



# Wild News

ISSUE 73 - SUMMER 2014

Compassionate Kids

## Migrating Madness

Education  
**The Purple  
Poppy**

Discover...

# All News & Events

+ Compassionate Kids Section



## President's Report



By Karen Scott

Happy New Year to all of our dedicated members and wonderful supporters. I hope everyone had an opportunity over the Christmas and New Year to have a little 'down time' and catch your breath. Here's hoping that 2015 doesn't fly by as quickly as 2014 did!

I know that some of our members have been completely inundated over the summer months, particularly those caring for birds and possums. Again, I would urge anyone who hasn't yet made the decision to start caring, to consider whether you could open your home and your heart to just one or two animals. Many of the animals requiring rehabilitation only need a small amount of time each day and some are only short-termers that just want some rest and tender loving care to get them back on their feet.

Thank you to those supporters of Wildcare who continue to help in so many ways. Whether it is monetary support or in-kind support, your contribution helps to ensure that our volunteers can focus on rescue and rehabilitating our precious wildlife. Thank you to the lovely ladies who have sewn beautiful joey pouches for our orphaned babies – these have been much appreciated by both our volunteers and the little ones that are calling them home.

A special thank you to our very small team of dedicated volunteers who kept our emergency hotline running over these busy months. I am always in awe of how much this small team accomplishes and how committed they are to ensuring that the hotline is manned as frequently as possible. Here's hoping that our upcoming telephone training session will result in a few more dedicated volunteers committing to this important part of Wildcare's work.

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### NEWS & ACTIVITIES

President's Report .....	02
A Warm Welcome to our New Members .....	04
Education Report .....	05
Permit & Records .....	05
Rescue/Carer Records due now! .....	05
Wildcare News & What's On .....	06
Wildcare Risk Management System .....	07

### REHABILITATION

Species Coordinators' Reports .....	08
Possum Boxes, Hot Weather and Other Considerations .....	12

### EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

The Purple Poppy .....	13
A New Approach to How we Maintain and Care for our trees .....	14
Grandad and Wattle .....	15

### COMPASSIONATE KIDS

Migrating Madness .....	16
Burleigh Joey Scouts .....	17

### And also...

Grants .....	18
Advertising & Supporters .....	20
Thank you .....	21

#### 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.

#### EMAILS

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#### MAIN COMMITTEE

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Secretary Danni Bettridge  
Treasurer Tracy Paroz  
Committee Members Samantha Longman, Rachel Lyons

#### NEWSLETTER TEAM

Eleanor Hanger & Deborah Bianchetto.  
Submissions can be sent to [news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au)  
cover photo: C. O'Keeffe





## A Warm Welcome to our New Members

**Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members in November, December & January:**

Kirsty Heseltine; Zoe Searle; Georgia Plant; Karryn Haddy; Fred Hicklin; Roxanne Ives; Sarah Hibberd; Faith Bradow; Wa-eeda Ely; Jonathan Cashmore; Mandy Keasey; Angela Christodoulou; Hayley Cotton & Mark Meaden; Tess Reilly & Tristan Meacham-Day; Bruce Morgan; Kerry Power & Steve Power; Jess Gibbons; Alexander Roberts & Katreena Craig; Sherryn Fraser & Bruce Raggatt, Alex & Samantha Fraser and Connor & Declan Raggatt; James Copeland & Felicity Copeland and Celeste; Toni Mashett; Catherine Curtis; Barbara Cush; Robyn McIntosh; Jenna Clifford; Renee O'Duhring; Danielle Small; Penney Nelson.

**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.**

### NEXT ISSUES SUBMISSIONS DATES

**Autumn** - Issue 74: 30th March

**Winter** - Issue 75: 20th June

**Spring** - Issue 76: 20th September

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

# Education Report

By Karen Scott

**Our 2015 Education Calendar was published in late December and workshops this year have been well attended.**

We have a few specialised workshops scheduled again for this calendar and I would urge members to attend. The Reptile Handling workshop is a great opportunity for those interested in reptiles to see some of these unique creatures up close and get an opportunity to handle them.

We also have Dr Tania Bishop (RSPCA Wildlife Hospital) teaching the Wildlife Anatomy & Physiology workshop in June. If you are an experienced carer and haven't completed this workshop, I would thoroughly recommend it, if you wish to further your knowledge.

Our new colour photocopier/printer has been put to good use (thanks to the 2013 GCCC Community Grant) and we have been offering hard copies of training manuals in both black/white and colour versions. To date the colour versions have been by far the most popular, so we will continue to offer those at workshops at cost price.

We are also trialing this calendar offering the training manuals via digital download immediately following the workshop as opposed to providing the manuals on CD. We are hoping to reduce expenses and workload by doing this and the feedback to date has been positive as most members seem to have access to broadband internet service.

