

# **WILDCARE AUSTRALIA**

**EDUCATION   WILDLIFE REHABILITATION   RESEARCH**

October 2005, Issue 39

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

# ***WILDNEWS***

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



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



**Veterinarian - Dr. Jon Hanger** 0429 933 761  
**Wildlife Emergency - Volunteer Carers** 07 5527 2444 (24 hrs)  
**Wildcare Education and Training** 07 5527 2444  
**Website: www.wildcare.org.au** Email: wildcare@goldlink.aunz.com

**INTERNATIONAL PATRON :** Brigitte Bardot  
**AUSTRALIAN PATRON:** Helen Clarke

#### MAIN COMMITTEE

President	Gail Gipp
Vice-President	Kim Alexander
Secretary	Trish Hales
Assistant Secretary	Karen Hooke
Treasurer	Karen Scott
Assistant Treasurer	Position Vacant
Education	Karen Scott
Record Keeper	Kerry Chadwick
Assistant Record Keeper	Kiersten Jones
Newsletter	Eleanor Hanger

#### SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Prof. T. Heath	Dr C. Pollitt
Prof. W. Robinson	Dr A. Tribe
Dr R. Kelly	Dr P. Wilson
Dr D. Sutton	Dr J. Woolcock

<b>LEGAL ADVISER :</b> Mr I. Hanger Q.C.	<b>PHOTOGRAPHS:</b> G. Litchfield K. Scott K. & M. Alexander F. Wilson J & E Hanger
<b>HONORARY SOLICITOR :</b> Position vacant	

## CONGRATULATIONS - KAREN SCOTT

### INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE (IFAW) ACTION AWARDS

Queensland superhero is handed national animal award

Wednesday, 7 October, 2005—For Queenslander Karen Scott, nothing beats the feeling of seeing orphaned kangaroos bouncing back into the wild and having their own families.

“I feel like a proud mum. Orphaned kangaroos deserve a second chance, to go back to where they belong and live long and happy lives,” she said.

The 34-year-old is the proud winner of this year’s Animal Welfare and Education Award, handed out by IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) to mark Animal Action Week 2005 (3-11 October).

She is one of four animal carers across Australia to receive this IFAW accolade, which recognises people’s outstanding work with wild or domestic animals.

Karen, of Tallebudgera Creek Road, Tallebudgera, has worked tirelessly as a volunteer for Wildcare Australia for the last five years. She is treasurer, kangaroo coordinator, education officer and office coordinator and carries out up to two 7pm-7am shifts a week on the emergency phone.

She also cares for kangaroos herself before releasing them back into the wild. At the moment Karen is looking after nine kangaroos. This workload is no mean feat when you consider she also holds time a full-time job as the general manager of a finance company.

“These awards celebrate the efforts of remarkable people who give their time, and often their own money, to improve the lives of animals. People like Karen are real superheroes and it’s vital they are recognised,” said Asia Pacific Acting Director Erica Martin.

IFAW’s Animal Action Week is in its thirteenth year and takes place in 12 countries around the world. More than 1400 schools in Australia will be take part this year, using specially designed IFAW education materials focusing on caring for cats and dogs

#### IN THIS ISSUE

IFAW Awards	2	Tamborine Show	15
President’s Report	3	Mudgeeraba Show	16
The Vice President Calling	4	Feathertail Gliders	17
Dates for your Diary	5	Kelly’s Story	18
Wildcare Award Winners	6	Brooke Hospitals	20
Update with Karen Scott	9	Every Storm has..	21
Sunshine Coast/Gympie	10	Beware the Kitten ..	22
Record Keeper’s Rave	11	You came in all ...	22
Springtime with the Birds	13	Welcome New Members	23

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone!

I hope you have all started to recover from what has been a very busy spring. This year we have seen so many different species come into care, particularly of birds, possums and reptiles. We have however seen fewer macropods come in, which of course can mean one of two things, either there is

enough food away from the roads or there are fewer of them on the coastal strip. I am betting with the huge rate of land clearing that has happened on the coast this year the latter is unfortunately the answer.

For those of you who were lucky enough to attend the annual National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference, I hope you all enjoyed it. The reports and feedback have been wonderful with comments such as "exceeded expectations", "a great conference," "superbly run," "very inspiring," "very professional". It was fantastic to see so many rehabilitators make the effort to attend a conference that was held entirely for them. The knowledge gained and the opportunity to meet rehabilitators not only from Queensland but also from all the other states and the Northern Territory was really invaluable. I would also like to thank all the Wildcare members who put in so much time and effort to put together what has been referred to as "the best conference yet". It was also great to hear the vets who attended say what a fantastic conference it was and how they would spread the word for next year.

A big congratulations to Greer McNeil and Karen Scott for winning their well deserved awards. Both were very surprised. We now know Greer is very easily led down the garden path as they say!! (We now know how you caught her, Jim).

Well done, girls, you both truly deserve it for all the time, effort and help you give not only wildlife but also Wildcare Australia.

One of the things that has come to my attention over the past couple of months is the number of animals that are ill and that are not being fed an adequate diet to provide for their nutritional needs. All animals and birds that are ill need to have their nutritional needs met to enable them to heal. A joey, that is malnourished, that has been existing for weeks on half strength milk because it has diarrhoea, will have no reserves to fight off the infection that is causing the diarrhoea. As rehabilitators we need to ensure we provide the best possible care

for these animals, and among other things, that means an optimal diet. If you cannot do it or are inexperienced in caring for a sick animal, let your co-coordinator know sooner rather than later. If you are seeing a vet inexperienced in wildlife and the problem persists take it to a vet who can help both the animal and you.

Over the last couple of days I have been lucky enough to walk through 187 hectares of pristine bushland looking for koalas, and I do not think I can describe the beauty of what I have seen. The most amazing trees, a dense understory with few pest species, banksias, grevillias and sun jewels sprouting naturally everywhere and, of course, the birds, Yellowtailed Black Cockatoos that paid us no attention as they feasted on banksia cones and Glossy Black Cockatoo juveniles that were sitting side by side in a tree. There was also a huge number of Lace Monitors. On a closer inspection of the trees, we found some were obviously regular highways of activity indicating they would be teaming with life each night. What most amazed me was that in a few short months this area of bushland will nearly all be gone to make way for an upmarket housing development. I could not help but feel incredible sadness as I looked around and yes, there was some pretty tough terrain involved in getting through it all on foot, but what outstanding beauty. I will never understand how so many of us cannot appreciate the beauty of what we have in our own backyard. I hope you like the following.....

*"Alone in space, alone in its life support systems, powered by inconceivable energies, mediating them to us through the most delicate adjustments, wayward, unlikely, unpredictable, but nourishing, enlivening, and enriching in the largest degree- is this not a precious home for all of us earthlings? Is it not worth our love? Does it not deserve all the inventiveness and courage and generosity of which we are capable to preserve it from degradation and destruction and, by doing so, to secure our own survival?"*

From *Only One Earth*  
by Barbara Ward and  
Rene Dubos.

Gail Gipp





### NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE 2005



Conference Committee—most of it!

Well it's finally been and gone and from all reports it was a huge success, though for me, as one of the organizers, it is still a bit of a blur.

With over 200 delegates and more than 30 speakers, the three-day conference certainly packed in a lot of information and networking. The conference held at the Holiday Inn on the Gold Coast was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference run by and for wildlife rehabilitators in Australia.

This year the conference was organized by a small group of Queensland carers, including Wildcare's Karen Scott, Trish and Terry Wimberley, Gail Gipp, Eleanor Hanger and myself along with Janet Gamble (RSPCA) Deidre and Michelle De Vielliers and Evelyn Cootes (Logan Rescue) Trixie Benbrook (SEQ Carers Association/ BIRO) and Adrian Caneris as MC.

Guest speakers included Dr Phillipa Mason, Dr Andrew Tribe, Dr Jim Pollock, Dr Anne Fowler, Dr Rosie Booth, Lance Ferris, Manfred Zabinskas, Dr Hume Field and many, many more as well as some of our own including Dr Jon Hanger, Dr Jeff McKee and Leigh Koppman.

