

# RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 18  
September 2010

Keeping carers  
informed



*Feathertail glider*

Courtesy of Steve Parish Publishing

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Illustrations by  
Louise Saunders





Continuing the Glider theme .....

Here are some pics of my Sugar gliders. They were 8gms when I cut them from the mother's teats after she was killed by a cat, usual story. One of them didn't survive unfortunately but the other one joined a colony I had and was released. A tip for introducing new gliders to an existing group - I use a small amount of baby talc stroked onto them so they all smell the same. It works a treat for me and I've never had any aggression problems.

*Judy Elliott*

***In this issue:***

- Insurance via QWRC policy
- Hints on becoming Incorporated
- Hints and Tips
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- National Wildlife Conference
- Wildlife Rescue—Boobook Owl
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- Wildlife Carer Reflects....

**RnR** is produced by The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council twice a year. It is distributed (by request), free of charge, to all licensed wildlife rehabilitators throughout Queensland. To ensure you continue to receive a copy, either by post or email, please send your contact details to: [secretary@qwrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qwrc.org.au).



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



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Best Practice Guidelines **available to QWRC members** on their website **[www.qwrc.org.au](http://www.qwrc.org.au)** include:

- Euthanasia of Native Wildlife in Queensland
- Wildlife Autopsy by Rehabilitators in Queensland
- Hygiene Practices
- What happens to animals that can't be released?
- Understanding your duty of care
- Release of wildlife
- Zoonosis
- Care of Flying fox orphans outside their geographical range
- Wildlife in the Workplace



## From the Chair..

Wow! Doesn't time fly! Here we are with another financial year ended – have you all got your tax returns in? The year is fast slipping away as by the time you get this Spring will be upon us and the silly season will be just around the corner.

How many of you got to enjoy the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference in Adelaide this year? For anyone who has never been to a National Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference now is the time to start saving your pennies and logging up your holiday time ready for the next one. These are held every two years and the next will be hosted by North Queensland Wildlife Care in Townsville. This should make it an easier goal for most Queenslanders. These conferences, apart from learning heaps from the wonderful speakers at each conference, are a great time to network with other rehabbers.

For those who didn't get to attend, most of the papers presented are now available at the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference web site [www.nwrc.com.au](http://www.nwrc.com.au).

Groups should remember that there are grants available for members wishing to attend conferences. Remember there was an article in our last RnR (issue 17) on how to access funding.

In April QWRC again contacted all groups and members in the South East corner of the State to advise of a Cuppa and Chat event we were hosting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. I am disappointed to say that we had very few replies and only nine

attendees. On a positive note we had a wonderful meeting and all attendees are now QWRC members.

QWRC is holding another of these meetings on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 see the ad on page 7 for all the details.

One issue raised and agreed by all present was that there needed to be one organisation willing to stand-up for wildlife; someone to give media the wildlife's side of the issue. I reminded those present, just as I always do, that QWRC is that organisation; QWRC is here for just that task. But there is one very important string attached – for QWRC to be heard we need to be seen to represent the majority of Wildlife Rehabilitators in Queensland.

Our membership is steadily growing but we still have to explain to Wildlife Rehabilitators who we are and what we are here to do. We are NOT a rehabilitation group; we are NOT here to take over any group or tell them how they should be run or what they can or cannot do.

QWRC is here to represent wildlife rehabilitators. We are here as the voice of wildlife rehabilitators. If you have an issue that needs addressing, a problem that needs attention – come to us; but remember we will have most “clout” if we have the support of the majority of Queensland's wildlife rehabilitators.

We now have a few groups that have seen that light and gained the benefit of insurance through QWRC membership for their members. Remember that by all

*Continued on Page 5*

members of a group being members of QWRC the group will be covered by QWRC's Public Liability Insurance and all members will be covered by Volunteer Workers Personal Accident Insurance. See the article on pages 8/9 for more details on how this can work.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our AGM on September 27<sup>th</sup> so look for the details inside this issue.

Till next time

Cheers

Annie



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## Editorial..

Thank goodness the sun shone on me and our solar panels recently to enable me to use the computer and internet. It is also much nicer for all our critters too of course. It feels as though Winter is almost over for another year and we only lit our woodstove twice!

