

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 24
September 2013

Keeping carers
informed



Eastern horseshoe bat by Nick Edards

New Patron for Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council



Dr Jim Pollock with grand-daughter Jessica Pearson

It was with regret that the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council accepted the resignation of Steve Parish as the Patron of the State body, we thank him for his past support and we wish him well.

We welcome Dr Jim Pollock. O.A.M. a retired Queensland veterinarian, with a continued interest in wildlife rehabilitation. Jim has long supported wildlife rehabilitators providing veterinary care, financial support and advice throughout his professional career. He has supported the development of the State body from the early days in 2003, he supports continued education by various presentations at the National Wildlife Conferences and is available to assist with trainings and speak with carers. He has always stated that it takes three generations to change a point of view and advocates raising awareness of the value of our Australian wildlife and preservation of its diversity and habitat as integral parts of our education. He continues to support the wonderful wildlife carers in their valuable work and considers it a privilege to be involved with the Council.

Eleanor Pollock

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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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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
- 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



From the Chair..

Well I don't know about where you are but we really haven't had winter at our place! We had a couple of days that it got down to 2 or 3 degrees but even on those days it was still 20 plus during the day. I do love the days when you need a coat in the mornings and at night, when you can snuggle up under a doona at night, but the days are glorious with sunshine and clear skies.

How nice to write this report and not be discussing natural disasters. I hope winter has been a time when you have been able to rest a bit, to have a small break from the hectic rounds of feeds and cage cleaning. Now is the time to prepare for the onslaught of spring!

Have you seen the latest RACQ publication of Road Ahead? There is a small piece on page 16 about our wildlife rescue handbook that is available for just \$2. It is exciting to report that QWRC has won a grant to allow us to team up with the Transport and Main Roads Department Driver Reviver Program for the distribution of these booklets.

Are you all saving your pennies so you can attend the next Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Hobart, Tasmania next May [May 27th – 30th 2014]. Every wildlife rehabilitator should try to attend as many of these conferences as money will allow. They are now held every 2 years so it makes it a little easier on the bank account. Remember to check out the web site at www.awrc.org.au for full details and while you are there revisit papers from past conferences. They are a great source of information and education.

QWRC continues to work on generic publications that are made available to all members and groups. Our aim is to provide the information brochures and booklets used by all groups. This will not only provide consistent information across the State but also save groups the expense of reproducing something for their area. Money is too hard to earn and can be put to better use supporting the hands on efforts of rehabbers.

QWRC is rebuilding our web site and looks forward to your input. Is there something you would like to see included on our site? Is there something you feel could work better? What would you like to see in the member's only section? Please pass your suggestions to your local QWRC representative or send us an email to secretary@qwrc.org.au

Are you continuing to use the pink carcass tags? These are available free from QWRC. All we ask is that you complete the supplied data sheet about where the tags were used and send this sheet back to us. The information collected is vital to efforts to reduce "hot spots" on our roads.

Thank you for your continuing support of QWRC. Keep those stories and suggestions for new articles coming to our RnR editor, Judy Elliott at editor@qwrc.org.au We want to share your stories and hear what you would like to read or learn.

Till next time

Annie



Editorial..

Spring appears to have sprung in my part of Queensland with glorious warm sunny days. We will soon be getting a deluge of baby birds and bats to rescue and care for. Baby possums are already arriving!

Refer to page 10 for details of the next Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference being held in Tasmania next May. These events take an enormous amount of organising so please try and show your support if possible.

Please see page 7 about the sad loss of Pat O'Brien who was a great champion for wildlife and will be missed by many.

Pat was so right in his belief that education was very important to try and save our wildlife. I am sure we all believe that we are doing a wonderful job with all the animals that we rescue, rehabilitate and release every year. That is undoubtedly correct for the individual animals but unfortunately they are a mere drop in the ocean compared to the bigger picture around the country.

Feral animals are destroying habitat and/or predated on our wildlife. Developments and industry are clearing land. Qld legislation allows roos and bats to be shot. It appears to be a downward battle to try and save the environment.

