

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 36

September 2019

Keeping carers
informed



Red-tailed black cockatoo

© Muneer Al Shanti

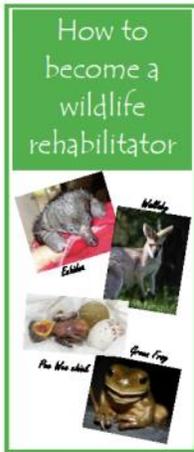
QWRC Products



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



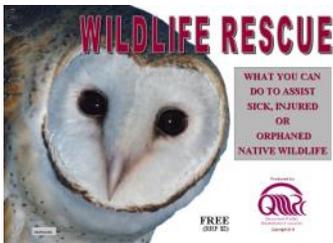
- ◆ Don't cats control rats and mice?
- ◆ Don't cats control snakes?
- ◆ Cats threaten the future survival of most wildlife
- ◆ Are you a responsible cat owner?
- ◆ Do cats harm wildlife?
- ◆ How can I protect cats and wildlife?



- ◆ 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



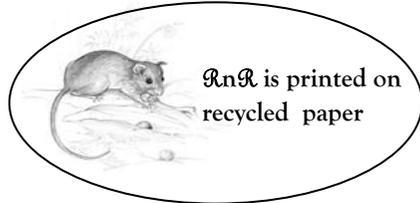
SEE PAGE 13 FOR PRINTING COSTS



In this issue:

- Green Heroes
- Puggle rescue
- How to become Incorporated
- Carer Profile – Jodi Jones
- Technology and Training
- Wildlife Rescue Australia
- Positive self-care

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**



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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..

Welcome again to another exciting issue of QWRC's RnR newsletter. 2019 has certainly been an interesting year. Australian wildlife is really doing it tough and the resulting stress on rehabbers is showing. Please all continue to pray for rain.

At the AGM this year we said an official farewell to a couple of QWRC Councillors.

Eleanor Pollock had planned to retire but her health eventually decided to make the change a little sooner than expected. We wish you well Eleanor. I cannot thank you enough for the amazing effort you have put into QWRC over the years and all that you have done for the wildlife of Queensland. I know Eleanor hopes to remain a consultant to QWRC.

Following a call for nominations from District 11 I am pleased to announce that Lana Field, a long-time member of QWRC, has been elected unopposed to the position of District 11 councillor.

We farewell our super-efficient treasurer and member secretary, Vicky Dawson; Vicky has done a really great job of building and maintaining our member list almost from the beginning whilst at the same time working full time in a very demanding job. Thank you Vicky we would not be where we are today without your expertise and calming logic.

This will be the last Chair's report I present to QWRC as I too am stepping down. I stopped working hands on with animals many years ago; the time has now come for me to hand over the reins to a new and vital councillor to carry

QWRC proudly into the future. I am pleased to welcome Kim Palmer [District 6] as she takes up the reins as QWRC Chair.

The 'changing of the guard' continued at the AGM with Jacqui Webb [District 4] as Vice Chair. Janelle Gilmore [District 3] remains as Secretary/Minute Taker. Lana Field [District 11] takes up the position of Treasurer /Member Secretary as well as editor of the RnR.

I continually give thanks to all the QWRC councillors and our Patron Dr Jim Pollock for their tireless efforts for QWRC. It is only through their efforts that QWRC is able to supply you with the benefits you gain through your QWRC membership. QWRC continues efforts to have a representative in every district of the State. Whilst I know all wildlife rehabbers are very busy people please give serious thought as to whether it is your time to step up and help out on the wider front of rehabbing.

Jacqui Webb after doing such a great job of applying for grants has passed the task to Judy Elliott. Thanks Jacqui for a job well done. We have submitted our application to the Register of Environmental Organisation for Deductable Gift Recipient status though we have been told it could take up to a year for this to be finalised. Our hope is that this will open a few more grant opportunities to us allowing us to advance our efforts to assist groups with the provision of easily accessible consistent publications to disseminate to the public across the State.