## Important information about your Wildcare Permit

By Karen Scott

**Just a reminder to our active members to ensure that their Rehabilitation Permit is up to date. There are a few members who still have not requested a renewal of their Permit for the 2014-2015 year. Please check that you do have a valid Permit if you are actively rescuing or caring for wildlife.**

We would also encourage you to carefully check the conditions noted on your Permit (such as undertaking updated training or lodging Rescue/Carer records by a specific date). Your Permit has a label affixed to it, which includes your name, your residential address (where wildlife are permitted to be kept/held), the species that are permitted to be cared for under the Permit and any special conditions that may be applicable. If you are having trouble complying with these special conditions, please contact either Karen or Lewis to discuss.

Some members have not checked their Permit conditions and consequently may be in breach of them.

If you are caring for species that are not included in your Permit, you need to request an amended Permit be issued, which can be done by completing a new form or sending an email to [enquiries@wildcare.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wildcare.org.au)

A database of Wildcare members with Permit Endorsements is provided on a regular basis to the wildlife hospitals to ensure that wildlife are only being placed with carers with the appropriate Permit.

Thank you to those members who have been diligent in ensuring compliance with the Permit conditions. We now have a much higher compliance rate from members, with regards to submission of Rescue/Carer Records and this year we have taken a fairly hard stance with members who have not complied with these conditions for more than twelve months.

If you have any questions regarding your Permit, please contact us.

## Rescue/Carer Records due now!

A reminder for those members that have a Permit Endorsement from Wildcare, that your 2014 Rescue/Carer Records were due by 14th January 2015. If you have not lodged them as yet, please submit them urgently so that our 2014 records data can be collated.

## Having trouble keeping your records straight?

Why not use the Wildcare Record Form books? These books in duplicate were designed to help members keep track of animals rescued. The original copy of the form was designed to stay with the animal when passing onto another carer or admitting to a wildlife hospital, while the duplicate is for your records to help you complete your Wildcare records. Wildcare has subsidized the cost of these books (cost \$8 each) reducing them to \$4 each. They can be obtained from the Wildcare Shop via email at [shop@wildcare.org.au](mailto:shop@wildcare.org.au) and are also available for purchase at some workshops.

## Wildcare Facebook Pages

Wildcare now has several closed Facebook pages to help with networking between members.

- Wildcare Hotline Volunteers – Closed page for Wildcare volunteers that man the emergency hotline. This has been invaluable for disseminating urgent hotline updates and sharing interesting and funny stories.

- WildMammals – Closed page for members with a Wildcare Permit Endorsement. Initially the proposal was for this to be specifically for possums but we ended up opening it for all mammal species as many aspects of rehabilitation are similar for all species of mammals. This has been a fantastic opportunity for mammal carers to share information and get to know each other better.

- WildReps & Frogs – Another closed page specifically for those volunteers with Wildcare Permit Endorsements that like our scaly and slippery wildlife species.

If any Wildcare Permit members are having trouble finding the Facebook pages, please email [enquiries@wildcare.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wildcare.org.au) and we will point you in the right direction.

If there is enough interest, we will shortly start up a closed Bird Facebook page for bird carers.

## Have you seen the new Wildcare series of wildlife brochures?

Thanks to the Logan City Council's EnviroGrant program, we have developed and printed a series of four brochures on wildlife topics. Copies of the brochures can be obtained through Wildcare and we encourage our rescuers to distribute these when appropriate.

If you haven't seen them, check them out on the Wildcare website at [wildcare.org.au/carers-resources/](http://wildcare.org.au/carers-resources/)

## Wildcare Equipment on Loan

Do you have items on loan from Wildcare? If so, please remember that these items are signed out to you personally. Please do not transfer the item to another member without letting the Wildcare Treasurer know so that we can update the Wildcare Asset Register and have an updated Equipment Agreement signed.

## Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) – Save the Date

Put the date in your diary now - **31st May 2015**

This is a great event organized by the Logan City Council.

To keep up to date with Festival, head over to the LEAF Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/LEAFevent](http://www.facebook.com/LEAFevent). Wildcare is hoping to attend this year with a display – if you are able to help for a few hours on the 31st May, please email us at [talks@wildcare.org.au](mailto:talks@wildcare.org.au)



# Wildcare Risk Management System *By Karen Scott & Melinda Brennan*

**After many months of developing and reviewing our draft Safety Management Manual (SMM), I am pleased to say that we have now finalized the Manual. A copy of the final document has been emailed to all members and hard copies are available upon request.**

This has been a very important project for Wildcare and it would not have been possible without the contribution of those members who took the time to review the manual and contributed towards perfecting it. On behalf of the Committee and our Safety Officer, I would like to particularly thank David Zammit and Cecile Espigole for taking the time to consider the contents thoroughly and for providing constructive improvements. Thank you also to our newly appointed Safety Officer, Melinda Brennan, whose expertise has made this possible.

The SMM has now been incorporated into our Volunteer Manual and all members are now bound by the provisions of the Manual. Please ensure that you have read through the Manual carefully and understand your obligations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Safety Officer (Melinda Brennan Email: melindabrennan@hotmail.com) or the Wildcare Committee via email at enquiries@wildcare.org.au.