My personal thoughts are that it would be great to see more people actively involved in lobbying Federal, State and local authorities in a bid to save our wonderful wildlife. It is so easy these

days to quickly send an email letter to express your concerns about developments, tree clearing or local laws. A letter to your local papers can often get good (and bad) responses from the public but at least it gets people thinking about wildlife.

Closer to home, perhaps talk to your friends and neighbours about appropriate control of cats and dogs and think about handing out our cat leaflets. This week a guy rang me about a glider that his neighbour had found. He said he lived in a wonderful bushy area with everyone looking after the wildlife. The glider came from his neighbour with four cats that were not confined at night, needless to say! He was not prepared to risk upsetting his neighbour about this. It is amazing any wildlife survives these days when most of the public do not really care.

I hope you enjoy this 'batty' issue. **Please send any articles/photos that you would like to see in the next issue, deadline is 17 January 2014.**

Email: editor@qwrc.org.au
or
The Editor, PO Box 488,
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108



I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Elliott

Have Your Say

Dear Editor

Burston Blue Teats

I have had a concerning email from a carer in Qld who was hearing rumours that apparently the blue dye was toxic. I wish to put these rumours to rest.

The blue in my Burston Blue Teats is actually a naturally occurring Clay! It is NON toxic, safe to use and IS safe for your wildlife.

This clay is one of the ingredients that gives my teats the soft smooth feel, unlike clear silicone that is stiffer to the feel and less flexible in use.

I just wanted to make sure that everyone knows that the silicone I use is safe for your wildlife, that's why it took me over twelve months to formulate, and is safe for me to use as I personally make every one of them. If you have any concerns please contact me.

I have a new flanged teat that readers may be interested in. These flanged teats came about as we have some arthritic carers in WA., and as these fit a baby bottle, they are so much easier to use. I have had excellent feedback from those using them.

Glen Burston

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**IN MEMORY OF
JAMES PATRICK THOMAS “PAT” O’BRIEN**

Pat lost his long battle with Oesophageal Cancer on 9th July 2013. He was 74 and passed away in Rockhampton with his family by his side.

“*It ain’t easy being green*” words he spoke often especially in the early years. Pat worked up until his death for the Wildlife Protection Assn. of Australia. He set this organisation up with the help of good friends Steve and Terri Irwin from Australia Zoo. A true activist with the plight of animals and the environment coming before his own needs.



Pat and Sandra arrived from New Zealand in the 70’s with two children of their own and one foster child, with Pat working as a boner in the meatworks. Native animals back then were considered a pest and a way to make money and they were shown no mercy. As animal lovers it was impossible not to stand up for them, so we started fostering joeys, devoting all our resources to their survival. This was not easy as we did not have roo milk such as Wombaroo and Divetalac to use. Pat’s love of kangaroos started with my joeys and it always amazed us how their personalities were so different even though to strangers they looked so alike. He was very good at bottle feeding and toileting.

Pat always felt that education was the answer. Our native animals are unique; they have a place in our eco system. They certainly have value and some are now extinct. Pat tried so hard to make us realise the fragility of the very special species that lived on the land, swam or flew over his adopted country Australia. After Pat’s second wife sadly passed away from cancer he sold up at Yeppoon and fulfilled a lifelong dream to become a full time activist. He travelled all over Australia championing many fights, bringing the plight of all animals large and small to the notice of different departments and sometimes legislation was changed and sometimes it stayed in the dark ages.

A private service was held in Rockhampton where Sandra his first wife and best friend, their son, grandson and great grand-daughter reside. He wished his ashes to be buried with their beloved daughter Karmyn.

**GOODBYE PAT YOU WILL BE SADLY MISSED
BY WILDLIFE AND CARERS ALL OVER AUSTRALIA**

Hope there are plenty of roos in Heaven .