There was a wide and varied array of topics some of which included: Disease Considerations for Release of Rehabilitated Wildlife, Tetany in Handreared Brushtail Possums, Wound Management in Wildlife, Capturing Pelicans, Kangaroo Rescue, Psittacine Beak and Feather, Wildbird Assessment and First Aid, Common conditions in Native Reptiles as well as Standards for Wildlife Carers and a look at The Vet Visit from the perspective of two wildlife vets.

All of the conference papers are now available from the website at [www.nwrc.com.au](http://www.nwrc.com.au)

I would suggest you all take the opportunity to have a look and download any that you feel would be useful to you and have a chat to some of those Wildcare members who attended the conference.

Next years conference looks like being even bigger and better and will be held over 4 days in Darwin from 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2006. I'm looking forward to attending this one without the stresses involved in having to run it.

Kim Alexander  
Ex Chair NWRC2005



Early morning registration



Venue

## NWRC 2005



Wildcare display coming together



Wildcare at play—conference dinner

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOV	5	Orientation - Brisbane
	12	Advanced Macropod - Gympie
	13	Reptiles - Gympie
	13	Carers' Meeting - Brisbane Native Bird Workshop - G.C.
	19	Wildlife Care & Euthanasia G.C.
	20	Assessment & Management G.C. Native Bird Workshop - Brisbane
	27	<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>
DEC	3	Orientation G.C.
	4	Wildlife Care & Euthanasia - Brisbane
	10	Snakes & Lizards - G.C.
	11	Introduction to Mammals - G.C.
	18	Snakes & Lizards - Brisbane

## KOALA AND KANGAROO RESCUES

Have you ever wondered what's involved in rescuing a kangaroo or a koala? What sort of training and equipment you might need? How you might deal with an animal such as this?

Well apart from attending all the relevant workshops on these animals, the only way to learn these things is to get some hands on experience with someone who does this quite regularly.

Unfortunately though most of these rescues happen in the evening or early morning and time is of the essence in getting there.

But if you are keen to learn more, then contact one of the Trauma Carers or leave you name with the office,  
07 5527 2444



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU



Wildcare Australia would like to thank  
Bradley Trevor Greive,  
International best-selling author of *The Blue Day Book*  
for giving us permission to use his beautiful words in  
our workshop notes  
and for the kind donation of  
a signed copy of his magnificent book  
*PRICELESS The vanishing beauty of a fragile planet.*  
Mr Greive's work is truly inspirational and we are  
deeply appreciative of his generosity.

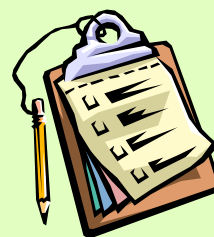


### WILDCARE NEEDS YOU!

Do you have a phone and a good sense of organisation?  
Do you like to meet and chat to people?

Would you like to be involved in one of the most vital roles in **WILDCARE**?

Then perhaps **YOU** are our next **PHONE COORDINATOR**  
We need someone **NOW** who can organise the after hours  
phone rosters to keep our 24 hour service running..  
You can do it all from home or come in to the  
WILDCARE office, which ever is easier.



If you are interested contact the office now or email Mark  
at [thealexanders@austarnet.com.au](mailto:thealexanders@austarnet.com.au) for more information.

## WILDCARE AWARD WINNERS

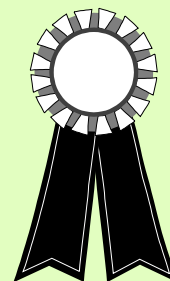
We always knew that we had an award winning team at **WILDCARE** but lately  
we've had that confirmed.

In August both Greer Mc Neil and Trish Hales were awarded a **Moncrief Community Awards** for their service to the community and were presented with their awards in a ceremony on the Gold Coast.

Then in September Greer Mc Neil made a star appearance on "Beauty and the Beast" filmed at Jupiter's Casino when she was the surprise recipient **Community Star Award** of a cash prize and a night away (with Jim we hope) for her long-term commitment to Wildcare and native wildlife.

Finally Karen Scott was awarded and IFAW Action Award for **Animal Welfare and Education for her commitment to animal welfare, community education and building knowledge and understanding of animal welfare.**

Well done to each and everyone of them. They are some of our quiet achievers





### PHONE TRAINING

WILDCARE desperately needs more phone operators to help man the phones after hours. The phones are the life-blood of this organisation, so here's your chance to become involved.

If you can spare 3 hours a month/ fortnight or week then you might be just what we need. These no need to leave your home and you will be supplied with all the training and paperwork.

A training day is being organised on the Gold Coast and at a Brisbane venue for later this month so please ring the office now to express your interest.

Without your help we may no longer be able to operate our 24-hour phone service.

### WANTED !

### ARTIST OR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Someone with a bit of flair to help design a new WILDCARE brochure.

If you have some ideas, computer skills and a bit of spare time then maybe you'd like to be involved in revamping the Wildcare Brochure.



Our brochures are one of our first contacts with members of the public so it is extremely important that we get something that really gets our message out there

If you would like to be involved in this aspect of Wildcare, please phone the office and leave you details including email address.

## NEW BIRD COORDINATORS

In light of the huge number of birds that WILDCARE have either requiring rescue or coming into care we have recently appointed three more bird species coordinators.

Now as well as Karen Barney and Cheryl Barney, we have Kerry Chadwick who will be coordinating the lorikeets, Ursula Bailey who will be coordinating the ducks and ducklings and Dianne Smith who will be coordinating the insectivores.

As part of their role as coordinators they will be actively seeking those of you who have completed the courses and have the facilities to care for these types of birds. If you are able to help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact any of these coordinators.

Karen Barney – 5548 6614

Cheryl Barney – 5574 6654 or 0438 787 288

Kerry Chadwick - 5596 1570 or 0408 073 761

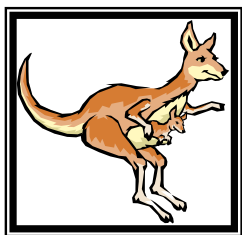
Ursula Bailey – 5525 3785 or 0402 348 134

Dianne Smith – 5530 7340 or 0409 223 062

A bird course will be held on the Gold Coast on 16<sup>th</sup> November for those of you who have not yet done the training or wish to brush up your skills. Please book in to this course through the office, 07 5527 2444, as course will only run if we have the numbers to warrant it.







## ARE YOU READY TO BE A MOTHER (OR FATHER)?

Are you a member of WILDCARE, but not yet a carer?

Well **WILDCARE** needs **YOU NOW!**

This year is already shaping up to being a busy springtime with baby birds and bats already coming into care. The marsupials too don't seem to have had a down time this year and many of our more experienced and long time carers are already beginning to reach their capacity. So this is where we need **YOU!**

If you have completed your Orientation and a course or two on a relevant bird or animal species, consider now becoming a carer. The first step is to attend the relevant workshops and training and speak to the coordinator of that species. Then collect the appropriate equipment, cages, feed etc and contact the coordinator to let them know you are ready, so that they can keep you in mind for a suitable animal when it comes in.

If nothing comes in straight away please don't be too disappointed as remember the animal's own mother often has to die in order for it to need you to be its mother. So keep contacting the coordinator, at least once a month, to let them know how you are set up and attend as many rescues and workshops as you possibly can.



We can never have too many carers and everyone was a first time carer once.

## WRONG NUMBER



If you have recently changed your phone number, home address or any other details, please give the office a call immediately.

As those of you who do the phones or answer rescue calls know, speed is of the essence when a call comes in and to get a wrong number or find someone has moved address and is no longer the closest person can be very frustrating and may cost lives.

Also if you are no longer able to attend rescues or the times you can attend have changed we need to know this as soon as possible.

We have very few people available in some areas for rescues so anyone who is able to rescue at any time please consider having your name added to the list. You must have a completed a minimum amount of training including Orientation. If you rescue an animal it doesn't mean you will be asked to keep it. Rescues can be as simple as collecting an animal from or taking it to a vet.

In addition if you have recently got a mobile or even an email address we can add this to the office database for a more efficient system.

## NEW BIRD COORDINATORS

NEEDED

## FOR THE BRISBANE AREA

Do you have the necessary skills  
the time  
and the commitment to fulfil such a role?

