

# Wildlife News



Issue 141 July - August 2016

## Paddy Pals

.....  
*Story and pictures by Cheryl Cochran.*



It's been quite a while since I raised any Macropods, let alone Pademelons. Paddys don't come into care that often as they spend most of their life in dense bush. Mostly joeys come into care after being found in their mothers pouch following a collision with a car.

The first joey I rescued in early March was still in its dead mother's pouch and was very lucky to be found by a woman walking her dogs at Rosebank. The little joey was a very lively 192gms and protested loudly when I removed her from the pouch. She was unharmed and still very warm so was off to a great start. She was furless so went straight into a humidicrib to keep her temperature stable. She had huge ears so Michael, my husband, named her Pixie.

Less than a week later a call for another Pademelon joey came in and this one was found with the caller's dog. I immediately thought the worst as situations with dogs and Macropods normally have a disastrous ending, but this story was very different. The caller lived on a community and had returned home from town and wasn't able to locate her dog, she finally found it under the deck with a tiny pademelon curled up to it. She called the dog out who was closely followed by the little joey who was trying to get into the dogs "pouch"!

The dog is kept in a fully enclosed area but somehow the joey had got out of its mother pouch and through the fence. Luckily the dog is a very placid and well trained "Hearing dog" who assists its owner who is hearing impaired. The joey was uninjured and in good condition weighing 343gms and able to regulate her own body temperature.

Once she settled I was able to put Pixie in the pouch with her as they always do better with company and also she kept

## Paddy Pals *Continued ...*

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Pixie warm enough so that she no longer needed artificial heat.

We called her Priya as she was and still is very precocious.

Now they have both gained lots of weight and are outside during the day, hopping in and out of their bag eating grass and exploring the veranda and outside pen. - They are inseparable.



*Cheryl*

## ! Membership Renewals Now Due!

Forms may be completed and mailed to PO Box 6439  
South Lismore NSW 2480 or fill in the membership  
form and pay securely on our website. (Save postage!)

[http://www.wildlifecarers.com/members-  
page/membership-form/](http://www.wildlifecarers.com/members-page/membership-form/)

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Wildlife News is the bi-monthly  
newsletter of the Northern Rivers Wildlife  
Carers Inc. Licensed by the Office of  
Environment and Heritage to rescue,  
rehabilitate and release native fauna.  
Licence No MWL000100243 Fundraising  
Authority CFN 14907  
PO Box 6439 South Lismore NSW 2480  
ABN 28 209 143 641

All submissions are welcome. Deadline for  
editions is the 15th of the month  
preceding publication.

Email: [nrwc@iinet.net.au](mailto:nrwc@iinet.net.au)

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# A New 2042

*Fiction (or is it?) by Paul Cheeseman*

Welcome to 2042: our 50th anniversary!

Times are a lot tougher than what they were when we were 21.

The Northern Rivers, blessed with high natural productivity, is now a region frantic with agricultural activity as we seek to produce food in the face of the challenges of climate change. Not a day goes by but that we thank those in the community who opposed CSG mining and thus preserved the viability of groundwater systems.

As well, in our region, we have made welcome climate refugees from PNG, Indonesia, our own coastline, from the South Pacific and from wider Australia.

We realised early that such a massive effort required all members of our community to share a vision and to work together in their different fashions and styles towards achieving our vision. It all boiled down to realising that everything was interconnected. We were inspired to live simply, to respect all life and to share what we have.

We included animals as part of our community. Our agricultural ecosystems need our farm animals for manure, weed control, muscle power, companionship and to convert otherwise unusable vegetation to protein such as milk and eggs but we do not grow animals solely for meat. Rather meat is an incidental boon for which some are grateful. We also respect that animals deserve lives free from fear and abuse.

Many citizens asked how we could justify the resource cost of wildlife care but many answered that not only did wildlife provide us with services such as pollination, insect control and rodent control but that to see a wild animal following its natural ways eased their hearts and minds in ways nothing else could.

