

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 29
March 2016

Keeping carers
informed



QWRC Products

BATS



Grey-headed flying fox with baby
photo by Nick Edards

A bat on its own may be sick, injured or orphaned.

DO NOT TOUCH BATS

Call:

or
RSPCA - 1300ANIMAL
(1300 264 625)

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

Protect your cat
protect our wildlife

Have you noticed that there are no longer any small birds or lizards in your garden?
Do you or your neighbours own a cat?



- ◆ 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?

HOW TO BECOME A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR



Boobook



Kangaroo



Koala



Echidna

- ◆ 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...

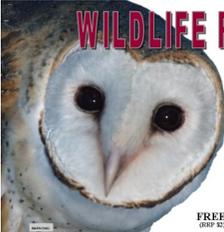
DOGS AND WILDLIFE



Dogs can be wonderful companions but unfortunately they can harm native wildlife. They may chase, catch or frighten wildlife like kangaroos, wallabies, possums, koalas, snakes, lizards and birds.

It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure their dog does not chase, injure or kill other animals.

- ◆ 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?



WILDLIFE RESCUE

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO ASSIST SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED NATIVE WILDLIFE

FREE (GPP \$2)





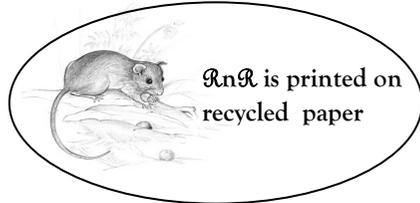
Carcass tags



In this issue:

- Carer Profile - Paula Rowlands
- Bush rat babies
- Emu release
- Mahogany gliders
- Glider haven
- Funding for carers
- Hints and Tips

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.

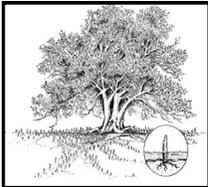


**Illustrations
by
Louise Saunders**



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

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..

I hope you have not suffered too much due to severe weather conditions and that the number of animals in your care is small.

It is great to welcome back so many past members as we also say hi to those joining us for the first time. Several groups are in the process of finalising the QWRC membership for all their members to facilitate insurance cover not only for all their members but also for their group. It is pleasing to see that we have been able to yet again provide this benefit to so many rehabbers across the State.

The recent changes to postal charges are placing an added strain on the QWRC budget. We have fought hard to keep our membership unchanged for the past 10 years.

Initially we had sponsorship that, for many years, enabled us to produce and post the RnR to anyone with an interest in wildlife rehabilitation. When that sponsorship was lost the RnR became a benefit of membership with a hope that most of our members would be happy to receive their copy by email to keep our production and distribution costs to a minimum.

Our efforts to keep you, our members, well informed means we now try to send you a monthly wrap up report as well as two issues of QWRC Quotes and two issues of the RnR each year. If all of these are to be sent to you by post you can see that postage alone eats up much of your membership fees due to the recent increase for a standard letter to \$1.

We understand totally that some members prefer to receive their RnR newsletter by hard copy even though they have an email address. We are currently investigating the options and request your input to this decision making process. The option which is foremost at present is that any member who has an email address will receive all communications by email. If a member requests any communications by mail we are suggesting that a \$5.00 per annum surcharge apply for that service. This would of course still only subsidise but not totally pay a year's postal fees. In this way only those incurring the postal fees will be paying for them. We look forward to your input as we investigate further with us looking towards possible options being raised for decision at our next AGM.

QWRC is committed to continuous improvement and innovation and welcomes constructive criticism and comment as well as suggestions to be discussed for possible improvements. As always please send these to: secretary@qwrc.org.au

We sincerely hope you enjoy this issue of the RnR and as always look forward to your input of either stories or requests for specific information you would like to see shared.

Till next time

Annie



Editorial..

I hope that we have all had enough of that wet stuff for now. It's wonderful to see lots of green grass in our joey enclosure once again. There is also an abundance of new growth on all the trees and shrubs too which makes for easy pickings for all the critters. There are also lots of weeds and Cane toads which is not so good.

The chorus of frog calls has been deafening at home at times but is so nice to hear. I hope they have all been busy making tadpoles for future generations.



There are some new advertisers and also new products from other companies. It is always worthwhile referring to their websites for further information and updates.

This issue has focused on gliders with the gorgeous Mahogany glider drawing on the cover from wildlife artist Daryl Dickson. Her story and contact details for purchasing wildlife art are on pages 22/23.