If so  
please contact the Wildcare Office  
07 5527 2444





**MACROPOD WORKSHOP**

The Advanced Macropod Workshop scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> September has been postponed until Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

Please contact Rachel Lyons on 5485 0595 or 0417 078 432 to book your place.

**MACROPOD COORDINATORS REPORT**

Thankfully the past few months have seen a considerable reduction in the number of macropod joeys coming into care. Those that have come into care have predominantly been Red Necked Wallabies. Surprisingly we have had very few Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys and no viable Swamp Wallaby joeys at all in the past few months.

Let's hope that the next few months prove to be equally as quiet.

Unfortunately we continue to see an increase in the number of joeys being handed in by members of the public who have attempted to care for them for sometime. Unfortunately some of these have not survived as they have been suffering tremendously from myopathy when they have been relinquished. Some though have been lucky to survive being "pets" and are now thriving with appropriate care.

**SHOP NEWS**

We will shortly be stocking the full range of Biolac milk replacers in the Wildcare office. We will be stocking the 500gram containers

but if you require a larger quantity, please let Karen Scott know so that it can be ordered directly from the supplier.

If you would like some information on Biolac, please contact Karen who would be happy to provide literature on the product.

**DONATIONS**

A big thank you to Ian Hill of Burleigh Heads who has kindly donated at 15" flat screen computer monitor for use in the Wildcare office. This will give our weary office volunteers a little more desk space. Thank you Ian.

**MILK TOPS**

Thank you to everyone who is collecting the milk tops. We recently received a cheque for \$117.59 for the last batch that we delivered to Norco. Keep the tops coming in !

**CHOCOLATE SALES**

A reminder that for those members who sell chocolates to help with fundraising – for every \$200 worth of chocolates sold you receive a \$20 gift voucher to spend in the Wildcare shop. Thank you to all those members who are currently selling chocolates (or eating chocolates...) for Wildcare.

**GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Some more great news on the Grant front!!

We recently received a grant for \$1,600 to purchase an outdoor marquee from the Australian Gov-

ernment Small Equipment Grant. The marquee has just arrived and had its debut at the Mount Tamborine festival last weekend. It is a weatherproof marquee with removal sides and is easily erected by 2 people (as Lee Anne Burgess and Trish Hales can attest...).

A grant has also just been received from the Redland Shire Council to assist the Wildcare members on South Stradbroke Island. The grant will be used to purchase rescue equipment and to provide training to the members on the Island.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

As some of you will be aware Gail Gipp, Kim Alexander, Trish and Terry Wimberley, Eleanor Hanger and myself have all been involved with the organisation of the 2005 National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference that was held recently.

This has taken up a lot of our time in the past few months and unfortunately some of us have not had as much time to devote to Wildcare because of it.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to say a special thank you to those of you who have helped by taking on extra responsibilities during the lead up to the conference. A very special thank you should go to Trish Hales who has coped with so much extra work to try to relieve Kim and myself of a lot of worries during this time.

Also, a very special thank you to John Mitchell, Georgie Belz and Karen Hooke who helped with

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

manning the Wildcare Office during the conference so that some of our office volunteers could attend the Conference. Your help is very much appreciated by all of us.

Thank you also to Belinda Kidd who helped us with the horrible task of compiling the conference proceedings until late one week night just before the Conference. Thank you Belinda!

### **EDUCATION CALENDAR**

I am currently in the process of getting the 2006 Education Calendar together for January to June. Keep an eye out on the Wildcare

website for the new calendar which should hopefully be available by the end of October.

### **NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

A reminder to those members getting the newsletter by "snail mail". The newsletter is available for download directly from the Wildcare website. If you are happy to access the Newsletter in this way, can you please email me at [wildcare@goldlink.aunz.com](mailto:wildcare@goldlink.aunz.com) to let me know. You will then go on our email list and will be notified as soon as the newsletter is available.

You will also be notified of important events as they come up.



## SUNSHINE COAST / GYMPIE

### **SHOP ITEMS Available**

A selection of commonly purchased Wildcare shop items are now available in the Sunshine Coast / Gympie Region. Larger items, or larger quantities still need to be ordered from the Gold Coast.

Please call Rachel 0417 078 432 to discuss purchases, make orders and to arrange pick ups. Pickups can be made from Pomona and Gympie.

### **EDUCATION**

Workshops are a wonderful way of keeping abreast of changing methods in the management and care of our sick, injured and orphaned native animals, as well as to brush up on your skills and to network.

Wildcare's commitment to you is to provide regular workshops. Your commitment to Wildcare involves attending workshops regularly. However as it is time consuming and very expensive for the trainers to travel to Gympie to provide this training we require a minimum number of people to be booked to attend. If we can't get enough people booked for a particular workshop, unfortunately we will have to cancel it

Bookings can be made through Paula on 07 5483 7777 or Rachel on 0417 078 432. Please try to book at least a week in advance.

### **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE 2005**

We would like to extend a special 'thank you' to the organizers of the NWRC 2005. Several members up here who were fortunate enough to be able to attend said that it was the best ever.

### **A REMINDER**

Please keep in contact with your coordinators, particularly as we are coming into the busiest season and we need to know, whether you are available to rescue and care, whether you can take animals at short notice and what animals you have in care, so we can pair up where necessary

Hi everyone, and thank you for submitting your records as you have been. I will catch up with those who haven't.....Grrrrrrrrrrrr

So what do you think of the new forms? Is it easier for you? Have you anything to add? Do you have any better ideas?

I must say that I have noticed not everyone is filling in the "Animals Carried Forward From Previous Month Where Outcome Known". Is there a particular reason for this other than duplicating your information? Yes I agree that there is a provision for outcome on the "Animals Arriving Into Care For Current Month" form and if you are happy with that then that is fine. Just make sure I have ALL the information and the outcome by the end of that particular month. For new carers doing records for the first time..... When I say I need an outcome at the end of each month, that could mean that the animal is still in your care. An outcome for a month simply means, "What has happened to that animal during the current month". For example, an animal is in your care during September but was released 1<sup>st</sup> October. As far as the records are concerned, the animal was still in your care during September. Your October records will tell me that it was released on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Ok, let's move onto the next subject.

It is becoming increasingly important to know who is doing what species, particularly at this time of year, and for me this is also directed to our Brisbane members. As you may or may not know already, I am also the Loris co-ordinator and I don't have a clue who is doing loris in Brisbane. PLEASE LET ME KNOW. Are you doing them or would you like to do them? As an office volunteer I get heaps of calls for loris to be rescued and cared for but I have no idea who is available, so the call goes to ONARR.

It is vitally important that you contact the office with any change to your circumstances ie. Can/can't do rescues or care. We do not want to ring you if you are unavailable. Unnecessary phone calls cost Wildcare a lot of money.

Please let us know if you no longer want to care and you will not receive any phone calls asking for your help.

Please don't forget to contact me if you have any questions at all about your records. My email is: [kerrychadwick@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kerrychadwick@optusnet.com.au) or call me 55961570. It's amazing how many calls I am NOT getting, so I can only look forward to great hand written records.

### A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO

### BEV HELLYER AND THE STAFF OF

### EAGLE CRANE HIRE

For outstanding help in a rescue involving a humble wood duck with its foot caught in a tree. Yes, the little duck was very high up in a tree.

Jai Hennesy offered to use his unique mountain climbing skills, much to his mother's distress. However his climbing skills were not needed as Eagle Crane Hire arrived, just like the cavalry.

What is amazing is that Wildcare did not request the crane, but the staff at EAGLE CRANE HIRE decided to go with it anyway. So thank you to all involved.

Jai saved the little guy and took him to the vet.

I was on the phones that day at the office and it was very rewarding to be part of such a great rescue. Please consider being part of the rescue process by doing your bit on the phones, we really need you.



### ROTTING LOGS

support a myriad of creatures as well as playing  
host to  
an amazing variety of fungi



**PLEASE – PLEASE – PLEASE**

**ARE YOU STILL AN ACTIVE CARER?**

Office staff, after hours phone operators and co-ordinators need to know if your situation has changed. If you are an active carer we need to know what you can care for.

**WE HAVE A NEED FOR CARERS TO CARE FOR DUCKLINGS AND FLEDGLING BIRDS. IF WE HAVE NO ONE TO TAKE IN THESE LITTLE GUYS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM?**

Ok, so what if you can't care? No worries, you know you can help our wildlife in other ways.

