

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 28

September 2015

Keeping carers
informed



Frill-necked lizard (Chlamydosaurus kingii)
Photo courtesy of Greg Calvert



QWRC Products



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



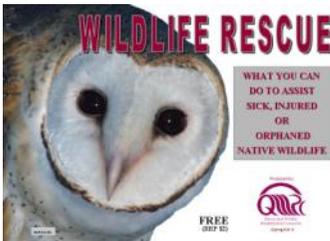
- ◆ Don't cats control rats and mice?
- ◆ Don't cats control snakes?
- ◆ Cats threaten the future survival of most wildlife
- ◆ Are you a responsible cat owner?
- ◆ Do cats harm wildlife?
- ◆ How can I protect cats and wildlife?



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



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



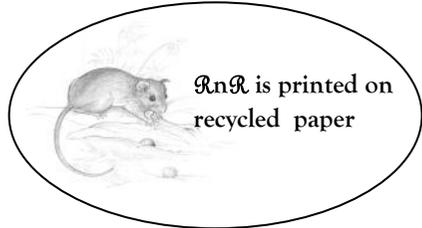
Carcase tags



In this issue:

- Hints and Tips
- Carer Profile - Kristy Philliskirk
- Whitsunday Turtle Rescue
- Cyclone Marcia wreaks havoc
- RSPCA Wacol hospital
- Abandoned roo joey
- Quoin Island Turtle Centre
- Wildlife survey paper

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.



RnR is printed on recycled paper

Illustrations

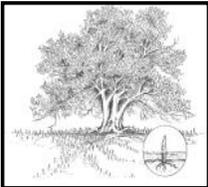
by

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

Release of wildlife

Wildlife Autopsy by Rehabilitators in Queensland

Zoonosis

Hygiene Practices

Aviary and cage hygiene

What happens to animals that can't be released?

Display of wildlife

Care of Flying fox orphans outside their geographical range

Understanding your duty of care

Wildlife in the workplace

From the Chair..

So here we are again. Spring has sprung and the days are warmer though at our place [just west of Gladstone, Central Queensland] we are still having some mornings with the temperatures in single figures. Please all take care as with predicted low rain fall and reduced wet season there is likely to be an increased fire danger.

Whilst clearing long grass from trees in our orchard I inadvertently disturbed a White-bellied cuckoo shrike (*Coracina papuensis*) which amazingly had built its nest at about knee height in one of the trees. I am sad to say something has taken the three small eggs from that nest. Bird Photo courtesy The Internet Bird Collection. Photo of nest was taken by me.



Do you do as I have over the years and search for more info on each new bird or animal with which I come in contact? Finding this nest set me yet again on a quest to learn more about yet another of our amazing birds. I have a good selection of bird identification books but now that I have, as my kids tell me, arrived in the 21st century and have a modern phone. I have now researched some of the free apps available to assist with fauna identification. You may like to look at some of the following list or maybe you have others you may be able to share with us. Some of these are large apps so it would be wise to check your settings etc. before you start to download anything.:

Continued on page 5

Field Guide Queensland Fauna by the Queensland Museum;
 Frogs field guide from The Australian Museum;
 Australian Birds by Gaia Guide;
 Australian Mammals by Gaia Guide; or
 Zen's Australian Reptiles by Gaia Guide.

We have a list of every bird we have found around our property along with the dates each was seen. Each year when any migratory or transient birds return their return date is also noted on the list. This is a very simple way to keep track of the movements of wildlife in our area. How do you keep track of wildlife at your place?

Please tell us your stories about the animals or birds you have at your place. We love to hear your stories of the animals you have in care too. Is there anything you would like see your State body do for you the rehabbers of this fine State? Please let us know.

Till next time

Annie

Editorial..

It is very warm at the moment in Central Queensland where I live and we desperately need some good rainfall. Please ensure to keep water bowls topped up for your critters and also the local birds and other wildlife. It could be a life saver for them.

Please re-visit the websites of our advertisers as they all constantly have new stock that may interest you. If you contact them please also mention where you saw their ad as well.

It is also worth visiting the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference website for an update on the latest conference (see page 22). Most of the papers from all their previous conferences are also available.

Remember to check out our website www.qwrc.org.au. Most memberships will be due for renewal on 1 January 2016. Please ensure that you tick any boxes on the application form to indicate how you would prefer to receive RnR and other correspondence.