Another Manual? Why Wildcare has a Safety Management Manual (Melinda Brennan)

## **So what is the Wildcare Safety Manual?**

It is a document, which allows Wildcare to be proactive in identifying hazards and managing the risks to our members, to Wildcare as an organization and to the public. Many of you may have seen similar manuals and procedures in some form in other organizations and workplaces. These are legal documents and are now required in almost all workplaces. Our Manual has been developed in accordance with Conservation Australia's In Safe Hands Toolkit.

**Why does Wildcare need a Safety Management Manual?**  
The obvious answer is that we want to keep our members safe. In addition we need to keep the public safe when we conduct our activities.

Other less obvious reasons include:

- Keep up with changing activities and identifying new hazards
- Provide a means for managing safe behaviours
- Provide a means to address bullying and harassment
- Provide a means for reporting and managing safety incidents and injuries

- Provide a means for investigating incidents and injuries and making changes to procedures to reduce the chance of reoccurrence
- Being eligible for Government or Council grants. A number of these are now asking for Risk Management Plans. Wildcare now has a Risk Management Plan and Risk Register for our activities.

## **The manual is large, what do I really need to know?**

Our Safety Manual is the key means by which Wildcare communicates the organization's approach to safety as a whole. Safety is not an add-on, instead must be integrated into the way we operate.

In simple terms, as a member you are responsible for making safe decisions and considering your own limitations. The manual provides guidance to help you do this. In addition we want you to call or email myself or Karen if you ever have any concerns related to safety.

## **These are the contents covered in our Safety Management Manual:**

1. Safety Policy – Wildcare's statement of commitment to safety and also the requirement for volunteers to be responsible for their own safety and the safety of others with whom they work.
2. General Safety Management – outlines the means by which Wildcare manages safety. This includes the processes for hazard identification, risk management, harassment and bullying, emergency response planning, volunteer responsibilities with regards to their own limitations, lone rescuer procedures.
3. Work Site Safety – Provides key information for members for the general safety requirements for the activities undertaken in Wildcare.
4. Motor Vehicle and Road Safety – Outlines requirements for our members when operating vehicles during Wildcare related activities.
5. First Aid – General first aid information.
6. Activity Records and Reporting – Outlines the forms and processes Wildcare members must use for managing and providing feedback on projects and reporting injuries and incidents.





## Wildcare Risk Management System

*Continued*

7. Tools and Appliances – Safety with hand tools for those who use them.

8. Specific Activities – Safety requirements for specific activities such as general and night rescues, working at heights, ladders, transporting wildlife, wire entanglement, working near roads, snakes, etc.

### **What do Team leaders on activities such as large-scale rescues or promotional activities need to know?**

Team leaders in these activities need to have a copy of the risk assessment for the activity along with the related forms. Some of the activities have already been completed so it will be just a matter of assessing to see if there are additional unidentified hazards, recording these and following the briefing guide. The other forms are self-explanatory.

Please contact me and I am happy to guide you through the forms. Once you know how, it is very straightforward and will provide a simple structure for maintaining safety and communication in a group activity.

### **What is the background of Mel Brennan?**

I have a varied work history with 20 years in safety related roles and post-graduate qualifications in Safety Management Systems. My current employment includes consulting for safety management, safety and investigation training. I am also a Cert IV Vet nurse and volunteer on the Wildcare hotline.

If anyone has any questions regarding the Safety Management Manual or Safety in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Robyn Cox's 'Super Dog' Toby joined thousands of Gold Coast locals at the "Grand Theft Wavebreak" rally, calling on the government to save The Spit from the proposed inappropriate development. The gentleman in the photo asked Robyn if he could have his photo taken with Toby. When not engaged in a multitude of community activities Robyn is a wildlife rescuer and possum carer par excellence.

# Coordinator Reports

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## POSSUMS - Gold Coast

*By Natalie Rasmussen*

**With the beautiful rain that we have been so blessed with of late, fungi is in abundance. This is very exciting news for our possums, as it is another important component of their diet.**

One morning I found a lovely little group of mushrooms sprouting out of a hollow in my aviary and that evening my short-eared possums were greedily chomping down every last one! It's lovely to watch them enjoying some of the food groups for which they would be foraging, if out in the wild. So why not treat your possums to some fungi while we are lucky enough to have it flourishing.

The rain has also given the vegetation a real boost and the flushes of new green growth on all of our native plants means there really is no excuse for not be collecting large amounts of leaf for the wildlife we have in care. Ensure that you cut correctly so as not to damage the plant.

It is very obvious when carers have been feeding their possums in care the correct diet for the species, for brushtails, that is a selection of good quality native vegetation, insects and fungi, as the possums' coats are beautiful, they have a wonderful smell and their eyes are clear and sparkling. As time has gone by I have gained a very keen eye for the animals that may not be getting exactly what they should be in care. Not only are their coats patchy, but they have a different look about them, their faces are different as is their smell.