Our membership currently stands a little lower than last year and we still have 8

groups from across the State whose members have joined QWRC to enable both members and the group to take advantage of the insurance we offer. QWRC is working on ways a group, which is not in need of insurance cover, can still affiliate with QWRC thus strengthening the voice of all rehabbers across the State. We hope this may be able to happen from the beginning of 2020.

Please ensure that you revisit the QWRC website regularly and make full use of the resources provided for the benefit of all members and rehabbers. Our brochures are available free, or at subsidised rates, to members and groups

across the State, so consistent information is always available to members of the public. Our wildlife rescue booklet is still a hit, and we would love to see it converted to an app to serve the ever expanding use of mobile devices to access information.

Thank you all for your wonderful support as QWRC looks forward to many more years of working together, always drawing in more of the wildlife rehabber community to continue as a group for the betterment of our precious wildlife.

Annie Saunders
Retiring QWRC Chair

Editorial..

Hi everyone, I hope you (and your critters) have all stayed safe from these horrendous fires. RIP all creatures great and small that have perished, so sad.

Page 16 is all about the work that the Green Heroes are doing with installing some innovative types of nestboxes in school-grounds. Page 17 is about their Wildlife Adoption Program working with school students.

Pages 26 and 27 is about Wildlife Rescue Australia. I would encourage you all to consider registering with this organisation (free). They are also looking for more volunteers to man the rescue phone line (full training given).

On page 9 you'll find information about the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference being held in Darwin.

You may not be aware that Australian Wildlife Supplies (page 10) is now

owned by Ray and Terena based near Toowoomba. Their advert still has the old address details which will be rectified in the next issue but the email address and mobile phone number are still valid.

We are always seeking articles and 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 March 2020 issue.

Deadline: 14 February 2020

Email: editor@gwrc.org.au

or

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

Judy Elliott - retiring Editor



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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.

WIRES rescues first puggle of the season

Damian was driving along High Street in Goonellabah late one night when he came across an Echidna on the road, obviously in serious trouble; it had been hit by a car. Damian stopped to check the fate of the animal. The Echidna was sadly deceased, but he noticed something moving on her stomach. Damian called WIRES 24 hour hotline for help, and delivered the Echidna to WIRES volunteer Leoni. Leoni was able to safely remove a tiny Puggle very much alive from mum's "pouch". A soft-shelled egg is laid some time between 10 and 36 days after mating. The female lays her egg by lying on her back, rolling it down her stomach and enveloping it straight into her "pouch". Echidnas do not actually have a permanent pouch; instead they have contracting muscles in their abdomens, which forms a pouch-like fold.

After 10½ days the young Echidna, which is called a puggle, taps on the inside of the egg with what is called an egg tooth to break the soft shell. This is the only tooth the Echidna has, and it drops off 1-2 days after hatching. The puggle stays in the "pouch" for 50 days by which time it is developing spines, and mum will have dug a nursery burrow. She will leave the puggle in the burrow and return every 5 to 6 days to feed her young through a series of mammary pores on her stomach. Milk is secreted through these pores and, as with kangaroos and possums, the milk changes according to the growth stage of the young. How clever is that?

For three months, female Echidnas may be carrying either an egg or a very small puggle in her "pouch". Should you come

across an injured Echidna please stop and check for a puggle. When mum is injured the puggle may roll away, so please check for what may look like a golf ball nearby. If the Puggle is still in mum's "pouch" please do not remove it. Transport mum Echidna as well to a vet or carer, even if she is deceased.



© WIRES Northern Rivers

This tiny bundle is very young - just 26 days ago it hatched from the egg. Its eyes are not yet open, spines are yet to develop and weight is just 67 grams. Little Damian (as he was been named) was comfortable and being fed special Puggle formula. Being so very young his long term fate is as yet uncertain. Thank you Damian for sparing this little Puggle from being left in his dead mums "pouch" to slowly succumb to the elements.

WIRES Northern Rivers

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.



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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.



MONDAY 10 - WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST - CONFERENCE

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST - CHOICE OF FOUR WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST - CHOICE OF FIVE EXCURSIONS

This conference is a 3-day event

that has continued to grow since conception in 2003. It is targeted at wildlife rehabilitators, vets, vet nurses, students, conservationists, and many others involved or interested in our Australian wildlife.