Please remind any carers you know that haven't renewed their QWRC membership as they have now been removed from the mailing list. Also any carers who have not yet joined QWRC, please refer them to www.qwrc.org.au for membership details.

This issue has been compiled using the new QWRC laptop which has a double

battery giving me extra capacity for times when our solar power batteries are running low. It is also running Windows 10 which is unbelievably fast compared to my old desktop using Microsoft Vista software. I am also waiting for a new satellite dish to be installed which will be connected to NBN with 65GB per month of data for the same fee as the current 5GB plan which was only recently updated from 2GB. I feel that I am finally catching up with everyone else and it's wonderful. I can now sit in a comfortable chair in the lounge or out on the verandah and still access the internet.

I am now ready and waiting for all your stories and photos for the September issue, the topic will be **BABY BIRDS** which many of you will have experience with. Hints and tips too please.

Deadline: 17 July 2016.

Email: editor@qwrc.org.au

or

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Elliott



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 data form that must be completed and returned before any more are issued. Data is supplied to the Qld Mains Road department.



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Or email:

wildlifeproducts@warmapet.com.au

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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)



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WOMBAROO

FaunaOzEducation

Dr Anne Fowler has produced 50 – 80 page colour manuals on the husbandry, disease and rehabilitation of various wildlife species.



Titles include:

- **Marsupial titles:** macropods, possums, koalas.
- **Mammal titles:** microbats.
- **Reptiles:** Husbandry & rehabilitation of reptiles and amphibians.
- **Husbandry and rehabilitation of:** native birds, orphaned birds, and waterbirds.
- **Husbandry & rehabilitation of the others:** bandicoots, dasyurids, rodents.
- **Upcoming titles include:** monotremes, raptors and flying foxes.
- **Limited stock of CSIRO publishing titles of Australian wildlife that are at end of print run.**

Email | an.fowler@bigpond.com for a price list | Bulk or group orders welcome.

Emu Release

In August 2015 two Emu chicks were found alone and taken to a Barcaldine service station. My wife Kim and I were contacted by the department of Environment and Heritage to pick them up from some other residents who were caring for them temporarily. We picked them up and transported them in a small plastic animal cage to our residence in Muttaborra, 160 kilometres away.



(Caged sleeping quarters inside at night)

It had been over a year since our last Emu guest, but everything was still in place for their care. They slept in the house at night for protection against wild dogs and raptors. By day they were allowed to run about in a 2m x 1m x 1m high steel mesh cage enclosed in a much larger wire mesh and fully shade clothed run. As the chicks grew, we gave them less and less human contact so when released they would not try to approach people or try to scavenge food. They resented us being within less than three metres of them.

The IGA store in Longreach must have wondered why we were purchasing so many bags of frozen vegetables. The Emus ate differing mixtures, varying with their age, of turkey starter, poultry

grain mix, horse pellets, frozen peas and corn mix, mixed fresh broccoli, spinach, carrot, apple, grapes, lettuce, alfalfa, sprouts and assorted berries.

As they grew we became very concerned about their safety during transportation back to Barcaldine. We used to spread their food on the ground before letting them out to feed so we knew they would resist any efforts to contain or restrain them. We are not licensed to have or use dangerous drugs so sedation was not possible for the trip. Many hours of thought and discussion were spent coming up with a solution that sounded safe and reliable.

I noticed two things: that Emus sleep with their legs folded up underneath and that when restrained for health checks, covering their eyes and pushing them down into the sleeping position, they were easily and safely subdued. Birds have a much higher body temperature than people, so I was concerned that under stress their breathing and temperature may be a problem if we used an enclosed box of any sort.



(Growing healthily)

Continued on page 9

I decided that the Emus would need a dark sock to restrict their vision on the one and three quarter hour journey, but as they lose heat through their breathing, lots of small vents under the head are required. CO2 could also be a problem if unvented. I believed the safest position for transport would be the sleeping position, however instead of boxes or bags to hinder body cooling, we decided to use green shade cloth for its strength, cost and air venting capability.

To keep them held in this position, I took some measurements, cut out a shape I felt suitable and stitched on some velcro for ease of adjustment. Then three velcro straps over the back and one either end to stop the harness from moving forward or backward.



