

Wildlife News



Issue 142 September - October 2016

A (Tea)-Spoonful of Glider

Story and picture by Jenny.



This is a little feathertail glider that came into care with me for a few days last month. She weighed a huge 5gms and so only a teenager as adults are about 9gms. Miss tiny was an excellent guest as she ate the fruit with high protein powder on top as well as grevillea flowers and the occasional seeds I offered her each night.

The member of the public who found her said that she was clinging to a verandah railing after a windy night and luckily for the glider her dog didn't touch her. This little friend was able to go home and I hope find her family again.

When you see how small these gliders are it is a wonder that they are still around.

Jenny

Privacy



At a recent committee meeting the matter of members' privacy was raised. The issue came to light when a member of the public contacted an NRWC member directly to raise an issue after finding a phone number in the website edition of the newsletter. (By the way the web edition does not contain the pin-up page!)

In this digital age there is a lot of private information floating around in cyberspace - just type your own name into a search engine and you may be surprised at the result. The committee decided to keep publishing the website edition and that from now onwards we shall identify contributors to the newsletter by first name only. (Where two similar first-names occur in the same edition, they will be differentiated by the addition of the first letter of the surname.) The pin-up page however exists for members use, will remain unchanged and will not be made public.

If any member has privacy concerns or would like to discuss this further please contact a committee member.

Rowan

! Membership Renewals Overdue!

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-page/membership-form/>



members

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

Cath W-L, Danielle E, Janet G, Jo H, and Brendan H, Zac L.

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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

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

Ducklings

Story and pictures by Wendy A.

Sandy and I often have ducklings in care and they are always a delight, although very messy. We recently had nine Pacific Black ducklings from Byron Bay, as they were found wandering without any parents nearby.

They came in at about two days old and quickly outgrew the humidicrib and after that the heated tub, so we custom built a run for them using corflute attached to pet fencing. It worked very well, and was so easy to clean! We were also fortunate to have been donated medical wraps from Sarah a nurse from St Vincents, that we used as the base mat of their inside run.

These wraps were nice and soft so not to damage the duckling's feet and as they were going to be thrown out by the hospital anyway, we didn't feel guilty about using them instead of washing towels endlessly. These nine have been released and occasionally some return for a quick hello.

We are also lucky to have a semi regular visit from a duck we released about 18 months ago. He even started bringing his wild girlfriend occasionally for visits. One day they just stopped coming back and we didn't see any sign of them for nearly two months. So you could imagine how thrilled we were for the wild mum to show up with three kids!

The kids are different sizes, which amazed me as the ducklings we raise are always the close to the same size and hard to tell apart.

Also interestingly, both the wild mum and our released dad will come back with the three kids, although they don't seem to come back together.

Wendy



Day 1 - Ducklings in humidicrib



Day 10 - Ducklings in corflute enclosure



Day 63 - Ducklings in pond, released

Raptor Report

Article by: Joe

Picture by Wendy L.

Luckily it has been a quiet couple of months as one of our founding members and main raptor coordinator, Wendy has been on a small, well-deserved holiday. With such big shoes to fill and being overly self-conscious about my small and unattractive feet, I was lucky it was not too hectic!

The first Raptor was a barn owl with no obvious injuries and on the advice of the good vets at Bangalow, we sent him to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, where they diagnosed him with liver disease. Unfortunately there was nothing that could be done for him so sadly he was euthanased. After that we got a pacific baza. He was rescued from the roof of a car in Keen St Lismore, it was a straight forward case of monitor-and-release.

Following that was two bobook owls in close succession. One needed its wing strapped and a couple of weeks of R & R while the other, a feisty little fellow Chrisy so eloquently named "Snuggles", was a straight forward monitor-and-release scenario.

Little Snuggles had the most amount of spunk I have ever seen in a bird! His temperament would have been more suited to a chihuahua with visions of grandeur! And most recently, another barn owl, again a car accident, had a broken coracoid and needed three weeks rest, and then reassessment. Which brings us to the present. Any sources of good quality food for the raptors would be greatly appreciated!

Joe



Raptor Helpers Wanted

I'm looking for a few reliable and dedicated members who are interested in helping with the on-going care and maintenance of these majestic birds. It has come to my attention that raptor facilities in the Northern Rivers have become rundown and dilapidated in the past years, In the past month both NRW and WIRES have sent raptors in need of specialised facilities to south of Sydney (this being our closest – would you believe!)