Moving forward in research, standard rehabilitation techniques and release techniques, managing groups, and mental health awareness requires continual improvement and research. The Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference provides a platform where we can come together to build knowledge, confidence, and networks to allow us successes and to learn from our failures.

We hope you can join us in the beautiful tropical location of Darwin, Northern Territory. We look forward to meeting old friends and colleagues, and seeing new faces.

2020 Theme

The Australia Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2020 theme is eco-friendly. It's not always an easy task, and in remote areas it can even be a challenge. There will be less paper, we want to see your re-usable cups and water bottles, recycling of waste, and anything else we can fit in. Australia is our wildlife sanctuary, lets protect it.

Program

- The main conference will be held over 3 days - Monday to Wednesday.
- The conference dinner will be held Wednesday night.
- Thursday will see us attending workshops in a beautiful local location.
- Friday is excursion day, with several choices to see local areas.

<https://awrcdarwin.weebly.com/>



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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 (Vice-chair)
Phone: 4947 3308

District 5 — Capricorn/Gladstone
VACANT

District 6 — Longreach
Kim Palmer (Chair)
Phone: 4658 7216

District 7 — Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy
Judy Elliott (Grants officer)
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
Lana Field (Treasurer/Membership officer/
RnR Editor
Phone: 0412 36655

QWRC's patron is Dr Jim Pollock

RnR is printed by Classic Design and
Print, Bundaberg



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



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

Green Heroes



Thankyou to Tugun Community Bank Branch for sponsoring these hollows for native wildlife. In this exciting collaboration with Habi-Tec we were able to install these hollows in trees bordering bushland at St Andrews Lutheran College. Whilst these hollows provide habitat for hollow nesting native species - they also provide a learning opportunity for students at the college who will incorporate this into their school program. As you can imagine these Habi-tec hollows have proven themselves as the home of choice for native species thanks to a design that mimics nature closely and provides the correct microclimate when installed correctly. Watch this space to see who moves in! We will keep you posted!

Please contact us if you are a school on the Gold Coast or Northern NSW who would be interested in incorporating hollows on your school grounds.

<https://www.facebook.com/greenheroes.org.au/>



Green Heroes - Adoption Program

Through the Green Heroes Wildlife Adoption Program we aim to support carers in their commitment to wildlife care and to create a meaningful educational opportunity for children about native wildlife conservation. Connecting classrooms to carers.

Carers wishing to be involved please provide:

- good quality image of the marsupial joey (wherever possible)
- a brief description of how he/she came into care
- sex/weight (if possible)
- any other interesting features about the individual animal or species
- your mailing address
- most needed supplies (from our list) or other supplies needed
- a progress update (or two) if possible

We are so grateful for your time and commitment to wildlife caring. Thankyou. In return we would like to send you a parcel of thanks. Please choose one of the following:

- 100g Impact (colostrum replacer)
- 1kg Biolac M100, M150, M200
- Divetelact
- 1kg Wombaroo possum, kangaroo, echidna (specify <0.8 >0.8 etc)
- teats and bottles
- bundle of pouches (please specify minimum size in cms)

**We welcome any marsupials into this special program.
Thankyou, from the team at Green Heroes
Please email hello@greenheroes.org.au to be involved.**

Sarah Jantos

0416 050 946

www.greenheroes.org.au



Tips on becoming Incorporated

This is part one of an article on being an incorporated association.

Any group of persons can work as a group without becoming incorporated however taking that extra step carries both legal responsibilities and benefits for the group. An incorporated association is legally separate from its members. This means that:

- the committee makes decisions
- the association becomes legally liable for these decisions
- individuals on the committee aren't personally liable (as long as they acted in good faith).

According to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to become an incorporated association in Queensland you must be a group with at least seven members and a not-for-profit association with a physical address in Queensland.

To become incorporated, an association must:

- vote for it by a three-quarter majority
- lodge the required paperwork with OFT and pay the specified fee
- elect a president, secretary and treasurer (two different people must hold the president and treasurer positions)

- adopt a set of operating rules (model rules or constitution)

- have an address in Queensland where documents can be personally served.

