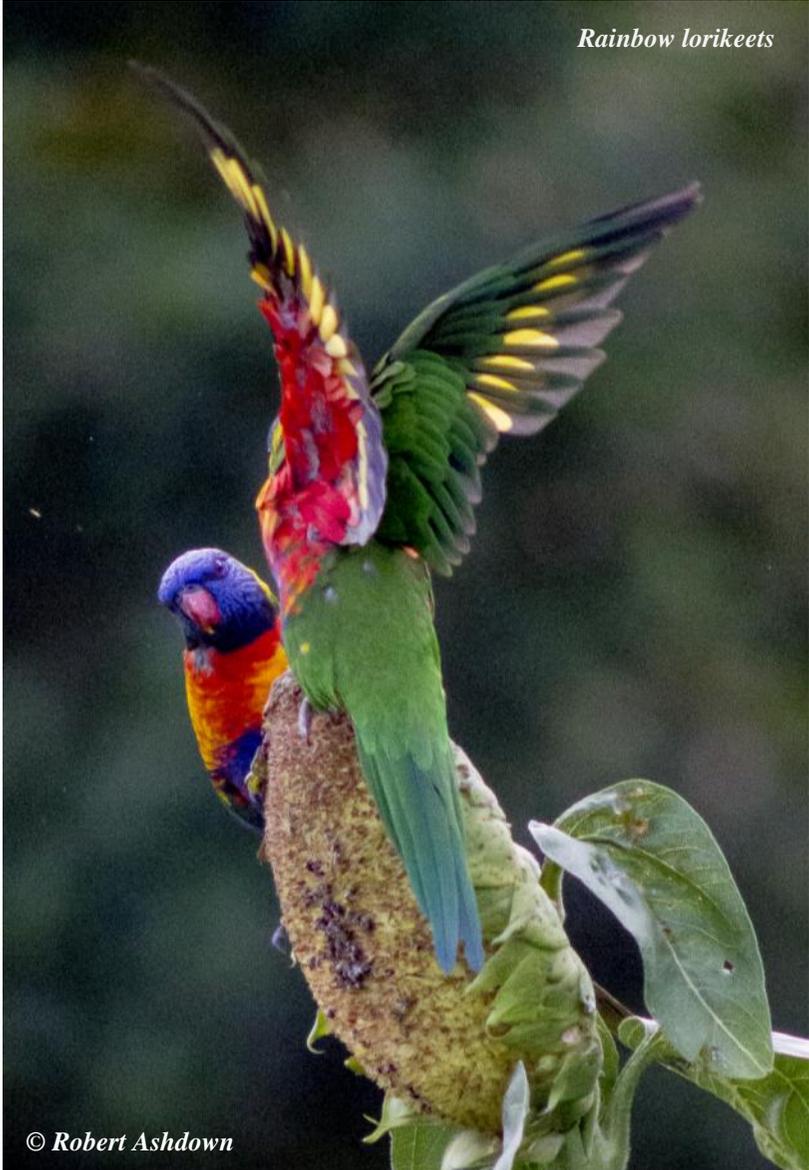


RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 26
September 2014

Keeping carers
informed



Rainbow lorikeets

© Robert Ashdown

QWRC Products



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



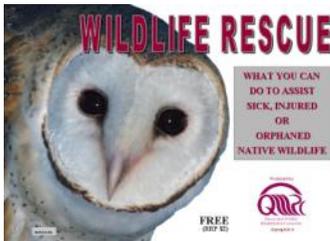
- ◆ Don't cats control rats and mice?
- ◆ Don't cats control snakes?
- ◆ Cats threaten the future survival of most wildlife
- ◆ Are you a responsible cat owner?
- ◆ Do cats harm wildlife?
- ◆ How can I protect cats and wildlife?



- ◆ 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?



In this issue:

- QWRC Products
- Australian Wildlife Conference
- Hints and Tips
- Rescuer Profile - Denise McLean
- Microwave humidicribs
- Becky's story
- RSPCA hospital – Lorikeets
- Birth of a roo
- Brown tree snake

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



**Illustrations
by
Louise Saunders**



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

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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
- 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..