These little creatures don't have a choice. They are contained in aviaries and rely on the food we provide. We are their carers, so please give them the options they deserve to thrive while in care and to survive and thrive on release. After all, the reason we are carers is to give them the best second chance that we possibly can.

## What's on the menu tonight? Fungi?

*by Robyn Braniff*

Fungi are proliferating at the moment and the possums are loving it, so if you haven't collected some for your possums in care, give them a treat while the bounty lasts.





# Coordinator Reports

## POSSUMS - From the Logan Possum Carers' Support Group

*By Tammy Allison*

Wishing everybody a very Happy New Year and hoping you all had a restful Christmas.

We had a lovely get together down at Eleanor's on the 16th November 2014, and will try to organize another one early in the New Year. If anyone would like to suggest a time, please don't hesitate to contact Tammy or myself and we will start the ball rolling.

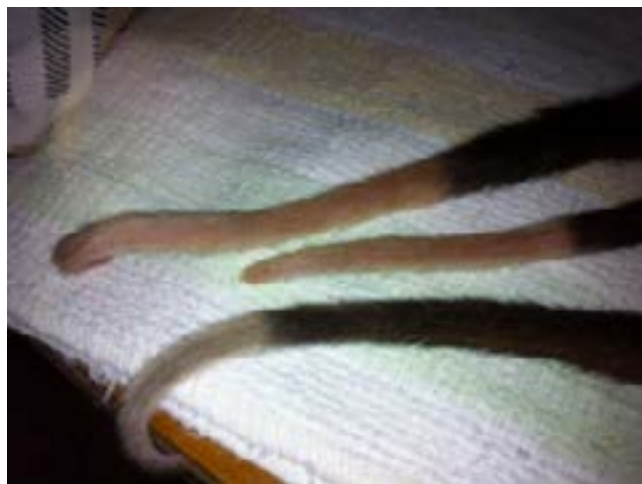
### Something of interest.

Pictured above is a very useful way to tell our little ringtails apart. David (Socksie) Quinn has come up with the idea of noting the length of the white on their little tails. It could be white, brown or pink but, if you take notice, you will see the difference. This makes it so much easier to tell them apart, when they are all together in a crèche of five or six and, if they are asleep, just picking up the end of their tails won't disturb the others. This way we don't have to use the fingernail polish.

We have had quite a few ringtail crèches that have needed pre-release/release cages; however finding places for these groups over the Christmas season has not been easy. Many of our carers are at their maximum, and we imagine other

groups are in the same predicament. We are hoping that the New Year will bring fewer road accidents and wild storms, so that there will be fewer animals requiring care.

A very big thank you to all of our great carers who have supported me and continue to do so. We are looking forward to another get together around March and hope everyone can make it. Please let us know if you would like to join us and we can let you know the time and place for the morning tea.



## KOALAS

*By Karen Scott*

The past few months have been exceptionally busy for koala rescuers around South-east Queensland. On the Gold Coast alone, over 70 koalas were rescued between October and December, mostly from the southern suburbs of Elanora, Currumbin and Tallebudgera. This has been very upsetting for our rescuers, as many of them have been in very poor health and beyond treatment.

On a brighter note, we have had a few success stories where koalas have been returned to their natural habitat for release, following care. One such lucky little girl was "Pink Sherbert" who was found in a heavy industrial area at Burleigh Heads with no habitat in sight. After a two-week stay in care, she was keen to be released and is now residing in a beautiful new home, well away from trucks and factories.



*Photos – Tracy Willis*



## Coordinator Reports

### BANDICOOTS AND SMALL MAMMALS

*by Naomi O'Brien*

**With the prolonged dry weather in Brisbane in the lead up to Christmas a greater number of adult bandicoots came in to care.**

From my records, 40% of adult bandicoots were near drownings, which highlights the importance of providing a safe water source for our wildlife in hot, dry periods and also the need to ensure that they have a means of getting out of a swimming pool, should they have the misfortune to fall in. Of the remaining 60%, 40% were hit by cars and 20% were cat attacks.

It was a real treat for me to nurse Morpheus back to health. He is a Northern Brown bandicoot, weighed in at 1.465kgs and is the largest bandicoot I've had in care.

Mid December brought the usual rush of orphaned Yellow-footed Antechinus (small marsupials). This year we received 19 babies in 24 hours, from only 2 litters. These babies were between 2 and 4 grams and required a small team of carers to get them through to release. This process included a bit of sleep deprivation, but it is short lived and very rewarding.

We have also had a couple of Grassland Melomys (native rodents) this season. One was successfully released, while the other is still in care but due to be released back on Stradbroke Island in the next few weeks.

Thank you to the dedicated carers who assisted over the Christmas rush period, I could not have survived without you. It can be very intense, but also very rewarding.

Are you interested in caring for our small mammals?

They might just change your life!





## Possum boxes, hot weather and other considerations *By Eleanor Hanger*

**It is common practice now to release a possum with a box, but have you given any thought to the materials from which it is made and where you place the box.**

### Some points to consider:

A good quality marine ply will last a long time and with the entrance hole, and drainage holes in the bottom should have reasonable ventilation and provide a measure of insulation from the heat.