Sandra O’Brien

Date Claimer



WHAT:
Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

WHERE:
Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, Tasmania

WHEN:
27 to 30 May 2014

INFORMATION:
www.awrchobart2014.org

The theme of the 2014 Conference is: ***New Directions: Accommodating Change.*** While the conference will officially open on the morning of 27 May, we are planning a very special pre-conference get-together on the evening of Monday, 26 May, and we hope all delegates will be able to join us – stay tuned for further details!

The main conference venue will be the *Hotel Grand Chancellor* (HGC). Special room rates are available for Conference delegates, so please contact Kimberley (Group Reservations HGC). If staying at any hotel, etc within Hobart we ask you to please say that you are attending the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference to receive any special delegate rates.

Our website <http://awrchobart2014.org> will be updated regularly with news and information about the conference. We'll also be posting information about Tasmania, including accommodation

options and places you might like to visit if you're able to spend a little extra time in our beautiful state.

Enquiries about this website can be sent to admin@AWRCHobart2014.org Online registration will be available soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions about registration, or about the conference in general, or to be included in the mailing list for updates and any other info, please contact our Secretary, Oma Rodger, at: secretary@AWRCHobart2014.org or on 03 64293348.

Tasmania is the only state to have not hosted this conference, so this is a very exciting time for us to showcase our special and unique wildlife.

We look forward to welcoming you to the AWRC in Hobart in May 2014!

See you all soon!

Your fantastic team AWRC Hobart 2014.

Hints and Tips (for carers - from carers)

Grass is always greener

Place a large piece of old shade cloth over the grass and it will be green when all around is brown in times of drought. Overnight dew is often enough to sustain it otherwise this small area could be watered. This is wonderful for those of us constantly cutting grass for small joeys.

It's a nose job!

It is a good idea to regularly check the nostrils of small joeys as they can become partially blocked. A magnifying glass may be needed for tiny/furless ones.

A small piece of moist cotton wool can be rolled to a point and gently used to remove the obstruction or ask your vet for assistance.

Padded blankets/pouches

Place some padding material from an old sleeping bag into a pillow case and stitch around the edges to secure.

For a pouch - fold another pillowcase so that the blanket can be inserted to form a pouch. This is very easy to dismantle for washing. *Editor*

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR
HINTS AND TIPS TO:**

editor@qwrc.org.au

"The planet can survive without human life but it cannot survive without animal life.

The animals are the keepers of the earth - they pollinate it, fertilise it, prune it, aerate it and

keep the earth healthy. They are life itself. Without them we are the endangered species, and

remember - every time a species dies, we are ourselves one step closer to extinction".

(Denise Garratt and Kim Dale.)

Carer Profile

Meet Madonna O'Brien from Ocean View



Watch Out Don't Step Back!!!

My husband Ben and I became wildlife carers seventeen years ago. We moved to our newly built house in Dayboro which is a small country town just north of Brisbane. We moved out there to get away from the 'rat race' of living in the city. One of our new neighbours was a wildlife carer and introduced us to all her 'babies' and I was instantly smitten. After a few months of getting to know her she showed up on my doorstep one day with a baby ringtail possum and said "Now you have to get your license", and the rest, as they say is history!!

We found ourselves six years later moving onto more land at Ocean View because of our wildlife. She didn't realise what she had created!

Over the years we have cared for many species. It has ranged from possums (ringtails, brushtails and bobucks) to macropods (pademelons, red and grey kangaroos, wallaroos, swamp wallabies, red necked wallabies, black stripe wallabies, whiptail wallabies) and dasyurids such as antechinus, and bandicoots. We have also had the immense pleasure of rearing flying foxes and gliders and caring for microbats.

All of these animals have their own distinct personalities which people often find difficult to believe but it is true!! Despite the bad press, flying foxes are one of the most amazing animals we have cared for. They are highly intelligent and extremely responsive to human beings. Wally, our first black flying fox, would hear my car come down the driveway and start calling as soon as he heard it. He would fly to the door when I opened it so he could greet me!!! We ended up getting four other flying foxes for him as we do not believe in rearing animals in isolation because they need to socialise with their own kind. One night we went out and on our arrival back home discovered that one of them was missing!! We ended up finding the miscreant in the study hanging on the bookshelf between two books entitled

Continued on page 11

“Creepy Creatures” and “Vampires”. I have pictures to prove it!!



creatures are not pets and never should be (I have some great scars to attest to this fact!!). There is nothing more satisfying than seeing the animal that you have reared from ‘pink’ being released and eventually coming back to visit with their own joeys. That’s why we do it.

