

Wildlife News



Issue 147 July - August 2017 The last bi-monthly edition!

Osprey Release

Story and pictures by: Wendy L



Osprey Release



I collected the osprey from Seabird Rescue after they found her near the Ramada Hotel in Ballina last month.

She was exhausted, unable to fly, appeared concussed and was a fair bit underweight for a female. She was starving. After getting her home and chopping up mullet into pieces (she was too weak to grasp and tear herself) she had a number of small but frequent meals. I was hugely relieved - so many ospreys are difficult to get eating.

After two weeks she had put on 403gms. I kept

her for another two weeks to increase her weight, strength and agility. She was then flying well and became very good at doing vertical takeoffs - lovely to watch!

She was released close to where she was found and flew strongly towards the Ramada despite being given the choice to fly in any direction as there was no wind at all. She knew where she wanted to go.

Wendy

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Email: nrwc@iinet.net.au

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NRWC Inc.



NRWC would like to welcome these new members into the fold and hope that you enjoy your time with us and the animals.

*Ashley McG,
Barb D,
Callum T.*

Another Storm Victim

Article and picture by Cecilia M



Meet little Marty. Highly unusual for this time of year, but yes, Marty is a juvenile rainbow lorikeet. Having hatched so late in the season was the least of his concerns. As many are aware of the devastating storms that effected the Northern Rivers recently, especially places like Lismore, it has been fantastic to see our communities pull together to lend a helping hand restoring people's homes, businesses and lives in general. This especially extends to members of public who have not forgotten to help rescue our native wildlife, whose homes were also destroyed beyond repair by the storms.

In Ballina, there was a palm tree and out of the top grew a not so eco-friendly Umbrella tree. Marty's parents decided that the layers in between would make a perfect spot, naturally sheltered from the elements, to build their nest. Unfortunately the storm that hit Ballina on the night of Thursday 30th March, took the top of the Palm tree clean off and sent it crashing to the ground below.

The next morning the residents began their clean up, clearing the debris from the storm. In amongst all that wreckage, to their surprise, was a baby Rainbow Lorikeet, black beaked with only a portion of his flight feathers, squawking and snapping, obviously frightened and alone. He was quickly bundled up and taken to the nearest vet for examination.

After being given a clean bill of health, little Marty has begun his road to recovery. Over the past few weeks, his patchwork of feathers have grown through, his beak is beginning to change colour, to that brilliant signature orange. He is eating well and making friends with the hundreds of Rainbow Lorikeets that frequent the Byron Bay area. He is slowly learning how to eat delicious Grevillea and his flight is improving everyday. He has outgrown two cages and is now ready to get some serious practice in a flight aviary. It won't be long now for his release back into the wild where he belongs and I'm sure he'll be wary of palm trees in the years to come.

Cecilia

ALDI and Boot-market Fundraisers

By: Pam M (ALDI), Joe A (LCBM)

Thank you to ALDI at Goonellabah for offering our group the opportunity of holding their first ever sausage sizzle on Saturday 20 May to coincide with the launch of their ski sale catalogue. Though not as busy as the usual Bunnings sizzles, we never the less managed to make **\$377.00** profit – not bad considering we were only cooking from 7.30 to 1.30pm.

We had to supply our own tables, gazebo and BBQ and I would like to thank my friends Alison and Rochelle who got up in the early hours, hitched up the trailer and drove everything to ALDI and helped set up. A big thank you also to Jo and Brendan who came from the other side of Kyogle for the early start and stayed all day to help. And last, but by no means least, thank you to my usual band of sizzlers (Rowan, Rolf, Kay and Marcie) for offers of help, staffing the BBQ and chopping onions.

I have followed up with the ALDI Store Manager and they were happy with the day. They will be looking at the possibility of future sausage sizzles.

We have been lucky enough to get a date in the July – December 2017 Bunnings Sausage Sizzle draw – **Sunday 5 November**. I will be emailing closer to the date! - Pam



I would like to start by thanking all the volunteers that came out for a couple of hours Sunday the 21st of May, to shake buckets for a good cause with a special thanks to Rowan and Pam who helped at the sausage sizzle the day before. Thanks to all volunteers Martha, Aimee, Cecilia, Jackie, Soli, Kerry-Anne, Pam, Lorraine, Wendy, Nat, Kay, Sarah, Jenny and thanks to Marnie for booking us in every year. We collected **\$958.00**.