The focus for the next issue will be gliders so there must be lots of stories about either Sugar, Squirrel, Feathertail, Greater or Yellow-bellied orphans.

Please send any articles/photos (min 1MB) for the next issue, deadline is 15 January 2016:

Email: editor@qwrc.org.au

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 in the past and, due to dwindling stock, we are attempting to find a new sponsor. 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.

Carcass 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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Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre

RELEASE OF DIAMOND THE 'MIRACLE' GREEN SEA TURTLE

“Diamond” the Green sea turtle, was released back into the waters of Pioneer Bay on Wednesday 5th of August, after being rescued in November last year by Libby Edge of Eco Barge Clean Seas, who found the turtle floating near Airlie Beach with a boat strike injury.

Diamond was taken to the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre in Jubilee Pocket for assessment. Due to the seriousness of his injuries, he was quickly transferred to the Reef HQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital in Townsville. Nick-named the ‘miracle’ turtle by the vets from JCU and Hammett St Veterinary Surgery. Diamond made a recovery which amazed everyone, resulting in him being fully functional despite having lost one spinal vertebra and most of one pair of ribs.

Diamond turned out to be a real survivor, thriving in care and giving his carers a pretty hard time, becoming famous for being ‘feisty’. After nine months in care at Reef HQ Aquarium “Diamond” had made a full recovery, although he will always have an indentation in his shell from the injury. He spent one last night at the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre before being released at Cannonvale Beach, where a crowd of well-wishers, including Eco Barge Turtle Rescue Volunteers, Reef HQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital staff, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park authority staff and some passers-by, gathered to give him a big send off. (See photos on page 27)

The Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre has been established by Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc., in partnership with Fauna Rescue Whitsundays, to provide sick and injured marine turtles in the Whitsunday Region with the help that they need. The Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Volunteers have been trained by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to safely and effectively respond to stranded turtles, both on land and in the water. If you come across a sick or injured turtle in the Whitsundays, call the RSPCA’s 1300 ANIMAL (264 625) to report it.

The Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre has received terrific community support, and a big thank you must be given to our partners: BHP Billiton Mitsui Coal, The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, Cruise Whitsundays and Fauna Rescue Whitsunday.

Anyone interested in volunteering or supporting the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre can contact Eco Barge Cleanseas at

www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au

Libby Edge

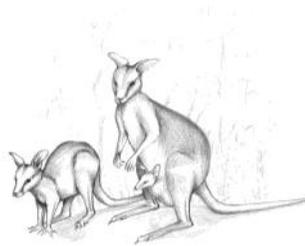
Water supply query

One of our members recently had to have town water delivered to their tanks due to the current drought conditions. She inadvertently used this (boiled) for making up joey formula. The water tasted disgusting and she then bought bottled water. She also used some water from a friend's polytank (hers is concrete). Some of her joeys reacted by producing soft faeces instead of pellets.

In Lynda Staker's latest Macropod Husbandry manual (see page 122 for 'How Safe Is Water' article) she recommends boiling water for at least 15 minutes to kill most of the nasties.

Most people probably use electric jugs that switch off automatically. Another option would be to purchase filtered bottled water or have your own water filter.

To contact Lynda Staker - email: macropodology@optusnet.com.au



Editor

Glider milk formula query

Another member would be interested in hearing from anyone who has experienced a problem with very young possum milk. Please email her at helene@forestlodge.net.



Ed: I have found that sometimes a single animal can be allergic to a particular formula so that it's just a case of trying something else. I always keep a carton of longlife Soy milk (Regular not Fat Free) in the pantry as a backup supply. This can be very useful if your regular formula is delayed in delivery. It has also been used very successfully for a joey that was allergic to all regular milk formulas.



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Cyclone Marcia wreaks havoc



Cyclone Marcia hit landfall on the Qld Queensland coast on 19 February 2015 with horrendous consequences.

Our property was directly in the firing line at Byfield. We were devastated at the damage this cyclone caused. We lost all enclosure fences and possum aviaries.

A little Brushtail was discovered two nights later amongst the wreckage and luckily he was OK and was able to be rehabilitated and eventually released.

A dead Agile wallaby was found under a tree plus a dead Grey and another Grey had a broken hip and had to be shot.