There is a school of thought in our society that suggests that wildlife carers are interfering with nature. My response is that if we as humans had not interfered in the first place by destroying habitat, building roads and introducing cats and dogs that become feral then we would not have to intervene at all. Wildlife caring is not something that should be taken lightly or entered into on a whim. It is fraught with heartache, sleepless nights and often difficult decisions. It changes your life completely and requires dedication and commitment plus an incredibly supportive partner!!!! I could not have done it without Ben’s support over the years. I often get accused of having ‘obsessive compulsive disorder’ when it comes to wildlife but we have a great success rate for rearing and releasing our orphans because we do what is ultimately the best for the animal.

Ben and I have done lots of research over the years to ensure the best level of care that we can provide. We are extremely lucky to be involved with some incredibly dedicated vets who have taught me a great deal over the years. I believe that it is vital to work with vets so we can provide the best possible care for our wildlife.

Why did I call this **“Watch out don’t step back”**? This is the most well worn expression in our household as there is always a wallaby or roo behind us but we wouldn’t have it any other way

A lot of people that have visited over the years have made the comment that it must be so hard to release them, and this is true when you release your first animal, but that is the whole purpose of wildlife caring. These wonderful

Madonna O’Brien



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secretary@qwrc.org.au

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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. Please ensure you tell us when ever you change your contact details.

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.**

Your local representatives:

District 3 — Savannah/Townsville Marine

Janelle Bowron

Phone: 4724 4725

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

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District 9 — Toowoomba

Trish Lee Hong

Phone: 4630 5208

District 10 — Sunshine Coast/Southern Marine

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District 11— Southeast/Moreton Bay

Vicky Dawson

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QWRC's patron is Dr Jim Pollock

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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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Help to build a strong council to advocate on your behalf.



**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**.



The Wildlife Vet - Amphibian chytrid



Green and golden bell frog

One of the most devastating wildlife diseases to hit the planet to date is chytridiomycosis. This disease is caused by the chytrid fungal pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and only infects amphibians. In Australia this disease was introduced in the 1970's and has caused the extinction of at least four frog species and the decline of at least 10 more. Although the disease is widespread in Australia, there appear to be suitable habitats where the disease has been found. Emergency response in Australia is aimed at protecting these naïve areas containing endemic frogs. As there are many different strains of the fungus that also vary in virulence, reducing the spread between infected areas is also important.

Currently there are no proven methods for treating this disease in the wild, although much research has been done and is continuing in this area including using commensal skin bacteria as a probiotic to prevent infection. Not all frogs have the same susceptibility to the fungus. Some frogs are able to be infected, but show no clinical signs and can self-cure. Over half of the frog species in Australia have been shown or predicted to be able to be infected and all with the exception of two are found in the Hylidae, Limnodynastidae, and Myobatrachidae. Most of these susceptible species are also found in cool aquatic environments sheltered from weather extremes.

Although it is still unknown exactly how this fungus is spread, it is known that some frogs can serve as carriers and that the fungus can survive in cool wet environments. The fungus dies rapidly when dried out and also at temperatures greater than 39°C.

Clinical signs of chytridiomycosis are not specific and can vary from weight loss and lethargy to sitting out in the open, red skin and

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eventual death. Although there are many fungal treatments that have been used, the most promising treatment to date is continuous chloramphenicol baths daily for 28 days with frogs removed 1 hour a day for feeding (Young et al. 2013). The only problem with this treatment is the lack of availability of the drug for veterinary use. Currently only research facilities are allowed to buy chloramphenicol powder which is the substance used to make up the treatment solutions. Heating the frog to 32°C for 5 days is also an effective treatment but only in heat-tolerant frogs.

