

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 35
March 2019

Keeping carers
informed



Greater glider © Joshua Bowell

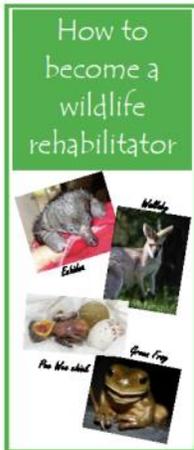
QWRC Products



- ◆ Kids
- ◆ Never touch a bat
- ◆ Bats are Important
- ◆ Australian Bat Lyssavirus is preventable
- ◆ Mum and dad
- ◆ Hendra
- ◆ Fruit tree netting
- ◆ Barbed wire



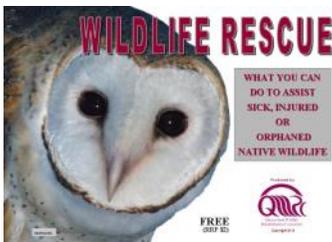
- ◆ Don't cats control rats and mice?
- ◆ Don't cats control snakes?
- ◆ Cats threaten the future survival of most wildlife
- ◆ Are you a responsible cat owner?
- ◆ Do cats harm wildlife?
- ◆ How can I protect cats and wildlife?



- ◆ So, you want to care for wildlife...
- ◆ Do you have enough time?
- ◆ Do you have the financial backing?
- ◆ Are you tough enough?
- ◆ Other ways to help wildlife...



- ◆ Chasing wildlife
- ◆ Walking dogs in bushland
- ◆ Keep dogs and wildlife apart
- ◆ Barking at wildlife
- ◆ Keeping wildlife safe in your backyard
- ◆ If your dog attacks wildlife
- ◆ Are you a responsible dog owner?



Carcase tags



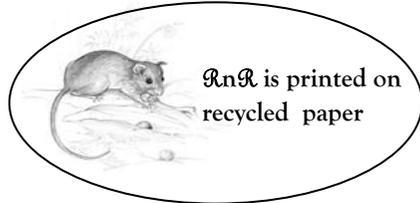
SEE PAGE 9 FOR PRINTING COSTS



In this issue:

- Zoonoses – Q fever
- Thoughts of a wildlife carer
- Spotter Catcher issues
- Bullying chart
- Displaying Wildlife in Public
- Carer profile – Lana Field
- Little Aggie – Whiptail wallaby
- Australian Wildlife Rescue Inc

RnR is produced by The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council twice a year. It is distributed free to all financial members of QWRC throughout Queensland. To ensure you continue to receive a copy, either by post or email, please ensure you maintain your correct contact details with QWRC to either secretary@qwrc.org.au. or PO Box 488 Archerfield Qld 4108.



**Illustrations
by
Louise Saunders**



Opinions expressed in RnR are not necessarily those of the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Copyright — Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council



Help save a tree or two
Choose to have your **RnR** delivered electronically.
Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au.



QWRC's Best Practice Guidelines for wildlife rehabilitators are available in the member's section of our website www.qwrc.org.au. Please let us know if you can suggest further titles to add to this list:

Euthanasia of Native Wildlife in Queensland

Release of wildlife

Wildlife Autopsy by Rehabilitators in Queensland

Zoonosis

Hygiene Practices

Aviary and cage hygiene

What happens to animals that can't be released?

Display of wildlife

Care of Flying fox orphans outside their geographical range

Understanding your duty of care

Wildlife in the workplace

From the Chair..

Hi there everyone,

Once again autumn is supposed to be upon us. Though the day time temperatures at our place are still high I suppose that the night time temp is starting to drop just a little.

I sincerely hope you have all survived the roller coaster ride Mother Nature has thrown our way over summer. How many of you have, like me, so often found yourself at times reciting Dorothera Mackellar's poem 'My Country'. We have certainly had the droughts and flooding rains along with fires and heat waves.

At our place we continue to watch the dam levels drop. I am forever thankful that we do not run stock. Trees still have a hard time but they stand up to drought a lot better than animals. We have been on our farm at Calliope, Central Queensland, for about 12 years now and this has been the driest beginning to the year in all those years with just 40mm in two months – it is usually closer to at least 300 – 400mm.

In these tough times please try to leave water out for wildlife. It is wonderful to see the number of birds that visit our hanging bird bath on a daily basis. We also have a plant saucer on the ground under bushes for the lizards and ground dwellers; I enjoyed watching a collection of double bar finches and a red backed wren and his family having a drink and a bath within moments of me refilling the tray.

It is a pleasure to see the small mob of Eastern greys as they visit our place. Two of the does have pouched young at present. I was amazed to see a Whiptail wallaby visit for a few days last week as we don't often see them around here – a sign of the times?

In these tough times please be kind to yourself and remember that it costs nothing to be kind – kindness is something we all try to do for the wildlife in our care so please make sure you practice the same towards your fellow humans no matter when or where you may meet.

I hope you enjoy the stories we have for you this issue and as always look forward to your input of either stories or requests for specific information you would like to see shared. Send your request to us either to [secretary](mailto:secretary@qwrc.org.au) or editor@qwrc.org.au

Till next time take care and stay safe.