The use of wire, as a ladder on the inside of the box, is not recommended. Either attach a couple of strips of wood, or chisel out a few horizontal slots to aid the animal in leaving the box, if the ply/wood is too smooth.

Before installing the box in the tree check the position you have selected over a number of days (also consider the position of the sun at different times of the year) to ensure that it is not exposed to full sun particularly through the heat of the day. You don't want your possum to be forced to leave the box during the day because it has overheated. Other considerations:

Check the direction of the prevailing winds and rain and face the entrance hole away from this.

Place the box with the entrance side on to the trunk, to allow the animal a speedy exit and entrance to the box, hopefully minimizing the chance of predation.

Choose an area that is well vegetated, to give some degree of cover to the arriving and departing animal. Of course, what was a well vegetated position can become quite exposed in time, if you install the box in a Eucalypt forest, as you can see in the photo below.

Make sure the design of the box and the entrance hole are suitable for the animal for which the box is being made. Check your boxes regularly and, if not occupied, clean or make repairs as necessary.

Nest boxes for wildlife: A Practical Guide by Alan and Stacy Franks is a very good reference book.

Wildcare Australia has a design for a Brushtail possum box on its website.

Possum boxes for a dry position in an aviary can be made of a less expensive ply or other wood product.





# The Purple Poppy

By Ailsa Watson

How many reading this article are aware of the meaning of – or the existence of – a purple poppy which is in remembrance of animals at war. The red poppy is for the fallen, the white is for peace.



The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) Dickin Medal was an initiative of Maria Dickin CBE in 1943, to honour the work of animals in war. It is a bronze medallion bearing the words "For Gallantry" and "We Also Serve". It is awarded to animals that have displayed conspicuous gallantry or devotion to duty, while serving or associated with any branch of the Armed Forces or Civil Defence Units. The medal is commonly referred to as the "the animals' Victoria Cross" – The Victoria Cross Trust oppose this association with the VC.

In April 2014 the animals who served in Australia's war efforts were recognised at a new event at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Hundreds of people attended the all-day event to pay tribute to the wartime animals. This event showcased the contribution of the Australian light horse in World War 1, pack animals such as donkeys at Gallipoli, carrier pigeons at Kokoda and detection dogs in more recent conflicts. Because of the interest generated by this event the Australian War Memorial is considering whether to repeat it annually.

Much has been attributed to the horses of World War 1, but a lot is owed to the pigeons. The 'Carrier Service' as it was known was led by pre-war pigeon fancier Lieutenant Colonel A.H. Osman and was run entirely by volunteers. Working class British men bred the pigeons and in 1916 alone, 20,000 pigeons were acquired. They had small canisters fitted to their legs to carry messages from the units to the command centre.

An Australian Pigeon Section was sent to Port Moresby in December 1942 to support operations on the Kokoda Trail. The pigeons were trained to carry a message up to 193 km at an average speed of 45 km per hour. They were particularly useful in emergency situations when no other method of communication was available. The bodies of two Dickin Medal winners were returned to Australia for display at the War Memorial. The Historical Village at Caboolture honours the pigeons that saved many soldiers' lives in war. This is the home to the South Pacific Rim's only War Pigeon Memorial.

Bees were some of the more unusual animals used in war. The ancient Greeks, Romans and other civilisations used

these insects as tiny weapons to deter enemy forces from occupying an area. They also used them in siege warfare. Hives were catapulted over walls. On hitting the ground they burst open releasing a swarm of angry stinging animals, which took their displeasure out on the nearest victim.

Dogs have been used in war over the centuries and the German army had such high regard for their messenger dogs that during W.W.1 they came up with a gas mask/respirator made of many different materials, including coarsely woven paper and fabric blend fibre. The mask had no gas canister, but may have been soaked in a chemical to give added protection.

Military training schools for dogs had been established in Sweden, Holland and Italy. France and Belgium had dog carts for supplies and ammunition. Germany had been buying suitable breeds of dogs from Britain and had 6,000 ready to serve. Sentry dogs were used for their hearing and acute senses, to warn of the enemy approach. Few of these dogs received any recognition.

During World War Two, the US Army came up with what must be the most hare-brained idea of the war. They attempted to train thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats to become bombers in their own right. Each bat carried a 17-gram incendiary device specially designed for them.

It was hoped to fly B24 bombers across enemy territory from a base in Alaska, each carrying 100 bomb-shaped casings containing 40 bats, each with a timed incendiary bomb to be dropped. The casings containing the bats would be dropped at dawn at 1500 metres.

But when it came to a practical demonstration in the US, the indiscriminate bats managed to set fire, not only to the mock Japanese village but several hangars, a US Chemical factory and a General's car.

However, it was decided that the idea was worth pursuing; fortunately the war came to an end before the final testing was done.