Can you do rescues? Sometimes it's just a matter of picking up a bird and taking it to the vet - end of rescue.

Ok, so what if you can't do rescues? No worries, you know you can help our wildlife in other ways.

Have you got a phone? Maybe you could help out on the emergency phone roster and hour or two every month.

**EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Please phone the office with any changes to your circumstances or you can email me  
[kerrychadwick@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kerrychadwick@optusnet.com.au)

## SPRING TIME WITH THE BIRDS

**W**ell breeding season has started again and, as always, we are desperately seeking carers to take on as many babies as possible. A few new coordinators have been appointed, and a list of the species under their supervision, and their contact details has been included. As part of your obligation to Wildcare you must report any birds you get into care as soon as possible. The coordinators are there to help you identify birds, to help with diet and housing, to advise on release procedures, and to help with any other problems you might have. They are also responsible for grouping babies of the same species together. If you can't reach the coordinator for a particular bird species for which you need advice, ring one of the others. Please, if you are not sure you are doing something correctly ASK for advice.

We are trying to compile a list of carers, detailing which species of birds they can care for and what facilities they have. Please notify the coordinator of the type of bird you are interested in caring for and we will advise you as to whether your facilities are suitable. I would advise new carers to start with one or two different species with similar diets and housing requirements.

When you are trying to work out which birds you can care for, consider among other things the following points:

- how close your neighbours are
- how large your aviary is
- how much noise that species makes
- how often they need to be fed. E.g. Crows are noisy babies, upset neighbours and need large flight aviaries, but only need to be fed every 1-2 hours.

Even if you can take babies in the early stage, until they are self feeding and need to go into a larger aviary, that would be a help.

The following are the coordinators:

**KAREN BARNEY - Migratory** (Koels, Channel-billed Cuckoos, Dollar birds), **Nocturnal** (Tawny Frogmouths, Owlet Nightjars), **Water bird** (Ibis, Egrets, Herons, Purple Swamp hens, Dusky Moorhens, Plovers, Stone Curlews), **Carnivore** (Magpies, Currawongs, Crows, Butcherbirds, Kookaburras), and **Nectivore Coordinator** (Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Noisy Friarbirds). I can be contacted at work on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday on 55806205 (8.30 - 5.30) or at home on Sunday and Monday on 55486614 and after 7.30 pm on Wednesday and Saturday.

**URSULA BAILEY - Duck Coordinator - (H)**  
55253785 (Ursula Bailey can be contacted at home only. If she is at work carers need to contact another coordinator. Carers should only try to contact her on her mobile phone on weekends)

**DIANNA SMITH - Small Insectivore** (Noisy Miners, Silvereyes, Fairy Martins, Willy Wagtails, Magpie Larks, Swallows, Pardalotes, King Fishers) and **Frugivore Coordinator** (Fig birds, Fruit Pigeons, Orioles.) - (H) 55307340 (M) 0409223062 (All day until 7.30pm.)

**KERRY CHADWICK - Lorikeet Coordinator - (H)**  
55961570. (Kerry can be contacted at any time)

**CHERYL BARNEY - Granivore Coordinator** (Pigeons, Rosellas, King Parrots, Cockatoos, Corellas, Galahs) -- (H) 55746654

More workshops are going to be held in the next few months in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, on **Native**

### **Bird Species and Diseases and Injuries.**

It is important that you attend as we can pass on useful information and give you updates on changes in diets and any new diseases we are seeing in different species. We are all very busy at this time of the year so the workshops will not go ahead unless we have at least eight people booked in to attend.



*Cont. on page 14*

## SPRINGTIME WITH THE BIRDS

Baby birds need feeding on a regular basis and will lose weight and die quickly if not fed enough. If you work full time and can't take babies to work DON'T take them on. We will give you injured adults or older babies that can feed themselves to care for.

I can't stress enough **the importance of warmth** to a baby bird. If it is cold when coming into care the **FIRST** thing you **MUST** do is **warm the baby up** before you try to feed it (either by sitting it on a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel or putting it under a light).

*Never give food or water to a cold animal*

The parents do a better job of raising their young than we do so we would like to reunite as many babies with their parents as possible this year. Always get as many details as possible as to where a baby has been found. I had six young Kookaburras last season that were reunited with their parents. They came in not quite old enough to fly, spent two weeks in my flight aviary and once flying were then returned to exactly where they were found. The families were only too happy to have them back again.

A full assessment of the bird and why it came into care has to be made by your coordinator before the bird is to be released back to its family. If something is wrong with the bird the family will not accept it back. It is an old wives tale that they won't take the baby back if they have the smell of humans on them (most birds have a poorly developed sense of smell).

For new carers who don't have any cages, we are trying to organize some small cages to get you started so please contact us so we know you are out there. All the new coordinators are in fairly central areas on the coast so please utilize this and ask for help and advice.

Something we see regularly is carers trying to feed birds that have been hit by cars or have severe trauma injuries. Unless already very thin, adult birds will not starve to death if they don't eat for 2-3 days. You would not feel like eating if you had been hit by a car or attacked by a dog.



You are going to see babies with common diseases that we see regularly, as well as babies with trauma injuries from cats, dogs or other birds. If the bird is obviously injured take it to a vet ASAP. Check the birds body temperature before deciding to put it on heat (except unfeathered babies). A bird's body temperature is about 5 degrees

higher than ours so you can usually feel if they are cool to touch. Don't overheat it or you will dehydrate the bird, which is worse (open beak, panting, wings out away from body). Start slowly and remember, if you have done everything right (with all the correct advice from your coordinators) and the bird still dies, we can't save everything.

Be aware the paralysis tick season has started, and yes, these ticks do affect birds. I have already had a crow, a magpie and a duck come into care with tick poisoning. The ticks like to attach around the eyes or in the V shape under the beak. If you find a tick on the bird, dab it with a cotton bud dipped in Aerogard or fly spray, wait 20 seconds and using tweezers, getting as close to the tick's head as possible, pull the tick out. DO NOT USE METHYLATED SPIRITS OR KEROSENE to kill the tick, this just aggravates it and it will inject more poison into the animal. DO NOT put an animal that has tick poisoning on heat, it needs to be kept cool.

**Karen Barney**

### CAGES - AVIARIES - CAGES - AVIARIES - CAGES

Do you need cages or aviaries?

Do you have cages or aviaries that you don't need anymore?

Would all carers who use cages and aviaries for furred or feathered friends let us know what you require or what you have that you don't need anymore. We will be having a cage/aviary "Drive" in the near future and need to know what is happening with you out there.

Please ring:

DIANNA SMITH 55307340 or CERRI-LEE 55307998.



## TAMBORINE SHOW & SPRINGTIME ON THE MOUNTAIN

### **We were there....where were you?**

Because someone decided that we needed to do more shows, both *Tamborine Mountain Show* and *Springtime on the Mountain* appeared on the 'to do' list. It seems that other carers are too busy to help out, or as one carer put it "I don't do shows.... goodbye" and then hung up. Funny how a couple of hours could be the difference between having money to run the phones and paper for workshops etc and there being no money for anything. If a lot did a little then a little wouldn't have to do a lot!!! As you can tell I'm a little ticked off with the response. I have been practicing a new word. I'm gunna start using it too - "NO".

The 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September gave us beautiful weather and we had a great location for the Tamborine Mountain Show.

On Saturday morning my husband, Dave, and my son, Ian, (thanks, it really was appreciated) were up at some ungodly hour putting up the new Wildcare tent. They helped to set up the tables, then they had to go. While it may not be the busiest show, the stream of people were talkative and had many stories to share. Sharon Singleton and two of her daughters came up at lunchtime and helped out ( I was busting for a visit to the little girl's room, but there had been nobody there to help, so I had to wait).

We packed up at four and went home, well not quite, there were several rescues to do, as it seems there was nobody to do rescues either - funny that.

On Sunday it was back to the showground by 8.00am.

Trish Hales gave up her Sunday to help out. Luckily she was there, as I had to do a flying fox rescue that couldn't be put off until after the show. Well, Ian met me at the rescue site, as there was no room in my car for the rescue equipment. He also took the flying fox back home before returning to where he had been in Canungra.