As per usual the under cover car park at Lismore Square was host to our scene. It was a dry, sunny warm Autumn morning and a keen observer might say that the locals moved with a spring in their step. As the day warmed the friendly individuals formed small tight beneficial groups,

which with the formation of small groups of individuals, in conjunction with the cold concrete absorbing the hot sun, and the food wagons, with cuisine from all civilisations created a pungent, almost edible atmosphere.

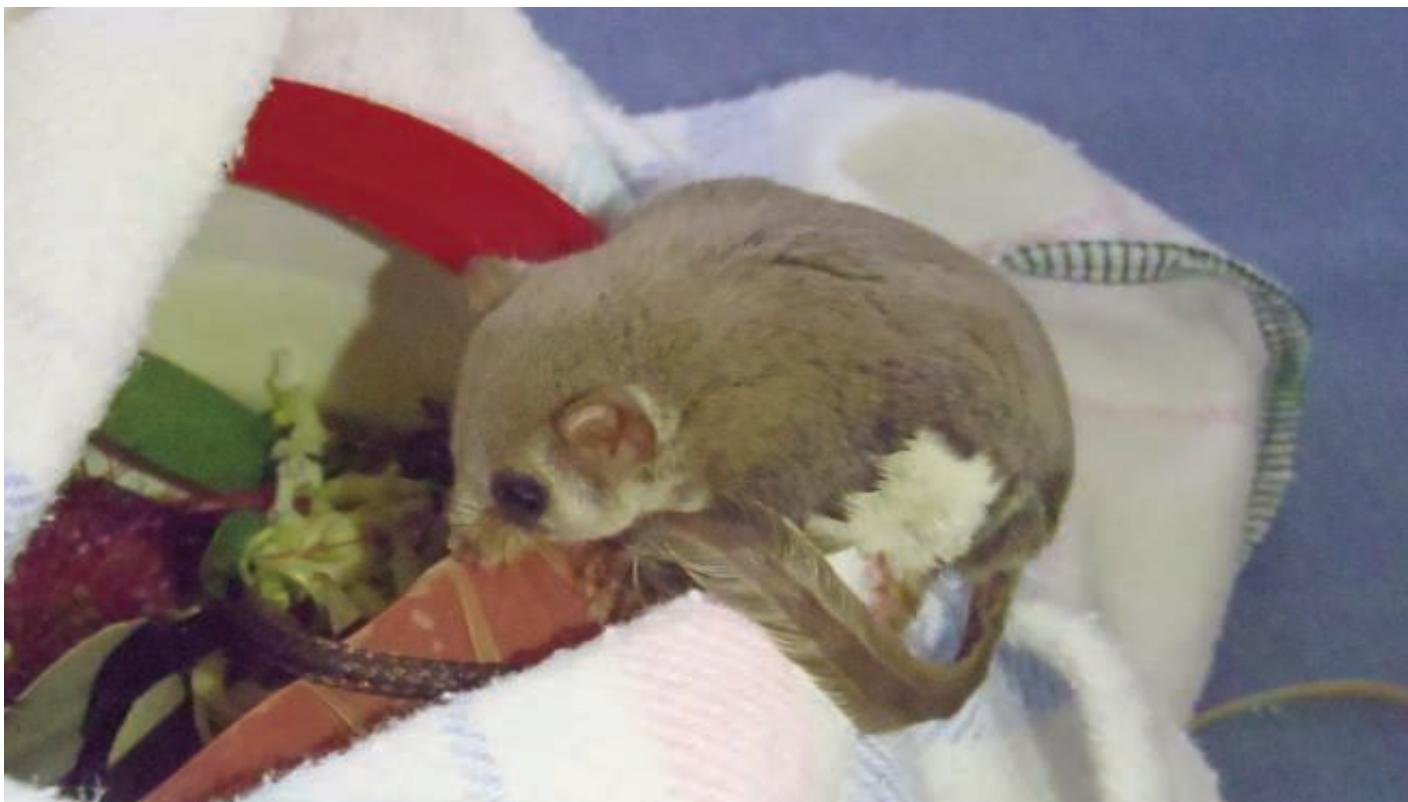
Said individuals become even more relaxed and chatty, at which point overcome with generosity and heavy pockets, the 'Lismorians' then proceeded to fill our strategically placed buckets with much needed and much appreciated donations. The chitter-chatter and jovial banter became so loud amongst the small groups of homo-sapiens, focus becomes hard to maintain. This is when the keen observer is rewarded for their butt-clenching resolve, and the small groups begin absorbing, and merging into one another, collecting and buying as they go, small to medium trinkets and bric-a-brac. It's important to note at this point, the trinkets purchased hold very little value or interest to the purchaser, but seem to represent the individuals fierce resolve at getting something seemingly useless to the untrained eye, for very little money or next to free. Previous observers have noted; trinkets are collected to adorn themselves and their abodes, undoubtedly to increase their chances of success in forging and strengthening new and old bonds.