Association names must:

- contain only English characters
- not be easily mistaken for the name of another incorporated association, Australian organisation, business or cooperative
- have the word 'Incorporated' or the abbreviation 'Inc.' at the end of the name.

All incorporated associations must have a constitution. This written set of rules outlines the association's operations, including members' rights, how the management committee works and how meetings run. All association members should have access to a copy of the association's rules.

The model rules produced by the OFT are a standard set of rules that an incorporated association can use instead of writing their own. If an association makes any changes to the model rules, they become the association's own rules rather than the model rules. The rules only become effective once the association is incorporated through the OFT. An association can apply to

Continued on Page 19

register amendments to its rules, or adopt the latest version of the model rules, at any time using the OFT required paperwork and paying the specified fee.

Several things must happen after your association becomes incorporated:

- Any assets, liabilities, rights or legal proceedings of the unincorporated association are transferred to the newly incorporated association.
- Once OFT issue the certificate of incorporation, your association must obtain a common seal (rubber stamp) with the association's full name (including the word 'Incorporated' or the abbreviation 'Inc.')
- Keep a set of books (for at least seven years and in English) to record including:
 - ◆ financial transactions
 - ◆ a list of current members
 - ◆ minutes of general meetings and committee meetings
 - ◆ a register of assets.
- Arrange with the Registrar of Titles to transfer property currently registered in the trustees' names to the association.
- Investigate whether the association needs to or is required

to take out public liability insurance (PLI).

- Open a bank account in the association's name with a financial institution in Queensland. The institution may need a copy of the certificate of incorporation and association rules.

PLI protects your association if a person is injured, or their property is damaged, due to an incident on the association's property or the association's actions. PLI is compulsory if the association owns or leases land, or holds land in trust. Although PLI may not be compulsory for an incorporated association it will be required by most places at which the association may wish to carry out fundraising activities. Your association's management committee must assess the association's situation and decide how much insurance it needs, if any. (Note that financial membership of QWRC offers cover by both PLI and Volunteer Workers Personal Accident Insurance.)

For further information about incorporation and access to all the paperwork required visit the OFT at www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/associations-nonprofits.htm

Next issue we will look at the roles and tasks of the committee of a group. Our thanks goes to the OFT for information supplied for this article.



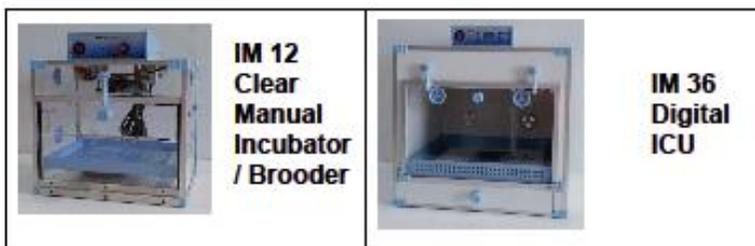
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Animal Intensive Care Units



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**Brinsea
EcoGlow
Brooder**

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

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Email: sales@wape.com.au
www.wapoultryequipment.net.au



Technology and Training | Flight Plan goes Digital

Regional wildlife carers will now have access to online training webinar sessions hosted by Gladstone and District Wildlife Carers Association.

Using technology to reach our regional members is the only way we can deliver our training as very few regional carers have the time and money to travel to workshops. Keeping connected to our carers with busy lives is a huge challenge for any wildlife care group.

Our members can access the sessions though our Google training calendar and join the sessions via the meeting room link found on the calendar schedule.

Orientation and emergency care presentations are available online and are prerequisites to any of our animal husbandry training sessions.

The short 40 minute sessions are focused on one topic of rehabilitation husbandry at a basic level:

- **Session 1** - Introduction - species of the region
- **Session 2** - Emergency care species specific
- **Session 3** - Management of Care dietary requirements, native foods and stages of care.
- **Session 4** - Diseases and health management.
- **Session 5** - Release, when to release, choosing a release site, safety and biosecurity factors.
- **Session 6** - This session is a hands on class session or mentor one on one session.

The sessions are conducted across a semester covering, Marsupials Macropods, Possums, Gliders, Parrots, Small granivores, Insectivorous birds, Fruit eating birds and foraging water birds-ducks and common species often coming into care.