Diagnosis can be made by experienced amphibian vets by taking a small skin sample from the toe webbing and making a wet prep and identifying the organism under the microscope. This method is difficult and as the fungus is not evenly distributed all over the skin, false negatives are very possible. The organism is easy to see from a skin biopsy using histology, but again depending where the skin biopsy is taken and how severe the infection is, this method may miss infection. The absolute best way to detect the disease is using a laboratory method called PCR but it is expensive and not commercially available.

Frog carers bringing frogs into their care need to keep new frogs separate and in

reality, house all frogs individually. The amphibian chytrid has a life cycle of 4-5 days at 23°C, so an infected susceptible frog will likely act sick and die within a few weeks if infected depending on the ambient temperature. To reduce the chance of spread of the fungus between frogs, house the frogs on paper towels and change them daily. Clean the cages with 2% bleach, rinse thoroughly, and dry everything completely in the sun. Both bleach and dessication will kill the fungus. It is also recommended to wear disposable non foaming gloves when handling frogs with an unknown infection status. If using plants in your enclosure, make sure they are thoroughly dried first in the sun and not from an area commonly frequented by other frogs. Do not reuse anything in the frogs cage that cannot be completely dried or bleached.

The amphibian chytrid is a notifiable disease in Australia from wild frogs, so if your vet diagnoses this disease, make sure to remind them to alert the appropriate wildlife department.

All this information is found in the Disease Strategy Manual, Chytridiomycosis (Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) VI 2012 and is available online at www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/.../chytrid-fungus-manual.pdf.

Dr Stephanie Shaw

Australasian Raptor Association Conference
“Raptors in a Changing Landscape” - August 2013

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the organisers of the weekend's ARA conference. This was a great conference, filled with great presenters, (many who are my gurus in the raptor world such as, and not limited to, Dr Penny Olsen, Dr Stephen Nebus and Ian Falkenberg), really interesting topics and some amazing attendees. It is really inspiring to hear about the wonderful work and studies being carried out in the raptor world, as well as the realisation that there are just so many people out there who really do care for and are carrying out some amazing research to help us to understand and preserve these beautiful birds.

I really believe that, as wildlife carers, it is imperative that we understand the behaviour and habitat of the birds that come into our care. This then gives us a much better chance of being able to offer our wards the best possible care and produce the best possible outcomes for their rehabilitation and release. For instance, did you know that Tawny Frogmouths tend to orient their positions during the day to take advantage of the sunshine and avoid prevailing winds, as do Wedge-tailed eagles when building nest sites? Or that the oldest banded raptor to date was an Osprey at 21yrs and

4mths or that most raptors will quite happily foster other chicks of the same age as their own. Or that whilst some birds such as Peregrine Falcons have adapted to human interference in their landscape, others such as the White-bellied Sea Eagle will abandon nest sites if there is too much human interference near nest sites. There was so much info to share, but I don't have space to share it all here.

I have come away with a far greater understanding of these birds that I feel will enhance my work and abilities as a raptor carer and amateur bird watcher, some great contacts should I need further info on some of the species that I care for, as well as who to contact should I have further information to share on the raptors in my area and that come into care. I would strongly advise that those of you who do care for raptors join the ARA so you have access to this wealth of information provided by these avid raptor enthusiasts.

For more information visit via Birdlife Australia at <http://birdlife.org.au/support-us/join-special-interest-groups/>

Jacqui Webb

QWRC District 4 Rep, Mackay/Whitsundays

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The Mysterious World of Microbats

Microbats are perhaps the most mysterious and misunderstood mammals on earth, despite comprising more than 20% of the world's mammal species. Their unique and specialised anatomy, physiology and behaviour make them possibly the most fascinating and often the most challenging of the animals that wildlife rehabilitators encounter in Australia.