There's lots of reading in this issue and although some of you may not be interested in such things as incorporation and insurance it really can make a big difference. I have an individual wildlife rehabilitator permit but I also belong to an incorporated group that allows us to seek funding from various areas.

The group also saves money by taking advantage of the QWRC Public Liability Insurance. This is the insurance that's needed for a lot of fundraising venues and events. Anything that allows us to spend more money on our animals must be all good.

We've introduced two competitions in this issue, see page 19, so you and the children can get busy writing stories. Next time it will be for the best wildlife photographs.

We are also seeking photos of baby birds to place in an ID gallery for our members. ID will be supplied if needed.

**Please tell us what you think about this issue. Also what you would like to read about, give us your stories, your photos, your ideas. Deadline for the next issue is 15 January 2011.**

Write to:

The Editor, PO Box 488,

ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

Email: [editor@qwrc.org.au](mailto:editor@qwrc.org.au)

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Judy Elliott*

## Wildlife Rescue -The Boobook Owl

It was late afternoon at the Environmental Education Centre when I answered my mobile. I was delighted to hear the voice of a wonderful female vet who, with her male colleagues, has our wildlife genuinely at heart. The request was for a “second opinion” particularly on wildlife rehabilitation and release as to the probable viability of an injured Boobook owl.



*Photo by Sue Westover*

The owl had been found on the side of the road that day unable to fly away. There was significant trauma under the wing and the bird was quite “flat”, almost moribund. On further assessment it looked as though the injury had been caused by barbed wire entrapment and not by having been hit by a car as was first suspected. He had obviously struggled to release himself but was unable to fly due to the degree of injury.

After much discussion and debate on whether the owl would be able to survive in the wild even if the injuries healed without possible secondary infection, I

indicated that euthanasia would sadly be the appropriate action for this glorious bird.

Immediately the word *euthanasia* passed my lips, the owl which I was holding gently, promptly ‘rose from the dead’ and flew to the floor of the surgery. Instantly, my heart took a leap of faith and I asked the vet for analgesia and antibiotics to be given straight away. I figured that if the owl wasn’t going to say die, then nor would I. I suggested and it was agreed that I should take the owl to specialist veterinary care at the Australia Zoo Veterinary Hospital where he could be further assessed and treated for his injuries.

After the two hour drive to Beerwah, the owl and I presented at Australia Zoo Veterinary Hospital. Following assessment and x-rays to determine the extent of the injuries, the suturing began. Concern was expressed for the outcome particularly due to the barbed wire and possible infection. The Boobook came through the surgery and was placed into intensive care. I left for the long journey home with a heavy but optimistic heart praying for a good outcome for the little battler who had let me know he wanted to be given a second chance.

A couple of weeks later he was transferred to Currumbin Veterinary Hospital Raptor Care where his rehabilitation continued. A couple more weeks passed and I feared the worst but then my mobile phone rang and the voice

*Continued on Page 7*

on the other end said “your owl is ready to go home, when can you pick him up?” I almost burst into tears as I was so thrilled to hear the wonderful news. He was eating and flying well with his injuries completely healed.

On driving to Currumbin to collect him, I kept thinking of the incredible journey this Boobook owl had travelled since that fateful day and the cause of his trauma. The wonderful caring of the original veterinary practice, the superb treatment provided by Australia Zoo Veterinary Hospital and the follow up care and rehabilitation provided by the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

As we approached his home range back at Pine Mountain, I could sense he knew that he was almost home. However, we waited quietly together waiting for dusk to fall and to recover from the long car ride. On opening his padded travel cage, he gave me a quick look with eyes that were bright and swiftly flew to the bough of a tall eucalypt at the edge of the forest. Sitting there, I could see his beautiful orange eye shine as he looked back down at me. My heart was bursting with joy to see this magnificent owl back where he belonged...back in the wild.

*Glendell Appleford*

## Meeting of Minds

Come and share your thoughts and ideas. Spend time with other rehabbers and work to find solutions to common problems.

You are invited to a “Meeting of Minds” facilitated by QWRC at the RSPCA Fairfield facility, 301 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, 4103 (corner Fairfield and Venner Roads) on **Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 2.00pm.**

We invite you to submit your suggested agenda items to us by mail P.O. Box 488, Archerfield, Queensland 4108 or email [secretary@qwrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qwrc.org.au). Please include your preferred return email or postal address if you wish a copy of the afternoon’s agenda sent to you.