We are aiming to also have some more specialist break out webinars and focused discussion groups for husbandry items like native flora, specialist species and neonatal care.

The presentations have links to recommended reading resources, legislation, websites and publications and materials that will help carers grow their rehabilitation knowledge beyond the basics and continue to evolve their husbandry skill set.

As the digital framework for Flight Plan evolves we will be keen to open the sessions up to the greater care community. If you are interested in being a trainer/ contributor to Flight plan our training and education coordinator would love to hear from you.

E: gladwildlife@gmail.com

W: www.gladstonewildlife.org.au

P: 0427 106 803

Jodi Jones



Carer Profile

Meet..... Jodi Jones who is passionate about wildlife and the environment



Like many carers, Jodi started her care journey as an incidental carer. Growing up on a farm always finding injured animals on roads and around the farm when the land was being worked.

A member of Wildcare for some time, Jodi joined Gladstone and District Wildlife Carers Association (GW) in 2008. Her first rescue on her first day was a large Green turtle that was transported to Australia Zoo for treatment. Mali was successfully treated and returned home for release.

Specialising in avian care, Jodi has hand raised over 1000 birds including a Powerful owl and two White-bellied sea eagle chicks. She has also incubated and hatched Red-capped plover chicks.

“While I do specialise in Avian care and love looking after raptors, I also care for macropods, gliders, lizards, echidnas, bandicoots native rodents. Well, anything really, I have even looked after Xeromys miodes our little endangered water mouse, they smell and eat fish and crabs. I do a lot of rescues and emergency care, it's hard and a little sad at the moment and with so many animals needing care and sadly so many not making it because of injury or illness. The important thing is that I keep trying and every animal that makes it through to release is so special. I keep learning every day with each and every animal that trusts me to care for them. When working with the GW care team I often say don't limit yourself by an idea that you want to look after just one species of animal. You're going to miss out on some very special experiences. Specialising is good, but you also need to have a well rounded and balanced skillset.”

“Favorite animal, I honestly don't know , how do you pick your favourite child ?”

Most interesting animal through care. “Its either Pablo the Powerful owl or the six Watermouse (Xeromys miodies) that I raised.

Passionate about conservation and protection of our environment Jodi, whose trade is a mechanical draftsman decided on a career change in 2014 and took on the role of regional coordinator for Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) developing and managing key regional environmental projects.

Continued on page 23

Leaving CVA in late 2016, to work on the private grant/project applications and to develop Gladstone Wildlife training programs Habits For Habitat Community Education program and coordinate Flight plan (GWs carer training program). Jodi delivers weekly community talks and educational content for the Habits For Habitat Program and has coordinated carer education events for specialist care of Gliders with Dr Robyn Stenner, Seabirds with Australian Sea Bird Rescue, Echidnas With Dr Peggy Rismiller, Macropods with Lynda Staker, Advanced Birds, Bats and Echidnas with Dr Anne Fowler. Jodi is currently working on an online framework using web conferencing to deliver 40minute carers’ basics programs that will have the potential to reach and connect our remote friends in care and breakdown some of our distance barriers.

This year Jodi has taken on an additional hat to her collection of volunteer roles as the secretary for the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (AWRC) .

“It’s pretty exciting to be working at a national level, the conference is an amazing framework that provides opportunities for wildlife rehabilitators to develop skills and network. The 2020 Darwin conference is going to be very interesting with some very special keynote speakers. It is a privilege to be working with the AWRC team, keep an eye out online for updates.” Jodi says.

Jodi also volunteers in many roles and sits on the Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) for the Gladstone Region and chairs the Friends of Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre (BIECC) committee and works as a project officer for the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI). Working with the data team to manage and better understand the sources of marine debris. The Australian marine debris Initiative is managing the ReefClean program for the Great Barrier Reef.

Jodi’s journey as a carer is far from finished, this year is going to be a tough one.

Let’s Stop Bullying

All wildlife rehabilitators are VOLUNTEERS who contribute their time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm because they care and want to make a difference. They do not have to do it!