Cheers

Annie



Editorial..

Hi everyone, well a lot has happened since our last issue. The climate has gone crazy with people suffering from the effects of droughts, floods and fires. I feel so sad for all the wildlife that has been lost and hope that all the carers are able to cope and get back to normal as soon as possible.

We are not a political group but I have to wonder where the decisions of our politicians are taking the country (and wildlife) with continued tree clearing, dam filling and other actions that are detrimental to our wonderful wildlife.

On page 7 you will find a chart about bullying. This is not a nice topic to think about but sadly it seems to be rife in the community and is particularly worrying amongst school children. There have also been instances within wildlife carer groups. Some of us are able to just laugh at the perpetrators and their pathetic comments and actions. They are oblivious to how ridiculous they make themselves look in a vain attempt to boost their lagging egos.

Sadly some carers are unable to cope with being bullied and suffer depression and even suicidal thoughts as a result. I will never understand how someone can gain pleasure from being so nasty to a fellow carer. Why can't everyone just be nice to each other and concentrate on caring for our wildlife?

Social media seems to be the main avenue for bullying so thank you to those that delete these posts whenever possible.

Please contact me (4156 5382) if you would like information about what is involved in editing RnR if you think you may be interested in undertaking this role as I would love a break. You may also contact: secretary@qwrc.org.au for further information.

We are always seeking articles, photos need to be suitable for printing so a minimum of 2MB resolution. Ensure that the option of 'original size' is chosen if available when sending as some email programs automatically minimise the resolution.

Please send us your stories/ photos for the September 2019 issue.

Deadline: 14 July 2019.

Email: editor@qwrc.org.au

or

**The Editor, PO Box 488,
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Elliott





THE NEXT BEST THING TO MOTHER'S MILK

Wombaroo has been manufacturing quality foods and accessories for native wildlife for over 30 years. Products are formulated based on the most up to date scientific data as well as Wombaroo's own in-house research facility.

- Milk Replacers for Kangaroo, Possum, Wombat, Koala, Echidna, Flying Fox & Bat
- Impact Colostrum Supplement
- Latex Teats & Feed Bottles
- Cosy Heat Pad
- Bird Foods for Insectivore, Granivore, Lorieet & Honeyeater
- Reptile Supplement, Small Carnivore Food & High Protein Supplement
- Kangaroo Pellets & Good Oil for Animals

Get your free copy of the newest edition of the **Wombaroo Wildlife Booklet** which includes updated growth charts for different species as well as handy information about wildlife care.



Wombaroo Food Products
 Phone • 08 8391 1713
 Email • info@wombaroo.com.au
www.wombaroo.com.au

WOMBAROO

FaunaOzEducation

Dr Anne Fowler has produced 50 – 80 page colour manuals on the husbandry, disease and rehabilitation of various wildlife species.



Titles include:

- **Marsupial titles:** wombats, macropods, possums, koalas.
- **Mammal titles:** microbats.
- **Reptiles:** Husbandry & rehabilitation of reptiles and amphibians.
- **Husbandry and rehabilitation of:** native birds, orphaned birds, raptors and waterbirds.
- **Husbandry & rehabilitation of the others:** bandicoots, dasyurids, rodents.
- **Upcoming titles include:** monotremes, raptors and flying foxes.
- **Limited stock of CSIRO publishing titles** of Australian wildlife that at end of print run.

Email | an.fowler@bigpond.com for a price list | Bulk or group orders welcome.

IS IT BULLYING?

NOT NICE

When someone says or does something **unintentionally** hurtful and they only do it **once...**

That is **Not Nice**

MEAN

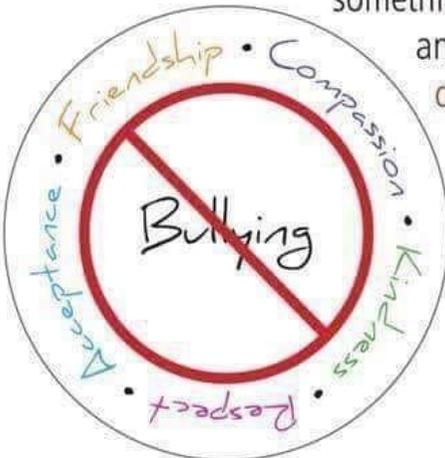
When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they do it **once...**

That is **Mean**

BULLYING

When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they **keep** doing it, **over a period of time**, even when you tell them to stop or show them that you are upset...

That is **Bullying**



QWRC Products

Please see the colour pictures on the inside front cover of this issue.

Brochures

These are currently:

- Dogs and Wildlife
- Bats
- Protect your Cat Protect our Wildlife
- How to become a Wildlife Rehabilitator
- QWRC - representing all wildlife rehabilitators

Brochure allocation to members:

Limit of 100 total free per year with a 500gm Post Pak satchel provided by the member. Once we receive the Post Pak satchel with their address on it we can do the mailout. If more than 100 are requested in any calendar year they will be sold at half price (5cents each) still with the required Post Pak satchel provided. All brochures can be ordered by any non-member for 10cents each plus postage.