Harness with eye sock

The day finally came for release in mid-December. Rain had arrived a fortnight before in Barcaldine, so water, food and greenery was abundant for the Emus sustenance. Catching and subduing was handled by our son Kieran (corner the bird, hand over the back, grab a leg, lift off the ground and, with the other hand, bring up the other leg so the bird is held in the sleeping position about waist high). He then placed the Emu down onto the shade cloth harness. While I was fixing and adjusting the velcro, Kim fitted the socks to cover the eyes.

It was then an easy task to pick up the restrained bird (don't forget what Emus

can do when frightened, so hold away from good clothes) and move to the car. Kim and Kieran sat in the back seats with a hand on the Emus' backs for stability, assurance to the Emus, and to monitor the Emus if things didn't go as planned. The last thing I wanted was a grown Emu running and jumping about in the car with me.

My son knew of a perfect spot for release just away from the town and on the Alice River. We saw other Emus in the greater area so felt good about the site. The outside temperature was cool for the time of year and flowering shrubs were abundant. The Emus had travelled well in the air-conditioned vehicle and we were so pleased they were not in any stress that could be seen on arrival.

We moved the Emus about twenty or so metres from the car and spread some peas and corn onto the ground nearby. After releasing the velcro and eye sock from one, I was surprised it was happily sitting and intent on watching me un-strap its sibling. After removal of the other's eye sock and releasing the velcro restraints, I found it was also in no hurry to leave. I had to make a hand gesture and noise to let them know it was time to get up. When they arose I was expecting the "run away" or "flight" mode to kick in but was really shocked at their "what's around to eat?" mode. Instead of the usual favourite peas and corn, they were happier eating from the shrubs nearby. This was the best outcome we could have imagined, zero stress. Although we were sorry to see the Emus go and we still miss them more than I like to admit, unless directed otherwise by department of Environment officers, I will always use and recommend this form of restraint for sub adult and adult Emus.

Max Palmer



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New Year Arrivals - Baby Bush Rats

On New Year's Day three orphaned bush rats - *Rattus fuscipes* came into my care.



I had raised bush rats before but not as small as these little ones that were approximately three days old, eyes closed and weighing between eight and ten grams. As they were mildly dehydrated I gave them water before offering a milk feed. They all took readily to the teat and I used a 1ml syringe to feed them with a small syringe teat attached. Once hydrated, I fed them on .7 Wombaroo formula with added Impact. They were very easy to feed and I was able to feed all three at once but they were a bit slow in the first few days. I fed them four hourly round the clock. By day five of care I offered some diced grapes and a little cooked Bunya nut. The next day I added spinach, sweet corn, native grass seeds and mealworms along with sprouted mung beans and a chopped almond. They ate everything I

offered so I moved on to adding grasshoppers which soon became a favourite. They gained weight rapidly and by day fifteen weighed twenty three grams.

Initially I housed them in a pouch in a carry basket but soon moved them to a polystyrene box with a mesh lid. I covered the bottom of the container with newspaper, leaf mulch and some grass, then added a hollow log, a branch, several toilet roll holders and a small cardboard box. I used a plastic rat/guinea pig water bottle and also a water dish.

After their morning feed I placed them in a pouch, with an elastic band to prevent escape, while I cleaned their housing. I tried to get them to lap formula a few times but it was a very messy business and as they were doing well with syringe feeding I continued that way. At about twenty three days old they were no longer very interested in their milk and weaned themselves. At this stage they weighed around thirty five grams. I moved them to an outdoor aviary for a couple of days and added high protein powder to their food. They were released at about twenty five days old. Dr Anne Fowler was very helpful with advice and I subsequently bought a copy of her manual - Husbandry and Rehabilitation of 'the Others' - Bandicoots, Dasyurids and Rodents.

Ed: see page 7 for details of Anne Fowler's manuals.

Continued on page 12

Bush rats can be identified by their blunt faces, pink feet, cream-coloured belly and their tail is shorter than the head-body. They generally have a litter size of 3-5, wean between 20 – 31 days and the birth season is Aug to March. They are fully independent at weaning. Due to their short life spans rodents reach sexual maturity very quickly – 68 to 120 days in the case of R. Fuscipes.