Food shortages, have meant NRWC has had to be a lot more creative in sourcing food for the animals in our care. A lot of food we used previously is now used by people, eg second quality fruit was used for Flying Foxes but is now not available. One change in our caring practices is that we exercise extremely disciplined triage as there are simply not the resources to care for an animal in doubt. Similarly we consider whether we have the food available before making our commitment.

Many species have disappeared and many have changed behaviour. Flying Fox movements have become increasingly unpredictable and changeable. As a result, many of our Flying Fox carers have now adopted a nomadic lifestyle following the bats. They travel around



in their mobile homes and with portable care facilities and we call them the Grey Headed Nomads.

WIRES Northern Rivers, Friends of the Koala (FoK) and NRWC became one back in 2025. It was seen as a better option to join our mutual energies. A throw of the dice resulted in the NRWC badging being retained. The alliance has worked well with all parties bringing strong capabilities: the NRWC bringing its capacity for innovation and ability to survive on a shoestring budget, WIRES brings its strength in numbers and support infrastructure, and FoK bringing its advocacy skills and focus on habitat management.

Over the years NRWC realised that we needed to expand our focus from straightforward care to being advocates for our natural ecosystems and to realising the potential for care activities as both educational and healing opportunities. To this end we developed care centres in community centres, schools, prisons, hospitals and age care homes.

We have partnered with local Indigenous communities to both provide the opportunity for those who wished to care and also to be open to new learning on the ecology and cultural significance of our wildlife.

We have continued to pursue learning into understanding our wildlife. All of our release animals are now chipped and we can track their progress in the wild. The feedback from this allows us to adapt our caring and release methods. Our members regularly write and contribute articles on wildlife behaviour and ecology to scientific journals. Two of our members respectively are the top echidna researcher and top raptor rehabilitator in Australia.

*Continued ...*

Currumbin Wildlife Hospital has opened up a branch at Lismore as part of the SCU campus. We are proud to have three former members as trained veterinarians working at the Hospital.

NSW NPWS have now limited their land management operations to only those parks which are self-funding e.g. Kosciuszko, parks around Sydney and most of our large coastal parks. This has been mostly due to a long series of budget cuts. However the bright side is that many parks are now successfully managed by local Indigenous peoples or community groups. NRWC is responsible for the co-management of Minyon Falls. This has proven to be quite a handful for us. However we have actively sought partnerships such as with the SCU School of Engineering who undertake all infrastructure work in the park.

Nest box manufacturing has reached its pinnacle and

production volumes are such that almost every urban tree in the Northern Rivers has boxes for multiple species. Availability of nesting or shelter hollows is no longer a limiting factor for wildlife populations. As a corollary to nest box placement we also manage them to remove exotic species: animals removed from the nest-boxes are euthanased and used for food.

So since turning 21 we as part of society have been faced with the major crises of a changed climate and the social disruptions that this has created. We have had to be prepared to change our way of working and to ensure that we remain relevant both to wildlife but also to the community and especially to young people in their goals and aspirations. Happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary NRWC.

*Paul*

## Wildlife Quiz

*By: Paul Cheeseman and Rowan Wigmore*



1. A ... for an Emperor, a Gyrfalcon for a King, a ... for a Prince, a Saker for a Knight, a Merlin for a Lady; a Goshawk for a Yeoman, a Sparrowhawk for a Priest, a Musket for a Holy Water Clerk, a ... for a Knave. (Selected from the Boke of St Alabans, 1486, and a Harleian manuscript.) Fill in the missing names with one of Kestrel, Peregrine or Eagle.
2. In The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge the slaying of what wild creature brought great misfortune upon the Mariner's ship and its crew.
3. Pied in relation to birds means what? And does this have any relationship to pastry pies?
4. What bird features in the hymn "Morning has Broken" of which Cat Steven's version is most well-known?
5. Which Egyptian deity is normally depicted in his human form as having the head of an Ibis?
6. A group of Lyrebirds is called a ... a. Gaggle b. Musket c. Parliament d. Lair
7. The largest fresh-water fish found in Australia is ... a. Murray Cod b. Lungfish c. Barramundi d. Trevally
8. This very social bird is found over most of Australia, and is known by several names, including Eolophus roseicapilla (scientific name), rose-breasted cockatoo, roseate cockatoo or pink and grey cockatoo. It is however, much better known by its Aboriginal name. What is that name?
9. Echidnas are monotremes (a mammal that lays eggs instead of live birth). Name the only other monotreme.
10. My name is Aboriginal for 'tiger cat'. What am I?