Safety Vests

These have been donated by the Qld Mains Road department. There is an application form on our website. One vest per member while stocks last, for postage costs and availability please contact secretary@qwrc.org.au.

Carcase Tags

A small supply of these is sent with your membership card together with the data form that must be completed and returned before any more are issued. Data is supplied to the Qld Mains Road department.



Warm.A.Pet Manufactures products for Wildlife Carers

Flexible Heat Pads
(Seven Heat Settings-Three Sizes)

Thermostat Controllers
(Precisely Controls Warmth)

Heartbeat Simulators
(Settles Orphaned Joeys)

Visit our website:

www.warmapet.com.au

Facebook page:
[Warm.A.Pet for Wildlife Carers](https://www.facebook.com/Warm.A.Pet%20for%20Wildlife%20Carers)

Phone: 03 9544 1471

Email:

wildlifeproducts@warmapet.com.au

(Permit number required for prices -
except TAS)

**Members of the public check your
local pet store or internet re-seller
and ask for Warm.A.Pet heat pads
for your pet.**



This is the ‘Registered Charity Tick’ logo available to eligible charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.

It is not compulsory to use it but is intended to help the public recognise charities that are registered with ACNC.

For information on how to apply for your charity tick refer to www.acnc.gov.au.

Just a reminder to all groups that to maintain charity status each group must remember to report their activities to the ACNC [Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission] annually and will need to update data about elected persons or contact persons for the group after each AGM; if this reporting is not done then groups could well lose charity status.



QWRC PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE
NOW \$20M



QWRC GROUP INSURANCE

Public Liability insurance is available to groups when **ALL** their members are also members of QWRC. A request for insurance must be sent to QWRC together with a copy of all membership forms and a total membership list so that an insurance certificate can be issued .

WILDLIFE RESCUE BOOKLETS/BROCHURES

QWRC continue to seek funding for further printing of their very popular Wildlife Rescue booklets. Groups are therefore invited to have them or the brochures (refer inside front cover) printed with their own contact details. These can only be printed through QWRC. Classic Design and Print have kindly provided the following quotes, as an indication of cost; remember that to get them to you will be extra:

- 2,500 Rescue books \$3,140.00 inc GST
- 5,000 Rescue books \$5,400.00 inc GST

DL Brochures Dogs/Cats/Bats/Wildlife Rehabilitator:

- 2,000 \$365.00 inc gst
- 5,000 \$472.00 inc gst



**SPECIALISING IN THE SUPPLY OF
QUALITY PRODUCTS TO AUSTRALIAN CARERS OF:**

- marsupials • mammals • birds • reptiles
- breeders/keepers of avian birds.

- Foods & Supplements
- Specialised Seed & Feed
- Vitamins & Boosters
- Feeding Equipment
- Hygiene
- Emergency & Critical care
- Housing • Laboratory
- Parasite Control
- Live foods • Books & Manuals



AWS is a mail order company shipping Australia wide offering an efficient door-to-door service. Friendly assistance, expert advice and low prices. Local pick up available.

PO Box 385
Archerfield Qld 4108

Ph. 0417 749 501

Warehouse: 07 3276 1910

info@wildlifesupplies.com.au

www.wildlifesupplies.com.au

News News News

QWRC Website

This is very user friendly with lots of new information so please check it out at www.qwrc.org.au. The members section requires a password that is sent to you when you join.

Permits - Permits - Permits

Please note that the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council is **NOT** a wildlife carer group and **DOES NOT ISSUE PERMITS** to wildlife carers so being a member does not entitle you to care for wildlife. Permits are available either from the Qld Department of Environment and Heritage Protection or wildlife rehabilitation groups if they hold a group permit. Please ensure that you have a piece of paper that says you have a permit. It will be dated, list the species and number of animals you are permitted to care for.

For more information please internet search for 'qld wildlife rehabilitation permit'.



Administration Request

Sadly some members are not receiving all the information that is being sent to them either by snailmail or email. We do get some 'return to senders' some of which is due to their application forms being scribbled which results in information being incorrectly recorded on our database. Incomplete forms also cause problems and is time consuming to sort out. Please take care when completing your forms and make sure all sections are fully completed before sending them either to your group or to us

Disclaimer

QWRC accepts no responsibility for any comments made in articles and any queries should be referred to the relevant author.

CONTACTING QWRC

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 488, ARCHERFIELD 4108

TELEPHONE:

Refer to local representative list

EMAIL:

secretary@qwrc.org.au

editor@qwrc.org.au

WEBSITE:

www.qwrc.org.au

BANK ACCOUNT:

BSB: 814282

A/C: 30644404

We encourage you to let us know when you move so that we don't waste precious paper and funds on postage.

Also advise us of any email address changes.