The macropod nursery fence and the whole of the enclosure was covered in fallen timber and it was not even possible to walk through it.

There is still a long way to go. It was impossible to clear the timber off the fence in the release paddock but a new fence line was cleared by machinery. A few acres were subsequently lost from this enclosure.

A big thank you to QWRC for the donation of \$1000 which allowed us to get the nursery paddock up and running again. This funding was very much appreciated.

Ivy Byrom

Ed: refer to www.qwrc.org.au for details of the Disaster Response Fund together with an application form.



Hints and Tips

Pouch-stands not required

I found that having joey pouch-stands indoors was rather cumbersome and thought there must be an easier way of hanging pouches. These hooks on the wall work really well and are not too obtrusive when not in use (never!).

Editor

Recycle silicone teats

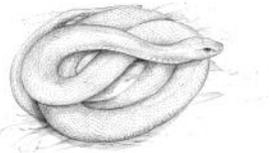
Any suitable teats that have split at the base can easily just be cut and used as a syringe teat.

Editor



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

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INSURANCE
NOW \$20M**



RnR - Delivery Option

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

RSPCA QLD Hospital at Wacol



being attacked by a dog and was unable to use her right leg properly. Our wildlife vets checked her over and she had a suspected fracture in her leg. Ally had x-rays to assess the damage which also showed that she's a young mum carrying around fifteen eggs. Ally had a pin placed in her leg by Dr Joke van Laere and is now recovering in our wildlife hospital on pain medication, antibiotics and a calcium supplement. We hope it won't be too long until Ally is back out enjoying life in the wild with her youngsters. She has just laid four eggs.

Ally the Bearded dragon had surgery recently at our Brisbane RSPCA Wildlife Hospital. She came into our care after

Lee Pirini
Wildlife Operations Co-ordinator
RSPCA Queensland



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

Following the last election your local representatives are:

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 (Secretary/minute taker)
 Phone: 4724 4725

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

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

District 6— Longreach
VACANT

District 7 — Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy
Judy Elliott (Editor RnR)
 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 (Vice-chair/QWRC Quotes Editor) Phone: 3420 0406

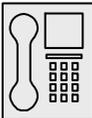
Vicky Dawson (Treasurer/Member Secretary)
 Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au

QWRC's patron is Dr Jim Pollock
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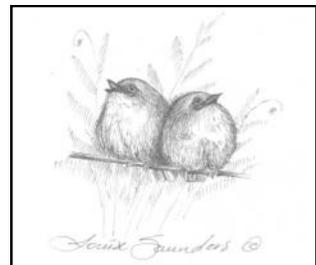
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ◆ 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 (\$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**.





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

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

Membership Application / Membership Renewal Form

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

Please complete all details

Surname.....

First Name.....

Date of Birth.....

Residential Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Postal address.....

.....Postcode.....

Shire in which you reside.....

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

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

Email.....

Group Name [if applicable]

Note: All newsletters will be sent to your email address unless you tick the boxes below.

I wish to receive my RnR by hard copy.

I wish to receive all other correspondence by hard copy.

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

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

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

Payment options

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

Or

Direct Deposit to the QWRC bank account at Credit Union Australia
BSB No 814 282 Account number 30644404

Please use your surname as a reference for this transaction

News News News

QWRC Website

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

Permits - Permits - Permits

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

For more information please internet search for ‘qld wildlife rehabilitation permit ‘

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.

Advice for New Carers

Welcome to all new carers. I hope you are prepared for any challenges that lay ahead and that you have been advised of all the time, effort, expense and commitment that is involved in caring for our wonderful wildlife. Please do not hesitate to contact more experienced carers for help. You can access phone numbers and email addresses for other carers living in your area, by searching by postcode on the members section of the QWRC website (www.qwrc.org.au). You will find they will be more than happy to assist you with any questions no matter how small or seemingly trivial.

Seek out as much information as you can about the species you are caring for but also be aware of the pitfalls of some of the information found on websites particularly those from overseas where our native wildlife are kept as pets.

It is essential to ascertain where your animal will be released probably even before you agree to take it. Some carers may do a brilliant job of raising an animal but fail miserably when releasing it perhaps in the wrong place/wrong time of year/wrong time of day or it may not be ready. Many animals need to be reared and released in groups and are unlikely to survive in the wild on their own. This is another reason to contact other carers in your area. Joining a local carer group has many benefits and details of these can also be found on the QWRC website. You will also need to think about times when you may need a babysitter if going on holidays but please don't leave it until the last minute to try and make arrangements.