*(Answers on page 11)*

# Espresso? Cappuccino? Snake?

Article by: Rowan Wigmore

Picture by Solé Herrera

When ordering a coffee it would be a little unusual to be asked “Would you like snake with that?” but this scenario could have happened.

I was asked to remove a “brown snake” from a coffee machine which has recently been delivered to premises in the industrial area of Alstonville for repair. I thought it unlikely that the snake was an eastern brown but really it was unlikely that any snake would be in a coffee machine!

The place was a small industrial area with racks of shelving, some motorcycle parts, lots of cardboard boxes, a speedboat and a workshop bench upon which sat a four-group coffee machine that would be at home in any café. The distraught staff told me that the machine was delivered by a courier that morning and when they started to remove pieces from it for repair, the snake was evident coiling behind an electronic control panel. I casually looked around but could not see any box that the machine came in.

I was given some hex-head drivers to remove the special screws holding the control panels on and there was sufficient lead length to allow me to open the panel without disconnecting any electronics. There was snaky, an adult brown tree-snake happily sleeping on some wiring above the boiler and adjacent to a large element which heats the top of the unit to keep the cups warm. Had the machine been plugged in and turned on the snake most surely would have been electrocuted. He or she was easily removed and safely tucked away in a pillow-case to resume sleeping.

I asked for the address that the machine came from so that the snake could be returned home. I was asked why it couldn't be just released “out the back” and I had to explain about territories and food sources. Strangely the address was not immediately forthcoming and both people left to go into the office, presumably to search for the address. When they emerged I was told that they had lost the address. I told them that I had to have it as the snake must be returned home and that surely it was on the consignment note when delivered or that they would

know where to send the machine when repaired. An address was duly given after another trip to the office. I thanked them and took the snake away, a little disappointed that my subtle hints for a donation went unheeded!

At home I examined snaky and he/she was in perfect health and a lovely specimen with a gentle demeanour. Getting him/her back home was the next step. Before trekking off on a 100km round journey, I entered the given address on Google Maps and the street view just showed a road with scrub on either side. It didn't look like typical brown tree-snake habitat to me. I went up and down the road using street-view and looked at the satellite picture and could see no dwellings of any description. I rang the member of the public again and queried the address. She said I would have to speak with her husband who didn't finish work until 10pm. I asked for his number but she refused to give it. Snaky would have to stay overnight.

Next day I called again and left a voice message. Four hours later I called and left another. The following day I called again leaving message number three and later when I called again my calls were rejected. This rejection followed each call again next day. For some reason they did not want to speak to me and all I wanted to do was to get the snake home.

Clearly something needed to be done and Julie Curtis helped out by taking the snake for release at her property which has a number of tree-snakes. This wasn't ideal but it was the best compromise we could come up with for the snake that had unfortunately sealed his or her fate when entering the coffee machine.

I have thought about why I wasn't able to obtain an address and can only assume that the machine came into their hands by some nefarious means or that its original source could not be traced for some reason. The outcome was not ideal but I console myself that it was better than electrocution or burns for the snake.



*A brown tree-snake similar to the one in the story*

Rowan

# A World of Apps

By: Rowan Wigmore

As Wildlife carers we may not feel helpless when encountering injured or orphaned native wildlife, but what about our friends and family? Would we also know whom to call if we were travelling outside our area? All too often help comes too late, with numerous calls made to the wrong organisation, wasting many people's time and endangering animals' lives.

