the leopard-like Fossa.

I was first attracted to Madagascar after reading about the totally unique tenrecs which defy description – they vary from hedgehog-like though water rat look-alikes to shrew-like. Some are diurnal and some nocturnal. One species has the greatest litter size of any mammal – up to 32 young at a time! They have 17 pairs of nipples. Sadly I didn't see any.

And this is without mentioning the birds or reptiles!

Habitat varies from rainforest to near desert, cool montane to hot coral-fringed islands. And there were hardly any other tourists!

*Continued on next page*



## *The Best Way to Travel Totally Conscience Free (con't)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Penelope Hacker*

How tragic if we were to lose such a fantastic and diverse range of creatures. I could continue raving, but I will end with just the recommendation that you should go and see for yourself. Your travel dollars will help save some fabulous ecosystems. Half of the national park fees paid by foreign visitors goes to help local villages install clean drinking water and other services, and half goes to the national park. For locals the national park is free. I thought Madagascar was remarkably cheap, too.

But the best possible way to travel totally conscience free, is to go on a trip that actively raises money for wildlife conservation. Our very own Dr Amber, from Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, is escorting a small group trip to Zambia in September to see the work being done to save Africa's big predators – the lion, leopard, cheetah, and wild dog. And places are still available – wish I hadn't spent all my travel money!

Checkout the link <http://www.animalmedia.com.au/zambia-sep-2012.html>



*Verreaux sifaka*



*Ring-tailed lemur*

PHOTOS // P HACKER

# Grants

As a non-profit organisation we have been extremely fortunate over recent years to obtain sponsorship and grants through a number of different programs.

Funding was recently received from the Logan City Council Mayoress Community Grant to assist with the purchase of drugs to sedate and euthanase critically injured wildlife in the Logan region.



The Gambling Community Benefit Fund has enabled Wildcare to purchase much needed specialised rescue and rehabilitation equipment for our volunteers. Items purchased include twelve intensive care units, possum traps and possum aviaries.

Funding was received to assist with the high costs associated with providing an emergency response to critically injured large animals (such as macropods) in the Scenic Rim area. This area has one of the highest rates of injury in macropods. Funding will help cover some of the costs associated with the cost of drugs to sedate and euthanase injured wildlife and a small portion to assist with fuel costs.



Funding was recently received to help assist with the cost of responding to critical incidents involving macropods on Gold Coast roads.

The Pines Elanora provided funding of \$5,000 to enable Wildcare to further help protect local koalas in the southern Gold Coast areas. Funding was utilised to purchase essential rescue equipment and to develop an information brochure and poster on koalas. The brochure and poster have been printed and already the brochure has received positive feedback from local residents and has resulted in a number of sick koalas being reported which has enabled them to be treated early.



Find us on Facebook. Search for "Wildcare Australia" We have a "fan page" that everyone can contribute to and we also have a "members only" page.

## *Offer to New Possum Carer*

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Cage - good for critters between kindy cage and outside. Needs to be under cover.

Pick up from my place - Brisbane northside.

First offer to newer carers.

Deb Turnbull

*Free to good home!*

## *Discount on Books and DVDs*

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