At this point our volunteers' wrists and elbows are starting to give out due to the generous and continuous flow of donations with the homosapiens forming great flocks of undulating locals, ebbing and flowing and giving so generously. And before ones eyes the flocks become schools, and life brings another dimension to the table for art to forge. At this point our keen observer may note the humdrum of the spectacle has reached its crescendo, and then as quickly as it started it is finished. The homosapiens dissipate without a trace. They say there is safety in numbers, this is undoubtedly true, but what our keen volunteers and observers witnessed that Sunday in May, is that there is also great generosity in numbers too. Thanks Lismore! - Joe.



Harry Feathertail

Story and picture by jenny S



In early March this year, a tree lopper was working in the Wilsons Creek area, near Mullumbimby, when a branch fell and a little fur ball bounced out of a hole in the log. As it hit the ground it was accidentally kicked by another worker. Quick-thinking Greg realised that this was some sort of native creature and picked up the little fellow in time. He then rang our hotline and reported the incident. He was able to take it to Keen St Vet on his way home to Lismore. This little feather tail glider, apart from being rather stressed, was relatively uninjured so able to come into care.

He weighed in at 11.4gms when I picked him up from the vets and took him home. Anyone, who has ever rescued one of these little gliders or seen one, up-close, would fall in love with them as they have the cutest tiny faces and big bright eyes relative to their size, not to mention that amazing tail.

During the day this one, whom I called "Willy" - after the place he was found, was quiet and sleepy so I was able to hold him for short periods of time. However at night he was very active and moved around the glass aquarium, where I had him housed, in a flash. His name was changed to Harry (Houdini) after a few escape attempts. Luckily I was able to locate him in the room and return him to his temporary home.

I have only had one or two other feather gliders come into care with me over the years and have always tried to keep them for only a short time. They become easily stressed when in care and need to be back out with their family groups as soon as possible. He seemed to enjoy the mix of soft fruit, cereal and high protein mix I offered him as well as the native tips and flowers.

After a few days I considered how to return him back to Wilsons Creek but the rainy weather persisted and so he stayed longer. A plan was devised to get him to Cecilia at Byron Bay who was willing to take him back to his home around dusk, the best time for release. We met on Booyong Road and so he went off to spend a short time at Byron. Then the flooding rain came preventing any release attempt until the flood water receded. Cecilia did a good job at looking after him and eventually he was returned to his area.

He would have had a few tales to tell his mates in the tree tops.

Jenny

Last Bi-monthly Edition

This edition of Wildlife News marks another change in the journey of the organisation. The committee decided at their last meeting to change the frequency of publication to quarterly and to align it with the natural seasons. As Kay has stated in her Committee Report, this edition will be the last bi-monthly one.

The next edition will be Spring of 2017 covering the months September, October and November. Deadline for stories and submissions remains the 15th of the month prior to publication (15th August for the next one) and distribution remains the same.

I hope to have the next edition in your email in-boxes by the end of August with the post edition following shortly thereafter for the few that still get a hard-copy.