Wildlife Rescue App, a free mobile phone application - the first of its kind in Australia - aims to empower people by putting them in direct contact with the nearest rescue organisation in NSW, at the touch of a button. Downloading and using this simple, yet effective App is an easy and direct way to help our native wildlife.

IFAW and the NSW Wildlife Council partnered to develop this App. The timely launch of the Wildlife Rescue App means there's now a chance of saving injured or orphaned wildlife, especially in the days and weeks after a bushfire when animals are displaced and seeking food and shelter.

The Wildlife Rescue App is available on the Apple Store and the Android Market, or by going directly to the IFAW Wildlife Rescue App website.

Alternatively you can type this URL directly on to your mobile phone's browser: [wildliferescue.ifaw.org](http://wildliferescue.ifaw.org)



Australia's Triple Zero Awareness Working Group has developed a smartphone app for iOS, Android and Windows devices to provide the caller with information about when to call Triple Zero, provide the caller with information about who to call in various non-emergency situations such as:

State Emergency Service (SES) (132 500)  
 Police Assistance Line (131 444)  
 Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)  
 Health Direct Australia (1800 022 222)  
 National Relay Service.

It also assists the caller to dial the relevant number and can **display the GPS coordinates** of the phone's location that the caller can read out to the emergency operator.

The app is free of charge and available for download from iTunes, Google Play and Windows Stores.

Remember the only way of contacting Triple Zero (000) is with a voice call—you cannot use SMS, email, instant messaging, video calling or social media to contact

emergency services via Triple Zero (000)

You should not rely on any smartphone app as your only way of requesting emergency assistance. In an emergency it is always best to call Triple Zero (000) direct.

**Important!** – if there is no mobile coverage on any network, you will not be able to reach the Emergency Call Service via a mobile phone, regardless of whether you dialled 000 or 112 (The international standard emergency number for mobile phones).

*Get ready for the busy wildlife rescue season - Download these Apps now!*

# The Time for Pigeons and Doves

By: Cheryl Cochran

Pictures: (L-R) Valerie Shields, Cheryl Cochran and Kate Geary.

The Northern Rivers area is home to a huge variety of native pigeons and doves. Winter is a time when it's normally quieter for bird carers as most species of birds breed in spring and summer. The exception is doves and pigeons that seem to have babies at any time of year. Last year we had the usual lot of juvenile white-headed pigeons in care and some injured adult topknot pigeons as well.

This year we have a huge variety from tiny brown cuckoo doves, one weighing just 68gms to a rarely seen wompoo fruit dove and a young topknot pigeon weighing in at 500gms. The wompoo flew into a gate and sustained a wing injury, while the topknot had a lucky escape from a bird of prey. A number of juvenile white-headed pigeons are in care from cat, dog and bird attacks but all have

recovered well from their injuries and will soon be released. A little bar-shouldered dove will be in care for several weeks as he lost all his tail feathers when grabbed by a dog.

This time of year many birds feed on introduced camphor laurel, particularly the larger species of pigeons, who consume huge amounts daily. I'm amazed at the different species I see feeding in the trees when I'm collecting it. I often get a strange look from passers-by when I'm chopping down branches to load into the car. Native laurels are few and far between while camphor is abundant at this time of year.

Pictures: (L-R) Top-knot pigeon, juvenile brown cuckoo dove, wompoo pigeon.



## 5-Star Snake House

By: Rowan Wigmore

A couple of newsletters ago I mentioned the very kind donation of marine plywood cut to size that Lismore Joinery Works gave me to make a snake enclosure. Here is the finished article complete with a resident python that is undergoing long-term care.