Remember that DEHP are unable (due to privacy laws) to advise us of any carer details. It is therefore vital that **YOU** tell **US** of any changes. **Groups please note.**

MOVING HOUSE

or

changing your email address

Remember to advise QWRC

Your local representatives are:

District 1— Cape York/Dry Tropics/Gulf
Kristy Philliskirk
Phone : 0427 799748

District 2— Wet Tropics/Cairns Marine
VACANT

District 3 — Savanah/Townsville Marine
Janelle Gilmore (Secretary/minute taker)
Phone: 4724 4725

District 4 — Mackay/Whitsundays
Jacqui Webb (Grants officer)
Phone: 4947 3308

District 5 — Capricorn/Gladstone
Annie Saunders (Chair)
Phone: 4975 6281

District 6 — Longreach
Kim Palmer
Phone: 4658 7216

District 7 — Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy
Judy Elliott (Editor RnR)
Phone: 4156 5382

District 8— South West
VACANT

District 9 — Toowoomba
VACANT

District 10 — Sunshine Coast/Southern Marine
Glendell Appleford
Phone: 0413 453722

District 11— Southeast/Moreton Bay
Eleanor Pollock (Vice-chair/QWRC Quotes Editor) Phone: 3420 0406

Vicky Dawson (Treasurer/Member Secretary)
Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au

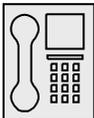
QWRC's patron is Dr Jim Pollock

RnR is printed by Classic Design and Print, Bundaberg



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ◆ Membership of the State representative body.
- ◆ A collective voice for rehabilitation.
- ◆ Access to a network of carers across the State.
- ◆ Financial membership offers cover under QWRC's Public Liability (\$20M) and Volunteer Workers Insurance policies.
- ◆ Support with wildlife rehabilitation and welfare.
- ◆ Access to QWRC brochures.
- ◆ Access to professional advice, information and data.
- ◆ Access to Best Practice Guidelines.
- ◆ RnR newsletter twice a year (March and September).
- ◆ QWRC Quotes member's update (January and June).
- ◆ Eligibility to nominate for a position as a QWRC District representative.
- ◆ Eligibility to vote at all QWRC elections.



**Would you like to contact
other carers in your area?**

**Please contact a QWRC representative
(see list on page 12) to put you in touch
with other members.**





**Post to: - The Secretary
P.O. Box 488
Archerfield Qld 4108**

Scan and email to: secretary@qwrc.org.au

Membership Application / Membership Renewal Form

A new form is required each membership (calendar) year to validate your insurance cover.
Applications received after 1 October each year expire 31 December of following year

Please complete all details

Surname.....

First Name.....

Date of Birth.....

Residential Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Postal address.....

.....Postcode.....

Shire in which you reside.....

Telephone (H) (.....).....

(Mob)..... (W).....

Email.....

Group Name [if applicable]

All newsletters and correspondence will be sent to your email address. Please tick the box below to receive RnR by post.

I wish to receive my RnR by hard copy.

I, the above named, understand and agree that my name and contact details will be stored on a member data base by QWRC for its use and may be circulated to all other members of QWRC around the state. I further understand that these details will not be sold for any purpose.

Signed.....Dated.....

Annual (1Jan-31Dec) Membership AU\$20

Payment options

I enclose Cheque / money order for \$..... made payable to QWRC.

Or

Direct Deposit to the QWRC bank account at Credit Union Australia

BSB No 814 282 Account number 30644404

Please use your surname as a reference for this transaction

Zoonoses - Q Fever

Zoonoses are diseases that can be transmitted from animals to people. Wildlife rehabilitators care for a wide variety of wildlife species – from birds to reptiles to marsupials. Many of these species can potentially harbour diseases that could affect human health. In the daily round, carers are exposed to faeces, respiratory secretions and blood – either their own or the animals! So the potential risk is real and present.

Q fever

Cause: a bacterium, *Coxiella burnetii*, in a particular family of bacteria called the rickettsia. Infections in wild animals are maintained by ticks. Bandicoots and kangaroos have been documented to carry the bacteria in their blood without evidence of clinical infection.

Transmission: highly infective – only a few bacteria can begin an infection. It can be present in faeces, urine, blood and birth fluids. It is able to persist in the environment for a long period of time. Humans are most commonly affected working in abattoirs or by contact with infected wool, hides or placenta of domestic ruminants (cattle and sheep).

Clinical signs: after an incubation period of 1 – 4 weeks humans develop fever, rashes, headache, muscle pains, cough and fatigue which lasts 2 weeks. 10 -15% of affected people develop a chronic fatigue syndrome

Complications: pneumonia or hepatitis and less than 1% of affected people may die.

Treatment: doxycycline and other antibiotics

Prevention: a Q fever vaccine is available and significantly reduces the number of people affected. Wear a face mask and gloves while performing necropsies. Wear gloves when cleaning cages of faeces and urine.

Dr Anne Fowler, extract from AWRC 2007

Ed note: Seek medical advice regarding vaccinations as not all doctors are able to administer them. Results of a blood test and skin test are required prior to the vaccination. Total costs may be \$300/400 with no Medicare rebate. Several wildlife carers have contracted Q fever.



Thoughts of a Wildlife Rescuer

I rescue animals. I fight for them. I dedicate my life to them.
I rarely put myself first. I never put them last. I always try to do right by them.
I am optimistic, but also realistic. I am a positive person, who has been beaten down by the negativity of the world. I am happy most days, but with a constant underlying sadness.