Although we would appreciate an **RSVP by September 23<sup>rd</sup>** please feel free to attend even if you have not been able to get back to us.

## RnR - Delivery Option

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](mailto:secretary@qwrc.org.au). Vice versa also applies. Perhaps try printing in just black and white to save colour ink.

## Information on Insurance for Groups through QWRC

Incorporation laws no longer require an incorporated group to have Public Liability Insurance (PLI) but most places at which a group may fundraise do require the group to have this insurance cover.

Because of the insurance cover membership of QWRC supplies, we can only offer membership to individuals but of course all the members of a group can be, and are encouraged to be, members of QWRC. QWRC does not recognise a family as a member therefore each parent and child of 13+ years must apply for membership. Honorary or associate members of any group may still be capable of or keen to assist with fundraising therefore they will need to be a QWRC member in order to be covered by the PLI. The PLI insurance has Australia wide cover so it may well be of use to any group members who reside in other states too.

Membership of QWRC offers several benefits which include cover by two(2) lots of insurance; Public Liability Insurance and Volunteers Workers Personal Accident Insurance (VWPAI).

The PLI is the one you must have to hold any fundraising activities. For a group of say 25 - 30 members to obtain this insurance they will usually have to pay an annual bill of about \$600 - \$700. This usually means a lot of extra fund raising! The QWRC PLI policy is for \$20,000,000.00 through Guild Insurance with Australia wide cover.

QWRC's VWPAI covers any QWRC member while they are rescuing or working with wildlife against any injury they may receive. This type of insurance is not something most groups or individuals usually obtain as it is just too expensive.

By all members of a group also being members of QWRC they get cover by both of these policies for just \$20 per person per year; that is just 39c per week. For that same group of 25 - 30 members that means a total annual membership bill to QWRC of \$500 to \$600. This is a huge saving to the group as along with all the other benefits of QWRC membership they are all getting cover by 2 insurance policies for possibly less than they paid for just one!

To save group members having to complete two (2) forms QWRC is happy to receive a photo copy of the groups membership form countersigned and dated by the group's secretary – after it is copied. It is important that this membership form includes the following information about the applicant: first and last name, date of birth, residential and postal addresses, contact phone numbers, email address and the shire in which the applicant resides. The form should also have a statement to the following effect: *I, the above named, understand that I will be joining both (Your group's name) and the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc (QWRC). I agree that my name and contact details will be stored on a member data base by both (Your*

*Continued on Page 9*

*Group's name) and QWRC for their use and may be circulated to all other members of (Your group's name) and QWRC around the state. I further understand that these details will not be sold for any purpose. This must be signed and dated by the applicant.*

A group in Central Qld decided that any person who joins their group will also be a member of QWRC. They set their membership fee at \$35 per person per year which includes the QWRC membership of \$20. The group then forwards a copy of all membership forms received, countersigned and dated by the group secretary, along with the correct membership fees, to QWRC. The entire group is then covered by QWRC's PLI and VWPAL.

QWRC asks that any group wishing to join this scheme on this basis and gain these benefits for their members also sends QWRC a letter stating their intention and including a list of their total

current membership. When all memberships are received QWRC will provide the group with a letter stating that when the group does any fundraising they do it under the name of both QWRC (we supply an A4 size laminated QWRC logo to the group) and themselves. QWRC's name must be shown as the PLI policy is in QWRC's name. QWRC also gives assurance to each group that funds raised in this way belong to the group and not to QWRC.

We hope that this explains the savings QWRC membership can give a group. We worked hard to get these insurance policies with a view to saving groups lots of money and giving great benefits to all our members.



## Education - Research - Information

[www.birdsqueensland.org.au](http://www.birdsqueensland.org.au)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/abbbs/recovery.html>

[http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/wildlife/caring\\_for\\_wildlife/carers\\_kit/caring\\_for\\_wildlife/dangers.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/wildlife/caring_for_wildlife/carers_kit/caring_for_wildlife/dangers.html)

[www.nwrc.com.au](http://www.nwrc.com.au) - checkout a synopsis of the papers on our website first  
[www.qwrc.org.au](http://www.qwrc.org.au)



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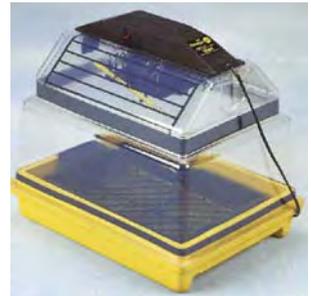


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## Date Claimer

The QWRC AGM is to be held on **September 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 2pm** in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room Primary Industries Building 80 Ann Street, Brisbane.