Hello again to all. Hopefully winter is now on the way out the door with the warmer times around the corner. I love spring! The days are lovely and warm while it is still cool enough at night to snuggle up in bed; the days are usually so clear with bright clear skies and the signs of new life all around. After three months with next to no rain we have finally had about 50mls and the dry crunchy grass is now a carpet of green shoots again. I do hope that others in drought stricken areas have also had at least a little rain.

We hope many of you will be able to join us at the RSPCA centre at Wacol in Brisbane on Sunday September 21st for our AGM and to celebrate QWRC's 10th birthday. It is truly amazing to realise we have been representing wildlife rehabilitators across Queensland for ten years. Our membership has steadily grown over the years; we have some members who have been with us from the beginning, which is really wonderful, while others have joined along the way. I still find it disheartening at times that after all this time there are still some rehabbers who either do not know of QWRC at all or seem to fear QWRC will try to take over and still try to put us down. We will not let them get us down while we continue to work for all rehabbers.

In the past ten years we have held cuppa and chat sessions in many centres throughout the State in an effort to let all rehabbers know the benefits of QWRC membership and to get to know our members better. We have facilitated, with the help of grants received, several training workshops across the State to assist those rehabbers in remote locations to have access to the same opportunities available to those in coastal centres. We continue to apply for grants to provide these training workshops.

The QWRC carcass tagging system has been well received and we have several members who routinely complete and return data sheets as these tags are used thus providing vital information on 'hot spots' on our States roads.

Through the wonderful support of the Transport and Main Roads Department we have been able to provide each QWRC member with a free high visibility vest in the hope of improving their visibility safety while removing and rescuing wildlife from the States' roads.

Over the years we have developed, produced and distributed a collection of brochures for the use of all rehabbers. About twelve months ago we received a grant to allow us to print and distribute

Continued on page 5

our Wildlife Rescue handbook. This has been a great success. Due to the enquiries received from other State Wildlife Councils, we have now produced a generic version of this booklet which can be printed and distributed more widely across Australia.

We encourage all members to spread the positive news of QWRC and to give us the vital feedback we need to better

represent you the wildlife rehabilitators of Queensland.

We thank you all for your wonderful support and look forward to another ten years of working together for the betterment of our precious wildlife.

Till next time

Annie



Editorial..

Spring is in the air and we all know what that means, lots of babies needing our care. I hope we all survive the onslaught without too many dramas.

Our phone lines will be running hot with calls from MOPs, some sweet and obliging but sadly some others that are rude and nasty. I don't know how we let people know that we are all volunteers and don't get paid by the government for rescuing and caring for wildlife.

A big thank you to everyone who mans a rescue hotline as I know how frustrating it can be. I remember being woken in the middle of the night from someone wanting to book a QPWS campsite for the following day! No doubt you all have similar crazy tales. Hey, that's something that could be shared with us all in the next issue.

Baby animals are the focus for this issue

of RnR and I make no apologies for the many macropod (my speciality) articles. We rarely receive any articles or photos from our members. **The March issue will focus on unusual animals that come into care.** This is your newsletter so please think about having some input so that your experiences can be shared with everyone.

If you only ever dream about buying an humidicrib then please see page 18 about how to convert old microwave ovens into humidicribs.

Please send any articles/photos (min 1MB) for the next issue, deadline is 18 January 2015:

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

Judy Elliott

I look forward to hearing from you.

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
- Wildlife rescue booklet

These are available free to QWRC members for the cost of postage. Bulk requests may need to be limited. It may be possible to collect from your local councillor. Please advise us if you would like to see any others produced.

Safety Vests

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

Carcase Tags

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



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

RSPCA Animal Care Campus at Wacol

Recently we have had many lorikeet chicks come into care at our RSPCA Wildlife Hospital. Unfortunately due to land clearing and development their tree hollows were being knocked down. Luckily a Spotter Catcher who was on site removed the lorikeets from their hollow before their tree was removed and brought them into care.



Not long after the first pair arrived, we also had twelve other baby lorikeets in the wildlife hospital from four different tree hollows. We also received more babies that are less than a week old.

After being checked by our veterinary team all of our baby lorikeets will be on their way to wildlife carers until they are old enough to be released back into an area close to where they were found.

Annette Colling, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Coordinator, RSPCA Queensland

QWRC on Facebook

When logged into Facebook just type in QWRC in the Facebook search section and you will find us.