Rowan

NWC Grants Now Open



Announcing the opening of the 2017-2018 wildlife rehabilitator grants program, NSW Chair, Audrey Koosmen said "How pleased my committee and I are that Representatives and Alternates present at the NWC May General Meeting voted to increase both the maximum grant amount and to double the total Grant Budget for 2017 Grant applications". Mrs. Koosmen added that this "is an acknowledgment of the pivotal role played by so many wildlife rehabilitators in NSW and recognition of the high costs incurred by individuals in their important work with rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned fauna".

The 2017 grant budget totals \$10,000 and grant applications in amounts from \$500 to \$2000 will be accepted for rehabilitation enclosure and equipment projects. To be eligible for a Grant applicants must:

- Have 2 or more years rehabilitation experience
- Be authorised under a NPWS licensed rehabilitation group or be an independent general licensee (IGL)
- Have their application endorsed by their licensed group management committee (in the case of a group member)
- Lodge application no later than 5pm on Sunday 13 August 2017

All grant applications will be assessed on the criteria Need, Excellence and Value for Money and full details including the Grant Guidelines and Application form should be downloaded from www.nwc.org.au

NWC Grants Guidelines 2017-2018 and NWC_Wildlife_Carer_Grant_Application_Form

Only one Grant may be allocated to one Licence Holder (a licensed group or IGL), however more than one application endorsed by an individual group will be accepted.

All eligible applications will be presented to the NWC Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 27 August for voting by secret ballot. NWC encourages eligible authorised wildlife rehabilitators to apply.

Enquiries to secretary@nwc.org.au

Forthcoming Training

By Kate G.

May was a busy month for NRWC training, with 17 members attending *Introduction to Echidnas* and 10 for *Raising Juvenile Possums*. Thanks to Chrisy for another two informative and entertaining days and to Cheryl and anyone else who contributed to the morning tea and Cheryl again and Valerie, for helping out on the desk with people signing in and purchasing equipment.

Our second and final ***Introductory Training Day*** for 2017 will be held on **Sunday 30th July** in Lismore. I will shortly email out a poster advertising the event and asking our members to help distribute it, by posting it at your local shop, garage, community centre etc. If someone in your life - perhaps a friend or colleague, has expressed interest in wildlife caring, you might let them know as well. Your assistance in helping to spread the word is important and appreciated. The cost is only \$35 including NRWC membership, morning tea and course materials.

Following hot on the heels of this, will be *Introduction to Caring for Native Birds*, on **Sunday 27 August**, also at Lismore. This is really useful training, because so many of our rescues are birds. The course covers rescue and transport of birds, identification, common reasons they come into care, assessment and examination, first aid techniques and longer term care requirements. The cost is \$15, including morning tea and course materials, which I think you'll have to agree is great value.

These training days are a great opportunity, not just to learn new skills, but also to make connections with and get to know your fellow carers.

Inquiries or bookings to Kate training@wildlifecarers.com or 6628 1866.



Grey butcherbird and scaly-breasted lorikeet. Pictures: Rowan W.

Kate

Currimbin Transport

By Rowan W.

We have a number of members that have volunteered their services as transporters to and from Currimbin Wildlife Hospital but as is the case sometimes when we need transportation no-one is available at that time. If you are able to help please contact a committee member and have your contacts added to our list. Our friends at Friends of the Koala have helped on many an occasion because unfortunately, they have needed to transport a lot of koalas this year.

There is something that we can all do to help. Many of us travel to Queensland from time to time and it would be only a minor inconvenience to stop at the Currimbin Hospital to either pick-up or drop-off an animal. So next time you are travelling north or back, please contact the Hotline or a Currimbin hospital coordinator to see if there is an animal awaiting transport.

Your help might save an animal's life.



Amazing Vets

Story and picture by: Rowan W



In my editorial last issue I mentioned an eastern brown snake that I rescued from netting in March. The amazing job that Dr Andrew at Currumbin did is worthy of special mention.

The brown snake had entered netting that was placed on the ground and had become firmly trapped. Fortunately he/she was seen and the NRWC called to help. There were no significant injuries around the neck apart from some scale abrasion and swelling had started. Snakes' necks swell rather fast when entrapped and therefore time is of the essence when dealing with this injury as they can quickly asphyxiate. The head itself was free to move a little adding some excitement to the rescue!