All QWRC members are invited to be present. **RSVP by September 23<sup>rd</sup>** to P.O. Box 488, Archerfield Queensland 4108 or email to [secretary@qwrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qwrc.org.au) is preferred to ensure enough seating is available.



Janet Gamble, RSPCA Qld State Wildlife Co-ordinator holding a Channel billed cuckoo and wearing the RSPCA new look uniform.



RSPCA Qld applauds the Brisbane City Councils' Native Wildlife Program and has been successful with a number of grants from this program. I strongly encourage you to challenge your local council to follow the excellent precedent that Brisbane City Council has set. Visit [http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE::pc=PC\\_5816](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE::pc=PC_5816)

## HINTS AND TIPS (for carers - from carers)

To eradicate pox from the eyes of a Magpie gently massage with baby oil using cotton buds. Yvonne Thompson. *Ed: Sounds similar to using white oil to suffocate scale insects.*



The Flying Fox Manual by Dave Pinson. The new second edition handbook (c/d only) for wildlife carers involved in the care of orphaned baby, and the rescue, rehabilitation & release of adult flying-foxes in Australia. One copy is \$29.95 plus postage of \$2.55, more than one copy, free postage. [www.stickebatz.com](http://www.stickebatz.com)



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*Web: [www.wildlifesupplies.com.au](http://www.wildlifesupplies.com.au)*

## 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

**Please address all correspondence to the Secretary.**

We receive a number of Return to Sender RnRs after each mailing. Numerous emails also bounce which would indicate that our mailing list is not being kept up to date.

Remember that DERM 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.**

## Your local representatives:

District 1 — Cape York/Dry Tropics/Gulf

**Penny Johnson**

Phone: 4069 6229

District 3 — Savannah/Townsville Marine

**Eleanor Pollock**

Phone: 4779 7708

District 4 — Mackay/Whitsundays

**Jacqui Webb**

Phone: 4947 3308

District 5 — Capricorn/Gladstone

**Annie Saunders**

Phone: 4975 6281

District 7 — Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy

**Judy Elliott**

Phone: 4156 5382

District 9 — Toowoomba

**Trish Lee Hong**

Phone: 4630 5208

District 10 — Sunshine Coast/Southern Marine

**Glendell Appleford**

Phone: 0413 453722

District 11 — Southeast/Moreton Bay

**Vicky Dawson**

Phone: 3200 0592



## MOVING HOUSE

or changing your email address

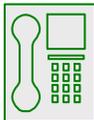
Remember to advise QWRC





## 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 and Volunteer Workers Insurance policies.
- ◆ Support with wildlife rehabilitation and welfare.
- ◆ Access to QWRC endorsed training courses.
- ◆ Access to professional advice, information and data.
- ◆ Access to Best Practice Guidelines.



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

All members of QWRC have their name, phone number and email details listed in District order in the members area of the QWRC website [www.qwrc.org.au](http://www.qwrc.org.au).



Members will receive a twice yearly newsletter (in-between issues of *RnR*). Members are eligible to nominate for a position as district representative on QWRC and to vote at elections.

As a member you will also help to build a strong council that will be able to better support its members, and advocate on their behalf.



# WHY NOT JOIN US?

**New memberships received from 1 November will be extended to expire on 31 December 2011.**

If you wish to become a member of QWRC, contact your local QWRC representative, make further enquiries about QWRC or raise further issues relating to wildlife rehabilitation, please contact the Secretary at PO Box 488 ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108 or email [secretary@qwrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qwrc.org.au).