There are several distinctive physiological differences between Microbats and Megabats (eg flying foxes), however most people associate microbats as those bat species which use echolocation as a navigation strategy and have an insectivorous diet. Across Queensland there are over fifty five distinct species of microbat across several families, while many of these species rarely if ever come into care, approximately fifteen species are seen quite regularly and a further ten species seen sporadically in care.

The reasons microbats require rehabilitation is varied and is often closely associated to the time of year. Common reasons for care include: cat attacks; entrapment in buildings and subsequent emaciation and dehydration; ceiling fan strikes; roost destruction (tree hollow or artificial structures) and orphaning.

An understanding of the physiological, emotional and habitat needs of the various species of microbat is essential in order to rehabilitate them successfully. Different species have vastly different social arrangements, diets, flight aviary requirements, roosting behaviour and feeding methods. For example:

- Some species, due to their foraging and flight styles, can undertake sustained flight in small 3m x 3m flight tents, while others will not attempt to fly in a small area and require up to 30m x 30m aviaries to gain the necessary fitness and muscle strength for release.
- Each species has specific roosting requirements. Some are hollow dwelling species that will sometimes use artificial nest boxes when provided, but many are crevice dwelling or cave dwelling species which will very rarely take up a nest box.
- Different microbat species require different milk formulas in order to maintain healthy weight gain and development. Some species can be fed via canula and some must be fed via sponge methods.

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Microbat rehabilitation approaches are considerably different to other species we rehabilitate in many ways including but not limited to the following:

- Microbats have a quite complicated fluid balancing system which includes an exceptionally high natural blood urea concentration that when elevated slightly as a result of fluid restriction can quickly result in death. Training in fluid therapy, particularly sub-cutaneous injections is a must.
- Adult microbats heal quicker and gain weight more readily when housed in their thermoneutral zone (where they consume the least amount of energy and oxygen) of between 30-35°C, species dependent. Further, they must be kept at this temperature range during medication treatment in order for the drugs to have the designed effect without organ damage.

Microbat rehabilitators, like flying fox rehabilitators are required to be vaccinated against Lyssavirus. Microbats can inflict painful bites so careful handling and protective gloves are needed to safely handle them even when vaccinated. Microbats can be housed in a variety of enclosures depending upon the needs of the individual microbat ranging from humidicrib setups, to meshed vivariums, to flight tents and large purpose built flight aviaries necessary for some species. A variety of other foods and supplements are also necessary to undertake successful rehabilitation.



Want to know more?

Wildcare Australia runs regular 1 day Microbat Rehabilitation Workshops and has developed an extensive 125pg Microbat Rehabilitation Manual. The next workshop is on 21st September at Beerwah on the Sunshine Coast, all are welcome to attend – refer to

www.wildcare.org.au

for registration details. Additionally, and in an effort to improve the collective knowledge of microbat rehabilitation in Queensland, a Facebook forum exists called the ‘*Queensland Microbat Rehabilitation Forum*’ and all are welcome to join.

Rachel Lyons – Wildcare Australia Inc.

Rachel@wildcare.org.au Ph 5485 0595 / 0417 078 432

RSPCA Animal Care Campus at Wacol

A Precious Tale



Precious shortly after rescue

Precious is a juvenile Black flying fox, who was rescued in May by the RSPCA animal ambulance, as she was hanging on a low branch beside a busy road in Brisbane. Initial examination revealed that she was suffering from dermatitis, badly discoloured teeth, muddy diarrhoea, malnutrition and minor wing membrane damage. Precious was bald! She had no hair from her head down to her waist; she was red and itchy and looked a sad and sorry sight.

Skin scrapings revealed that she was suffering from Demodex mites, the same as those commonly seen in dogs. There was also concern regarding underlying immune-incompetence considering the degree of skin reaction and the number of

mites not often seen in a sub-adult animal. As well, she was in very poor body condition (she was 190g and should have been at least 350g).

Precious was placed on IV fluids and antibiotics and had her dermatitis treated with an anti-parasitic medication. After a couple of days her leg with the catheter in it was swollen and it was bleeding from the top of the catheter. When the catheter was removed her leg would not stop bleeding and she was then started on the clotting medication Koagulon.