Snaky was an excellent patient when he/she had accepted that I was helping and did not struggle at all while I was cutting the netting except for winding the tail around an adjacent star-picket and pulling initially. I had prepared some Betadine solution in advance for the neck abrasions but this was needed for a significant skin injury on the tail. I hadn't noticed the tail until I had freed the snake but it was obvious that in its efforts to free himself/herself the snake had de-gloved a large area of skin on one side of the tail section, more than likely on the aforementioned star-picket. The musculature underneath appeared in good condition.

The snake was taken home and arrangements made to transport him/her to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital immediately.

I was now faced with the prospect that after recovery I would need to keep an eastern brown snake over winter. Not the best option for the snake either. I relayed my concerns to Currumbin and wondered if there was a better option. The answer was yes. Dr Andrew did an amazing job of stitching the skin so that the stitches were hidden and the wound was barely visible. In vet-speak this was "mono-braided continuous subcuticular horizontal mattress evertng sutures". A slow-release antibiotic was given and the snake was released next day, happy to be back home and able to find a suitable place to brumate before the cooler weather commenced. By next summer the stitches will have dissolved and the experience a distant memory.

Rowan

Barbed-wire Wildlife Danger

Article and pictures by: Wendy A



Over the years we have done many rescues of animals caught on barbed-wire fences, including flying-foxes, squirrel gliders and tawny frogmouths. But many species can be caught and entangled in barbed-wire fences, even wallabies. We have seen horrific injuries on flying-foxes; some even bite the barbs in a desperate effort to free themselves. Often the animals die on the fence before being rescued (this is especially sad when fences are adjacent to busy roads and no one reported the animal) or will need to be euthanased due to their injuries. The barbs not only pierce the skin, but the animal can become further caught in the twisted wire of the barbs, trapping their fur or membrane.

There is no need to have barbed-wire fences in suburban areas or for security, as it won't stop people from getting through and in most cases there are also alternatives to barbed-wire fences in rural areas, such as electric fences, plain wire fences or timber. If a barbed-wire fence cannot be replaced, the following can be done to reduce the likelihood of animals becoming entangled:

- Wrap shade-cloth around at least the top two strands of wire.
- Cover the wire with poly pipe or similar tubing (NRWC has a poly pipe splitter available for this).
- Increase the visibility of the fence by hanging old CDs, tie white electric fence tape or scare tape (it makes a humming noise in the breeze - available from Bunnings).

If you are called to rescue an animal from barbed-wire, make sure you take along a 'wildlife friendly fencing' brochure and provide to the member of public (either download from website below or available from the Lismore wildlife food supply) and encourage them to cover the fence, especially if next to fruiting or flowering plants if they won't remove the barbed-wire. Many

people aren't aware that barbed-wire fences can kill and would be thankful to know that there are alternatives to barbed-wire fences available.

Please remember to never cut an animal, only the fence (if necessary). You will need to have approval from the landowner to cut the fence, and you will need to bridge the fence before cutting and mend the fence securely once it's cut. If you see any animal entangled on barbed-wire, call the hotline for rescue immediately 66281866 and remember that only vaccinated carers are to rescue flying-foxes.

For more information check out:

http://www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com/WFF/Friendly_Fencing.html



Wendy

Committee Report



Greetings to all. Although rescue calls from the public have lessened during these cooler months, the committee has been kept busy with ensuring that relevant training days continue during these quieter months. Our thanks go to Chrisy Clay for presenting those comprehensive training days and to Kate Geary for coordinating them.

Quieter months for wildlife rescues have meant more time has been able to be spent by some members at fund-raising events. During the month of May, with Pam Mitchell coordinating the Aldi BBQ, and Joe Azad the Lismore Car Boot Market, the NRWC donations and fund raising accounts were boosted. This could only have occurred with the time and effort of many of our volunteer members, and our thanks go out to all helpers. Further fund raising projects are likely in August with Paws in the Park, and the Bunnings BBQ in December. These pending events will be confirmed, and all members are invited to participate and/or assist if able.