We should all keep this in mind when dealing with each other in the various roles for which we have agreed to take responsibility.

In all that we do we must take

responsibility for and accept the consequences of our actions.

Mutual respect, courtesy and understanding can make a huge difference to ensure positive outcomes; not just for the animals we care for but also for each other.

Remember to always treat all others the same way that we ourselves wish to be treated.

Positive Self-care

Kangaroo Jack has been caring for only six years. He is a newbie among those who have been caring for many years more. This article is a general one to give carers a moment to consider their role in the support of our wildlife and whether we are doing our best for ourselves, as well as our charges.

Carers as a group in the community are an odd assortment, so to specify the type of person undertaking our calling, would doubtless miss someone, so for this exercise I am going to be as general as I can, but add a couple of specific notes for one particular demographic.

Having been part of the care community (as opposed to “industry”) for around six years, I count among my friends, both real and on Facebook, several people who have counselled me on self-care, whilst largely forgetting to follow the same thoughts in their own caring.

The very first thought we need to keep in mind is “if I am only partially useful at the moment due to an outside influence or illness, how can I possibly support the animals in care effectively”?

The short answer is we can’t. We need to be on our game full time for our charges to give them the best chance of a long life, as a wild creature. But are we always?

Have a think about some of our challenges:

- Grief – we are supposed to lose our animals – release and death both confront many of us. We do lose

animals. We are supposed to.

- Sadness – no animals from group leader’s intent on making our life tough.
- Knowledge challenges – not knowing what to do about a circumstance with an animal and not getting appropriate support from the group.
- Financial challenges – most carers no longer work full time.
- Capacity challenges – are we skilled enough to take on this animal and if we say no, what will that lead to?

The first one should be self-evident. With the exception of South Australia, all wildlife in care in this country is destined (technically at least) for release. In some states (like Queensland) it’s part of the code of practice. So the bit about not attaching oneself to an animal in care is obvious in it’s intent, but frequently hard in its execution. None the less, these tiny pink bodies we are holding are destined for release. Our support network needs to include someone to keep that in the front of our minds as we develop our charges prior to them being part of the outside kingdom with its inherent risks.

I often hear of groups lead by people who may not be great in their people skills. I hear that because I am available for people to have a quiet chat about the issue.

Continued on page 25

Bullying within a group has no place to be reported. Not the department responsible for the incorporation of associations, nor police (internal issue, no laws broken). There is currently contemplation going on about developing a volunteer's support process, to enable a bit of extra-legal support. People being bullied need a place to talk about what they are experiencing, and it needs to be outside the group involved. This can and should include talking amongst your friends as well as other carers in whom you have developed a trust relationship. My recommendation is that those be actual friends as opposed to folks on Facebook, who, much as you may respect them and their views and skills, may not actually be who you think they are, or who they say they are.

The point of that discussion is that if you talk about it, people will remember if they are asked, so you have an evidentiary trail, with no references on Facebook apart from perhaps brief notes about your experience, again forming a type of evidentiary trail. Bullying within a not for profit rarely has consequences because it is rarely reported, and if you are nodding your head at this one, look for groups which use the National Standard for Volunteer Involvement. Ask your group to use it. What do you have to lose?

Develop your own phone network. People

you can pick up the phone and talk to by voice. It may well begin on Facebook but get into the habit of talking to people. The ones with a voice will be less judgemental often and will have no axe to grind with you. On Facebook "friends" is just a word, not a thing.

Now the specific demographic. Many carers survive on the pension or some other form of benefit. Few carers work full time in paid employment. Those who do, work from home. Develop buying groups locally, and pool resources where you can. If eight people gather together and pay just \$50 each to purchase say 20Kg of Wombaroo you could get 2.5 kg each. Get 1.1 Kg from the vet, and it can cost up to \$68! Around \$20/Kg is what you could be paying."

Bottles and teats also can be bulk purchased at reasonable rates. If unsure, you can contact me for a few ideas. You'll find me at Warrego Wildlife on Facebook or you can call me on 0475095577. I am also equipped with a listening ear.

The last item, only you can answer. Can you do it? There are issues in groups over this, but not every carer belongs to or belongs in, a group. There are always alternatives.