**QWRC has negotiated with the Department of Main Roads for safety vests to be supplied to all our members.**

**BONUS....BONUS....BONUS**

**All new and renewal memberships can claim a safety vest . One vest per member. While stocks last. See the member section of the QWRC website to obtain the necessary paperwork.**

**THERE HAS NEVER BEEN  
A BETTER TIME TO JOIN  
QWRC**

**Elections**

As all QWRC members will know we had called for nomination of councillors for Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 with nominations closing on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nominations were only received from sitting councillors so no further action need be taken. All sitting councillors will remain as representatives for their districts. At our AGM on September 27<sup>th</sup> all executive positions will be vacated and election of office bearers will be held.

## Do you want to represent Queensland in the development of a steering committee to establish a National body?

One of the outcomes from the recent National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Adelaide was the desire to have a National body to represent the wildlife rehabilitation industry at a National level. The first step is to collect representation from all States across Australia to establish a steering committee to begin this process.

The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council has the means to communicate through our RnR newsletter with all rehabilitators in our State.

Please read the selection criteria listed below and if you feel you have something to contribute then apply by September 21<sup>st</sup> to [secretary@qwrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qwrc.org.au) with your CV and application and a small paragraph on why you feel you have the skills for this job.

Selection criteria:

### **NB. There is no financial assistance as this is a purely voluntary role**

- Be a financial member of QWRC and abide by the QWRC Constitution
- Submit a report to each monthly QWRC Council meeting, detailing progress of the National Body Steering Committee, either in person or by other communication system
- Have and regularly use e-mail access
- Be able to work as a team member
- Possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Have an understanding of wildlife rehabilitation industry requirements
- Demonstrate experience in dealing with government departments and other wildlife related organisations
- Possess an impartial approach to fellow wildlife rehabilitators

If you know of someone who wants to receive RnR and is not receiving a copy please advise [editor@qwrc.org.au](mailto:editor@qwrc.org.au), so they will be placed on our mailing list.

## Carer Profile

*Meet Anne Marie Dineen who is dedicated to saving our wonderful wildlife.*



e-coli formulas. I have hundreds of testimonials from carers whose animals I have treated successfully. I still work from home and now live on a three hundred acre property which we have established as a Nature Refuge.

I specialise in caring for macropods and we have built three enclosures to house them with a total area of two and half acres. My dream is to build another four acre pre-release pen for kangaroos. My husband, a machinist by trade, has built me an humidicrib and another huge snake-proof enclosure to house bettongs, bandicoots etc. He also makes stainless steel teat moulds which we now sell.

I began my life as a wildlife carer unintentionally. I am a Naturopath/Herbalist and whilst travelling to work I regularly came across injured wildlife that I duly handed in at the local vet clinic. On realising that a lot of these animals were subsequently euthanased I determined to join a local wildlife group and learn how to care for orphaned and injured wildlife. That was in 2003.

All my earnings go towards wildlife. As any carer knows wildlife caring can be very stressful and demanding but the joys far outweigh the sorrows. I feel very privileged to be able to care for these precious Australian animals.

When I began caring for animals I quit work and began working from home as I quickly realised that travelling animals was not a good option. Several kangaroo joeys came to me with thrush, a condition I regularly treat in humans. It was second nature to me to treat these joeys using herbal remedies. I was delighted with the results and several other carers asked me for my thrush and



*Ed: I can vouch for Anne Marie's Thrush formula. I always prefer to give my joeys a natural remedy if available.*

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## COMPETITIONS

Serena Gosling from Australian Wildlife Supplies (see ad page 12) has kindly offered to donate a **\$50 voucher** for the best story on 'Wildlife in Rehabilitation'. Winner to be announced and story published in the next RnR.

For the children there is a competition for the best story about Australian native wildlife with two categories - up to 10yrs old and 11 – 15years old. 150 words max.

The winners will each receive a suitable Steve Parish wildlife book.

Send your stories to: [editor@qwrc.org.au](mailto:editor@qwrc.org.au) or snailmail to PO Box 488, ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108. Closing date for both is 15 January 2011.

## AUSTRALIAN BAT LYSSAVIRUS (ABL)

All persons caring for flying foxes and insectivorous bats must be vaccinated against Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABL) and must regularly consult their General Practitioner or Public Health Unit to maintain vaccinations. There is a course of three rabies vaccine injections, given over one month (days zero, seven and 28). The vaccine does not offer protection until after the third dose is given and it is recommended that titre levels are checked then to check protection status. Booster doses are recommended every two years.

See website link on page 9.

## Hints on becoming an Incorporated Association



This is the last in our series on being an incorporated association.