We would like to encourage all members to utilise our Facebook page for communication between other carers, problem solving of disease and injury of animals in our care and also for sharing photos of wildlife in our care.

If you are unsure of how to use Facebook or how to share your photos maybe ask a younger member of your family or a friend already familiar with Facebook.

For further Facebook queries email: jacqui.webb@bigpond.com.

Oops – Shouldn't have eaten that!

I bet that's what this Brown tree snake would have said if he could talk. It looked like an egg, smelled like an egg and probably tasted a bit chooky. So he ate it but unfortunately it was plastic. You know how you put a plastic egg in a chook box to encourage them to lay - not a good idea.



This unfortunate snake ended up with a big pain in the belly, with the egg lodged at the end of its long stomach (half way down). Normally when an egg reaches that part of the anatomy it is soft and squishy. This one had no-where to go. Luckily he was discovered by snake loving people who rang Kylee who collected him and came round to show me. The problem we had was figuring out what to do to remove the egg. We had a few options – operate but the snakes later often die from infection, knock him out and attempt to push the egg back through the mouth or syringe paraffin oil into the stomach and hopefully make the snake regurgitate. We thought we would try the paraffin oil first, so armed with syringe, long tube

and oil, Kylee held and I inserted the tube into the stomach and syringed. Then it was back in the bag, cross our fingers and wait until the next day.

No luck, so option two was to take him to Vet Tim in Bowen who was willing to try to push the egg back through the mouth, so off we went to Bowen. Tim was great, he thought he would see if he could move the egg without anaesthetic first (high risk of death with anaesthetic). It took a while but finally it started moving and, with gentle pressure, the egg was on its way. A minute later it was out and it had been amazing to watch!

We were a bit concerned that the neck muscles were damaged, they seemed to be a little loose, but armed with antibiotics and crossed fingers we headed home.

Three weeks on and the muscles have tightened, snake has had a feed, had a poo and is fighting fit ready to go home.

Now for our next patient.. Carpet python, nasty wounds and canker.....

Linden Baker





HEADS UP!

"Where do you get all your wildlife, bird, reptile and small animal supplies?"

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE SUPPLIES
www.wildlifesupplies.com.au
E: info@wildlifesupplies.com.au
P: 0417 749 501

Case History - Becky's Collapsed Leg following Enterotoxaemia

Approximately four months ago Becky (female Eastern grey) twelve months old contracted Enterotoxaemia. After many hours of trying to control the fitting, she recovered, however, when she stood up her right leg had collapsed and was sitting underneath her ribs. I took her to the vet who thought it was muscle damage from the convulsions and that it should right itself but it would be a long slow process for the muscles to repair.

I kept Becky as confined as I could so she didn't overdo using the muscles to begin with. There was no improvement over the next two months and she was eventually having difficulty walking. The leg had collapsed so much that it was pushing on her ribs and she was having trouble breathing and was in excruciating pain. She was now at the stage where she could hardly stand up and walking was just about impossible.

At this stage I made a bed for her inside and kept her as comfortable as possible but I realised that she would probably need to be euthanased to end her suffering.

I observed Becky very closely and could see how she was trying to move her leg and the position of her back/rump etc. I starting thinking about my

personal experiences with my back and pelvis. I have an artificial disc in my back and have had numerous operations, lots of physio and other alternative treatments such as acupuncture, bowen therapy etc. My observations and gut made me think that her pelvis was out as the way she would swing her leg to walk and just the whole positioning of her rump area. I called my wonderful friend Greg who owns the Hands On Healing centre in Agnes Water to see if he would be interested in having a look at Becky. I credit Greg with getting me back on my feet many times. Anyway, Greg came and looked at Becky after checking out my healthy big kangaroos and indeed he confirmed my suspicions that her pelvis was out.

The following day, Greg started working his magic on Becky. He manipulated her pelvis and also found that two vertebrae in her lower spine were out. Her whole tail rippled when he put her spine back into alignment as though everything was straightening up. When Becky recovered SHE JUMPED UP ONTO THE BED!!! Prior to this she could not walk!!! Every day following the treatment, her leg improved more and more and she is now hopping around, very happy and pain free.

Continued on page 11

We did do one more manipulation two weeks after the initial treatment and Greg showed me how to keep pulling her leg out, massaging it to keep the pulse in her muscle. The improvement now is just remarkable.