The enclosure is 1200x600x600mm, is finished in low volatile organic compounds clear waterproof paint. The doors are 5mm toughened glass cabinet doors that slide open. It has a climbing branch, basking shelf and a disposable hide. The "climate controls" are passive venting, 150watt infra-red heat lamp, 20watt heat pad for the hide box and a 22watt ultraviolet 'B' spectrum compact fluorescent lamp. These are controlled by a day/night timer with differing heat settings and 'inverter style' modulation of the heat lamp. The pad has a separate thermostat. Luxury!



# Flood Escapee

By: Rowan Wigmore  
Pictures: Richard Eaves



This gorgeous eastern long-necked turtle was found in Lismore Heights well away from any waterways by a vigilant member of the public who saw him or her on the road while she was jogging. Knowing that her neighbour Shelley worked at the Keen St Vet Clinic, the turtle was taken to her.

Shelley contacted us and volunteered to take the turtle to work for vet assessment. The ever-helpful Dr Ray who is great with wildlife, examined the turtle and was concerned about some minor shell damage and suggested that he/she receive a specialist assessment. Otherwise the turtle looked healthy.

I collected the turtle that evening and arranged a rain-water filled tub with a dry landing area for him/her to stay in overnight while I arranged transport to Currumbin. The turtle has a lovely personality and was curious whenever I approached. Turtles can be notoriously difficult to feed in captivity and seem easily stressed by the unnatural environment. – Not this guy though! He/she happily ate meals of mince and insectivore mix and seemed to tolerate the habitat that I provided. Could it be an escaped pet?

Alison agreed to take the turtle (along with quite a few other animals) and he/she returned the next day courtesy of Fiona with a clean bill of health and ready to release. The Currumbin vets had assessed the turtle for health and also performed an in-depth assessment to see if he/she was in fact a pet and the answer was no.

The turtle just had a nice personality!

Finding a suitable release site was difficult but Currumbin had advised that they had received a number of turtles after the rain that had travelled great distances from waterways so I assumed that might be the case with this one. An area in the Wilsons River was chosen and the turtle was given freedom again.

It was sad for me as I had grown quite attached to this little guy in a very short space of time. He/she swam around and then returned to look at me with those big distinctive eyes and I wished a great life for the little reptile before he/she paddled away into turtle-world.

*Rowan*



# Lismore Car Boot Market

By: *Eva Geary*

Pictures: *Kate Geary and Sandy Norris.*

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out or donated at the Lismore Carboot Market on Sunday 15th May, all help was much appreciated!

All up we managed to raise \$808! And also a huge thank you to Solé who coordinated it all at the last minute.

She made a cute little box full of pictures of small animals for the kids and I heard they liked it a lot. She put a torch next to it so that the kids could look inside and see what they could find in it.

There were also cute cards with pictures of rescued wildlife. I heard quite a few sold too.

*Eva*



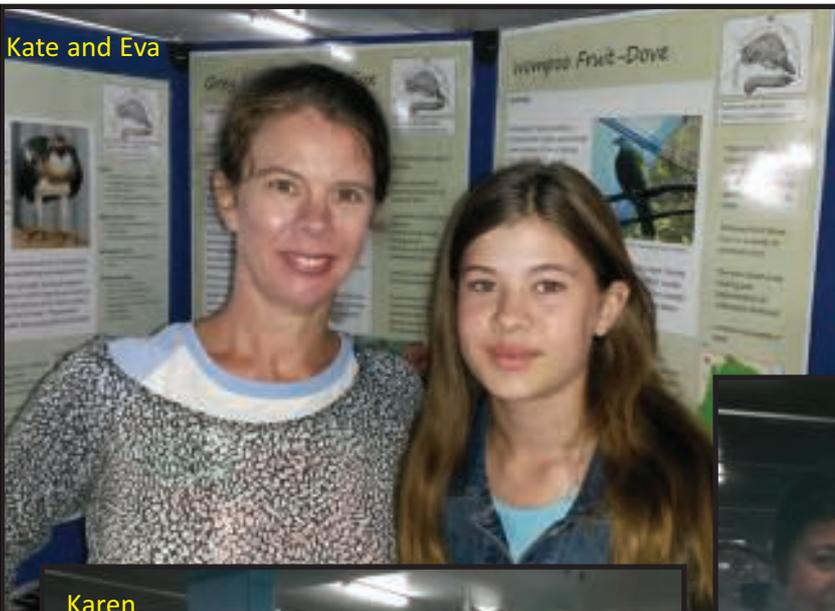
Hayden



Kids' box



Jenny



Kate and Eva



Wendy, Solé and Sandy



Karen

# Committee Report

By: Jenny Staples.