Daemon Singer – Warrego Wildlife Inc



CONGRATULATIONS to our illustrator Louise Saunders for being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia.

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.

Why does Wildlife Rescue Australia exist?

Is there a need for an association such as WRA when so many native animal groups already exist? Is WRA simply “muddying the waters”? These questions certainly warrant an answer.

Many permitted/licenced groups in Australia claim to provide a 24-hour emergency phone service but fail to provide it.

Given that members generally join a care group to care for animals, it is understandable that many groups struggle to find members to answer phone calls. In some cases, it is left to persons unsuited to the task, resulting (for example) in a caller being told to take a shearwater back to the beach and “*let it die*”.

WRA has established a Call Centre technically capable of accepting over 1,000,000 incoming calls per annum - estimated sufficient to handle all calls for all native animals in all States.

In other words, WRA has established a Call Centre which has the potential of becoming the equivalent of the 000 emergency number for native animals throughout Australia. It already has an Australia-wide phone number (1300 596 3457), allowing calls to the Centre to be made for no more than the cost of a local call.

The Call Centre can handle over 100 calls simultaneously - or more in emergency situations - and has proven its performance ability. Since commencing operations in 2013, over 95% of incoming calls have been answered with an average answering time of less than 25 seconds.

WRA is independent of any government or government body and is therefore not bound by the rules and regulations placed on permitted/licenced persons or groups. WRA is able to accept calls regardless of the species involved or its location. Members of the public do not have the problem, once they have found a group, of wondering whether it is licenced to rescue/care for koalas (say) or snakes or sea turtles. A WRA phone coordinator (PC) can contact an appropriate rescuer or carer or native animal group on the MOPs behalf.

In order to maintain professional standards, WRA engages experienced carers as PCs wherever possible; many of our PCs have over 20 years experience caring for native animals. WRA does not employ other call centres or paging services, staffed by untrained personnel.

By using home-based PCs, WRA has avoided the cost of maintaining an office, office staff and other paid employees. ALL members of WRA are unpaid volunteers who have all their expenses paid by WRA and who do not have to pay membership fees.

By using latest technology and operating a cost-efficient organisation, WRA can pass many benefits on to permitted/licenced native animal groups throughout Australia. The bottom line is that, for \$5 per month, WRA can provide a group with (in effect) its own call centre, with calls going to its own members and supported by phone coordinators from other permitted/licenced groups.

Contact WRA via the Contact page on our website for further information.

Secretary, Wildlife Rescue Australia



Wildlife Rescue Australia
24-hour Call Centre
ABN 82 351 918 161
Hotline 1300 596 457



If you are in love with our unique native animals and their environment, please join us in the fight to save it.

If you are a wildlife rehabilitator operating on your own permit, or a member of a wildlife group or the person in charge of a wildlife organisation, please consider joining us in the fight to help our unique wildlife. It needs our support to survive long enough for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Wildlife Rescue Australia is a unique organisation that operates a 24/7 Emergency Phone Service. This service covers the whole of Australia but needs your help. If you love our unique wildlife and wish to help, please register as either a permitted/licenced carer or rescuer. A wildlife group can simply provide us with the postcodes of the areas the group covers so WRA phone coordinators can direct calls to them.

As all wildlife groups know, it is hard to get their phones covered 24/7, with

many members working or having a busy life. When a group affiliates with WRA, it benefits from WRA phone operators answering your calls and passing them on to your members to attend the rescues etc.

WRA can also filter out and deal with those calls not requiring actual rescues such as ‘possums in the roof, ‘snakes in backyard’, ‘dogs barking at Echidna’.

WRA can even reduce your group’s phone bill to \$5 per month!

The benefits to a group (and hence the wildlife in their area) will become obvious when discussions take place between a group and WRA.

If you wish to know more about how WRA can assist your group, please refer to our website:

www.wildliferescue.net.au or ring me on 0427 066 933.

Admin Officer, Wildlife Rescue Australia

Attention all Qld Wildlife Carer 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.



Australian Masked Owls (Tyto novaehollandiae) © Joshua Bowell



Red kangaroo "Scrubby" ©Kieran Palmer