I am so glad I thought outside the box and how having my own experience helped.

Denise McLean



Becky the Eastern grey roo showing the pelvic area



Eastern grey joey enjoying her dummy. Denise Mclean

News News News

New QWRC Website

We are pleased to announce that a new re-vamped website will be available very shortly. This will be very user friendly with lots of new information so please check it out on **www.qwrc.org.au**.

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 ‘

QWRC Group Insurance

Public Liability insurance is available to groups when all their members are also members of QWRC. A request must be sent to QWRC together with their membership list so that the insurance certificate can be issued to them.

Administration Request

Sadly some members are not receiving all the information that is being sent to them either by snailmail or email. We get a lot of 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 remember that we are all volunteers with busy lives doing our best to assist wildlife rehabilitators. Please help us to help you.

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. 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.**

MOVING HOUSE

or

changing your email address

Remember to advise QWRC

Your local representatives:

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

District 2— Wet Tropics/Cairns Marine
Tami Moffat
Phone: 0467 045590

District 3 — Savannah/Townsville Marine
Janelle Gilmore
Phone: 4724 4725

District 4 — Mackay/Whitsundays
Jacqui Webb
Phone: 4947 3308

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

District 6— Longreach
VACANT

District 7 — Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy
Judy Elliott
Phone: 4156 5382

District 8— South West
VACANT

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
Eleanor Pollock
Phone: 3420 0406

QWRC's patron is Dr Jim Pollock
RnR is printed by Classic Design and
Print, Bundaberg



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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



Carer Profile

Meet Denise McLean from Agnes Water



My partner Garry and I moved to Agnes Water ten years ago after selling our transport business in Warwick. I fell out of one of our trucks and have a permanent back injury which makes it impossible to work. In view of this we decided it was time to retire and take time out to smell the roses having given so much of our lives to our business.

Not long after moving onto our ten acres just outside Agnes, Garry was working in the paddock one day, and as he watched, a Whiptail wallaby joey went to mum after mum looking for his mum, when the others hopped away, he was too little to go with them. Garry arrived at the house with this little bundle wrapped in his shirt. I immediately called the wildlife number

in the local phone book and when the carer came to pick him up, I asked if I could learn how to look after him. I then raised three Swamp wallabies and then I received my first Eastern grey joey. It was love at first sight for me and I just absolutely loved raising this precious little joey. After two or three more Greys, I found I was just smitten by these beautiful animals and now concentrate on raising Greys. I have also raised many pinkies and the joy and delight at watching these little under developed babies grow is just an amazing sight to witness.

I am lucky I soft release so now that I have more experience (and having a partner that is hands on and helps where he can), I usually raise a mob of around five to seven joeys to release together. I have females who now have their second joey in pouch and I get so much pleasure when I see the joeys I have raised hanging out in the paddock with the wild ones that graze on our property. This tells me I have done my job right and have released well adjusted kangaroos.

I feel absolutely blessed that I was given the opportunity to raise my first joey and the joy they bring to my life every day certainly makes up for all of the heartache we carers unfortunately must endure.

I will care for these beautiful little babies until the day comes that I am unable to hold one in my arms any more.

Denise McLean

Tom's Tale

Tom, a Swamp wallaby came into care at 70gms which is very tiny even for experienced carers.

His mother's teat was cut soon after she had been killed so he hadn't been subjected to being cold. His carer received him shortly afterwards.

He was fed with Divetelact at a strength of 1 scoop made up to 60 mls of water (plus Impact) at a volume of 10% of weight per day. He also received 2mls of Lactade twice a day. He was fed every two hours for the first few days until he was stabilised and then he was

able to be fed every three hours. He was kept in an hospital incubator at 37C.

He progressed well without any problems. His food and management altered as he grew so that he went onto Wombaroo .4 formula when his eyes opened and then .6 and .7. at the appropriate weights.

He made friends with Harmony, a female Swamp wallaby of the same size and they were soft released together.

Jo Waters



Furless wallaby joey



Tom prior to release

To Save or not to Save

Debate will no doubt rage forever on this topic. We know that some carers/groups euthanase furless animals which is so sad if there are experienced carers available and prepared to put in the time and effort to save them. Our wildlife have a very hard time and suffer enormously from human intervention such as habitat destruction, culling, backyard killing, vehicle impacts plus feral and domestic animals so is it so wrong to try to save them?