Anne-Marie Dineen

[Wildlife Rehabilitation Supplies](http://wildlifesupplies.org/) - Teats, teat moulds, herbal remedies (<http://wildlifesupplies.org/>)

[Raw Fresh Health](http://rawfreshhealth.com/) - Cooking classes, raw & cooked (<http://rawfreshhealth.com/>)

[Check out our property for sale in Killivan](#)



**QWRC PUBLIC LIABILITY
INSURANCE
NOW \$20M**



QWRC GROUP INSURANCE

Public Liability insurance is available to groups when **ALL** their members are also members of QWRC. A request for insurance must be sent to QWRC together with a copy of all membership forms and a total membership list so that an insurance certificate can be issued to them.

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

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 encourage you to let us know when you move so that we don't waste precious paper and funds on postage.

Also advise us of any email address changes.

Remember that DEHP are unable (due to privacy laws) to advise us of any carer details. It is therefore vital that **YOU** tell **US** of any changes. **Groups please note.**

MOVING HOUSE

or

changing your email address

Remember to advise QWRC

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 — Savanah/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

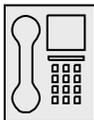
Vicky Dawson (Treasurer/Member Secretary)
 Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au

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



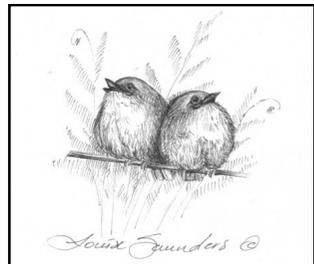
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ◆ 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.



**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. **This may be discontinued so please advise us if you use this facility.**





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 '

Education - Research - Information

NRM — Natural Resource Management



Administration Request

Sadly some members are not receiving all the information that is being sent to them either by snailmail or email. We do get some return to senders some of which is due to their application forms being scribbled which results in information being incorrectly recorded on our database. Incomplete forms also cause problems and is time consuming to sort out.

Thoughts on Rehabilitation and Conservation

Does wildlife rehabilitation have any importance in the conservation of our wildlife?

It's a question that we often discuss.

My answer is always – a qualified yes

For some it is an easy “yes” answer because they, as groups or individual rehabilitators, have taken on specific threatened species or conservation aims as part of their care.

For all other rehabilitators we have the opportunity to be a positive voice for conservation.

I have a strong belief that when it comes to conservation our greatest asset as carers is our connection to our communities. Wildlife rehabilitators make a contribution by their actions. We illustrate care, concern and value for all native wildlife. We add to public awareness, community education and public opinion.

I do not think we should ever underestimate the value of our well informed and measured public voice.

There is one more important component of contribution to long-term conservation that comes to mind and it's about the tedious task of record keeping. Records kept by wildlife rehabilitators are of value – information about why, how and where animals come into care can be invaluable in assisting lobby groups, government and science when assessing risks and risk management and when framing legislation.

I am convinced that all of our measured and informed voices are valuable to the long-term conservation of native wildlife.

Footnote:

Jan 22 2016 - The Mahogany Glider has just been added to the Federal government's 2020 Priority Threatened Mammal List.

Link: Richard Fidler in conversation with Dr Steve van Dyck

2nd half of interview about the rediscovery of the Mahogany glider

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2009/05/01/2558194.htm>

Daryl Dickson

Philanthropist Helping Wildlife Carers

RoBBie Kovak is passionate about our wonderful wildlife and is keen to assist wildlife carers by offering them financial help.



Six months ago wildlife became my new destiny...

After reading and seeing videos of tragic road trauma in particular female kangaroos. Encountering a live pinkie in the pouch needing a rescue and a second chance in life.

I then decided to turn all my personal resources into this happy, and sometimes sad, exciting project. This formulated the concept of the **"Joey Adoption" Assistance Program**. To assist carers with running costs monthly to ensure the upkeep and well-being of their macropod joey up to 8kgs.

The monthly assistance per joey is \$60. Each additional joey, case by case and the circumstances.

In exchange, on a monthly basis, you place a message on my Facebook timeline with the adopted joey's name, latest photo, age and message ending with...

Assistance Program is proudly supported by [my page link] Kovak Wildlife Pty Ltd

The "Milk & Feed" Rebate Assistance program... (this is for other wildlife)

I require, at start of program, what animals you are caring for and then updated each month. What animals come in and what animals go out...

Give me your total monthly average expenses in detail, no receipts necessary and the rebate is capped at 30%.

Unfortunately, you cannot participate in both programs at the same time..

Once approved, your rebate will be paid into your nominated bank account monthly. The assistance will be reviewed every three months.

Medical supplies, fuel, vet bills and release of animals are not covered at this time...