In the first article we looked at the requirements to become an incorporated association. In the second we looked at the roles of each person elected to a position on a management committee of a group and in this issue we will look at the general running of the group.

The group has now elected the persons to carry out the functions that allow the group to work so now let's look at how that group should work.

### Meetings

An incorporated association must hold a variety of meetings, as outlined in its rules.

These include:

- management committee meetings
- general meetings
- annual general meetings (AGM).

An association's rules can allow a member to attend a meeting using technology that helps them hear, speak and interact with the people at the meeting.

### Management committee meetings

An association's rules will outline how often it holds management committee meetings though they must hold a meeting at least once every four months.

For a management committee meeting to take place, a quorum (the minimum number of members required under the association's rules) must be present.

The association can choose the best format for the meetings. However, the president must chair any committee meeting they attend. If the president cannot attend, the vice-president or another member may be nominated to chair.

Minutes must be kept of all meetings.

### General meetings

General meetings can be held at any time and as often as needed.

The association's rules should specify:

- how general meetings are called
- the quorum for general meetings
- how the meetings will run
- whether members can vote by proxy at general meetings and how they do it
- how notices of general meetings are given
- how notices of motions are given, published or circulated
- whether a general meeting can be held using telecommunication technology.

*Continued on page 21*

**Annual general meetings**

The AGM is a public statement of your association’s financial position. The meeting updates members on the association’s activities and achievements over the previous year.

By law, incorporated associations must hold an AGM at least once in each calendar year, within six months of the association’s reportable financial year ending.

The management committee, members and other invited guests can attend the AGM. It must be noted that an association does not have to wait till an AGM to change any part of how the group functions or make amendments to their constitution.

**Management committee and memberships**

An incorporated association must have at least seven members.

The management committee must have at least three members. The committee must have a president, secretary and treasurer. The president and treasurer must be two different people.

**Complaints involving the management committee**

The OFT have no power to intervene in disputes between the public and the management committee, or between association members and the management committee. The management committee is responsible for interpreting the rules of the association.

The Supreme Court is the only body that can intervene in an incorporated association’s affairs. The court can make orders about how the association should conduct its affairs and can award costs.

**Mediation**

The OFT has a Dispute Resolution Branch which offers a free mediation service which may help resolve conflicts within an incorporated association.

We hope that these articles have been of some assistance in clarifying the tasks and procedures need for the lawful and straightforward performance of an incorporated association. Our thanks goes to the OFT for information supplied for this article. For further information about incorporation and access to all the paperwork required visit the OFT at [www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/associations-nonprofits.htm](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/associations-nonprofits.htm)

**KNOW THY ACRONYM**

- OFT - Office of Fairtrading
- PLI - Public Liability Insurance
- VWPAI - Voluntary Workers Personal Accident Insurance
- AGM - Annual General Meeting



# The Wildlife Vet

## How to use Natural Therapies for Wildlife

Complementary therapies cover a huge range of possibilities which are mostly: available without prescription, or are already in your own home, which are safe to use, are inexpensive and that I find to be highly effective. I believe that they improve the results obtained by basic veterinary treatments, without interfering with them, as they also address the stress and physical trauma associated with injuries, which western medicine does not.

Complementary therapies include:

- Hands on bodywork and healing (“TLC”) which includes massage/ physio etc
- Appropriate foods, vitamins and other natural supplements
- Natural and natural based treatments such as honey, aloe vera, bentonite, salt, vinegar, colloidal silver amongst many others
- Homeopathy
- Herbs
- Flower essences such as Rescue remedy and bush flower remedies
- Environmental considerations such as providing as natural and stress free an environment as possible with appropriate warmth and protection.

We can all add some of these components to our existing care, and each small aspect can help contribute to the wellbeing of our patients.

You must always consult with your vet when animals are seriously shocked or injured, and always work with your fellow rehabilitators and share their

knowledge. There are many things you can include in your first aid practices that are safe and sensible.

**TO CLEAN WOUNDS:** always remember warm salty water or vinegar in water (diluted one part vinegar to 20 parts of water) are both safe and wonderful wound cleaners. You can use either to flush any wounds, on any animal, or person! Vinegar helps to raise the pH so the bugs don’t like to grow, and it is great for helping to remove dead tissue. It is great to keep in a spray bottle to either spray wounds or clean surfaces and cages.