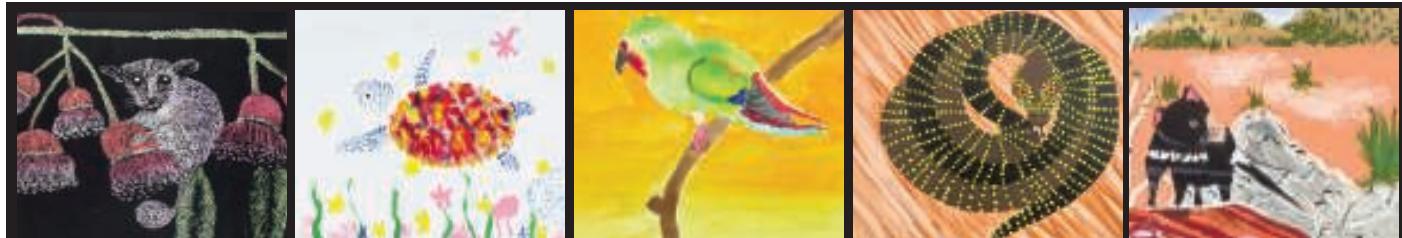
Currently, there is a vacancy on the committee for the position of Publicity Officer. If you feel that you have an interest in, or skills for this position, do contact any of the committee members for further information.

Finally, at our last committee meeting, I raised the issue of a proposal for a quarterly publication of the Newsletter. After discussion, the committee decided to support the proposal with future seasonal editions to be published in September/December/March and June. This suggestion was based on simplifying publication timelines to 4 per annum instead of 6 per annum. Subsequently, this current edition for July/August will be followed in September with the spring edition and the summer edition in December etc.

Thanks to all readers for supporting this Newsletter. And don't forget that our committee meetings are held every second month, with the next one being Monday 17th July at 6:30PM. Members are welcome to join those meetings.

Kay

Children's Art Competition



The 2017 Threatened Species Children's Art Competition will be open for entries from all primary aged children in NSW and the ACT from June 5 to August 4. The competition brings to the attention of our next generation the need to protect species of native plants and animals that are currently under enormous threat.

<http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au/>

Last year's competition was a huge success, with over 600 children participating. Images of the finalists' inspiring, creative and thought provoking artworks can be viewed at:

<http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au>
<http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au/finalists-2016.html>

This year's competition is shaping up to be even bigger. A prize giving will be held on September 7, Threatened Species Day, with a two week exhibition following.

Generous Donations

By: Sandy N



Thanks to the following people for the donations we received during the 2016-2017 financial year (up to 12/06/2017). NRWC received just over **\$10,000** from these generous people.

J. Ahrens, G. Alderson, Amber, Anonymous, K. Bent, R. Blair-Hickman, S. Carter, P. Cheeseman, J. Clowes, Cruelty Free Super, C. Drill, F. Eyre, S. Fairey, M. Fitzgerald, G. Ousher, Greg Alderson & Associates, H. Anderson, A. Hewett, L. Hunt, Joe Oram & Associates, K. Schnaedelbach, Keen Street Veterinary Clinic, M. Lawrence, W. Lawrence, Lismore Car Boot Market, C. Lonza, Luke Blackstock Plumbing, C. Marthick, WG & VJ McLeod, S. Miller, K. Moran, M. Morison, N. Langley, S. Norris, M. Northam, P. Call, A. R. Payne, J. Price, Ritchies IGA Stores, Rous Water Laboratories, N. Salter, L. Sartori, Semitones Choir Kyogle, Simon, J. Simons, L. Standing, C. Sutherland, T. Woznitza, The Garden Plate cafe, The Horse Herbalist, R. and W. Tongmar, A. Torrance, Vegan Wares, A. Wallace, J. White, N. Williams, S. Williams, L. Wood.

In 2016-2017 NRWC members also participated in fundraising activities including being charity-of-the-day at the Lismore car boot markets, BBQs at Masters, Bunnings and Aldi and the production of the 2017 NRWC calendar. These fundraising activities raised over **\$5000**. Thanks to everyone who organised and got involved in these fundraising events.

Sandy

Wildlife Quiz

By: Paul C.