I have opened my heart to more animals than I can count. I bring them into my home. I return the life that was taken from them.
I have accepted the craziness of my world. I take the insanity in stride. I have given up any hope of having a normal life or a perfectly clean house.

I live each day, for the animals. I wake up, prepared to save more. I go to sleep, thinking of those I couldn't reach.
I hate my phone... it never stops ringing. I answer and listen to yet another plea for an animal that no one cares about, no one will help.
I look into the eyes of the neglected. I feel their pain in my own heart. I hear their silent cries.

I apologize for the awful things that have happened to them. I say "I'm sorry" for things I didn't do. I say, "I love you," because no one else in their life ever has.
I try to talk sense into senseless people. I try to educate the ignorant. I fail at these attempts on a daily basis.

I can't save them all. I can't even save most. I live each day knowing that, no matter how hard I try, it will never be enough.
I know that even when I succeed, I fail. I know that for every one I save, there's another I lose. I know that no matter how many I help, my work is never done.

Even still, I save all that I can. I love more than I thought possible. I smile... because they smile.
I take-on their pain, so that they may have happiness. I allow my heart to hurt, so their's can heal. I become the one who is wounded, so they may be restored.

I know the cruelty that exists. I've seen the faces of abuse. I witness the senselessness of the world... and know that change is always just beyond my grasp...
I ask for help... it rarely comes. I pray for hope... it rarely appears. I beg for mercy... it rarely arrives.

Continued on page 17

I sometimes lose faith in humanity. I often cry. Some days, I crawl into bed and pull the covers over my eyes.

Sometimes, I sob. I hurt so much... but I cry because they hurt more than I ever could. The helplessness drives me to say, "I can't..."

Then, a foster baby's kiss says, "You can..."

So, I get out of bed. I brush off the despair. I vow to make a difference.

I do make a difference.

I never give up. I fight for change each day. I pray for relief from the pain... not for me, but for them.

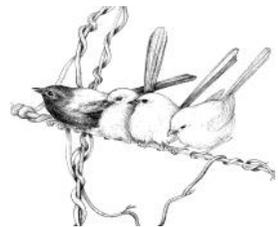
I rescue animals. In turn, they rescue me. Everything in between... is so worth it!

Author- unknown, could be any rescuer!



Ed: Available from: www.ebay.com.au/itm/back-off-i-brake-for-wildlife-australian-kangaroo-tailgating-bumpersticker-200mm/222929974474?hash=item33e7a974ca:g:f84AAOSwP25a1ytp

As a QWRC member have you received this RnR via an email link but would prefer to get a hard copy in the mail to read at your leisure? Just advise us at secretary@qwrc.org.au. Vice versa also applies.



QWRC Disaster Fund

This fund was set up to assist carers affected by any natural disaster. There is an application form on our website (how can I help?) with the maximum per claim being \$1000.

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council – Keeping Carers Informed

Fauna Spotter Catchers vs Wildlife Carers

It's not a competition, it's a relationship to be embraced

I write this article as both a Fauna Spotter Catcher (FSC) and a Wildlife Carer (WC). I have been a wildlife carer for nearly twenty years and my love of wildlife saw me seek employment where I could be paid to save and care for wildlife. This led to Fauna Spotter Catching, snake relocation and problem bird relocation aka Suburban Fauna Manager and FSC.



Every FSC I know have sought careers in Environmental Management or similar because of their love for the environment and wildlife. They all want to do everything they can to help the environment and prevent its demise. It kills every FSC to watch trees get knocked down for development, roads and infrastructure. They would rather every tree be left standing and other alternatives be found, but it's not a perfect world. The trees are going to

come down whether a FSC is there or not, so we should at least be thankful that someone is there to remove the animals from the hollows or sight the nests and rescue the young rather than the tree being felled and the animals left to suffer and die.

The rescued animals then need to be cared for, raised and released back into the wild. Not every FSC can do this, as they are not home to be able to provide the care, or have the knowledge and equipment required. On a personal note, I am lucky enough to have my mother live with me who works tirelessly during Spring and Summer to care for nearly one hundred birds that I bring home as chicks or eggs for the incubator. But not every FSC has this option.

Therefore, I also know how much it costs to raise wildlife and that to receive them from FSC's who get paid to retrieve them is frustrating. Why should you do all the hard work for months and get nothing for it? I agree completely. You should be compensated. However, it's not as easy as it seems. FSC companies cannot simply raise their prices to cover the costs of rehabilitation, as another company will simply under cut them and hand the animals over to an un-licensed, untrained, ill-equipped friend who thinks the fluffy chicks are cute and the baby possum will be great for the kids to take to school. It's not ideal, but it will see

Continued on Page 19

the animal off their hands. FSC regulations only state that the animals need to be put into care, they do not specify that the carer has to be licenced etc.

FSC companies are hesitant to pay a WC because they cannot be assured that the payment for food is being used on the animal from the FSC and not used on animals received from MOPs or vets. So, what's the solution?