Remember that you may be caring for some very cute and cuddly baby animals but they must not be treated as pets. They must also never be allowed contact with dogs or cats as these will be their predators when they have been released. They can be very easily stressed and it is illegal to display them to the public without a special permit.

It is a good idea to try and attend as many courses as you can relating to the species that you care for. You may enjoy being able to chat with other carers who often have caring tips that you can use. QWRC continues to apply for grants for funding to try and bring more courses to regional areas. These courses are completely free for participants and are always very well attended.

Please read the **Code of Practice** (Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland) that can be found on the QWRC website. Appendix A at the end lists the minimum enclosure sizes divided into three charts for birds, reptiles and mammals.

Learning about caring for our wildlife is a lifelong pursuit as new information, ideas and products appear regularly so beware of any carer who thinks they "know it all". It is also very satisfying knowing that you have saved a little life.



Editor

Animal Intensive Care Units



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

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Why did Jo Jo abandon her baby?

I am very fortunate that I soft release Greys on my property. Usually the girls stay close by in the paddock with them venturing further and further afield as they get more familiar with their new surroundings. It is also great for me as I can keep an eye on them and address any issues that may arise like wounds or in Jo Jo's case her abandoning her baby

Why did Jo Jo abandon her baby? The incident that occurred was very upsetting and both Jo Jo and her baby are extremely lucky. I had actually seen Jo Jo give birth to her baby on 22 January 2015 so at the time of this incident the joey was exactly seven months old. The events unfolded as such:

It has been very dry here and we have been watering our backyard to keep the grass nice and green for our joeys. On this particular morning, Garry, with a mate, decided to walk to the dam and start the pump early. He saw a group of our released kangaroos and noticed one of the little joeys was hopping around. He approached for a closer look and realised that Jo Jo was nowhere near her baby. The baby was getting tired and one of the bigger females had a swipe at him, and he fell over and stayed lying on the ground. Garry sent his mate up to the house to get me. When I arrived at the scene, one of the big roos had actually gone over to the joey and started to nuzzle it. I had to intervene so I raced over and scooped the little joey up. When I looked for Jo Jo she was standing about fifty metres away and showed no interest in where her baby

was. I tried a few times to show her the baby but she would not acknowledge us. I then put the baby down in front of Jo Jo and of course the joey was frantically trying to get back in the pouch but Jo Jo still kept turning her back on him. I carried him back to the house where I put him in a liner and pouched him so I could have a bit of time to think about what to do. The joey was only 1.7 kg and he was really tired at this stage and getting quite cold.

About fifteen minutes later Jo Jo came closer to the house so I took the baby out to show her again. She still would not accept him so I took him back inside. Something must have twigged with Jo Jo and she realised I had her baby inside so she came to the door and paced from door to door. In the end I let her in and showed her the baby again. She would not acknowledge him and went towards the bedroom. I let Jo Jo in and put the baby down on the floor. He then came hopping straight back to me! I sat on the bed for a bit but Jo Jo still kept turning her back on him I put the little man back into the liner and pouched him while I got Jo Jo back outside.

Jo Jo went outside, grazed for a little while and then laid down. She seemed a lot more relaxed so I thought I would try one more time. We were now approaching the four hour mark since I first grabbed the joey and I was starting to worry. I put the joey down in front of Jo Jo again and still she still turned her back on him.

Continued on page 20

As a last resort, I called out to Garry to come and pick Jo Jo up. Luckily she has a beautiful placid personality. Garry picked Jo Jo up and I literally pulled open her pouch and put the joey's head inside. He squirmed around and got in and we put Jo Jo back down. We patted her and talked to her and made a fuss so as to distract her from me touching her pouch. Thankfully when Jo Jo stood up she pulled her pouch in tight and closed the opening. I left her alone but kept an eye on her from inside and I am happy to say after a little while I saw Jo Jo tending to the joey in her pouch.