## References:

- Allsopp, Nigel. *Animals in Combat*. New Holland Australia, 2014.
- Storey, Neil. R. *Animals in the First World War*. Shire, 2014.
- Australian War Memorial [www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/dickin/](http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/dickin/)
- Caboolture Historical Society
- Photos: 'Medal' courtesy of the Australian War Memorial, 'Purple Poppy' courtesy of Google Free Images.

## A new approach to how we maintain and care for our Trees. *By Steve Collom*

We have all witnessed the extensive clearing of trees, the catastrophic loss of habitat due to land clearing and the devastating effect that this has had, and continues to have, on wildlife. However, perhaps something that is less well recognized is the huge loss of habitat for wildlife simply from the way we trim, prune and maintain trees.



This perhaps is not as visibly obvious as extensive land clearing, but nonetheless it is having a significant impact on wildlife that relies on these habitats to survive.

I have been an arborist for many years and one primary concern that I have is that all of the training I have ever received and the training that every apprentice is still being given today is one that is solely concerned with a tree's health and structure, rather than any consideration and concern for the tree's biodiversity.

I was fortunate enough when working in England to work with a British Bat Charity, Zoos and Wildlife Sanctuaries. It was during this time my thinking was changed. I learnt many new techniques and as a consequence chose to carry out further research to successfully support a different approach to tree maintenance.

I was surprised when I moved to Australia that these techniques were almost unheard of considering there is such a large number and variety of native animals that rely on the habitat a tree provides.

Current tree pruning standards across the board in Australia state that when removing a limb of a tree the branch must be cut back to the Branch Bark Ridge (BBR). This will enable the tree to grow over the wound as fast as possible, making it virtually impossible for a hollow to be formed either by rot or wildlife.

Another standard practice when pruning a tree is to remove the deadwood back to the BBR, again the reason is to speed up the healing process of the tree. By removing the deadwood insects, small mammals and reptiles lose their shelter.

Other practices include weight reduction of limbs and leaders which is to reduce the weight of the branch by removing smaller branches off the limb in the hope it will stop the larger limb from failing. If the limb never fails a hollow or inclusion in the tree will not be formed. A further impact that results from the removal of the smaller branches is a reduction in protection from the weather for wildlife.

In many cases it is unnecessary and ultimately wasteful to follow these practices. With just a little foresight and thinking outside of the box a real difference can be made which is why I am trying to raise awareness among fellow colleagues, Arborists and the general public.

I have a small local garden and tree work company called Broadleaf and one of our specialist areas is Habitat Trees which comes

under the name Habi-Tec. This part of our company is focused on the conservation and creation of habitat.

Habi-Tec aims to have a holistic approach to tree work looking at every tree differently depending on its species, surroundings and habitat value, to create the best outcome possible for both the tree and wildlife.

Where possible if a tree is deemed unsafe it is our goal to make the tree safe without losing the whole tree but at the same time re-creating hollows in the tree. This can range from large hollows to small cracks and holes to encourage a range of wildlife from possums to insects.

We are always trying new techniques to recreate in just a few hours what takes nature many years, but can be lost in a single cut with the chainsaw.

Trees are visually beautiful and are one of our most amazing natural structures, so it is sometimes easy to care for them in a way that is solely for the benefit of the trees' aesthetics. In fact that beautiful, perfect looking tree in a park, without a single blemish on it, will probably have less significance for wildlife than the tree that has never been touched by an Arborist and is full of cracks and old unhealed wounds and dead wood.

Broadleaf understands that current standards are best practice in most cases and we will always take these into account, but at all times we will continue to view, and treat where we can, all trees in a way that gives careful consideration to both wildlife and the maintenance of their natural habitat. If we always do what we always did and we stop asking the question why, then nothing will ever change.

For more information please call 0468 399189 or

Visit [www.broadleafworks.com](http://www.broadleafworks.com)



# Grandad and Wattle

By Greg Grimmett

## The story of What What, the lost Wattle bird that was taken into care by Stradbroke Island Rescue, continues:

Your Grandmother and Caroline took very good care of me and fed me my Wombaroo  
And meal worms  
I was soon well and growing bigger and stronger every day.

### Trevor

As I got better and bigger, I moved out of the aviary and started flying about properly. What a feeling to swoop and soar through the air.

I even began to gather my own food. Meal worms are a bit like porridge. Good for you but not as tasty as flies, midges and little beetles.

One evening as I flew, I saw another human.

I flew over to say 'hello' and we had a good chat on his veranda. Can you see a swing? It was getting dark, so he went inside and I flew in too.

Your Grandfather would never let me do that. He said, "What What birds roost in trees, because you can't wear nappies and you're not house trained."

Trevor was much kinder and he let me roost on the ceiling fan all night. It was great fun. The fan went round and round very slowly just like a merry - go - round at the show.

Trevor was not very happy in the morning when he got out of bed and nearly slipped over in bird poo.

He said, "Never again What What!"

It was fun to do it once. I just loved going round and round on the fan!

### Poo

I was flying all over the place last Tuesday. I caught big green caterpillars Which taste just as yummy as scrunchons.