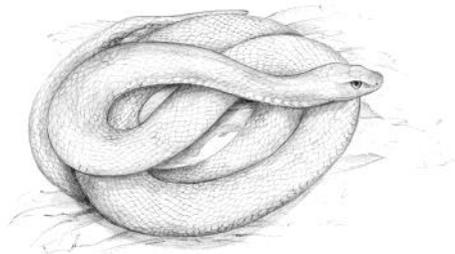
TALK to your local FSC company, develop a one-on-one relationship with them. Call them, make an appointment and go and see them or invite them to visit you and your facilities. Tell them how you could help them and how in turn they could help you. You may be able to work out something where, rather than paying you for food, they supply you with an aviary one season, or get some staff to help you clean up your yard and cages in preparation for the season, or to give you a one off

financial donation of an agreed to amount. You may decide to limit yourself to taking in animals just from the FSC so that they know they are only paying for their charges, or explain that you will take animals from other carers in return for them taking some from the FSC (this works for me).

Closing your doors to FSC will not stop the trees coming down, it will not save the wildlife. It will put them in danger. So please, you are a wildlife carer because you care for wildlife, FSC work in the industry to save the wildlife (I can assure you, walking kms in 35C heat with a heavy pack is not done for love nor a great deal of money and the work is never permanent), let us work together to give the best outcome for our precious wildlife.

Yours in caring

Lana Field



Old Wildlife Care Groups

QWRC has a list of groups on their website but it is likely that some of the information is no longer valid or needs updating. Please check these groups on www.qwrc.org.au and email: secretary@qwrc.org.au if any need updating, deleting or details of any that are not listed.

Displaying Wildlife in Public

The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc. (QWRC) is committed to best practice guidelines for native animal welfare. Guidelines issued by QWRC are developed with the approval of the ethics and legal sections of Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

The commitment to care for wildlife as a wildlife rehabilitator requires that the individual provides the best possible level of care and to accept the recommendations as set out in the *Code of Practice Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland issued in 2013*. Section 10 Standards notes

Wildlife in care must not be exposed to odours or noises that are likely to result in unnecessary familiarisation, stress or illness. Use of certain aerosols and insect repellents can be toxic to animals in care and should be avoided. For example: cigarette smoke in an enclosed area or loud music.

It is expected that wildlife care groups holding a group permit be responsible in maintaining these standards where individuals are reported to have animals on display at raffle selling stalls, classroom visits, shopping centres, fetes, open days and similar events. These events are classed as display and require specific permission.

In relation to the display of wildlife held under rehabilitation permit, Section 213 of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 (NC (WM)R) states:

Schedule 4 (Dictionary) of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 defines 'approved display purpose' as:

- (a) to give public information about the ecological role of the animal;
- (b) to promote education about, and the conservation of, the animal;
- (c) to promote an understanding of the ecology and the conservation of the animal.

Essentially, wildlife can only be displayed by a wildlife care organisation that holds a current rehabilitation permit and has written approval from DES. The animal that is being displayed must not have signs of injury or illness and the purpose of the display must be to raise funds to assist the organisation to care for wildlife or be an approved display purpose (see definition).

The usual arrangement for requesting approval to conduct display is for the Secretary of the wildlife association to forward a written request (e.g. letter or e-mail) to DES with details of proposed display including:

- date;
- time;
- location;
- venue;
- number and species of wildlife to be displayed;
- purpose of the display.

DES will respond with approval in writing or with a request for further information.

ADVERTISEMENT

Animal Intensive Care Units



Novital Brooder / ICU

Made in Italy –
digital thermostat, fan forced air.

	<p>IM 12 Clear Manual Incubator / Brooder</p>		<p>IM 36 Digital ICU</p>
---	--	---	---

- *Feeders & Drinkers – including automatic*
- *Incubators – 7 eggs to 100's*
- *Brooders & Nest Boxes & Hutches*
- *Ultra Sonic rodent, snake & animal repellents*



**Brinsea
EcoGlow
Brooder**

A selection of Intensive Care units are shown, all are thermostatically controlled and accessories are available.

WA Poultry Equipment & Coast to Coast Vermin Traps

1170 Baldvis Rd, Baldvis Western Australia
P.O. Box 2146, Rockingham DC Western Australia 6967
Tel: 1300-881 170 • Fax: 08-95241716
Email: sales@wape.com.au
www.wapoultryequipment.net.au



Carer Profile

Meet..... Lana Field with a passion for wildlife.

I grew up in Townsville in a house full of animals with my parents and three older siblings. We had two dogs, two cats, free range guinea pigs, a long-eared guinea pig, finches and a cockatoo. I used to find all the neighbourhood strays and bring them home before finding their owners. When I moved out of home, it wasn't long until I had amassed 25 pets. I also started to foster puppies and kittens for the RSPCA. It was then I realised that domestic animals had a big spokesperson with the RSPCA but the natives didn't have the same voice, so I tracked down the local wildlife care group, NQ Wildlife Care, and harassed a lady named Eleanor a few times until she was able to tell me when the next training session was. I didn't have a vehicle so I walked to all the meetings with my trusty sidekick Sasha, a Silky Terrier. It wasn't long until she had won every one's hearts and was allowed into the room during the meetings as she was well behaved, she would say hello to everyone then sit under my chair quietly.