As usual our May meeting was held at the Lismore Workers Club. Lots of different items were on the agenda to be discussed.

One of these was the recent **Car Book Market** when our group was Charity of the day. This was a very successful event for us with \$808 being raised and a great way to help raise our profile with the general public. Lots of our lovely postcards and cards were given out. Many thanks go to the members who were able to come along and shake the tins as well as assist on the information stall. A special thank you also to Soli, Wendy and Sandy who organised the day and were there early to set up and decorate the stall attracting many people to come and have a chat. It was also good to network and get to know other members of the group.

The committee is still in the process of implementing our new **Safety Management Manual**. No doubt you will hear more about this in the near future.

If you are still in need of a new **rescue basket**, contact Sandy as there are still some available for \$15 and are excellent for transporting animals and being plastic are easily cleaned. All carers should have a least one. We also have some excellent F10 **disinfectant for sale** at Nat's in Uralba St Lismore opposite The Square This is very good for cleaning cages and baskets especially after birds with Beak and Feather disease.

Committee member, Kate Geary, has been successful in gaining a grant through Lismore City Council of about \$2800 to build another large aviary and has also submitted an application for one through Ballina Council for money to send some of our members to a venomous snake training day. This training, although expensive, will make it much easier to find snake rescuers in the busy summer months. Thanks Kate!

You may have seen an email recently informing you of our upcoming audit with the State Government's Office of Environment and Heritage, which oversees wildlife organisations. This is part of a review of native fauna rehabilitation services. NRWC was asked to nominate three members who would be willing to be inspected. Cheryl reported that she had been visited for auditing and passed with flying colours and with the inspector having as busy schedule didn't think any other inspections would be done. However the executive will be having a meeting with the representatives in July or August when we will be required to present our policies, training and other information to the OEH people. I'm sure this will go smoothly as well.

Part of our service to the public is to give talks to community groups and schools, so as Education Officer I was very pleased to visit Dunoon School recently to join in on their Interest Day. This included five other schools with students from kinder to year 2. The children have plenty of comments and questions as we talked about wildlife and the rescues we do. I was able to show them pictures of our lovely animals from our calendars. Hopefully they are a little more informed about our wildlife.

We are always looking for stories from carers to add to our **website**. If you would like to contribute just email us or phone Sandy. Her number is on the back sheet with the other committee members

Hope everyone is enjoying the quieter winter season. Happy caring!

*Jenny*

## POSITIONS VACANT

**Hotline Operators.** Urgently needed reliable people that can spare a couple of hours or more to staff the Hotline. Offer advice to the public and coordinate rescuers is all it takes. All shifts are available. Contact Jenny 6688 6292.

**Training Officer.** A vacancy exists on the Committee for a dedicated and well-organised person to join our team. The training officer coordinates information for training days with members and the public, organises email advices, collates and manages attendances and coordinates support people for training days. No delivery or public speaking required. If this sounds like something that you would like to help with contact Jenny 6688 6292.

# Kyogle Choir

By: Rowan Wigmore

If you were asked which town in the Northern Rivers could put on an outstanding concert, Kyogle would probably not be your first answer. Kay Johnson and I were pleasantly surprised as we represented NRWC at the "Semitones Winter Warmer Concert" held at the Kyogle Memorial Hall on Sunday 19th of June.

One of the concert's organisers, Jo Hoskins had contacted us offering the event as a fundraiser for the NRWC and we were duly surprised and very thankful for the choir's generosity.