Sunday saw a total of five rescues on the mountain to be dealt with by — guess who?

Trish and I packed up at 4.00pm and that was the show. Total raised \$278.00. There was also a donation made by another stallholder for \$10.00.

*Springtime on the Mountain* ran for three days. We were unable to find anyone to put any effort in on Friday, so Saturday morning saw my husband and son again up at dawn and setting up for the weekend. Leanne Miles arrived at 10.00am and helped out for a couple of hours. I packed up at 4.00 and did a couple of rescues on my way home. On Sunday Trish Hales again gave up her day to travel to the mountain and help out. We packed up at 3.00. (we are now experts at packing up the tent). No rescues -maybe 'cause my mobile was off? And then home. Monday saw all the stuff back at the office. Total raised \$166.40. Nardoo (the place we were setup) made a donation of \$200.00 so the weekend was not a complete waste of time.

Thanks heaps to Trish Hales, Leanne Miles, Sharon and Rebecca Singleton (Taron, her daughter, kept the stall holders happy as she spent mum's money with ease). Also a big thanks to Kim Alexander who put up with my whining the whole way through.

Lee-Anne Burgess



## MUDGEERABA SHOW JULY 2005

The show that was almost washed away. With less than two weeks to go the heavens opened and the Gold Coast region saw rain and floods not seen since 1974. The Mudgeeraba Show Ground was completely covered with flood waters. Most would give up and cancel the whole event, but not the Mudgeeraba Show Committee. They rolled up their sleeves and set to work. They received offers of help from many in the Mudgeeraba Community and somehow managed to have the showground and buildings back to normal in time for the Show's opening day. Congratulations to the Show Committee and the Mudgeeraba Community for a job well done.

Once again I called on Wildcare members and once again they responded. I would like to thank firstly Ken Bridge who was there for the full two days. Ken helped setting up lights and displays and with the transport, and worked the crowds as only Ken can do.

Thank you Trish Wimberley, Shannon and Jai Hennessey. Shannon and Jai helped with the transporting of all the goods, and Trish with her gift of being able to turn a very ordinary display into something of beauty. In fact Wildcare's exhibit was so good that we received many invitations to attend other shows.

Wildcare entered the Grand Parade with an entry that was worthy of First Prize. With our costume characters, balloons, streamers, signs and enthusiastic participants we were a sight to behold. Kylie was our koala, Jai our kangaroo and Rose our lorikeet, and they all lost several kilos in their costumes.

Kim Alexander arranged with the Australian Koala Foundation to sell badges, hats and bumper stickers, that benefited both Wildcare and the Koala Foundation. Luke and Sam Alexander took responsibility for this display which was a huge success. It is always a pleasure to work with Sam and Luke. There are so many to thank. Dianna Smith was there on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Lee Anne Burgess was there with Adam Burgess and his friend Alex, also Di and Gerry Field, who blew up hundreds of balloons with their compressor, Kerry Chadwick, Hans Amerstorfer both days and Lisa, Jenny, Kirstie and Kiersten. Thank you, Rose, who set up a great game for the kids, drew in the crowd and made some money. Well done, Rose.

To hold an exhibit at the show is a lot of hard work and planning but well worth it. Wildcare was able to educate and inform the public on wildlife issues which was the main aim of our exhibit. We were able to cover costs and make a little money as well. I hope I have remembered to thank everyone and hope you will be there with me next year.

Trish Hales

### DONATION BOXES

Wildcare Australia has timber donation boxes that are available to members to place in businesses that may be able to assist us with fundraising.



### WEBSITE of Interest

This very interesting and informative website, [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net) has a section to help with identification of birds in your backyard as well as vast amounts of information, including a map. It is a brilliant resource!

In my 22 years of wildlife caring, the only time I had ever seen feathertail gliders was in the nocturnal house at Fleays. There, they skitter across the viewing window, or the branches, with the speed of lightening, and you wonder if you've really seen anything, and certainly not enough time to observe them thoroughly.

In May I had an evening phone call to collect two baby possums. Very small, the caller said. So off I went, assuming I was collecting two baby ringtails, only to find they were feathertails! I couldn't believe my eyes at first, and thought I was mistaken. But no, there was the gliding membrane, although the tail wasn't fully feathered as yet. I was so excited. Apparently the tree loppers were called to chop down three palm trees, and as one was falling, one of the team noticed something fall to the ground. On investigation the babies were found. Thank goodness they were noticed and saved.

They weighed 5 and 5 grams and were so tiny, I wondered how I would feed them. However they took their glucose and then Divetact from the dropper with no trouble at all! I then had to find an escape proof container to put them in, as they are very good escape artists. I came up with a large plastic box, covered in shade cloth, and held in place by a very tight bungee cord.

Next was food. They eat insects, spiders, sap, nectar and pollen, so for the next few weeks I was up and out early in the morning collecting blossom. Don't think that was easy and I just had to pick anything native that was flowering! Oh no, I had to make sure the blossom was full of nectar, and it

is surprising how few had it. I'm sure the birds and bees were there before me! My nose has never worked so hard, sniffing so many blossoms. Anyone noticing me must have thought I was mad!

Insects were next. I'm sure they knew I was after them. Usually my verandah light attracts dozens of moths and other insects, but when I had feathertails, moths were few and far between. Even so I usually had enough, and how they loved them! Feathertails grow very quickly, soon reaching their adult weight of around 12 to 14 grams, so they were soon out of their box and into an aviary. I took me three days to sew shade cloth all around it to make it escape proof! Once in that I would put the moths in and the gliders would leap around, and practice their glides to catch and eat them with great satisfaction. I passed many happy night hours watching.



F. Wilson

One incident leaps to mind whenever I think of the feathertails. We had planned a short trip in the caravan to Toowoomba before the gliders came into care. The plastic container was easily transportable, so we went ahead.

One night while there, I'd fed them around 11.00pm, put them both back in their pouch on the box and gone to bed. I woke again around 3.00am to feed them and there was

only one in the box. I nearly had a heart attack! I carefully searched everywhere. She could have been anywhere. The curtains and pellets in the van are all pleated. The doonas all full of folds. My husband, Barry, was sound asleep, and it was icy outside. Then I saw that the plug was not in the sink! She must have got out! I felt sick! I fed the other one and then searched the van again. Barry was still sound asleep! No luck! By this time it was 4.00am. I was cold and so upset, but there was nothing I could do. The other one was put safely away and I went to bed. A few minutes later, still berating myself for losing her, I felt something crawling in my hair. I grabbed it, put the light on, and sure enough it was her! Phew! I was so delighted to have her back. I fed her and put her with her sister. I had no idea where she'd been. I was certain she wasn't on me earlier, but the plug was securely in the sink after that, and checked after each feed. What a relief that she'd found me!

The weeks flew by. A third female came in from Beenleigh. It was found on the ground with a cat playing with it, by two school children. It was checked by a vet, and luckily appeared unharmed. She joined the other two happily.

Barry made a nest box for them, and we release all three in the same garden from which the twins had come. There are some lovely gum trees and plenty of other native plants around the area. I checked them a few days later and they were still there, so hopefully they've met up with other, and will breed more of these delightful creatures. It was an absolute joy rearing them, and I learnt so much.



"Ring ring", "ring, ring".

I met my son in the hallway as I ran past to answer the phone. Scratching his head and yawning, trying to open his eyes to focus before giving in, saying through closed eyes and weary mouth, "I bet it's a wildlife call, I don't know why you do this mum, it's so late at night."

"The poor animals don't know that Jack," I replied, as I grasped the phone to answer.

"Caring for your wildlife, can I help you?- Where are you? Are you ok? Is the animal off the road? Can you stay with it until I arrive? No, it won't try to run away, it will stay with its mother. I'll be about ten minutes."

Jack was on his way back to bed, he knew the procedure very well, by now.

"What is it this time?" I heard him ask behind my back as I dashed up the hallway into my room to change.

"A possum, mountain brushy, hit by a car, mum's dead, but there is a baby on her back, poor little thing."