With a little elbow grease and a few dedicated members I'd like to get out facilities back to their former glory. If you are interested and can help please call me. - Contact details are on the Pin-up Page.

Free Stuff

A few spare pieces of shade cloth, good condition. One very large shade sail, for shading a big aviary, please call Joe. – Contact details are on the Pin-up page.

A Magpie and Her Evil Twin

Article by: Joe Pictures by: Cecilia and Frauke

Cecilia, one of our wonderful new members liaised with a caring member of public Jay. Jay had called to report a magpie with a humungous growth on her chest.

Cecilia organised the trapping and transport to the local awesome team at Bangalow vet clinic. After seeing the photo Cecilia sent me, I was sure there was nothing that could be done for her. I was in total shock and disbelief that the magpie that was admitted at 407 grams, was ready for pick up minus her evil twin – a huge tumour which weighed over a quarter of her body weight! I was also amazed that she would only need a few days in care.

Ms magpie was an absolute pleasure in captivity and was released as soon as her antibiotics were finished minus her evil twin! Well done to Cecilia, the caring member of public Jay, and the wonderful caring team at Bangalow vet clinic. Thanks guys!



Joe

Ms Magpie - Top Pre-op, Bottom Post op.

Masters Fundraiser

Article by: Rowan

Pictures by Rowan and Pam

Our fundraising officer Pam leapt at the opportunity to do another barbeque/sausage sizzle at short notice at the Masters hardware store in Lismore. She had some help from her friend Chris, Valerie, Lorraine, Kay, Doug, Lara and me. It was a fairly busy day especially when Doug went into "sales mode" and we raised \$700 for the group.

Next one is at Bunnings on 18 Feb 2017 so why don't you come along and help? If you do not wish to handle meat there is always a need for a non-food-handling person to take the money.

Rowan



Lorraine and Kay

Chris and Valerie





Happenings

Our hotline is still having a relatively quiet time for rescues with only a few calls per shift. However, with the weather being very changeable lately, the animals must be a bit confused as to the change of seasons. We have had snake calls coming in so the reptile friends are still around and maybe looking for places to sleep which are not always the best spots for them. With spring just a few weeks away we expect an increase in calls as baby birds start hatching. Hopefully the weather will be settled without storms and winds to unsettle the birds.

Over the winter most carers like to revise what they have in their rescue box or basket, and get the bird cages ready for the busy time ahead. Towels, a hot water bottle and pouches as well as an old blanket are needed especially for roadside accidents of macropods and possums. Occasionally we have kind people who donate linen to our group so if you are in need of some new towels etc. Check with Cheryl to see if there are any stored for you to use. Some of these are occasionally available at Nat's place in Lismore so check if you happen to be there for fresh wildlife food supplies. We also have some very effective antiseptic available for purchase.

When you receive a call from the hotline for a rescue, please phone back to tell the hotliner the results of the rescue so that the outcomes can be put onto our database and also let Cheryl know if the animal is coming into care. We also need to know if the animal dies overnight or needs to go to another carer. This will make things much easier as sometimes it takes a while for the roster person to find out the results of the rescue.

We still have some shifts on the hotline to fill so if you are trained and haven't been in touch with me lately, please consider helping out. 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. We will organise free training for you which only takes one or two hours.

Happy caring till next issue!

Jenny

Wildlife Quiz

By: Rowan

1. How many species of bell frogs are there in NSW?
2. What is a megapode? Name one which resides locally.
3. How many parrot species reside in Australia?
4. An adult Wedge-tailed eagle has a wingspan of approximately: a. 1.5metres b. 2.5 metres c. 3.5 metres
5. A snake can smell through its nostrils. True or false?
6. Which two Australian animals are featured on the Coat of Arms?
7. Which bird is Australia's only stork?
8. What is fear of sharks called?
9. What animal (other than The Queen) featured on the now defunct 1 cent coin?
10. What is Australia's largest snake?



(Answers on page 9)

Committee Report

By: Jenny



Hello wonderful wildlife carers!

We had our July committee meeting at the Lismore Workers Club a few weeks back. Apart from the regular reports from secretary, Cheryl, and treasurer, Sandy, we covered a wide range of topics including the successful grants we received from Lismore Council and the Department of Social Services. Both of these were for funds to build two flight aviaries which will be very handy during the busy season. Thanks to Kate who put in considerable time to apply for the grants for us.