1. A borough is a town or district which is an administrative unit (Oxford English Dictionary). What is the relevance of the English word borough to wildlife terminology? Clue: think homophones.
2. In caring for juvenile animals which species prefer pouches made from checked flannelette?
3. What is the meaning of the word Monotreme?
4. What is going down in the Kimberley? A) Scientists seeking the Long-beaked Echidna B) The finding of the closest living relative of the Dodo C) An extremely rare finding of two natural pearls in one pearl shell D) Camels, nudists, dogs and cars in legal tangle at Broome.
5. Mealworms are the larvae of what animal?
6. What is the name of the Koala character in The Magic Pudding?
7. What is the name of the Wombat character in The Muddle-Headed Wombat?
8. What famous Australian children's book about Australian animals was written by an author with the name of a major exotic predator?
9. Why is the Pilbara an important place for the Northern Quoll?
10. What is Australia's only carnivorous bat and largest microbat?



Happenings

By: Jenny S.

It is the quiet time at the moment for wildlife calls which gives the carers and the hotliners a break. Some shifts have had only one or two calls to deal with or even, occasionally, no calls at all. We are still helping out our friends with WIRES who ring the hotline asking for assistance with rescues even though they have a lot more members than us. It is, however a reciprocal arrangement so they are happy to help when we are unable to find rescuers.

There are still some calls coming in for birds and other animals hit by cars. The foggy mornings are not great for kangaroos and wallabies crossing and feeding near the roads. In these cases the outcome is usually not good as these guys die there or have to be euthanased. Sometimes joeys come into care as a result.

I hope those of you who attended the Echidna Training recently enjoyed it and now feel confident in handling these spiky friends. This is the season when they are about at night looking for a mate. As you may now know the males follow the female creating a line behind her. I have never witnessed this myself but it would be great to see. They also have problems with being in the wrong place and upsetting dogs at night as well as being hit on the road. We, therefore, have quite a few calls to give advice to the public on what to do. Usually it is just to bring the dog inside and leave the echidna to go its own way if not injured. Our hotliners are trained to contact Chrissy or Cheryl for all these calls.

We have a few new members on the hotline team; Nancy, Aimee and Penny. However we always need more so if anyone else has a few hours to spare and would be willing to help please contact me and we can arrange free training for you at a convenient time and place.

Thanks to all the hotliners who have helped out while I have been away taking on extra shifts.

... and Snakes on a Plane!

At present I am away in Bali and am very busy with R and R, swims and daily massages. (*And writing the Hotline Happenings - Ed*) I came upon an article in the 'Sanur Weekly'. Snakes in the Plane!

An Indian tourist was discovered at Bali Airport with a suitcase full of valuable snakes and lizards. Aviation security officers confiscated the man's suitcase during the baggage inspection process. Tens of reptiles were discovered inside the bag. There were 8 anaconda snakes, 6 monitor lizards, 7 albino pythons, 6 reticulated pythons, 3 reticulated blood pythons and 6 African Sjafana lizards. The smuggler had the 36 small reptiles concealed in a single bag separated into 21 individual plastic boxes. The man was attempting to fly from Bali to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The reptiles were taken into quarantine but there is no mention of the man being taken into custody.

I hope the poor animals were returned back to the wild and the man prosecuted.

Jenny

War on Waste

When I was younger our family used to go on camping holidays to Phillip Island in Victoria's Westernport Bay. It was an idyllic spot mainly unspoiled with just a few small towns scattered over the island with abundant wildlife; shearwater burrows, hairy echidnas (due to the cold), koalas, small penguins and a seal colony one and a half kilometres offshore from The Nobbies. As a hardened Victorian I enjoyed swimming in the cold ocean and still remember the delight of encountering a young seal that was just as fascinated with me as I was with him/her as we mimicked each other frolicking in the waves.

The seal colony is under threat. Not from predators, development or climate change but from plastic and fishing detritus. The ABC recently reported that research scientists have been coming out to Seal Rocks every two months or so, hoping to save the lives of seals entangled in rubbish and to monitor the population. It is believed that up to 300 seals are trapped by fishing line, trawler net, ribbon from balloons and all sorts of other plastic rubbish and mainly the younger seals are affected partly because of their inquisitive nature. What happens to them is the plastic will keep pushing into their skin as the animal grows and it cuts in deeper and deeper until it kills them.