On the way out the back door I grabbed my 'kit'. One in the car, and one near the back door, that's how I like it, nothing wrong with being prepared (twice). The kit contained essentials for rescue, an old blanket (to keep animal warm or to sooth the injured adult), torch (for night rescues) I sewed some 'pouches' out of old t-shirts and seat covers to pop babies in, to keep warm and snug x 3 different sizes. Gloves, no matter how small, I keep reminding myself, they have teeth. Wildlife doesn't know your only trying to help. I have a con-

tainer of water in the car kit for heat stress or for cleaning, but as yet have never had to use it as most of my rescues are local. The quicker I can get home with them and treat, the better.

I saw the man standing by his car looking very grief stricken as I pulled in behind him. Dawn was just breaking so I didn't need to leave my lights on. Grabbing my basket I walked over to the body of the possum. There was a dear little bub clinging on mum's back wondering why she wasn't running away from these odd and scary creatures. She had no visual injuries, mum had copped it all.

"It's ok," I whispered, "we'll have you warm and snug in no time." Open the lid, put on the gloves, grab a pouch, pop it over the head of the babe and grab the tail (near the base of her rump) lifting and, yes, release, a picture perfect fold into the pouch. "Thank you," I said to 'Dawn', as I cradled her against my heart to reassure her. 'Dawn' became her name because of the time I picked her up. Placing her in the basket I remembered the man standing by the car, turning around I asked if he was ok.

"I was on my way home from work," he started to explain, "I do night shift, she just sprang out in front, it was all so quick, thank you so much, poor little thing. In the car my referdex has emergency numbers in the front. I'm so glad your number was there. They're cute aren't they!?! You certainly handled that quickly, I didn't know what to expect."

I exchanged with him phone numbers, both mobile and home, and reassured him that he did the right thing and how admirable it was that

he cared.

"You can phone anytime to see how she is going and when she is big enough for release I will contact you and, if you like, you can come along and watch."

"Great, thanks I would like that very much," was his reply. And we said our goodbyes.

Getting home with Dawn, I checked her for injuries. Satisfied of no breaks, I popped her in a fresh pouch, as is often the case because of stress, she had urinated in the other one, and placed her on a heat pad (28°C).

Later in the morning I offered her some glucodin and water which she readily lapped up.

"Hooray she laps, it makes life so much easier for me," I thought. Ok then, lets weigh you and find out how much milk to feed you, my guess is your about 3.5 months to 4 months, so that should mean you weigh about 125g. 128g on the electronic scale, "I'm getting better at this every day," I thought smugly.

Referring to my charts, I decided to feed 6 times a day on 5ml – 8ml of Biolac milk formula for at least four days and then weigh her again as she was bigger in size than weight.

As with all babies, human or animals, toileting is always a messy affair. Poor little girl, kept wetting her pouch for the first 24 hours. She was so nervous, but always hungry. So, after the first three feeds, I worked out if I put a bottle-brush in the pouch, popped her head in after she finished her milk,

*(Continued on page 19)*

## KELLY'S STORY

(Continued from page 18)

I could toilet her quite easily as she was more enthralled with the taste of the flower than what I was doing with her butt!!

By the fourth day her weight had blossomed to 146g, she was gaining confidence in her surroundings and not wetting or the other in her pouch. I moved her into a small cage so she could explore as she pleased, keeping her pouch pinned up against the heat pad on the side of the cage. I started to put in branches of grevilleas as well as other natives for her to sample. Her feeds became five times a day at 15 ml.

At five months old it was time to place Dawn in bigger surroundings. I had an old cocky cage which was perfect to introduce her to her natural temperatures and sounds of the night. Still in pouch, I transferred her to this cage, adding some climbing branches, and foliage. It was so amusing to watch her explore the new cage, dangling from the branches I had placed in there. Dawn was down to three milk feeds per day.

At seven months it was time to move again into bigger surroundings. I had purchased a big bird aviary for this procedure. I could stand up in it and arrange foliage to look similar to her natural home. I put in the cage as well as a 'possum box' I made out of an old hollow tree stump. In this I placed Dawn, still in her pouch, so she could get used to the new home outside her cage.

What a joy it was each morning when I went out to the aviary to see she had eaten all of her natural food, (bottlebrush, grevilleas,

lillypillies, paperbark, gum leaves, twigs, etc., as well as a few treats thrown in by me, banana, apple, grapes, passionfruit). I always put fresh water in with wildlife as you never know for what purpose they might decide to have a bath or drink. She was progressing happily in her new environment and showing signs of interest in what was happening around her. She was losing interest in the milk feeds, which was always a sad but heartening time for me, as I knew soon she would be ready to release.

One night there was such a commotion going on out near the aviary. I ran over and shone the torch to see if it might have been a snake trying to get in. Twigs breaking, and the sound of another possum nearby brought a relief to my senses, and then I realised that Dawn was making friends with the other wildlife. My home backed onto a national park of approximately 30 acres. "Wonderful!" I thought, "if the creatures of this area accept her, she could have a 'soft release' right in my backyard."

The next day I set about putting some 'possum boxes' in trees along the corridor of the national forest and my land boundary. Perfect time for release, the middle of summer, flowers and new tips on branches everywhere, especially

after all the summer storms we had been having.

I rang the gentleman who had phoned me in the first instance about Dawn. It worked out that he would see her return to the wild then he could go on to work, as he was still doing nightshift.

That night I waited until Dawn showed signs of waking, then I opened her cage door. I popped in a banana and chopped apple and returned to where the man and Jack were standing. We watched as Dawn sniffed the air, and ate the banana. I could hear twigs snapping in the distant night and the sounds of bats and possums chatting in their language. Dawn could too. Slowly, so slowly in fact Jack got bored and went inside the house, Dawn began to leave the cage. She called out! "Cough cough!" Was that to say goodbye to me and thanks, or hello out there, here I come? I'd like to think both. As a carer I had done all I could. To me, she is where she should be, with her own kind and free. I tell my heart that everyday!

It was nice to see the man wipe a tear away. There is a 'feel good' place in everyone, and I'm glad, for myself, it is with the wildlife I love and respect.

Kelly Adams



Bibliography:  
White, S. *Caring for Australian Wildlife*. Australian Geographic, Terrey Hills, 1997.

### BROOKE HOSPITAL HISTORY

In 1930, Dorothy Brooke was appalled to see on her arrival in Cairo a waiting line of thin, dirty horses. These scraps of skin and bone were ex-cavalry horses sold to buyers at the end of World War 1. They were forced into hard labour on the streets and in deep stone quarries. Mrs Brooke and her husband were horrified and on their return to Britain set about raising money to help these horses.

Within three years five thousand horses and mules had been bought and ended their days in peaceful and loving surroundings in the stables Mrs. Brooke bought.

This was just the beginning. To-day there are six Brooke Hospitals in Egypt, five in Pakistan one in Jordan and three in India. Many animals are situated too far from a Brooke Clinic and so a mobile veterinary team visits outlying areas.

These clinics rely solely on volunteer staff and donations of money and drugs.

I was able to visit a Brooke Clinic in Petra, Jordan. The veterinarian that morning, Dr Mohammed Al-mcsideen, told me the most common problem these animals suffered, namely Laminitis, could be prevented by good husbandry. Laminitis, he explained, was a severely painful inflammation of the hooves.

He showed me around the stables where two horses were recovering from acute Laminitis to both hind hooves. They were both well on the way to recovery. They had been treated with antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs and pain kill-

ers. Dressing were changed ten-hourly. These horses were in peak condition, but their owners had not checked and cleaned their hooves. They were used to take tourists into the ruins of Petra, along with donkeys and camels. It is very hard on their hooves as the ground is uneven and stony. The horses and donkeys are shod but the camels must find it hard on their soft pads. All the animals looked well fed and watered. This was the beginning of summer and the tourist season was coming to an end so pressure was on to get a customer.

There was a mare who had difficulty delivering her foal. Her



*Mare recovering from difficult birth*

owner had twisted and pulled the foal out. The foal did not survive and the mare suffered severe internal and external tearing. Without attention she developed infection and was brought into the clinic. Her vulva was not visible due to massive swelling. She was treated with uterine wash, antibiotics, anti-inflammatory and pain relief drugs. Within two weeks she was much improved and was due to be discharged within two days.