Performing on the day was Kyogle's choir; 'The Semitones', 'Byron String Trio + One', 'Colourss' – which featured children from Kyogle's small schools and on piano; Olivia, Ayla and Reuben.

There were more than fourteen performances and the highlight for me was Reuben Flower's adept piano playing, in particular Chopin's Nocturne Op 32 Number 1. This very talented young man played superbly and brought to life a country hall with his ability an old



upright piano!

After the concert an afternoon tea was held where the audience could meet the performers.

I would certainly recommend attending when the next event is held. Thanks to all of the performers, Jo and director Fiona for a great afternoon's entertainment and for the generous donation to the NRWC.

*Rowan*

## Quiz Answers



1. An EAGLE for an Emperor, a Gyr Falcon for a King, a PEREGRINE for a Prince, a Saker for a Knight, a Merlin for a Lady; a Goshawk for a Yeoman, a Sparrowhawk for a Priest, a Musket for a Holy Water Clerk, a KESTREL for a Knave.
2. An Albatross
3. a. Having feathers of two or more colours, usually black and white. Oxford Dictionaries state derivation is from Middle English (originally in the sense 'black and white like a magpie') from pie + ed. (Magpies were originally just called Pies.) Pie from Old French, from Latin pica 'magpie' (related to picus 'green woodpecker').  
b. Amazingly yes. A pastry pie has the same derivation probably from the various combinations of ingredients being compared to objects randomly collected by a magpie.
4. Morning has broken like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
5. Thoth. This form is symbolic and a metaphor for Thoth's attributes.
6. Musket
7. Murray Cod
8. Galah
9. Platypus
10. Spotted Tail Quoll

# Bird Invaders in the Wildlife World

By Jenny Staples and Rochelle Merdith

I was recently discussing the Indian Myna with Rochelle, one of our carers, and had not realised how invasive and aggressive these little birds were in our area. I have seen them on our travels in Asia and they seemed friendly and cute, hopping around our feet on the beaches in Bali and Thailand. However, they are now making inroads into our environment. I had seen a few around Richmond River High School and a few weeks back on our road not far from home.

Rochelle has been trapping and disposing of these little fellows as they are becoming more prevalent on the North Coast so I suggested that some of our members may like to help out as well. After reading the fact sheet Rochelle kindly sent I think this is important to inform everyone on the disturbing impact these guys have on our wildlife. The other sad fact is that some of the general public confuse these pests with our native Noisy Miners and as a result could cause our native birds harm.

Like other feral pests, the Indian Myna was introduced into Melbourne's market gardens in the 1860s to keep down insects. They were then taken to Cairns and other places in far north Queensland to control insects in cane fields. They failed! Sounds a familiar story! Indian Mynas arrived in Canberra in 1868 when a misguided newcomer from Sydney released a dozen birds because he missed their call. It is now estimated that there are some 250 Indian Mynas per square kilometre in the urban area of Canberra. They are now often the predominant bird in urban areas all along the east coast from Cairns to Melbourne.

The Indian Myna is a highly intelligent and aggressive bird that successfully competes with our native species for food and nesting sites. Indian Mynas nest in hollows, the negative impacts are particularly high on hollow-dependent mammals and birds such as Rosellas, Lorikeets, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Brown Tree creeper.



Indian Mynas evict small mammals such as sugar gliders.

42% of Australian mammals use tree hollows.

They even evict large more aggressive species like Kookaburras and Dollar birds.

Indian Mynas will destroy eggs and chicks of other species. They build their own nests on top and smother the chicks. They have been seen to block the entries to hollows, causing the inhabitants to die of starvation, after which they then lay their eggs in the hollows. Once a nest site is abandoned by Indian Mynas, native species will avoid the hollow for a number of years.

The birds build and defend several nests during the breeding season, although they only breed in one. This then excludes native birds and animals from those sites. They can raise two broods of young every year.