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KovakWildlife>

Website: <http://kovakwildlife.com> [Under Construction]

RoBBie Kovak

Hints and Tips

Beware Using Dummies

One of our members had an horrific experience when her young joey swallowed her dummy. Lowana was a 442gm female Redneck wallaby when her carer realised that the dummy had become detached from the ribbon and pin and that it must have been swallowed. Paraffin oil and Catlax were administered in the hope that it would be passed but to no avail. It was *eight weeks later* that the dummy was passed when the joey was being toileted by a babysitter. Where had that dummy been hiding for eight weeks?



The joey had shown no symptoms at any time. She grew normally without any problems and has been passed to another carer for eventual release. This joey is a real survivor as she had originally stopped breathing when first rescued by another carer. She was resuscitated and, as they say, the rest is history.

This is Bluebell, a little Swamp wallaby with the same type of dummy but it has been threaded through a hole drilled in a button to prevent it being swallowed.

Judy Elliott

Ed: I prefer to just use the same type and size teat as used on the bottle ensuring there is no hole in it.

Gloves Anyone?



I love these pruning gloves that reach up to my armpit as they are great for handling any bite/scratchie critters. Welding gloves are still needed for more serious offenders though. Available from large hardware stores.

Editor

Carer Profile

Meet Paula Rowlands
who cared for her first Yellow-bellied glider when she was just eight years old!



The most sweet natured and even tempered gliders of all gliders, to me is the Yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*).

My very first experience at the age of eight with this beautiful soft, fluffy creature was due to her bad experience with the family cat. Up until then I had no idea as to what horrible injuries cats can inflict on such beautiful, innocent creatures.

This animal should have died, in spite of my loving care, due to infection caused by the cat's fang holes, blood loss and shock. I had been told to take her outside and hit her on the head as she had no chance of survival (tough living in the bush even as a kid). I did what I had seen done many a time with other injured farm animals, and applied Stockholm tar, and she recovered in my wardrobe. She was discovered by my mother, who was not surprised as many a thing of unusual confirmation appeared in my wardrobe. She sometimes thought she should carry a gun when venturing into my belongings.

I was an avid reader of David Fleay's articles in the weekend paper and soon became a pen-pal of his. I was probably only eight years old at the time but I was hooked on gliders of all persuasions.

The Yellow bellied-glider is the second largest of the Australian glider family, I also believe they are the heaviest. They can come in all shades from black to a very light greyish brown, some have very pale cream coloured bellies, while others do lean to a yellow colour. Their ears are quite bare of hair and droopy. Their flight membrane stretches between the ankle and wrist

Yellow-bellied gliders are the easiest of all to colonise with their fellow gliders. I did however have a problem when I had two males in my aviary and thought I could add a young male, this certainly did not work, and I had to put him in with an older female who accepted him.

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The fur of a glider is thick and so soft it reminds me of fairy floss, their tail is unusually long and when you disturb them in the day they look like they are wearing a scarf. The long tail is a very important body part which acts as a rudder when gliding. They are very acrobatic and often will just hang by their tail.

Yellow-bellies are low insect eaters unlike other gliders, mainly preferring flowering gums and sap from preferred gums. It can be quite easy to ascertain a favoured tree of the Yellow-belly by the tears and cuts in the sap wood making the sap bleed from the tree. Gliders will gorge themselves on this their favourite treat.

My Yellow-bellies are fed fruit, nuts, flowers and their nectar (seasonal), and

small amounts of high protein baby farex supplement.

When I have been fortunate enough to have joey Yellow-bellies, I rear them almost the same as Squirrel gliders, preferring them to suckle as long as possible, as my belief is they were meant to suckle, so let them do as nature intended. Like all gliders they like to nest in hollows and will furnish these hollows with Eucalyptus leaves, this is another animal dependent upon us saving the trees.

The call of the Yellow-belly is a much deeper version of the Squirrel glider with a lot of gurgling at the end of the call.

Paula Rowlands



Yellow-belly glider © Paula Rowlands

Found, Lost and Found againthe Mahogany glider

Daryl Dickson - Mungarru Lodge Sanctuary

About Us.....

By some quirk of fate Geoff Moffatt and I arrived in Mahogany glider country in the far north tropics of Qld just after the Mahogany glider's rediscovery and at the moment when this beautiful creature was declared endangered in 1993.

Although we both shared a tremendous affinity and love of animals and the environment, we had no great plan to spend the rest of our lives either involved in conservation or wildlife rehabilitation. Sometimes life takes its own course and you just have to trust fate and follow your passions.