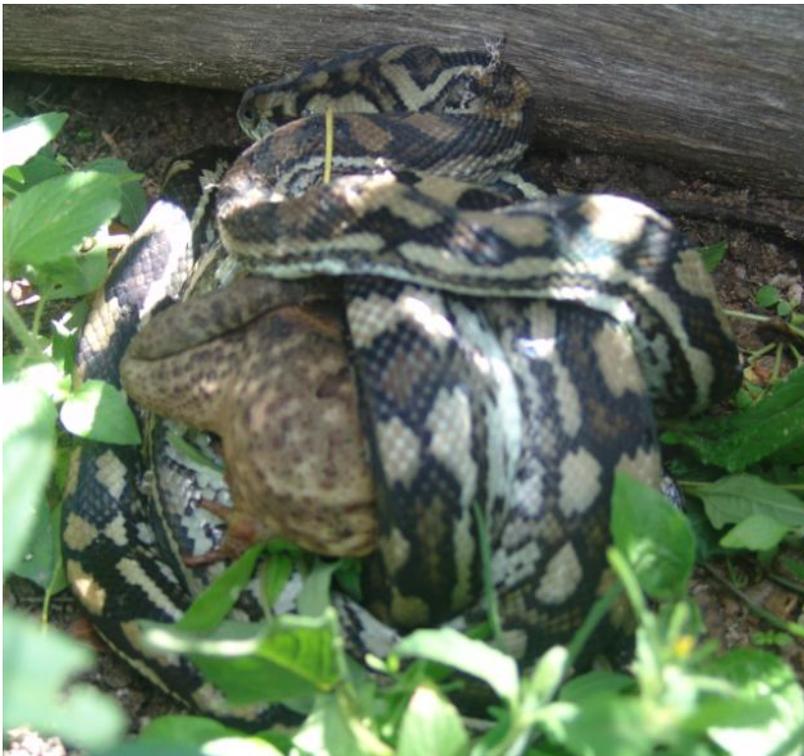
I really don't think Jo Jo actually let the baby out of the pouch that morning. I think he may have fallen out and then she got confused. I do not understand why Jo Jo abandoned her baby. I always thought she would be a really good mum as she had always been a beautiful girl with a very lovely personality. We had a happy ending to this story but just think what may have happened if Garry hadn't found the joey. Thankfully she seems to have the hang of motherhood now and clicks at him if he ventures too far away and is very watchful when he is scampering around the place.

I worried about her all night in case this happened again as we would never find the joey in the bush. We saw Jo Jo with her joey in the pouch the next morning.

Denise McLean



Snake versus toad



I found this Carpet snake, attempting to strangle a Cane toad, early one morning just inside the gate of our joey enclosure.

The toad was released (and hopped away unharmed) when I picked up the snake. A very lucky escape for both of them. I was too busy holding the snake to worry about catching the toad! I'm surprised that these snakes haven't yet learnt not to eat toads! I wonder how many get poisoned?

Editor

Wildlife Training Workshops

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)***

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council – Keeping Carers Informed

Fundraising for Groups



How many groups promoted this in their area? See the full advertisement on the inside back cover of RnR Issue 23, March 2013.

My local group were pleasantly surprised to receive a cheque from them for several hundred dollars.

Purchasers of the labels can nominate an animal charity of their choice to receive 20% of the purchase price.

It is a great interactive website where you can design your own labels and also an ideal activity for schoolchildren.

Editor

Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

AWRC are pleased to announce the 10th anniversary conference is being held at:

**Central Piers, Docklands
MELBOURNE
1 - 4 August 2016**

Everyone should try and attend as it is an invaluable networking experience

and the presentations are always interesting and informative.

Refer to www.awrc.org.au to ensure that you have all the current information.

There are also papers from most of the previous conferences available on this website.

Carer Profile

Meet Kristy Philliskirk from Weipa - District 1 representative for QWRC



I then thought that I had to do something, so I trained and learnt as much as I could possibly handle and started taking on all the wildlife myself. I also trained to be able to legally euthanase, as there is no permanent vet in Weipa. This seemed to be a harder task than I thought but after two years I finally received approval.

I work fulltime as a shipping agent and I couldn't keep caring alone as it was taking over my life. I looked into starting an organisation in Weipa so five years ago I started Weipa Wildlife Care Inc. I now have five carers volunteering for me on a fulltime basis who also have fulltime jobs.

We take approximately 200 – 300 animals a year unless there is a cyclone which means we can then have up to 500. We rescue wallabies, wallaroos, sugar gliders, possums, crocs, snakes and other reptiles.