The RSPCA wildlife vet opted to do a blood transfusion with Precious, as she had severe clotting issues and her PCV was quite low at 18%. One of our local bat carers Jo kindly brought in a healthy 1kg male flying fox - Ben - to be Precious' donor. 10mls of blood was taken from the lovely Ben and then transfused into Precious via slow infusion.

After the transfusion Precious was very flat and showing signs of blood in her faeces. Pathology results showed severe coagulopathy; low globulins associated with immunosuppression; anaemia with attempted regeneration and severe inflammatory response with marked neutrophilia with bands.

Continued on page 23

The plan was to replace her IV and she was started on maintenance fluids and Timentin, an IV antibiotic. She also received Zantac as well as the anti-ulcer medication Carafate.

Ten days after her initial rescue Precious had her IV removed with no clotting issues. She was sent to a carer to be rehabilitated and she is now in the pre-release cage and a picture of health. Her hair has grown back and she has had no further issues.

Annette Colling

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Coordinator, RSPCA Qld

Wildlife Training Weekends in Rural Qld

The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council believes that it represents carers throughout Queensland; and in doing so is delighted to be able to bring to rural Queensland areas, training weekends with well respected speakers from throughout Australia sharing information concerning wildlife rehabilitation.

We are pleased to announce \$5000 (maximum limit) funding from a Federal government grant for more workshops. These will be advertised in the near future. We will be applying for further grant funding to continue our commitment to supplying quality training to Queensland carers.

THESE WORKSHOPS ARE FREE TO PARTICIPANTS

For further information please email: secretary@qwrc.org.au.

QWRC WILDLIFE BROCHURES

It is our aim to remove the need for each group to print brochures on subjects that affect all rehabbers. We have also produced a small booklet as a wildlife rescue guide; some may call this a glovebox guide. This too is something relevant to all groups. We have received funding from a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant for the printing of 50,000 of these booklets. It is envisaged that initially they will be available to motorists stopping at Driver Reviver outlets throughout Queensland during holiday periods.

Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au for further information.

Pictures of the brochures are on the inside back cover.



WILDLIFE HAVENS FOR SALE

Oakview Nature Refuge

270 acres located in SE Qld 42k NW of Gympie. Set up for wildlife caring with 2.5acre pre-release pen that can be divided into three.

Home to many species of wildlife including Eastern grey kangaroos, Whiptail, Redneck, Blackstripe and Swamp wallabies, Bettongs, Bandicoots, Koalas, Possums, Greater Glider, Platypus and a myriad of bird species. Unique mudbrick home, leadlight windows featuring wildlife, animal tile mosaics, 3 brm/2 bath, huge hexagonal kitchen. Plenty of water, creek frontage but house is flood free. 18m long enclosed veg/patch animal enclosure, predator free. 3 Bay shed, 3 phase power, gas cooking and hot water. Much more. Offers around \$799,000

Contact Anne-Marie - 07 5484 7354 - anmacropod@bigpond.com.

WALPOLE - southwest of WA

The property is approximately 19 kms from the coastal township of Walpole, 58 kms east of Denmark, and 113 kms east of Albany where there is an airport.

The secluded 350 acre property consists of 150 acres of native bushland (including Jarrah and Marri trees) which includes wetlands, and 200 acres of pasture. Annual rainfall is in excess of 900mm with abundant Summer feed available. The property has ample permanent water – 3 stock watering dams (one with yabbies) and a large dam with road access to a cleared house/farm shed area. A shed-kit (footings completed) is included in the sale price along with another large (partially completed) farm shed – all with shire approvals. A small caravan serves as temporary accommodation.

For the past seven years the property has been utilised as a release site for rehabilitated wildlife. Included is a large custom-made soft-release netted enclosure with shelter, food containers and water supply.

Simone would prefer to sell to like-minded people in order to preserve the property for wildlife. This property could be suitable for co-ownership by a group 4-6 of like-minded wildlife people. \$925,000 negotiable. .