Twenty three years later we look back at these years as the richest and most rewarding years of our lives. We have had the privilege of sharing our lives and our home with some of the most amazing creatures on earth and we have been mentored and surrounded by the most amazing and inspiring people, from all walks of life; all passionate about wildlife, wild places, the environment and the future.

The endangered Mahogany glider, *Petaurus gracilis* is one of six species of Australian gliding possums. They are part of the scientific family, *Petauridae*, and are known as the wrist-winged gliders. Their gliding membrane (patagium) extends from their foreleg wrist to hind leg ankle and this group includes the Sugar glider, Squirrel glider and Yellow-bellied glider.

Found

The Mahogany glider was in fact found, lost and found again. European history records that the first specimen was collected by Kendall Broadbent and taken to the Queensland Museum for identification and cataloguing in 1883.

Lost

1883 was a time of European exploration and discovery across Queensland with a multitude of unrecorded and unique creatures arriving at the Queensland Museum and somehow, during this time, the Mahogany glider became lost and confused in the scientific record; it remained lost for more than 100 years.

Found again

In 1989, during the Queensland Museum's move to South Bank in Brisbane, the species was finally "found again" within the specimens and records of the museum. *Dr Steve Van Dyck (Senior Curator of Vertebrates at Queensland Museum)* pursued the unusual specimen, first within the museum's record and then in the far north tropics. He located living specimens that resulted in the verification of the species and in 1993 the Mahogany glider, *Petaurus gracilis*, was declared a threatened species. This was perhaps only just in time to avoid extinction. With as few as 1500-2000 animals thought to remain in the wild with degraded and diminishing habitat, urgent action was required to stop the decline. A new start and the beginning of a battle for recognition, recovery and survival began. ***Continued on page 23***

The Future.....

In 2016, I treasure my life at Mungarru Lodge Sanctuary, bless the day that we encountered the endangered Mahogany glider and all its friends and hope for a positive future. I still fund my life as a wildlife artist and at present I am the President of Wildlife Queensland's, Cassowary Coast-Hinchinbrook Branch. I am a member of the Mahogany Glider Recovery Team, which consists of representatives of all levels of government, traditional owners, industry, main roads, power, forestry, farmers, NRM bodies – It is a very positive and active team who are working to recover the endangered Mahogany glider. I think we all accept that to have positive outcomes, we all have to take responsibility and action

where we can. It is no longer possible to expect our governments to solve these problems without us seeking additional help from industry and philanthropy. We are all capable of being a voice for wildlife and making a difference to the long-term outcomes.

We can all help make change happen - some people talk to their MP, write to the papers, blog, give school talks, hold community information days, plant trees, grow trees in community nurseries, make donations or like most of you, care for wildlife and share your passion it all makes a difference.

Daryl Dickson
www.wildcardart.com.au
<https://daryldicksonartist.wordpress.com>



MONDAY 1 AUGUST — THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2016

Central Piers, Docklands, MELBOURNE

Early bird registrations of \$395 close on 11 April 2016. Fees will then be \$450 or \$130 for a single day. Registrations close on 1 July and late registrations will be not be accepted.

There will be a range of very exciting speakers. An array of interactive workshops will be held on Thursday 4 August. For further information refer to their website at www.awrc.org.au

The Mahogany Glider



gliders) that extends from the forehead and along the spine.

An adult Mahogany glider weighs approximately 400g (we have had females in care arriving in poor condition at 325g and males in their prime can weigh 450g).

Sugar gliders and Feather-tailed gliders share the habitat of the Mahogany glider.

The Mahogany glider lives only in lowland coastal tropical forest – Eucalypt and Melaleuca woodland between just south of Tully to Ollera Creek, south of Ingham, in far north Queensland.

They are closely related to the Squirrel glider but there are significant differences in size, behaviour, appearance and distribution. Mahogany gliders are significantly larger and have longer more thinly furred tails than Squirrel gliders. A mature Mahogany glider has a rich cream to apricot coloured belly with a rich mahogany and black edge. The belly colour and extent can vary greatly and can be limited to a small patch in the centre of their belly. Coat cover can range from a light grey to a darker brown grey - the tail always has a black tip (the last third of tail is black). They have a dark dorsal stripe (as with Sugar and Squirrel

Mahogany gliders den alone or with their den partner and young. They are territorial and males will fight to defend their territory, mate and young. Each pair of gliders is territorial over approximately twenty hectares and will use up to eleven different den sites throughout the year, moving with seasonal food resources and to avoid predation.