I became a wildlife carer eleven years ago, after rescuing a buff banded rail with a broken wing and from then on I was hooked. Not long after I started, my mentor left town so this left me on my own. Talk about being thrown into the deep end.

I am half way through my Wildlife Management Course and within five years I would like to study to become a wildlife vet nurse.

Kristy Philliskirk

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Wildlife Rehabilitation in SEQ

This is the introduction to a paper by ANDREW TRIBE, Marisol Torregrosa Rocabado and Archibald Bouchon-Small. This paper (16 pages) has the following sections including relevant graphs:

- wildlife admissions
- cause of admission
- time in care
- outcomes

Refer to: <http://www.awrc.org.au/uploads/5/8/6/6/5866843/tribe.pdf>

Thousands of animals are rescued and taken into care throughout Australia each year and considerable time and resources are invested in rehabilitating them and releasing many back into the wild. The vast majority of the people engaged in this work are volunteers dedicated to supporting wildlife conservation and animal welfare. As a result of their efforts wildlife rehabilitation has developed over the last thirty years to become an increasingly widespread, scientific and disciplined practice.

However, such activities naturally involve human intervention in the lives of wild animals. They raise emotional, political and ethical issues of importance to humans, as well as veterinary, welfare and ecological issues of importance to the animals.

The aim of this paper is to catalogue and evaluate the current level of wildlife rehabilitation in south east Queensland and to make recommendations regarding future policy and practice. In it we use the definition of “rehabilitation and relocation” of wildlife employed by Begg and Brown

(1998): “taking wild animals that are injured, sick, diseased or orphaned, and providing veterinary care support, with the goal of restoring them to their natural state, in the habitat from which they came”.

South East Queensland is Australia’s fastest growing and urbanising region, and the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife is undertaken by a number of carer groups and three major wildlife hospitals.

Wildlife rehabilitation activities within South East Queensland were evaluated using four years of admittance records from the three largest wildlife hospitals in the region: the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital (AZWH), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Queensland (RSPCA) Wildlife Hospital at Wacol and Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Hospital (CWS). Admissions records from each wildlife hospital were collected for the four years between January 1st 2009 to December 31st 2012. These records included the species, animal class, date of admission, cause of admission (COA), outcome and date of outcome.

Sourced from AWRC website

Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre

Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre is Gladstone's first permanent marine turtle rehabilitation facility, being fully open and operational since March of 2012. Natural occurrences and human interference are a major threat to the marine turtle population worldwide, and recent extreme weather events in our region has exacerbated the precarious situation of our native turtles.

With previously no dedicated rehabilitation facility within 500km of the Gladstone Harbour, Quoin Island Retreat owner and island resident Bob McCosker saw a greater service his newly established facility could provide. With many years experience as a volunteer wildlife carer, and the support of Australian Animals Care and Education Inc (AACE), Bob constructed and now runs Central Queensland's first facility.

Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre consists of multiple containment tanks, a nine metre swimming pool and a newly constructed treatment and dry dock room. QITRC is licenced to rehabilitate up to ten marine turtles at any one time. The majority of turtles received by the hospital have been green turtles, but the carers have also

rehabilitated hawksbill turtles, flatback turtles and even a baby loggerhead! Registered under the charity organisation AACE, QITRC is 100 per cent locally owned and operated, built by the motivation and initiative of locals with a concern for our marine wildlife. A large portion of centre duties are covered by a team of trained community volunteers.

The establishment of **Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre** was supported by Bob personally, and since then, corporate sponsorship, fundraising, volunteer support and the annual QITRC Gala Benefit have all contributed to cover the extensive costs associated with running a facility of this kind. The daily costs of food, medication, cleaning supplies, power and water are considerable in themselves, coupled with transportation costs of volunteers and of animals, facility expansions and improvements, surgical procedures and veterinarian bills.

See photos on page 27.

Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre



Figures at the moment are;

158 Turtle admitted to date, Turtles released to date 89

Of those released, 78 Green, 7 Hawksbill, 2 Flatback, 2 loggerhead

Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre



“Diamond” being released — see page 7

Photos by Jacquie Sheils

*Male Boyd's forest dragon near Julatten, North Queensland
Photo courtesy of Greg Calvert*



*Common tree snake coming to drink at a small pool during a severe drought
Photo courtesy of Greg Calvert*