Editor

Microwave Humidcribs

Kel Biddle from Townsville has been rescuing old microwaves and refurbishing them into humidcribs for wildlife carers.



Kel Biddle and Helen Whittacker with a 90gm possum using this innovative humidicrib

This boat builder decided to think in the photo and the bulb is fitted in the outside the square when he wanted to casing behind (not in the interior of the keep baby birds that he was caring for microwave). The microwave door is warm. He guts the microwave and takes out the electronics. A 60W halogen one with the cable fixing secured by a bulb and a thermostat (up to 40C) is cleat fixed above the thermostat. fitted by an electrician. The thermostat Polystyrene insulation (1/2"– 3/4" thick) probe that regulates the temperature is is placed in the outside casing. fitted just inside the door, as can be seen

Ed: Contact secretary@qwrc.org.au for further information. I wonder if the volunteers at Mens Sheds would be interested in projects like this to assist carers?

Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

The biennial Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference was held in Hobart this year and was again heralded as an outstanding success by all who attended. I attended the conference on behalf of RSPCA Qld and also as a wildlife rehabilitator.

As was expected there were the token presentations on the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour and the current research that is being undertaken to try and save the devil from extinction.

There were also some interesting presentations on penguins, a species we don't often see in Queensland!



Penguins - A pictorial Journey

*Margaret Larner/Carol Biddulph,
WA Seabird Rescue*

QWRC representative Eleanor Pollock spoke briefly on the Qld Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and had a display, along with the many other wonderful stalls that were full of information and wildlife goodies.

There was again the offering of fantastic field trips to conference participants and it was very hard to choose just one to go along to. I took the opportunity of being in Tasmania to go along to the Tasmanian Devil Sanctuary and got to meet some feisty critters up close and learn a lot more about them.

The conference was very well run and congratulations must go to the committee and MC Steven Amesbury, who did a fantastic job of keeping everybody running on time each day.

The next conference will be held in Melbourne in 2016

and I encourage everyone to plan ahead now to go, as it is an invaluable networking experience and the presentations are always interesting and informative.

Annette Colling



Animal Intensive Care Units



NEW Vetario units arriving end of Aug 2014!

Vetario S40 & S50 give animals & birds a safe, warm enclosure to protect them. The ideal intensive care environment.

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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



Wildlife Training Weekends in Rural Qld

We are applying for further grant funding to continue our commitment to supplying quality training to Queensland carers. Please advise QWRC if you know of a rural location that would benefit from one of these training workshops.

***THESE WORKSHOPS ARE FREE TO PARTICIPANTS
(QWRC membership is not a requirement)***

VACANCIES

- Assistant Editor
- Media List Co-ordinator

Assistant Editor

Our RnR editor requires assistance from someone who has the time to search for stories/photos. There will be a theme for each issue to make it a little easier. It is only printed in March and September.

If you think you may be able to help please contact editor@qwrc.org.au or, if you prefer, just phone Judy on 4156 5382 for a chat about it.

Media List Co-ordinator

Our media list is currently held by one person and is split into several different email folders. We have been advised by Microsoft that it is not possible to email these Windows folders to anyone else (using Vista).

We need someone to recreate these files (lists supplied) and keep them updated. It would then be necessary to email out media releases (supplied) when required. This does not happen very often. Please contact secretary@qwrc.org.au.

QWRC Disaster Fund

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

Freckle's Skin Problems



Freckles, the Blackstripe wallaby showing his skin problems

Freckles had been found in unusual circumstances and was very dirty which may have caused his skin problems. He was in a dreadful state and it was difficult to recognise him as a Blackstripe wallaby. His carer tried all

types of lotions and potions but finally, on the advice of a vet, gave him doses of *omega 3, 6 + 9 oil*. Just a couple of drops in his bottle twice a day and his fur soon started to grow normally again as can be seen in the photo below.



Continued on page 23

Ed: I regularly use *Megaderm* (from vets) with furless joeys and they often do not need any lubrication on their skin to prevent any dryness/peeling. I buy it in 4ml sachets (28 sachets to a box) so that it stays fresher for longer. I normally give 0.1ml (for wallaby pinkies) from a syringe directly into the mouth twice a day.