I had a great big feast and was feeling a bit thirsty, so I flew up to the back veranda for a drink of Wombaroo. Grandad was there – reading as usual.

I had a sip then looked around. I thought, what's that on the table? I took a big beak full.

OH NO - it was Noisy Friar bird poo!

HELP! HELP! YUCK! What to do?

I jumped on Grandad and wiped it all over his shirt. He wasn't too happy about that.

But the world still tasted of poo. It smelt of poo and even seemed to be turning poo coloured.

Quick! Down to Dudley's water bowl. I washed my mouth out over and over again. Finally I got rid of that awful poo taste.

Grandad had to change Dudley's water too.

I will never, never, never, ever again put anything in my mouth, unless I know what it is, and where it came from.

What What

(I'll be back in the next edition of Wildnews to finish my story.)







## Migrating Madness!

Every year a large number of shorebirds undertake a tremendous journey. They fly south from their arctic breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere to escape the severe winter, where temperatures can plummet to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Many of these shorebirds that breed during the brief summer in eastern Siberia, northern China or Alaska migrate to Australia or New Zealand. We welcome these wonderful birds to the coast of Queensland during the months of August or September, and they depart during late autumn (April/May).

Some birds can fly for many days, travelling several thousands of kilometres without food or rest. Others make brief stops along the way to replenish their energy reserves. When they arrive on our shores they are exhausted and starving, so they need a safe place to feed without disturbance from humans or our pets. If they are disturbed and forced to fly on they will die. Prior to departure (during our autumn) for their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere they also need to build up their energy reserves to sustain them on their long flight, so once again we must ensure that they are left undisturbed.

We can see many of these 'waders' as they are called, around the shores of Moreton Bay, for example, the Bar-tailed Godwit, which has been found to fly 10,000 kilometres across the Pacific Ocean from its Alaskan breeding grounds, and the Eastern Curlew which flies over 10,000 kilometres from eastern Siberia and northern China, but needs to stop along the way to feed.

When in Australia the waders feed on the intertidal mudflats and sandbanks on invertebrates, such as small crabs, shrimps, molluscs, worms and other small aquatic life.

As well as being disturbed when trying to feed, these birds face other problems, such as land being cleared along the coastline or reclaimed for development. This destroys their feeding grounds. The challenge for us is to try to protect the feeding grounds and thereby ensure the long term survival of our migratory visitors.

All migratory birds travel on a particular path within a broad region called a flyway. There are about 8 flyways across the world. The flyway our Australian migrating birds traverse is called the East Asian-Australasian flyway.

Join the dots to discover the flyway of the birds which migrate to Australia. Remember, this flyway is called the East Asian-Australasian flyway.



# Burleigh Joey Scouts

For many years now Wildcare Australia has had tremendous support from the Burleigh Joey Scouts and their leader Regina Kidd and it has been the practice each year for a member of Wildcare to visit the Joey Scouts to give a presentation and receive the beautiful Ringtail possum dreys the children have made.

Jasmine, Lilly and Jack Rasmussen have been the Wildcare representatives in recent years and have educated and entertained the Joey Scouts with their wonderful stories and activities, after which they have received the possum dreys on behalf of the Wildcare Ringtail possum carers.

Wildcare Australia would like to thank Regina Kidd and the Burleigh Joey Scouts for their on-going support and for the lovely dreys, which are greatly appreciated by both the orphan joeys and their carers.

We would also like to thank the Rasmussen children and their parents, Blake and Natalie, for the time and effort they put into preparing the activities and giving the presentation. They do an amazing job and are truly inspiring.



## Monthly Mission: By Jasmine, Lilly and Jack Rasmussen

Make sure you do your best to help our migratory birds by not disturbing them. Ways to do this include not driving along the beaches or fishing/walking amongst the shrubs on the coastline. Make sure you pick up any litter you find on the beach and refrain from using pest baits, poisons and toxic chemicals that could wash into our waters.

# Grants

As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the generous support of the community as well as the funding opportunities provided by local councils and private businesses and corporations. Wildcare kindly acknowledges the following councils, businesses and individuals who have provided essential support for our volunteer work. .



**REDLAND CITY COUNCIL** - In 2014, Redland City Council provided funding totaling \$9,970 through their Community Grants Program to help the wildlife on North Stradbroke Island. This funding allowed the purchase of rescue equipment, such as rescue cages for mammals and birds, reptile rescue equipment, koala rescue equipment, safety equipment such as nets, torches and safety vests, binoculars, as well as veterinary equipment and consumables to enable wildlife to be triaged, assessed and treated on the Island.



**CITY OF GOLD COAST** - Wildcare was successful in its 2014 application for funding from the Council's Community Grants Program to the value of \$5,000. The funding helped with the ongoing expenses relating to our emergency hotline, and the ever increasing costs associated with responding to critically injured wildlife.



**QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION** - Funding has been approved for \$4,450 for the purchase of koala rehabilitation equipment and another koala trap for the Logan, Brisbane and Redland regions.