There was another horse with very red and swollen eyes which I took to be conjunctivitis and one camel with an infected bite he received fighting over a female camel.

As the clinic opened there was a steady stream of animals and owners. Dr. Mohammed was keen to



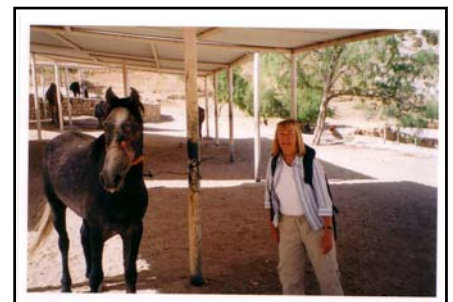
*Waiting for the clinic to open*

talk to me. He is a most compassionate man. He gives one day each week to the clinic and also visits outlying areas. If an animal cannot stand or for some other reason cannot be brought in then one of the veterinarians will visit. They receive no remuneration. The hygiene there was excellent and the shelves well stocked with drugs.

Although I would not list Jordan as one of the poorest countries in the world, nevertheless the owners of these animals rely on tourists' dollars to take care of their animals and also to support large families. I hope that you enjoy reading about the Brooke Clinics and if you have the opportunity you will visit one.

I have promised Dr. Mohammed that I will email him a copy of our Newsletter with this article printed.

Happy caring, Gloria Litchfield .



*Gloria and horse with severe conjunctivitis*



The day dawned still and sultry, and when the fitful breeze came, you could almost hear the whispered promise of a storm. By mid morning the southwest horizon was a misty grey and the mountains invisible.

At noon I left the comfort of the air-conditioning. The hot humid air was stifling and the fitful morning breeze had vanished. In the southwest, the first of the storm clouds were starting to grow above the misty horizon and for those who tried to listen to AM radio, they were rewarded with constant static. There were definitely storms in the offing, and I love a good thunderstorm!

Late afternoon and I left work and drove via the cane fields so that I could see more of the horizon. The whole south-western sky was full of storm clouds, but one cloud stood out above all the rest. It was a massive up-draught of jumbled cumulus that stretched up and up into the sky. As it rose the top of the cloud mass flattened out to form a vast anvil top. Some of the up-draught had broken through the anvil top and was streamed off in long ribbons, almost like fingers reaching in our direction. And that was not all. The whole storm structure had a twisted, rotating appearance. It was a Super Cell and that's about as serious as a thunderstorm can get.

"Some one is going to get a hiding tonight." I thought and hurried home.

We checked and secured anything loose on our aviaries. On some we added plywood panels to give the occupants shelter. Those that could be bought inside took up residency in the fauna room and anywhere else there was space. We then secured and stowed anything else that may become airborne and moved

the cars under shelter as a severe thunderstorm warning had been issued for the Gold Coast. The sun sank below some of the lower clouds and the storm took on a dark malevolent air, and so, we waited.

The approaching storm was spectacular. Fangs of cloud to ground lightning leapt ahead of the rolling storm front. The anvil top was constantly illuminated by anvil crawler lightning and the thunder growled, crashed and rolled around the whole horizon.

It soon became apparent that we were going to miss the main part of the storm as it was passing to the south probably around Southport, and when the gust front struck it lashed the trees, dumped some rain on us and moved on still grumbling and flashing.

Then came the phone call. The storm had brought down some fig trees at a shopping centre in Ashmore. The trees were the night roost for lorikeets and the caller reported dozens birds on the ground and on the road.

When we arrived in the area we had to do some fancy detour and back street driving as the police had many roads blocked off due to fallen power lines. The whole area was in darkness, roads were flooded, fences and road signs laid at strange angles, the streets were littered with fallen leaves, branches, roof tiles, a pool umbrella, and an upside down garden shed. Saddest of all were the little bedraggled bodies that had drowned in the swollen gutters or had been run over on the road.

There were about ten people there, some were late night shoppers, others shop owners and all set about locating the lorikeets. They were on cars, under cars, perched on the top of doors, in little low bushes, on the

median strip and on the other side of the 4-lane road. All were wringing wet and stunned from the ferocity of the storm.

The police were there with their "X-Files" torches and helped with some much needed light. We ran out of boxes and the long arm of the law "liberated" some from recycle bins behind the supermarket. One individual in shorts and nothing else apart from tattoos and piercings on his face (and elsewhere for all we knew) collected birds with his bare hands. He distained the use of towels and swore his bitten and bloody fingers were a small price to pay. Finally no more birds could be found.

Now some of the boxes were far from ideal, in fact one was more like a hole with a couple of sides and soon the car had chirruping lorikeets sitting on the steering wheel, (slow cornering manoeuvres needed), the backs of seats, the dash, Jim's shoulders and my lap.

By around 3am we had examined all 86 lorikeets and had them safely in a small aviary or warm cages for the injured. They quickly tucked into the nectar mix and the ungrateful wretches proceeded to party the rest of the night in the garage and "trouble our sleeping with tweeting and screeching in fifty different sharps and flats."

Morning score – lorikeets bright eyed and bushy tailed with empty food bowls. Humans, about a 10 on the frowsty scale and a problem. How to transport all these lorikeets back to their tree? Easy! – time to call in a favour in the form of a friend with a covered trailer, which was duly measured and pronounced big enough.

Mid morning we set off with our

*(Continued on page 22)*

(Continued from page 21)

shrieking and chattering load, much to the puzzlement of other drivers at various intersections. The clean up crews had been through and the broken tree branches and other debris had been removed. In the bright sun it was hard to picture the devastation from the night before. We opened the cage and stood back. First one, then two and it very quickly became a river, a flurry of green, blue, red and noise as the lorikeets flew swiftly to join their companions in “their” tree.

So then next time someone tells us that every storm cloud has a silver lining, we just smile because in reality, this storm had a rainbow lining.

## BEWARE THE KITTEN AND THE CAT

Perhaps you already know that a cat’s faeces may contain oocysts which, once they get into the food chain can cause an Aids - like disease. Animals that graze close to the ground, such as kangaroos, sheep and cattle may ingest the affected cat’s faeces. This may cause the animal to develop infected cysts and may cause an agonising death.

A rare steak or hamburger may carry the oocysts, and in the case of *Toxoplasma gondii* may cause death in people with low immune systems, pregnant women or unborn babies.

A disease spread more frequently is *Bartonella hensalae*, commonly known as Cat’s Claw Disease. Cats have bacteria on their claws and a playful game with a cat may cause a scratch, which may heal or which may cause Cat’s Claws Fever. Symptoms may include swollen lymph glands, headaches and sore throats. Very occasionally it causes inflammation of the brain (encephalitis).

Cat bites and scratches should be washed immediately with soap.

Ref. “A Bug’s Life” by Dr Adam Taor. Weekend Australian 28.05.05

Sonia Laws

## *You came in all colours*

*You came in all colours  
Even English light blue  
But to me you’re all one  
Just as I am to you*

*You claim you’re unique  
An absolute one of a kind  
With your warm easy manner  
And intelligent mind*

*You are a person with feelings  
That we must respect  
Yet you call us just “creatures”  
And then you dissect*

*We have eyes, mouths and souls  
And hearts that beat  
Don’t dismiss us so lightly  
Just because we don’t speak*

*Lets just all live in peace  
Or be well aware  
This great circle of life  
Could turn into a square.*