Primary threat to survival

- loss of habitat
- habitat fragmentation – loss of connectivity
- thickening – woody weed
- rainforest incursion
- inappropriate fire regimes
- barbed wire

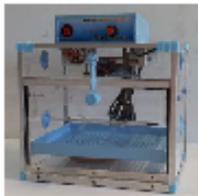
Only twenty three animals have presented for care in twenty three years – none since Cylone Yasi 2011.

Daryl Dickson

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Diddum – its all your fault!

The story of me caring for Sugar gliders started well before I had ever seen one – in fact I didn't know that such animals existed.

Long ago I was on holiday in Kenya. There I came across some curious nocturnal animals called Bush babies and in Madagascar some Lemurs. Then back in Berlin I heard about a guy who had a lonely and frightened Slender Lori in a birdcage for the entertainment of his friends. Having seen how they live in the wild I had to free this poor animal. So I bought it from him. I probably paid way too much for it. Although I couldn't give freedom to this Slender Lori I did provide a substantially larger aviary so he could climb around at night and also found another mate for him.

Arriving in Australia in 1987 we soon became interested in native wildlife and one day there he was: Diddum, the most beautiful 60g Sugar glider boy on the planet and a reminder of the very cute Bush Babies in Kenya.

It took about two years until Diddum got company and the idea was to build a colony which could then be released into the wild. However, Diddum's new companion was a young glider named Twinkle Toe and he was of course a male. Nevertheless, it was good to observe how the two became best mates.

Eventually, we got our first two female Sugar gliders and were pretty excited. The excitement, however, was bitter-sweet, because the gliders came from a chainsaw incident somewhere at Baffle Creek where an old tree had been cut down. Some gliders were killed instantly, some others were so badly injured that they had to be put down, one or two ran away and two little traumatised girls were brought to us. We still remember the tears in the eyes of the chainsaw guy and his pledge never to fell a dead, hollow tree again.

Later on we got some more gliders which we introduced to the small colony. As the new arrivals settled in it was clear to us that Diddum was the boss, while Twinkle Toe seemed to be second in command. At first we thought there would be rivalry between the two over the newly introduced females and maybe one of the new boys might be going to make his mark. But no, everything went along smoothly and civilised. We found, that ever so often the group chose to occupy another box or bag to sleep in and at one stage it seemed that they had separated and slept in at least two nesting boxes.

As winter arrived, Twinkle Toe kept staying on his own in one of the nesting boxes at night, while the others were out and about among the trees inside the aviary.

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We then learned that when Sugar glider mothers drop their babies from the pouch into the nest the male often stays in the nest to keep the babies warm and at the same time allows mum to go feeding and regain strength after carrying and feeding her babies for such a long time.

This behaviour of Twinkle Toe was strange and at the same time exciting. Obviously Twinkle Toe was the father and not Diddum, the boss. If Diddum really was the alpha male – and everything pointed in that direction - there must have be some other kind of “agreement” apart from fighting it out.

The exciting part was that we had our first babies (two, as it normally is with Sugar gliders) born in captivity, ready to learn from their parents the skills to survive in the wild, ready to add to the group to become a colony and be released.

We found another behavioural action confirmed by that particular colony. Nearly all publications about Sugar gliders, namely if the scent of the colony has faded from a glider, that particular individual will not be recognised by the group. When we released the colony around Twinkle Toe, which slept separately but was friendly with, a few around Diddum, it so happened that about a fortnight after release Twinkle Toe found his way back to the enclosure. Instead of greeting his old buddy both immediately went for each other in a big, vicious fight. We had to drag them apart, got bitten ourselves in the process, and took Twinkle Toe back to the place where we released him and his colony.

Yes, Diddum made us do things we wouldn't have dreamed of in Berlin and it is his fault, that we are hooked on wildlife.

Helene Hebbel-Klose

Please remember that a rehabilitation permit requires animals to be released. Other carers can be contacted via groups — see www.qwrc.org.au.



Squirrel glider in enclosure



One of Helene's glider enclosures

both © Helene Hebbel-Klose



Yellow-bellied glider
© Helene Hebbel-Klose



Mahogany Glider - Petaurus gracilis - Mungana Lodge Sanctuary Image © David Dickson