I had just started with a couple of 'bomb proof' possums, when my then fiancé and I separated unexpectedly, I found myself living in an apartment with my mother, so caring was not so easy, but that didn't stop me. I simply changed over to doing mostly triage, small possums and wallabies that didn't need a lot of space and some reptiles and small birds and short care animals. I also took on the group phone and started doing rescues and snake relocation.

My mother was great and helpful and before long became a full and involved member of the group. She would come out on rescues with me, take the phone when I was at work and help with all aspects of caring. Being a nurse was an added bonus.

A few years later we moved out and house sat for a wallaby carer for a year while she travelled the country, before we moved into our own home with a big back yard. There I cared for everything from sea turtles, possums, swans, magpie geese, bats, snakes and more. We were lucky enough to acquire a possum that the vet had told us was a dehydrated male. Stevie turned out to be a blind female and when after three weeks, we realised the blindness was permanent, we took her in to be euthanased, only to find she had a pinky in her pouch. We decided she could stay in the aviary and raise her baby. When her joey was backriding, we put another backrider in with them to see what would happen, Stevie immediately started to clean its vent and allow it to backride. She would not let it in her pouch to feed, but she would clean it and tolerate it on her back, so we would take it in for feeds and then return it. When we took it out to feed it, Stevie would stress until it was returned. Stevie raised nearly a dozen or more backriders for us this way and it was a sad day when we had to pass her on to another carer when we were leaving town.



Continued on page 23

While a member of NQ Wildlife Care I took on the role of Public Relations officer and often had my face in the paper and voice on the radio. I felt it was the least I could do as I couldn't care for the tiny intensive orphans while working and studying. I kept changing my direction of study as it was hard to find the subjects that suited me and that I liked, that resulted in ten years of study, a hefty HECS bill and a Diploma of Applied Science (Wilderness, Reserves & Wildlife), a Bachelor of Applied Science (Protected Area Management, a Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Applied Science (Captive Vertebrate Management).

In 2010 I married Trevor, a man who understood that I came as a package deal, my mother, my pets and my wildlife. I had to accept that he came with motorbikes and a mess. I told him that one day I would leave Townsville and find work in my chosen field, he accepted this, not believing it would ever happen.

At the end of 2011 I informed Trevor and my mother that I had received a job in Brisbane and we were leaving in three weeks. Mum was overjoyed, she was over the Townsville climate, Trevor was shocked.

I started working for Qld Fauna Consultancy at the beginning of 2012 as a full-time snake catcher doing some occasional shifts fauna spotting. After two seasons, I was trained to trap and relocate problem birds. It wasn't long until my wildlife caring skills came into use as the wildlife carer that the company had been using was not equipped with the best facilities, and although had been caring for years, had no permit or proper training. Before

long, I had the boss purchase me a proper egg incubator and, poof, I had a house and yard full of plover chicks. I also set up to care for sick and injured snakes that we picked up on jobs.

I've been with QFC for six years now and although it's the 'dream job', it gets tiring being on call 24hrs and feeling I never get a break from the caring. Mum is getting older now and had a nasty fall at the beginning of the year and I had to nurse her while I was recovering from a bad sinus infection and Ross River Virus.

We can not find any one to take on the altricial birds that need to be removed from mobile phone towers, cranes, high rise buildings etc because carers seem to think that by not taking them in, they won't be removed. That's not how it works. We raised eight crows this season and I believe their release was a failure because we could not get advice, do not have a big enough aviary and could not get help from other carers. The RSPCA will not take them because the carers will not take them from them. I don't blame the RSPCA and I don't expect them to take all of them, but I give my time to them by caring for all their venomous snakes and helping them ID, tube and treat snakes bought in by other less trustworthy catchers or MOPs. I also take plovers and ducks from the RSPCA and any eggs they receive.

I thought wildlife carers do this because they care about the animals, but this season has proven otherwise. My mother and I are burnt out and will not be able to care for birds next season, I fear what will come of them if another carer or two do not stand up and offer to help.

Lana Field

Little Aggie the Whiptail Wallaby

Little Aggie came into care last year after a call from the vets to a local rescue group. The group was short of carers for pinkies or velvet joeys, so I agreed to take her on. When we arrived we were told she has been checked, is fine, no injuries and is an Aggie wallaby.

We named her Aggie accordingly, but after some consultation discovered she was actually a Whiptail, otherwise known as a Pretty Face wallaby.

As for being fine, the poor little girl had a huge pussy abscess on her pouch, which had obviously been caused from her sucking the area for days. It was becoming clear that her mum had been dead for days when she was found, hence her sucking her pouch because she was starving.

I checked her pretty thoroughly, but although she had no other injuries, her breathing was bad, her nose was runny. She had pneumonia. So much for the vet check.