*Nikki Logan*

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

*Wildcare Australia welcomes the following new members:*

*Priscilla Campbell, Worongary; Monica Evans, Mermaid Beach; Siona Woods, Caloundra; Karin Pfeiffer, Ashmore; Amie Charman, Gumdale; Vlasta Gall, Karana Downs; Karen Miles, McDowell; Shane Buttery Carbrook; Suzanne Jack, Mooloolah; Doreen Campos, Murgon; Doris Anderson, Helensvale; Cerri-Lee & Gavin Van Buuren, Mudgeeraba; Colleen Spalding, Goodna; Gena Summergreens, Beechmont; Sarah Bell, Brackenridge; Patricia O'Donnell, Manly; Cassandra Brinckman, Cornubia; Maree Baker, Arundel; Laura M Chadwick, Carina; Jessica Kane, Bardon; Violet & Len Hopkinson, Tin Can Bay; Mark & Catherine Larter, Jerrabomberra; Judith Thoroughgood, Bundaberg; Susan Hobson, Pullenvale; Ruth Hawtree, Redbank Plains; Jill Greenwood & Stan Kosut, Booyal; Jennifer Connell, Highvale; Kiki Zdenka Kosse, Merrimac; Sandie Gills, Cedar Pocket; Michele Yates, Logan Reserve; Jacqueline Prinsen, Nerang; Kim Clay, Redland Bay; Caroline & Tristan Fitzpatrick, Cornubia; Anthea Watson, Samsonvale; Janette & John Henderson, Carindale; Val & Jeremy Keating, Upper Brookfield; Gloria & John Stirrat, Tal-lai; Amber Smith, Labrador; Alane Kendall, Gympie; S. & W. Clare, Nerang; Aniko Scarabello, Tamborine; Paulo Marques, Dutton Park; Kathy Townsend, Dunwick; Jack Jackson, Amity Point; Roseanne Hogan, Ashgrove; Fiona Poole, Safety Bay; Lorraine Cook, Crows Nest; Toni Telfer, Arana Hills; Michelle Cole, Albion; Sharon Barratt, Loganholme; Kerri & Paul Cryer, Tamborine; Coral Jones, Springbrook; Helen & Neil Bradley, Shailer Park; Julie Haddock, Kippa-Ring; Sandra Jacob, Paddington; Alan Jansson, Labrador; Leisa Ford, McDowell; Jason Paton, Bundaberg; Tracy Greer, Southport; Tara Ormsby, Mt Warren Park; Yolande Swadling, Anstead; Michael & Jennifer Wilkins, Wongawallan; Kylie Rach, Helensvale; Robyn Martin, Nerang; Skye Kelly & Rheena Walton, Mt Crosby; Wilma Remy & Philippe Mailloux, Kingston; Kerry & Melissa Horwood, Nerang;*

*By joining Wildcare Australia you are demonstrating your commitment to the welfare of Australia's native animals. Please don't hesitate to get involved in this, your organization. If you are unsure of where your personal niche may be, call Trish Hales, our secretary, who is in the office from 8.00am to 4.00pm on Monday and Friday and I'm sure she will be able to help you.*

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

## RAFFLE



### Fundraising with Nutrimetics

Thank you to everyone who supported the Wildcare/ Nutrimetics Shower Gel Drive. \$200.00 was donated to Wildcare.

Thank you to - Veronica McInnes, Judy Jambas, Karen Scott, Eleanor Hanger, Terri Eather, Laura Reeder, Lee Anne Burgess, Lucy Higgins, Helen Mills, Kathy Keed, Animal Magic and to anyone whose name I have inadvertently missed.

I have also donated a basket of Nutrimetics worth \$145.00

**Tickets are now selling at the office for \$1.00 each, so please support this raffle.**

Sharon Singleton

## WANTED



### POSSUM CARERS

Do you have the training, the skills, the time and the commitment to care for possums. If so please let us know

Contact Sharon Singleton 5578 4546 or 0419 146 052

## SUPPORT WILDCARE'S MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

### *ALICORN*

*For beautiful home sculptured  
clay creatures from  
Australian bush animals to  
fantasy pieces*  
**Phone Beth or Wayne 5533 3626**

### **COLLINS BOOKSELLERS ROBINA**

*kindly offer a 10% discount to  
Wildcare members.  
Please have current membership  
card with you.*

### **FOR SALE**

*20 Morton Bay Figs  
at \$4 each  
Contact Cathy Goggin on  
07 5463 8321*



### **Wildcare**

would like to thank

### **Breeders Choice Seeds**

for their continuing support  
in the donation of seed to our bird coordinator.  
(Home deliveries if over 10kg)

**Lot 2, Reedy Creek Road  
Burleigh Heads 5593 5611**

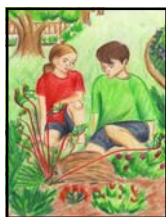


### *Invicta Framing*

*for all your framing needs originals,  
prints, posters memorabilia  
39 -41 Nerang Street, Nerang  
ph. 07 5578 3277  
www.invicta.com.au*

### **Marny finds an Echidna**

*Book1 Ozzie Animals in Your Backyard*



An easy to read picture book teaching children  
to appreciate Australian native wildlife:  
Some funds from the book assist the care of  
sick, orphaned or injured Australian Wildlife.

Story **Rochelle Manners**  
Illustrations **Jessica Compton**

Have your copy personally signed to your child *by the author*.  
Order directly from the author by completing the form below.  
Please state that you are a member of Wildcare Australia so that  
Wildcare receives some funds from the sale.

Rochelle Manners [www.wombatbooks.com.au](http://www.wombatbooks.com.au)  
[rochelle@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rochelle@yahoo.com.au)  
Recommended Retail \$12.95

Name:  
Address:  
Child's Name:  
Phone:  
Child's Birthday



Payment option: Cheque, Cash or Direct De-  
posit Special Carer price: \$10.00 plus \$1.00 postage and han-  
dling in Australia.

### **CAGES**

### **FOR SALE**

*Small cages - cocky and hospital*

*Contact Wildcare Office on  
07 5527 2444*

### **AVIARIES**

### **FOR SALE**

*Sharon Singleton has aviaries  
3m x 1.5m x 1.8m high  
for sale at \$200.00 each  
Contact Wildcare Office on  
07 5527 2444*



## WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

**GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES ALL  
ITS SUPPORTERS**

ASHMORE HOLIDAY VILLAGE  
AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC  
BEECH MOUNTAIN STORE  
BINNA BURRA TEA HOUSE  
BRADLEY TREVOR GREIVE  
BREEDERS CHOICE SEEDS  
CITY LINKS SNACK BAR  
COASTWIDE PLUMBING  
COLLINS BOOKSELLERS ROBINA  
CURRUMBIN SANCTUARY  
FILTRONICS  
FLEAYS WILDLIFE PARK  
GECKO  
GOLD COAST POST FORMING  
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL  
WELFARE  
INVICTA FRAMING NERANG  
JOHN & MARGIE SPIES  
JOHN WILLIAMSON  
KAY ELSON MP (FORDE)  
RED ROCKET MEDIA  
THE MOUSE'S HOUSE  
NERANG COLOUR COPY  
Cr. PETER YOUNG  
PRINT ONE NERANG  
TAMBORINE MT. NATURAL HISTORY  
ASSOC.  
NATURAL ARCH CAFÉ RESTAURANT  
VALLEY VIEW CAFE  
WOMBAT BOOKS

## WILDCARE VOLUNTEER CARERS

**WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING VETS FOR THEIR  
DEDICATION AND TREATMENT OF OUR  
AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE.  
OUR CARERS ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT**

ALBERT ST. VET CLINIC  
BEAUDESERT  
5541 1233

AUSTRALIA ZOO  
1300 369 652

DR BRIAN PERRERS  
SOUTHPORT 5591 2246

COAST VET, ROBINA PARKWAY  
5593 0300

COAST VET, BURLEIGH  
WATERS 55206820

COOMERA RIVER VET  
SURGERY  
OXENFORD 5573 2670

CURRUMBIN VALLEY VET  
SERVICES PETER WILSON  
CURRUMBIN 5533 0381,

CURRUMBIN SANCTUARY  
5534 0813

HELENSVALE VET SURGERY  
5573 3355

MEDIVET HIGHLAND PARK  
55 749 622

MEDIVET NERANG. 55964899

MT. TAMBORINE VET SURGERY  
5545 2422, 5545 2422 A/H.

MUDGEERABA VETCALL CLINIC  
55302 204

PET DOCTORS ACCIDENT &  
EMERGENCY, ROBINA  
PARKWAY 5575 7700

SOUTHPORT VETERINARY  
CLINIC & HOSPITAL 5531 2573

TUGUN VETERINARY SURGERY  
5534 1928

**DEADLINE** for articles for the next newsletter  
**28 DECEMBER, 2005**

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

If undeliverable, please return to:

**WILDCARE AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRALIAN KOALA HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION INC  
PO BOX 2379 NERANG MAIL CENTRE  
NERANG Q 4211**

Print Post Approved PP442167/00008

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