**LOGAN CITY COUNCIL** - Funding of \$5,000 was received through Council's EnviroGrant Program to develop and print our new wildlife series of brochures on such topics as Wildlife and Pets, Homes for Wildlife, Feeding Wildlife and Helping Native Baby Birds. Funding was also used to print light-weight display banners for use at displays and expos.



**NOOSA CITY COUNCIL** - Wildcare was successful in obtaining funding to the extent of \$710 through Council's Community Grants Program. These funds were used to assist with the high costs associated with providing a trauma response service to critically injured wildlife that require euthanasing.



**STOCKLAND** - Wildcare was successful in obtaining funding of \$1,000 through the Stockland Residential Community Grant program. These funds are to be used to print more of our wildlife series of brochures which will be distributed throughout the Gold Coast region.



**PET CITY MT GRAVATT - 2014 REPTECON** - The staff at Pet City has supported the work of the Wildcare volunteers for many years now, through their store at Mt Gravatt and as the beneficiary of proceeds from the Reptecon events. Their continued support is much appreciated.

**JOEY POUCHES** - Several months ago, we put out a call to the community asking for cotton pouches for orphaned joeys. We have received beautifully sewn pouches from a number of people over recent months and these have been distributed to some of our volunteers. On behalf of our volunteers (and our little joeys), we would like to thank you for taking the time to create a warm and loving place into which our little ones can snuggle.



## Noosa Shire Council assists with Trauma Care Activities in the Noosa Area.

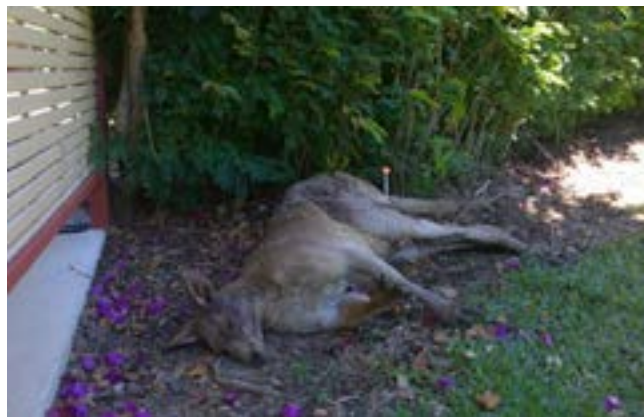
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In the 2014 / 2015 financial year Noosa Shire Council has assisted Wildcare Australia's Trauma Care Service in the Noosa Hinterland and surrounds by funding the cost of anaesthetic, sedative and euthanasia drugs in addition to the replacement of reusable darts for our existing Tranquilliser Blow Dart.

This service and Noosa Council's support for it is invaluable, given the absence in the region of after-hours veterinary support for in-field wildlife trauma cases, particularly for large wildlife such as adult kangaroos and wallabies.

Wildcare's Trauma Care Service in the Noosa Hinterland and surrounds primarily deals with macropod injury and disease cases, but also commonly assists any wildlife species with sedation for transport for veterinary attention and, where necessary, with humane euthanasia.

Photo below is of a large adult male Eastern Grey Kangaroo, one of many requiring attention in the Noosa Hinterland during late 2014. This adult male (>70kg) was tranquilised and humanely euthanased after he was irreparably injured, but still mobile, after being hit by a car several days earlier.



# a voice for the environment.

### Gecko's mission:

To actively promote, conserve and restore the natural environment and improve the built environment of the Gold Coast region in partnership with our member groups and the wider community.

**Become a member today.**



## Gecko

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## Thank you!



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The Pines Shopping Centre

### TO THE FOLLOWING VETS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND TREATMENT OF OUR WILDLIFE

ALBERT STREET VET CLINIC Beaudesert 5541 1233	GYMPIE & DISTRICT VETERINARY SERVICES Gympie 5482 2488 Tin Can Bay 5486 4666
ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE St Lucia 3365 2110	KENILWORTH VET CLINIC Kenilworth 5472 3085
ANIMAL EMERGENCY SERVICE Carrara 5559 1599 Underwood 3841 7011	MANLY ROAD VET HOSPITAL Manly 3396 9733
AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL Beerwah 5436 2097	MT. TAMBORINE VET SURGERY 5545 2422
CURRUMBIN VALLEY VET SERVICES PETER WILSON Currumbin 5533 0381	NOOSA VETERINARY SURGERY Tewantin 5449 7522
CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL Currumbin 5534 0813	TOOWONG FAMILY VET Toowong 3613 9644
DR. BRIAN PERRERS Southport 5591 2246	TUGUN VETERINARY SURGERY Tugun 5534 1928
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GREENCROSS Burleigh Waters 5520 6820 Helensvale 5573 3355 Mudgeeraba 5530 5555 Nerang 5596 4899 Oxenford 5573 2670 Robina 5593 0300 Southport 5531 2573	WEST CHERMSIDE VET CLINIC Stafford Heights 3359 0777

Note: UQ Small Animal Clinic St. Lucia has now moved to the UQ Gattton Campus.