Upon enquiring I found out where she was found, and as luck would have it, the lady who took her to vets was a final release carer, who said she was happy to release her back there if it was appropriate. I happened to know this lovely lady, so I contacted her.

It turned out that a neighbour of hers had found Aggie the day before, and just left her hanging in a pillowcase on the verandah. It was cold.

When the next day she was taken to this carer she had to be revived, then slowly warmed up to bring her back to life. She was given electrolytes and taken to the vets.

Poor Aggie had been through so much for a little velvet joey. I started her on Lectade for 24hrs to flush impurities from her gut and to rehydrate her. I then put her on Divetelact for a few days, which I always do at first, as it is not as rich as Wombaroo. I also started her on antibiotics.

Aggie was keen to drink anything you gave her, not surprisingly, so she eagerly switched over to Wombaroo. Now I am not a mac carer as such, more a jack of all trades, but I was concerned that she would stay awake almost all the time. I had her on 0.4 for a few weeks, but after every bottle she would call out, crying like she was calling for her mum. I suspected she was hungry, so switched her to 0.6 Wombaroo. She cried and cried, hour after hour, after every bottle. Her poos and wees were perfect, so I gave her Infacol thinking it must be gas. Nup. No difference. I tried all the usual things but it made no difference. Poor baby was in distress. I switched her back to Divetelact and although she still cried, it was a lot less. I took her off milk for a day, no crying. Soon as I put her back on the crying started again.

Oh well I thought, looks like Goats Milk might be the go. Phht, straight through her. Eventually I tried her on Soy milk and the crying stopped altogether.

Thinking of doing the best for her I added a little Impact to 200mls Soy Milk. The crying started again. Left it out, no crying. I tried over a few days and always the same. I was advised by a mac carer to add a little Greek yoghurt to her milk.

Continued on page 25

She had a few sips and flatly refused to drink it! Oh well, back to plain soy.

Meantime we had another Whippy joey almost exactly the same age as Aggie come in. She was on Wombaroo. She grew and flourished, Aggie didn't. Aggie seemed healthy enough but just wasn't growing. She was only half the size of the other one after a few months. Hence the name Little Aggie.

By this time they were eating the usual grass, dirt, sweet potato and grain mix. When they came out for a run Little Aggie tired out very easily and wanted her pouch. I figured she just wasn't getting enough nourishment, so to every 200mls soy milk I added 2 scoops High Protein Supplement, a few drops of Anitone and some Protexin. Still she hardly grew. Eventually someone put me onto LSA, which is sunflower, Linseed and Almond meal. Voila. Within a few weeks she had doubled in size, had loads of energy and was becoming very independent. So relieved!

Little Aggie soon went to her forever home and release Site. She is now thriving.

I suffer from severe food intolerance myself and I know how sick it can make you.

Please, don't force an animal to suffer because you have been brainwashed into thinking that there is only one brand of milk and all the rest is rubbish. They are all individual. Little Aggie obviously has a severe intolerance to any milk product.

It took months and months for her to come good.



Footnote : I have lost four joeys over the years to milk intolerance, a couple that I did not pick up on until too late and a couple that were passed on to other carers who did not pay attention when I told them that the babies were getting sick from the Wombaroo but were fine on Divetelact. They switched their milk and joey's were dead within a week.

I have others that vets have picked up on luckily in time. One had a rash, another swelling in the tummy, another crying in pain. Intolerance can take many forms and it pays to be alert. **Trish Mathers**

Ed: See another photo on page 27.



Wildlife Rescue Inc

PO Box 130 URUNGA NSW 2455

ABN 82 351 918 161

Rescue Hotline : 1300 596 457

We Want Your Postcodes!

Wildlife Rescue Inc. started out as a local wildlife group in Coffs Harbour area of NSW in 2011. When an increasing number of emergency calls from other states suggested there was a greater need for reliable phone service, WRI expanded its operation and in 2018, Wildlife Rescue Australia commissioned its state-of-the-art communication system able to handle over a million calls per year.

WRI's mission statement is *“To establish and maintain an Australia-wide, 24-hour communication network for the rescue and care of native animals.”* Via our 1300 number, callers from anywhere in Australia can receive support and be connected to the appropriate help in their own local area.

The map opposite shows the distribution of calls during December 2018. At present SE QLD accounts for almost 50% of all calls.

The number of calls received by Wildlife Rescue Australia is growing. Our top

priorities at the moment are to add more native animal groups to our database, to enlist more phone co-ordinators and to have [licenced carers](#) and [rescuers](#) register with us through our easy, online form.

WRI seeks to build good working relationships with native animal groups throughout Australia, offering different levels of support. Your group could either leave post codes and details with us and any calls we get from your area will be passed on to you or you can elect to divert your emergency number to our call centre at times when you are unable to provide the service.

With your help we can create a fast and efficient network for the betterment of all Australian wildlife. If you have not registered with WRI please consider doing so. Feel free to contact us with any further questions.

Bernard Ashcroft





Little Aggie with friend (page 24)



Ocellated velvet gecko (Oedura monilis) © Kieran Palmer



Three-clawed worm skink (Anomolopus verreauxii) © Kieran Palmer