Though not *strictly* a natural therapy, our clinic uses a veterinary product called **DermaCleans** on EVERYTHING. It is a combination of acids including Acetic acid (vinegar) in an oily base, and it is the best thing to take dead tissue out of wounds. We use it under bandages all the time and dressings never stick as the dead cells fill with water, and come away from the wound, and live cells are left unaffected. It is truly brilliant for people, pets and wildlife.

(Betadine is OK to use on wounds but must always be diluted, as when used straight it can actually kill good cells. NEVER use Dettol on anything!)

**TO HELP WOUNDS HEAL:** Dry, scabbed or cracked wounds can be treated with honey, aloe vera or Paw paw ointment. All of these will help soften scabs and help wounds stay

*Continued on Page 23*

supple, which means that there is less pain, greater mobility and faster healing of these wounds. **Ungvita** (Vitamin A cream) is wonderful for birds' wings that have suffered trauma that has healed and that have scar tissue. **Vitamin E** is also effective for these types of wounds, and **Macadamia oil** is one of the natural products that is used to help bats wing membranes heal. The best thing is that none of these products will be toxic if licked or ingested by any of our patients.

## **INFECTED WOUNDS AND**

**RINGWORM:** Tea Tree Oil is the most wonderful natural product which comes from the Melaleuca tree, so it is actually a herb. It is antiseptic, antibacterial and fungicidal. I suggest always using it in the diluted form when using it on wildlife. It can be used to treat wounds, for ear infections, on ringworm (fungal infections), yeast infections and it is a great fly repellent and disinfectant. It can be added to creams such as Vitamin E or paw paw, mixed in Vaseline sprayed on in water, or used in a bath. 10-15 drops in 200mls of water is usually enough. It is probably best not used on water birds as it would de-oil the feathers, and always test it with a small spot on yourself before using it as some people are allergic to it. Never use it in eyes.

Lavender Oil is an alternative to using Tea tree oil, and I often combine these oils with a few drops of each, and lavender has the added benefit of being a calming oil as well.

**Colloidal Silver** is another natural based product that can be used in exactly the same way as tea tree oil, and it can be given in small doses internally to support the immune system.

**DIARRHOEA:** is mostly a problem when treating macropod joeys, and it can be a difficult problem to treat. We have used liquid or powdered **Bentonite** to treat diarrhoea, which is basically a particular type of clay. It is given in small doses between feeds, and calms and soothes the bowel and helps soak up the extra fluid. It can be used safely for as long as needed, and is available from most health food shops. Generally you only need up to 1ml or so for the small babies, between each feed until they improve.

Another fabulous treatment for people and pets: **Slippery Elm tablets:** I commonly use it to stop diarrhoea quickly. Bentonite is easier to use for joeys as liquid Slippery elm is very gluggy!

After treating diarrhoea you need to put the good bugs back into the bowel by using either **Protexin** or yoghurt that has live Acidiphillus or Lactobacillus cultures in it.

*Dr Sarah Brett is the president of Kimberley Wildlife Rescue Inc, Kununurra, and has had a mixed animal and wildlife Veterinary practice in Kununurra for the past 20 years.*

*Ed: to be continued in the next RnR.*

*Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council acknowledges that all restricted medications should only be administered under the direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon. For further information see Health (Drugs and poisons) Regulation 1996. <<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/>>*

## National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference Adelaide June 2010

Wendy Adams and myself were the lucky delegates from Fauna Rescue Whitsundays (FRW) who were able to attend the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Adelaide, funded by a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

The (NWRC) Conference was well worth attending and we both thoroughly enjoyed it. We got to network with a lot of people involved in wildlife rehabilitation, learn more and for me, it was a chance to catch up with people in the wildlife field who I either hadn't seen for ages or have just been voices on the other end of the phone.



fig 1 Monarto Zoo staff member with Black-footed rock wallaby

There were many highlights, one of which was finally meeting Helen George, one of the first people to put together a comprehensive manual on Macropod Caring, which proved to be my bible for many years. Congratulations go to the organising committee which consisted of members from Fauna Rescue SA (FRSA), Australian Marine Wildlife Research & Rescue Organisation (AMRROW) & RSPCA SA.