I was able to attend a civic reception and morning tea, representing our group, at the Lismore Council Chambers on Wednesday 3 August as part of the Annual Community Grant System. Those of you in the Lismore area who receive the Council newsletter in the post may be able to spot me in the group photo taken on the day.

The NSW Wildlife Council had grants available for enclosures and equipment for any wildlife carers. Rowan has applied to build a snake enclosure and add to his reptile equipment through this grant. We hope his application is successful.

We also had a few large amounts of money donated. One of \$5000 from a very generous member of the public who has also given us funds over previous years. The other was from Kyogle Choir who donated \$1400 from a recent concert performance which Kay and Rowan attended on our behalf.

Another topic was the training agenda proposed for the months ahead. We are hoping to have a Basic Training day on 11 Sept and a Bird Training day for members on 9 Oct. So keep these dates in mind if you would like to attend. We also need help in organising these days especially with PR to get the message out to the general public for the Basic Training. The Publicity Officer position is currently not filled, so if anyone can lend a hand to make the day a success please contact us. You can email or leave a message on the hotline.

The OEH audit inspections that NRWC had to comply with in the last few months went well. The inspectors visited Cheryl's and were impressed with her set up for injured animals and the meeting with the executive was also more than satisfactory.

Our group has also formalised three new policies, a Reptile and Amphibian Policy, a Vet Expenses Policy and Hotline Calls Policy.

Finally we are making our founding members honorary Life Members. Robyn and John Gough who have worked for our group over many years particularly with bats will be recipients. Health problems have become an issue for them over the last few years so we wish them well and thank them for their continual support to the group.

Until next time.

Jenny

POSITIONS VACANT

Hotline Operators. We need more reliable people that can spare a couple of hours or more to staff the Hotline. Offer advice to the public and coordinate rescuers as all it takes. All shifts are available. Contact the Hotline Coordinator..

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 the Chairperson.

Publicity Officer. A vacancy exists on the Committee for a publicity person to join our team. The publicity officer drafts media releases for the committee's approval and coordinates public information to support other activities. If this sounds like something that you would like to help with contact the Chairperson..

Gourmet George

Article and Picture by Kate

George the tawny had the bad taste to attempt eating a cane toad. He was found by a member of public on Skyline Road Goonellabah, sitting on the roadside with a toad seemingly stuck in its throat.

The kind person took our little fellow to Keen Street vets, who extracted the toad and flushed his mouth to remove any toxins.

I was initially reluctant to take him on, fearing the worst, but agreed to have him for a few days and just keep an eye on him.

Surprisingly, George has shown no signs of poisoning and has proven to be the perfect guest, almost as though he'd been in care before and already knew the ropes. Which was lucky as it turned out because she noticed that he often had one eye shut and one eye open, so back to the vet, where he was diagnosed with an eye ulcer (perhaps having been scratched by the toad) and ordered to have another week in care with eye drops.

George is one tough little guy, but definitely a sweetheart!

Kate



AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for October. Members will be advised of the location, time and paperwork for nominations by email prior to the event. Remember that ALL committee positions are declared vacant prior to the meeting and that any member may nominate for a role.

Come along and help shape the organisation by nominating or voting!

Two Jennys

Article and Picture supplied by Jenny S.

The Lismore Council held a reception and morning tea at the Chambers on Wed 27th for the recipients of the council Community Grants.

Our group applied for and received \$2800 for a relocatable flight aviary.

Community groups can apply each year but if successful for three years they are then not eligible for the following year except the hall committees that get funds automatically to help with admin costs such as insurance.

The cake and goodies were yummy!

Jenny



Pictured: NRWC Chairperson Jenny S with Mayor of Lismore Jenny D.

Quiz Answers



1. There are three species of bell frog in NSW. They are all similar in appearance but can be distinguished by subtleties in their markings.
2. Megapodes are found in the East Indies, Australasia and Polynesia. They construct mounds of vegetation to incubate their eggs. The Australian brush turkey.
3. Australia has 56 species of these colourful birds, from tiny budgerigars to large cockatoos.
4. b. 2.5 metres
5. False. A snake's main organ of smell is its forked tongue, which it flicks in and out of its mouth. The tongue picks up scent particles from the air and any objects it touches, and transfers them to two depressions in the roof of the mouth where the Jacobson's Organ, also called vomeronasal organ, resides. This is unique to reptiles and detects scents transferred to them from the tongue. A snake's nostrils are only used for breathing.
6. Kangaroo and Emu.
7. Jabiru.
8. Galeophobia.
9. Feathertail glider.
10. *Morelia amethystina*. (Known as the amethystine or scrub python)

Earth Overshoot.