The birds also pose a potential health problem from bird mites and faeces dust, due to their habits of associating with human activity and scavenging at outdoor cafes and eating

areas. The birds' untidy nests, built in roof cavities, can also cause fires.

Any wonder these vile little birds are known as the most hated pest in Australia.

If you or your friends and relatives can help Rochelle in her endeavor to control the birds in our area please contact me on the hotline and I will let her know.

*(Credit to Wetlandcare Australia.)*

*Jenny and Rochelle*



## Happenings

Our hotline hasn't been so hot lately with the cooler months which is great for those staffing the phones and also the wildlife. Some days there are only a few calls per shift.

We are still getting a few snake calls as our reptile friends look for a cosy place to sleep and are finding themselves in the wrong spots. Birds are also coming in with injuries from car hits or other collisions.

I had some interesting calls recently. One was from a lady who lived in the Nimbin area and started to explain that a python had been pestering her hens. I was waiting for her to ask if we could remove it or that it was injured but she reassured me the snake was fine and off in the wild. What she needed was someone to come out and help bandage her chook's leg. I had to decline and explain that we don't do chooks! Another MoP rang from Nimbin, and had captured a python and put it into a garbage bin worried that the snake would be harmed as the Mardi Grass was on that weekend. She wanted a snake handler to come and release it after dark in a safe place.

The quiet time is also a great opportunity to start helping on the hotline roster. We are always in need of people to help with this vital part of our organisation. Covering just one shift a week or a fortnight can make things easier on the rest of the team especially when some are away or unable to do their allotted time slot.

Last week we had three new members join our team. We welcomed Alice, Jess and Annabel. One of these may ring you soon for a rescue. We hope that they will enjoy being on the roster and contributing to this essential activity.

Happy caring till next issue!

*Jenny*

## Bandicoot Babes

*Artice and picture by: Julie Curtis*

These lucky baby Bandicoots were found by a very caring member of the public who stopped to investigate their dead mum on the side of the road near Evans Head. Julie's husband Dave then took them to Lismore and they then travelled courtesy of Sandy to Cheryl's where they remain in care.

*Julie*



## Bird World.

I've been watching the local magpies recently as they try to move last year's babies along. Compared with the Victorian magpies the training here is much more relaxed as the warmer weather period is longer. Of the two offspring they had, one was very quick to learn, assertive and more curious than the other which was a bit of a dreamer and a slow learner. In getting them to leave it was the male magpie that took the lead with the female dutifully following although it was clear she was happy to have them around.

They didn't move far and have an adjoining patch to the east of their parents' one with our eastern fence the common boundary. The juniors sometimes forage in our backyard and are quickly moved on if Mr Mags sees them. Not so for Mrs Mags. She will forage with them and enjoys their company but will only do it if she knows the male is not around. This deceitfulness has been observed in chickens along with other traits we normally only associate with humans like grovelling. They are really not too different from us in many respects.

## Animal Welfare.

Recently Animals Australia revealed that cattle sent to Vietnam as part of Australia's live export trade were being slaughtered by sledgehammer, butchered while still alive and were witnessing other animals receive this treatment prior to themselves. Not only was this in clear contravention of live export trade regulations but is happening some three years after it was brought to the attention of authorities and is the third breach publicised since the live export trade was suspended by a previous government.

Animals Australia said: "Barnaby Joyce continues to support an industry that has a clear track record of cruelty, corruption and cover-ups. His department is conflicted and being controlled by ruthless live-export companies". The ABC reported that leaked emails from Dr Michael Patching, Meat and Livestock Australia's Vietnam-based manager, reveals that authorities were well aware of the cruelty for some time without acting and that Dr Patching concluded one email by appearing to urge exporters to put dollars before welfare.

If you are reading this before July 2nd please consider animal welfare when casting your vote.

*Rowan*

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Renewals now due!

Forms may be completed and mailed to PO Box 6439 South Lismore NSW 2480 or fill in the membership form and pay securely on our website. (Save postage!)

<http://www.wildlifecarers.com/membership-form/>