Contact Simone - 0409 290 944 - cranmill@inet.net.au



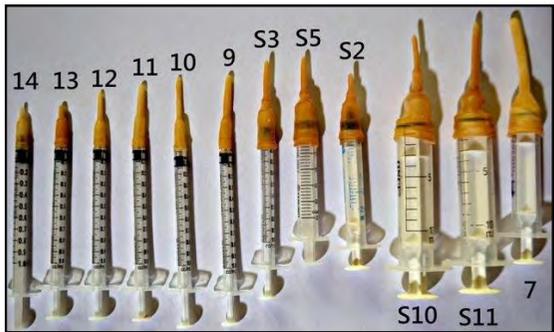
Anne-Marie's Wildlife Supplies

Call or e-mail for price list
 5484 7354 anmacropod@bigpond.com



- Wallaby, Kangaroo, Flying Fox, Wombat, Possum, and Glider teats, soft and long lasting .80 cents each
- Stainless Steel teat moulds from \$10

- Syringe teats many sizes .40 cents each
- Flying Fox syringe teats .80 cents each
- We can make a teat mould from your favourite teat



- Herbal remedies for Thrush and E-Coli
- Vitamin E, Selenium and other nutritional supplements

<http://annemarieswildlifesupplies.wordpress.com/>
 Raw Fresh Health - <http://anmacropod.wordpress.com/>

Blazer special guest of Captain Creek

The wildlife workshop held on Sunday 10th March at the Captain Creek Rural Fire Brigade was a great success with eighteen fire brigade members from as far as Rockhampton attending including Blazer the Koala Rural Fire Service mascot.

The workshop was presented by Agnes Water wildlife carer, Yvonne Thompson and native bird carer from Emu Park, Lyn Laskus. Both carers have over twenty years experience dealing with our native wildlife. Lyn discussed the vulnerability and loss of habitat facing the wildlife due to activities including natural disasters and activities of the human race. She explained how to recognise tracks, living areas and wildlife scats. Yvonne brought along a wonderful display of poo for an interesting guessing competition.

The workshop also covered how to handle wildlife safely, how to eliminate stress and ways to contain and transport them. “to never use was coated boxes, styrofoam or hessian bags.” Wendy Tomkins from Emu Park covered areas dealing with and handling introduced species such as dogs, wild pigs and cows etc. “where the dog is looking is most likely where you will get bitten,” she explained.

Yvonne Thompson presented Agnes Water, Captain Creek and Wartburg Fire Brigades with joey bags she had made with calico donated by Spotlight in Bundaberg.

The workshop was well received with responses saying it was an excellent workshop especially the containment and reconnaissance information and that members now have a better understanding of our local critters. It was great to hear from people who had an actual experience in situations encountered in the field.

Presenter Lyn Laskus said “I am extremely impressed with the Rural Fire Brigade in the Captain Creek/Agnes Water region who I believe may be the first Fire Brigade in this region to incorporate wildlife in their training and planning for bushfires.”

Local presenter Yvonne Thompson said, “They were a lovely bunch of people who were interested in what we had to say so we all enjoyed our day. Thank you for inviting us and organising the day”

Brigade Chairperson, Sean Small, said, “Our Brigade cares for the environment and appreciates the awareness Yvonne, Lyn and Wendy have brought to us about how we can assist the wildlife. When situations arise we now feel we can act decisively, both to avert unnecessary harm and to assist our injured forest friends. We would like to thank them also for the wildlife care kits they provided and look forward to working with them in the future.”

Story and photo by Denise Wild



Yvonne Thompson with 'Blazer'



Lesser long-eared bat being held by a vaccinated carer. DO NOT HANDLE BATS Photo by Nick Edards



'Marilyn Monroe' an Orphaned Beccari Freetail Pup found at Movieworld on the Gold Coast. Photo by Rachel Lyons

**QWRC
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Eastern horseshoe bat
Photo by Nick Edards



Microbat photo by Judy Elliott