Scientists state that despite numerous education campaigns about the dangers posed by marine rubbish there has been little change over the last decade despite the fact that the commercial fishing fleet has halved. Each day that they are out at the rocks, they see four seals with netting around their necks.

This does not need to be happening at all. Fishers can take their entire unwanted rubbish home and we need to not dump plastic or release balloons, they just end up in the environment and the balloon ribbon cuts into the seals skin tightly. A 'Seabin' designed by Australian surfers to clean up marinas and reduce ocean pollution may be the oceans' saviour. (<http://seabinproject.com>)

But I fear that the seals have little hope. The Victorian Government recently unveiled \$20 million in new initiatives and services to grow recreational fishing in Victoria by encouraging families to get outdoors and enjoy(?) fishing. The plan aims to increase the number of Victorian recreational fishers from about 730,000 to 1 million by "encouraging participation with enhanced fishing opportunities and facilities and giving families better opportunities to spend some quality time together outdoors."

Apparently a simple camping trip observing and appreciating nature just doesn't cut it these days.

Newsletter

Elsewhere in this edition you may have read that this is the last of the bi-monthly newsletters. The newsletter has taken many guises over the years starting as a typed and "Roneod" document (I still remember the smell of that intoxicating duplicating fluid from my school days!) posted to members by snail-mail, then as desktop publishing came of age a computer assembled newsletter taking forms as black and white and for a while, a colour printed document that was progressively sent by email. Today just a handful of members receive the hard-copy version and given the price of postage these days, the email recipients save the organisation a lot of money.

In considering the committee's decision I couldn't help but wonder if like newspapers, a newsletter is 'old hat' in these days of electronic media? Do we need a newsletter when we have a website and a Facebook site? Does anyone actually read it? I asked for feedback about the newsletter in the last mail-out and have had a fewer than a handful of responses. One of those was framed as a "Letter to the Editor" which I have happily published. The breadth of readership and their desires is impossible to gauge as surveys and questionnaires are rarely universally completed. So give it some thought and let a committee member know what you would like your newsletter to be, or whether we have one at all.

Letter to the Editor

I am writing in response to your request for feedback on Wildlife News.

Foremost to me is that WN keeps me up to date with what is happening in our group. From regular columns to the reporting of events and care and rescue stories.

Secondly WN provides members with an outlet to share our thoughts and feelings about wildlife – be it in the form of reports, photographs, drawings or verse. Personally, the publication deadlines act as a great impetus for me to sit down and mould that story into shape.

I suppose what strengthens WN in these roles is that it is timely. Looking back to when I first joined, WN has always been published and distributed before its banner date. Some of those newsletters were even distributed Christmas Day or Boxing Day which is a great effort. Pulling the newsletter together is not an easy job and you have done it well.

Another aspect is that WN is open to contributions by all members and in all forms. It published my grandson's drawings and he was very proud of that. It also published a poem of mine which was a first for me. So I think that in terms of contributions the only limit is your imagination. I do recall that on sensitive articles you have requested I seek committee approval before proceeding.

Well-done Rowan on your editorship of Wildlife News.

Paul C. Western Australia.

(Paul. I am grateful that you took the time to write and thankful for your kind comments. - Ed.)

Quiz Answers



1. Burrow is a variant of the Middle English borough. It is fascinating that these words for wildlife and human habitation are linked in this way. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/burrow>
2. The Red-necked Pademelon and Red-necked Wallaby
3. One hole (From Greek monos 'alone'.+ Greek trēma 'hole') referring to the cloaca.
<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/monotreme>
4. Well done if you had all of them! The Kimberley is a fascinating place.
5. Mealworms are the larval form of the mealworm beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*, a species of darkling beetle.
6. Bunyip Bluegum
7. Wombat
8. Possum Magic by Mem Fox.
9. The Pilbara is the last area free of Cane Toads in the range of the Northern Quoll.
10. The Ghost Bat *Macroderma gigas* with a body length of 98-118 mm, named for the extremely thin membrane of its wings that make it appear ghostly at night.



Membership Renewals

Memberships expired at the end of June!