The committee organised an excellent conference with a diverse range of speakers. The venue at the Sebel Hotel was ideal and food delicious. The staff were extremely helpful and catered to everyone's needs.

The Monarto trip was also good, despite the typical Adelaide weather and the fact that we didn't get to do the behind the scenes tour as the Tasmanian Devils had decided it was time to breed. The highlight being the presentation on the recovery programme for the Warru or Black-footed Rock Wallaby, *Petrogale lateralis* (fig 1).

I am so proud of my sister Sue and nephew Matt who were on the committee and helped organise the event. I know the committee spent a huge amount of time and effort putting this conference together and considering there were a few hiccups along the way, I have been told by others who attended that it was the best conference yet.

*Continued on Page 25*

I am also amazed at the growth and achievements of FRSA, founded in 1988 (then known as Friends of Humbug Scrub). When I joined in 1989 we were only a small bunch of like-minded people trying to achieve our best to help the wildlife in SA. Who would think then that FRSA would have been able to assist in pulling off such a huge and successful event?

Most of the papers are now available on the website [www.nwrc.com.au](http://www.nwrc.com.au), just click on the timetable link for access. The next NWRC will be held in Townsville in 2012 and we will keep you informed of details as the time gets closer. I have written a brief synopsis (available on [www.qwrc.org.au](http://www.qwrc.org.au)) on each of the speakers content.

*Jacqui Webb*

**A wildlife carer reflects.....**

It was a Saturday night, I was home and busy with the television on in the background. My attention was captured by an ad for a wildlife group on the television appealing for carers. Not really sure of what this entailed, I had an impulse to ring the telephone number being announced and find out more about what was excitedly racing through my mind. I had always been passionate about creatures and always knew that one day I would have the time to dedicate to helping wildlife babies and revel in the whole experience.

Within a week or so I had paid a small joining fee, completed the application form and I'd also met some of the members and felt good about my decision. Shortly after that I received a telephone call from the Secretary asking if could help sell some tickets to boost the club's funds. I thought, yep, I want to be an active member and not just a vocal member so off I went on Tuesday nights and really enjoyed myself, whilst meeting more new club members. By this time I was reading everything I could find time for on the care of bats, possums, wallabies etc. My lack of experience and limited knowledge was daunting. However, they had faith in me and within a short time I had a call from a carer who asked if I would be interested in taking a little wallaby called Beau. I was beside myself with excitement. I honestly couldn't eat all day thinking about this little "baby" who was coming to live with me.

The next step of course was to visit Beau, organise pouches, liners, bottles and wallaby milk. This was all organized with Beau's original carers, with whom I spent the day, familiarising myself with Beau and his daily routine.

So now about three years from that one telephone call I am looking back at one of the happiest times of my life.

*Barb McLennan*



Janet Gamble is pleased to announce the commitment of a full time position within RSPCA dedicated to the state wide **1300Animal program**; Wildlife Response Co-ordinator. Working with staff and volunteers the position will concentrate on volunteer wildlife heroes recruitment across the state (rescuers, carers, mentors and vets), advertising and marketing. This is a very exciting advancement that will take the program to new levels, increasing communications, identifying and filling gaps - fulfilling our aim to decrease the time it takes to rescue our wildlife in distress in the first instance. Shelter-mate records, tracks and monitors all aspects of the wildlife hero program.

available to see wildlife on a Sunday at the Fairfield shelter and a glove-box heat pack supply to rescuers in the Brisbane City Council area. Previously awarded was much needed veterinary equipment and consumables to help fit out and supply the wildlife examination and treatment area, enabling us to better separate the companion and livestock animal admissions from the wildlife patients.



A new look - Michael is a regular volunteer in the wildlife department at the RSPCA Fairfield shelter and wildlife hero.



Dr Rebecca Burgess – full time wildlife veterinarian at RSPCA Fairfield with Lace monitor.

Check out the new animal care campus flyover on you tube “RSPCA Qld Wacol site overview” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbpqrVfB1PY> We are on target to be in our brand new Bob Irwin supported, purpose built, Wildlife hospital facility at Wacol in early 2011.

Brisbane City Council’s Wildlife Program has contributed to a vet being

*All animals in these photos are wildlife actors of Geckoes wildlife and NOT rehabilitating patients.*



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