Rocky's Road to Recovery

Rocky, the Swamp wallaby came into care weighing 760gm. He was orphaned due to a traffic accident (like most macropods) and unfortunately he had several injuries. He had fractures in both legs and both his lower front teeth had been broken off. I decided he would be worth trying to save. He also had a growth plate injury on his foot but that hadn't been identified on his original x-rays and was not discovered until much later.



It was nine months before he could be released. One of his broken teeth had grown back and he was managing to eat normally. His legs healed and the growth plate problem was barely noticeable and certainly wasn't causing him any problems.

Judy Elliott

Hints and Tips (for carers - from carers)



At last - a use for those pesky plastic bread bag tags. Ideal when bottles/teats need identifying for different joeys. Ed.



How to Remove Ticks

- Apply a small amount of liquid soap on a cotton ball
- Cover the tick with the soaped cotton ball
- Blot it for a few seconds (15/20)
- The tick will spontaneously detach and stick to the cotton as you remove it
- Keep liquid soap and cotton balls in your first aid kit

Ed: This is a great tip as I get heaps of ticks on me.



Anne-Marie's Wildlife Supplies

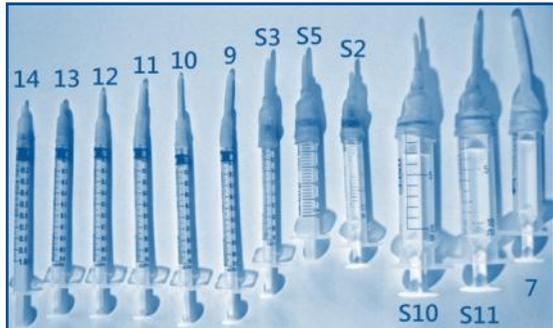
Call or e-mail for price list

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/>

Shambala - birth of Eastern grey joey

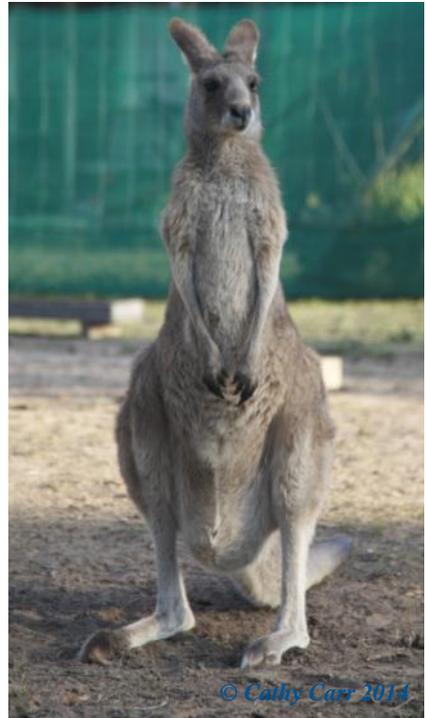
Shambala was brought to us from another carer with her partner Tallow in September 2011 to go into our soft-release enclosure with four other Eastern grey kangaroos. Once they had all bonded as a mob, we released them on New Years Day 2012.

Over time, more Eastern greys were also released out with the original six. Many of the boys eventually left home to find mobs of their own, but every single girl we have released here has stayed pretty much within our seventy acre property, and we see all of the girls almost every day.

On 08 Feb this year, in the afternoon, Shambala appeared at our garden fence looking very agitated, frothing at the mouth and clearly distressed. I went out of the gate to see if she had somehow injured herself, only to realise that she was in fact in labour and about to give birth to a joey. I grabbed the camera and was fortunate to be able to photograph the whole event, from the birth until the joey disappeared over the edge of her pouch.

I hope you enjoy the pictures of this new life making a first appearance. It will be around early September before we anticipate seeing the joey start to peep out of her pouch, but I am photographing the growing “bump” on a regular basis so I can keep a record of this joey’s life from day one.

I will of course get photos from the very first time the joey takes a peep out in front of me.



Shambala on 18 June 2014

Cathy Carr

Ed: See photos of Shambala giving birth on the next two pages



Birth of an Eastern grey joey



Newly born Eastern grey joey



1.35pm

© Cathy Carr 2014

Eastern grey joey climbing up to the pouch



1.37pm

© Cathy Carr 2014

Eastern grey joey climbing into the pouch