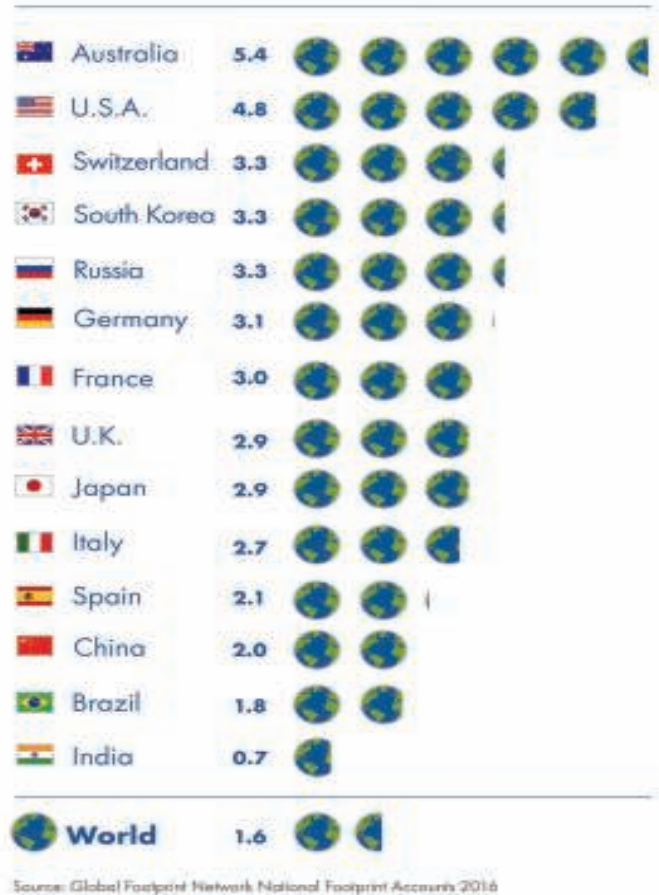
August the 8th has been and gone. Did you notice it? It wasn't that spectacular really, not like a public holiday or festive occasion. Instead it was Earth Overshoot Day - a strident reminder that we humans are living well beyond our means. August 8th marks the point this year when humanity as a whole has used up the resources needed to live sustainably for a year.

Each year the Global Footprint Network, takes a the planet's biocapacity, or the amount of natural resources available, divides it by humanity's ecological footprint, or how much of the planet's resources we use up, and then multiplies it by the days in a year. The date at which this occurs has been getting earlier each year. If everyone in the world lived like Americans, we'd need 4.8 planets to have enough to go around. We Australians are even worse, using up 5.4 planets worth of resources each year. Kudos to India though! Carbon emissions are the fastest growing contributor to ecological overshoot, with the carbon footprint now making up 60 percent of humanity's demand on nature. We are living on borrowed time. How much did the animals that we share the Earth with contribute to this? Zilch.

Gardening.

This year we have seen an extended winter. It has been a bit confusing for the pythons that I have in care awaiting warmer weather for release as the days are warm but nights are cold. I reassure them that spring *is* on the way and their imprisonment in "Goonellabah Bay", unlike Manus Island, has an end date. Lately I have been using my time to prepare the garden for spring. Clearing out dead wood, removing weeds that do nothing but destroy the splendour and planting new younger plants to flourish in the warmer weather. It struck me that many things in life are like gardens, - often needing some reinvigoration to perform at their best, and the NRWC is like that too. This is where the Annual General Meeting comes in. Here is a chance for members to do some gardening and shape the direction they would like the organisation to go. I have been doing the newsletter since 2008 and perhaps it is time for someone else to take over the role. I resigned from the publicity role so that one is up for grabs as well. Any takers?

How many Earths do we need if the world's population lived like...



Snails.

I don't have any in my garden which is a bad thing as lizards love them, especially our shingleback Mr Stumpytrunks. If you have some I would be happy to take them. Please get in contact. I quarantine them for a week before feeding just in case of snail poison ingestion.

Rowan